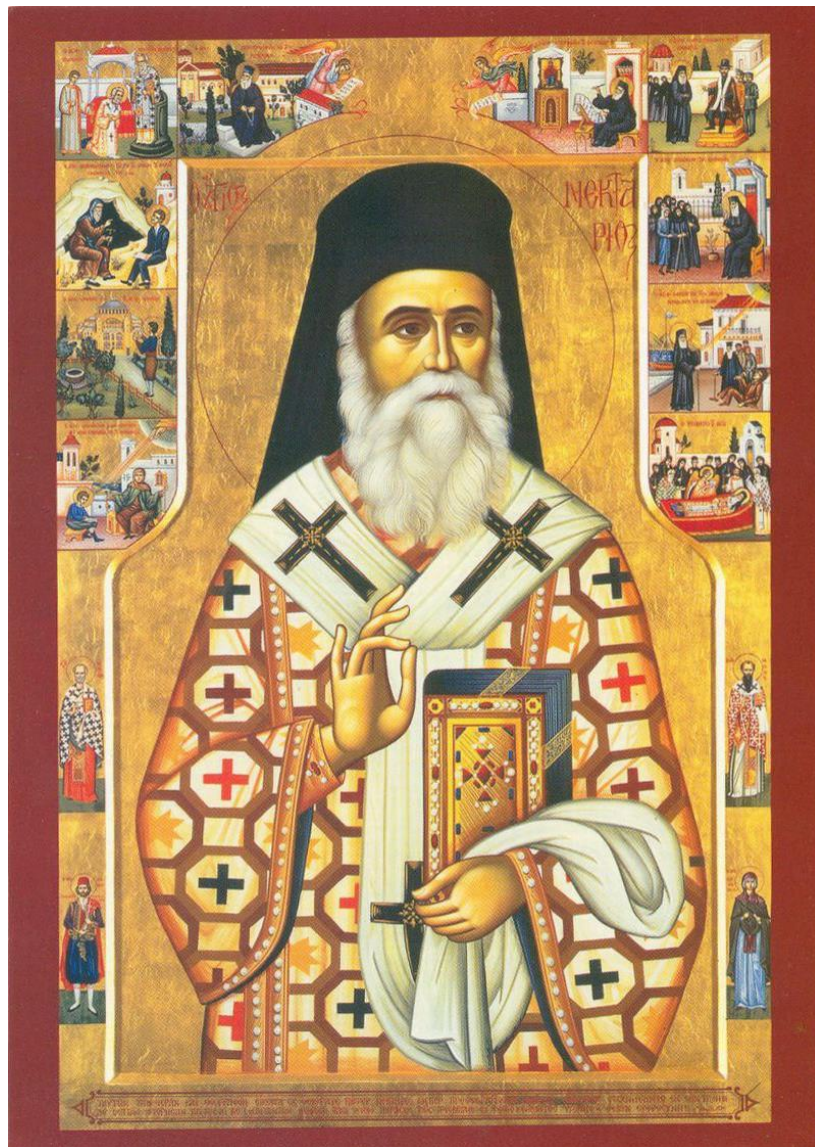


Akathist to St. Nektarios of Pentapolis



For meeting a difficult situation (cancer)
and the demon possessed

Kontakion 1

In joy of heart let us hymn with songs the newly revealed star of Orthodoxy, the newly erected bulwark of the Church; for glorified by the activity of the Spirit, he pours forth the abundant grace of healings upon those who cry:

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Ikos 1

In the world, you were shown to be a man of heavenly mind, O Nektarios, Hierarch of Christ; for having passed through life in holiness, you were shown to be blameless, venerable and God-pleasing in all things. Wherefore, you hear from us such praises as these:

Rejoice, by you, the faithful are edified;
Rejoice, by you, the enemy is afraid!
Rejoice, emulator of the venerable fathers;
Rejoice, divine teacher of the Orthodox!
Rejoice, by you, the Church joins chorus;
Rejoice, by you, Aegina rejoices!

