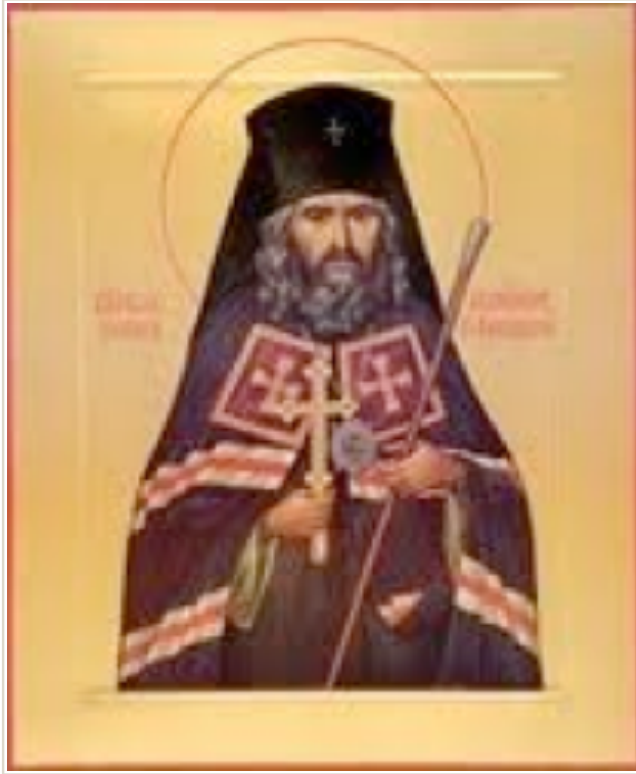


On the Last Judgment: St. John Maximovitch of Shanghai and San Francisco



St. John (Maximovitch) Bishop of Shanghai and Archbishop of San Francisco
(1896=1966)

Iconographer: Hieromonk Andrei

Date: 20th c. (Late)

Location: Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, New York

Source: [http://www.skete.com/index.cfm?
fuseaction=product.display&Product_ID=837&Category_ID=46](http://www.skete.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=product.display&Product_ID=837&Category_ID=46)

St. John (Maximovitch), Bishop of Shanghai and San Francisco, 1896-1966, [his last homily]

"'The end of the world' signifies not the annihilation of the world, but its transformation. Everything will be transformed suddenly, in the twinkling of an eye.... And the Lord will appear in glory on the clouds. Trumpets will

sound, and loud, with power! They will sound in the soul and conscience! All will become clear to the human conscience. The Prophet Daniel, speaking of the Last Judgment, relates how the Ancient of Days, the Judge, sits on His throne, and before Him is a fiery stream (Dan. 7:9-10). Fire is a purifying element; it burns sins. Woe to a man if sin has become a part of his nature: then the fire will burn the man himself. This fire will be kindled within a man; seeing the Cross, some will rejoice, but others will fall into confusion, terror, and despair. Thus will men be divided instantly. The very state of a man's soul casts him to one side or the other, to right or to left. "The more consciously and persistently a man strives toward God in his life, the greater will be his joy when he hears: 'Come unto Me, ye blessed.' And conversely: the same words will call the fire of horror and torture on those who did not desire Him, who fled and fought or blasphemed Him during their lifetime!

"The Last Judgment knows of no witnesses or written protocols! Everything is inscribed in the souls of men and these records, these 'books', are opened at the Judgment. Everything becomes clear to all and to oneself.

"And some will go to joy, while others — to horror.

"When 'the books are opened,' it will become clear that the roots of all vices lie in the human soul. Here is a drunkard or a lecher: when the body has died, some may think that sin is dead too. No! There was an inclination to sin in the soul, and that sin was sweet to the soul, and if the soul has not repented of the sin and has not freed itself from it, it will come to the Last Judgment also with the same desire for sin. It will never satisfy that desire and in that soul there will be the suffering of hatred. It will accuse everyone and everything in its tortured condition, it will hate everyone and everything. 'There will be gnashing of teeth' of powerless malice and the unquenchable fire of hatred.

"A 'fiery gehenna' — such is the inner fire. 'Here there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.' Such is the state of hell."

Source:

http://www.orthodoxmetropolisportland.org/quot_last_judgement.html