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Kontakion 2

Having adorned yourself with meekness of soul from your youth, O holy Father, one fervent desire consumed your heart: to become a preacher of the Holy Gospel. From childhood, you knew the Scriptures which are able to make man wise for salvation, teaching them to cry: *Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)*

Ikos 2

When you left your home and traveled to Constantinople, you labored in the midst of worldly distractions. Yet you did not forsake the faith which dwelt first in your grandmother and mother and then also in you, steadfastly dedicating yourself to prayer and to the sayings of the Fathers, which you wrote on packages and

wrappings so that others might read them and receive spiritual profit. Wherefore, to one who was in the world but not of it, we the faithful cry aloud in thanksgiving:

Rejoice, most holy church of the activity of God;
Rejoice, divinely inscribed book of new morals!
Rejoice, for you made yourself like the saints in perfection;
Rejoice, for you wisely spurned material things!
Rejoice, splendid victory of the faith;
Rejoice, honored clarion of grace!

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Kontakion 3

As a fervent lover of the monastic life, you often visited the Monastery of the Holy Fathers, conversing there about the spiritual struggle with its holy founder, Elder Pachomios. As you aspired to the angelic habit, you were tonsured and dedicated yourself to prayer on behalf of the people as you sang: *Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)*

Ikos 3

Wholly consumed with the love of heavenly knowledge, you received a blessing to continue your theological education to which you devoted yourself with zeal and self-denial. While living in Athens, you studied day and night, knowing no other roads but that to the school and to the church. Wherefore, as to our instructor in heavenly theology, we your children joyfully cry:

Rejoice, great pillar of piety;
Rejoice, city of refuge for the faithful!
Rejoice, firm stronghold of Orthodoxy;
Rejoice, venerable vessel and praise of the Holy Trinity!
Rejoice, you shone forth in these latter times like a never-setting sun;
Rejoice, you pour forth the nectar of grace upon all believers!

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Kontakion 4

Arrayed in true Holiness and pure morals, Patriarch Sophronios of Alexandria saw in you great potential for service to Christ's Holy Church. You were ordained to the sacred Priesthood and elevated to the office of Bishop. O wise one, you offered your life to Christ as a pure sacrifice, ever chanting: *Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)*

Ikos 4

In your position as Metropolitan of Pentapolis, you were deeply loved by the faithful, for clothed in the vesture of the hierarchy, you adorned your life with humility. Ever disdainful of material possessions, you opened your hand freely and distributed your alms to the poor. Like your Master, you willingly came not to be served but to serve and to give your life as a ransom for many. Conquered by your love, we who honor your holy memory cry to you:

Rejoice, model of lambs and shepherds;
Rejoice, pure and honorable abode of holiness!
Rejoice, worthy converser with angels;
Rejoice, good guide of men!
Rejoice, through you, we are delivered from bodily passions;
Rejoice, through you, we are filled with spiritual delights!

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Kontakion 5

When the enemy of our souls saw you laboring in humility, he could not abide your holy presence among the people. Raising up slanders, inciting rumors, he sought to destroy your good name and to lead you to bitterness and anger. But you overcame all of his devices, for in all things you meekly chant to God: *Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)*

Ikos 5

Lacking even your daily bread, slandered on all sides, you prayed for your accusers, begging the Father to forgive them. Refusing to speak one word in your defense, you joyfully suffered according to the will of God, committing yourself to Him in doing good, as a faithful servant. Wherefore, amazed by your long-suffering and steadfast endurance, we your children exclaim:

Rejoice, treasury of great mercy;
Rejoice, inexhaustible bread for the hungry!
Rejoice, container of great virtues;
Rejoice, model of spiritual meekness!
Rejoice, you said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they have done”;
Rejoice, you repaid evil with good!

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Kontakion 6

Having within you a strong desire for the life of stillness on the Holy Mountain, you could not abandon the people, but heeded their call to remain in the world and to proclaim the words of salvation. Freely you received and freely you gave, calling all men to exclaim: *Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)*

Ikos 6

With the words of your mouth you poured heavenly sweetness into the hearts of those who accepted your words with faith, directing the minds of the faithful to seek those things which are from above. The sacred writings of your teachings continually gladden the souls of the pious; for moved by the Holy Spirit, O Father, you wisely recorded words of grace and instruction for those who cry to you:

Rejoice, faithful servant of the Most Holy Trinity;
Rejoice, habitation adorned of the Holy Spirit!
Rejoice, light that illumines all the ends of the earth;
Rejoice, you deliver people from the abyss of sin!

Rejoice, you exalt truth;
Rejoice, you dispel falsehood!

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Kontakion 7

Invited to assume the direction of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, you brought peace where there once existed confusion, for you treated all as a loving father. Wherefore your students in gratitude sang to God: *Alleluia!* (*People sing Alleluia!*)

Ikos 7

Strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus and having received the Words of Life, you committed these to faithful men who because of your good instruction and spiritual example, were enabled to teach them to others. Enduring hardships as a good soldier of Christ, you did not entangle yourself in the affairs of this life, but thought only how to please the Master. Therefore, as to a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth, we cry out to you in words such as these:

Rejoice, teacher of the divine commandments;

Rejoice, you make wise the unwise by your teachings!

Rejoice, new Paul, who has bequeathed to us the pattern of sound words;

Rejoice, new Jude, who has given us the exhortation to contend earnestly for the faith!

Rejoice, new Chrysostom, who has poured forth upon the Church the heavenly nectar of piety;

Rejoice, new Damascene, who has defended the faithful from impious doctrines!

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Kontakion 8

Wisely adorned with understanding and meekness, you brought together venerable virgins in godliness, leading them to Christ by your words and the works of your blameless life, teaching them to sing: *Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)*

Ikos 8

Listening to your prayers and earnest supplications, the Lord Who does the will of those who fear him, led you to the island of Aegina where you rebuilt a monastery which had been abandoned. Who can describe your labors and toils? Exercising vigilance in all things, you showed forth a model of divine virtue. Your spiritual daughters in thanksgiving cry to you:

Rejoice, pure and honorable abode of holiness;
Rejoice, all-luminous lamp, beloved by all!
Rejoice, worthy converser with angels;
Rejoice, good guide of men!
Rejoice, pious rule of faith;
Rejoice, holy purification of mortals!

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Kontakion 9

Worldly-minded men cannot understand your patience, for despite the many cares of the monastery, you did not cease writing edifying books for Christians living in the world. Wherefore, amazed at the great wisdom which you were given, we cry to God: *Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)*

Ikos 9

Having settled at the Monastery in Aegina, you became all spirit and led an altogether spiritual life. Venerable, meek, kindly, humble, extremely compassionate and charitable, you carried on the good fight in order to lay hold of that which Christ Jesus laid hold on you. In your pious ways, you blamelessly followed

Dionysios, the godly pastor of Aegina. Now as you partake of heavenly glory with Him, receive from us these praises:

Rejoice, you despised the world and its delusive pleasures;
Rejoice, you received in exchange heavenly blessings!
Rejoice, you completely subdued your flesh to your spirit;
Rejoice, you subjected your spirit to your sweetest Lord Jesus!
Rejoice, lover of the Holy Fathers;
Rejoice, instructor in the prayer of the heart!

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Kontakion 10

Never neglecting mental prayer, but always crying from the depths of your heart, “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me”, all bore witness that you had become completely spiritualized. Noticing in you an exceptional sweetness which radiated from your serene countenance, the faithful joyfully exclaimed: *Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)*

Ikos 10

Knowing that the Most Holy Virgin is a bulwark for all saints and a joy to monastics, you often offered your intercessions to her with tears and committed yourself to her motherly protection. Writing beautiful hymns, you gave to the faithful the gift of your love, teaching them to sing, “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!” Therefore, we cry to you:

Rejoice, precious chosen one of Christ;
Rejoice, unblemished fragrance of God!
Rejoice, you showed flaming love for the Lord;
Rejoice, you always honored His Holy Mother!
Rejoice, boast of the Orthodox Church;
Rejoice, you work many miracles through the power of God!

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Kontakion 11

When the time came for you to depart to Christ and to receive the crown of righteousness laid up for you in heaven, you endured severe pain and suffering with exemplary patience. Always thanking the Heavenly Father and blessing His all-Holy Name, you continually cried: *Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)*

Ikos 11

The Lord, Who always glorifies those who glorify Him, did not allow your virtues to be hidden, but desiring that those on earth know the glory He has given you in the heavens, has revealed your relics as a wellspring of healings and miracles. For immediately after your repose, as your body was being prepared for burial, the Lord worked wonders through your sweater, raising up a man who had been paralyzed for many years. Therefore, together with him we also gratefully cry to you:

Rejoice, speedy helper of those in need;
Rejoice, constant stream of mercy by which we are cleansed!
Rejoice, physician of soul and body;
Rejoice, new pool of Siloam, healing the infirm!
Rejoice, sweet myrrh of compassion;
Rejoice, miracle worker of the faithful!

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Kontakion 12

Multitudes of the faithful from all lands continually flee to your shrine, O Holy one, and from your precious relics, the faithful obtain divine grace and answers for their every petition. O Father, as you know how, fulfill also the petitions of those who now cry: *Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)*

Ikos 12

Singing praises, we glorify you, O all-praised Nektarios; for in you, God Who is glorified in the Trinity is wonderfully glorified. But even if we were to offer you a

multitude of psalms and hymns composed from the soul, Holy wonderworker, we could do nothing to equal the gift of your miracles and amazed by them, we cry to you:

Rejoice, you conquered all the snares of the evil one;
Rejoice, you were sanctified both in soul and body!
Rejoice, speedy helper of those in need;
Rejoice, restoration of health to the sick!
Rejoice, healer of diseases by the grace of God;
Rejoice, helper of those that suffer cruelly!

Rejoice, O Father Nektarios, model of patience and lover of virtue.

Kontakion 13

(To be read three times)

As a partaker in the life of heaven and a dweller with the angels, O Father Nektarios, in that you labored to please God, accept our present offering and unceasingly intercede for your flock and for all the Orthodox who honor you. Help us to be healed of all diseases of both body and soul, that together with you in the eternal Kingdom, we may unceasingly cry: *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)*

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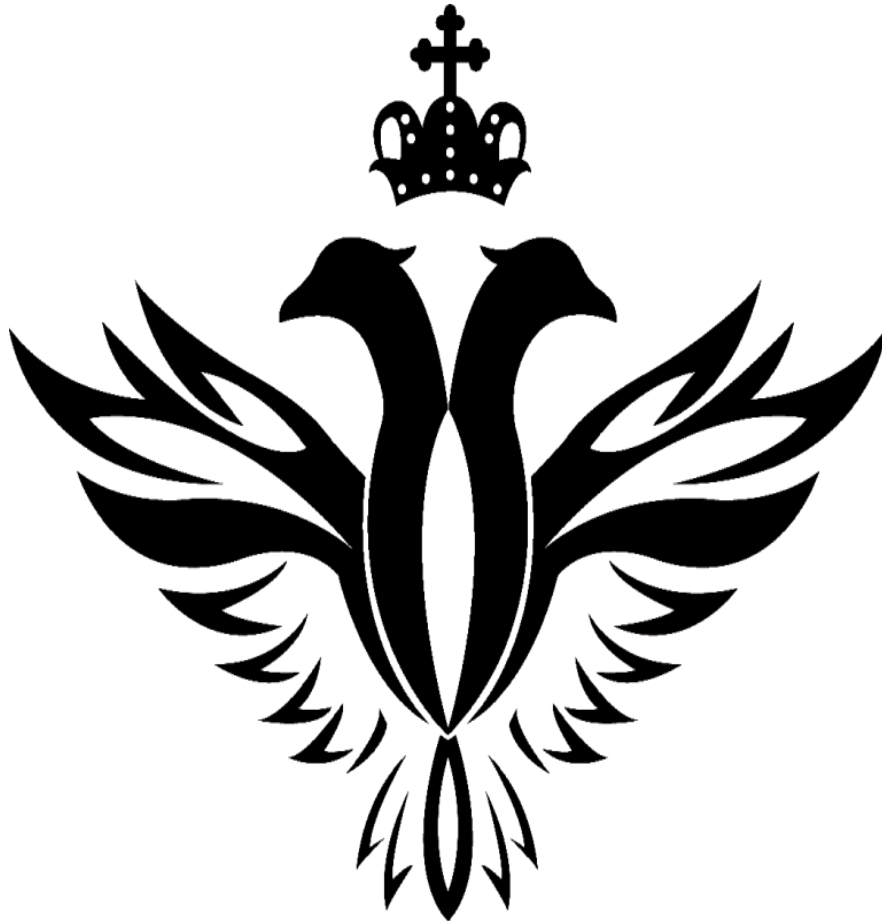
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