

Akathist to the Guardian Angel



Who Keeps Unceasing Watch
Over One's Life

Kontakion 1

O holy Angel chosen by the Lord God to guard my soul and body, I, your unworthy servant, make bold to chant hymns of praise to you. As you have boldness before the King of Heaven, from all misfortunes and sorrows, from enemies visible and invisible, defend me who cry:

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Ikos 1

O holy Angel who has been sent from Heaven to guard and guide me all the days of my life, falling down I pray to you: Instruct and admonish me who begin to utter hymns of praise to you with heartfelt love and zeal:

Rejoice, O Angel of God, my intercessor before the All-holy Trinity!

Rejoice, O incorporeal soldier of the King of kings!

Rejoice, heavenly servant of the Lord of lords!

Rejoice, you dwell with His noetic and immaterial ministers!

Rejoice, you always do the will of your Master!

Rejoice, you have received from God the mandate and authority to
guard my soul!

Rejoice, you are never parted from me, a sinner!

Rejoice, you continually abide with me who am unworthy!

Rejoice, you keep me in all my ways!

Rejoice, you preserve me from all evil!

Rejoice, O guide upon the paths of my life, who is given to me by
God!

Rejoice, O my good instructor!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 2

Seeing that, after the transgression of our first father Adam, all men were readily inclined to sin, in His ineffable mercy the Lord, Who loves mankind, sent His holy angels throughout all the earth, and to each man and woman He assigned one as guardian. Wherefore, fulfilling the command of their Master, the holy angels are ever ready to help us who chant in God-pleasing manner: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 2

From on high obtain for me the enlightenment of understanding, O holy Angel, that I may recognize what the good, pleasing and perfect will of God is; and direct my heart to do it eagerly. May I not cease to praise you, my Guardian, with cries as these:

Rejoice, you set my heart aflame with love for God my Creator!

Rejoice, you urge me, every day and at every hour, to offer Him prayers, petitions and thanksgiving!

Rejoice, you encircle the house of my soul with the fear of God, as with a faithful guard!

Rejoice, you direct all my thoughts to the Saviour Who was crucified for the sins of the world!

Rejoice, you lodge within me the memory of His suffering and death on the Cross!

Rejoice, you teach me to keep myself from sin by the remembrance of the passion of the Lord!

Rejoice, you instruct me to ask for the overshadowing of the grace of the Holy Spirit from on high!

Rejoice, you assure me that He, the Comforter, will regard with mercy only the meek and humble of heart!

Rejoice, you surround me with the awareness that God is everywhere present!

Rejoice, you present His omniscience before my noetic eyes!
Rejoice, you comfort my heart with His lovingkindness toward
penitent sinners!
Rejoice, you affright my soul with His just judgement upon the
hardened and unrepentant!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 3

Ask for me the power of divine grace, O my Angel Guardian, that I may tread the saving path of the commandments of Christ without stumbling or straying, and may unceasingly glorify the most holy name of our God with heart and mouth, and chant to Him: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 3

You do I have, O my divinely chosen protector, as a radiant beam enlightening the darkness of my soul and dispelling the gloom of the ignorance of my heart; wherefore, falling down before you with compunction, I beseech you, that all my senses, which have been benighted by the passions, may be purified, that I may not become lost in the darkness of sin. And I hymn your all-wondrous radiance:

Rejoice, O star of the never-waning Light, who has shone forth from the three-Sunned Godhead and continually illumines me!

Rejoice, O most brilliant beam filling with radiance the eyes of my heart which have been darkened by sins!

Rejoice, for you strive to guide to the true path me who am lost in the darkness of iniquities!

Rejoice, for you set before me the commandments of the Lord like a mirror for my whole life!

Rejoice, for you present to me the law of God like a lamp to my feet
and a light to my steps!

Rejoice, for you teach me to obey the words of the Gospel of Christ
to my delight!

Rejoice, for you urge me to believe without doubting in the
teaching of my divine Teacher and Lord!

Rejoice, for you strengthen me in submission to the canons of the
Holy Church!

Rejoice, for you instruct me to submit to the laws and traditions of
the holy apostles and fathers!

Rejoice, for you confirm me in the confession of the holy Orthodox
Faith!

Rejoice, for you urge me to be ready to die for this confession!

Rejoice, for you warn me not to have fellowship with heretics and
those who have fallen away from the true Church!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 4

The tempest of the sea of life breaks apart the ship of my soul with
waves of worldly cares, and the peace of my wretched soul is shattered.
Where then shall I find a calm haven of salvation? On you alone, after
God, do I place my trust, O my Angel Guardian, for I have acquired you
as an all-wise helmsman amid the noetic storms which beset me.
Wherefore, in thanksgiving I chant to my God: **Alleluia. (People sing
Alleluia!)**

Ikos 4

Hearing and seeing you to be my mighty protector, O divine Angel, the
evil spirits of the air dare not to draw to your all-pure radiance to deal

me a soul-destroying blow; wherefore, I humbly entreat you: Depart not from me because of my intemperance, but from their wicked pursuit and wiles ever preserve me who say with compunction:

Rejoice, you fortify and protect me with the mighty shelter of your wings!

Rejoice, you ever wield a flaming sword round about me!

Rejoice, you are my ally in the battle against the prince of darkness!

Rejoice, you help me to vanquish his evil minions!

Rejoice, you drive away from me the soul-destroying demons as if they were birds of prey!

Rejoice, you admonish me to recognize the wiles of the devil as those of a wicked fox!

Rejoice, you fend off their bestial attacks upon my mind and heart!

Rejoice, you banish from my heart their offspring- pride and hatred!

Rejoice, you drive from my thoughts jealousy and the remembrance of wrongs!

Rejoice, you admonish me to protect myself from the assault of evil thoughts with the sign of the Cross!

Rejoice, you strengthen me to tread fearlessly upon the asp and the basilisk!

Rejoice, you possess an invincible weapon against all my enemies!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 5

To the divinely moving and radiant star which of old guided the Magi to worship the Saviour of the world Who was born in Bethlehem do I dare compare you, O my good Guardian; for with your constant and luminous presence you show me the right path which leads to the Bethlehem on high, the Kingdom of Heaven, that I may be found worthy to hymn the pre-eternal King of glory, chanting there with the

choirs of archangels and angels: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 5

Seeing me held fast and enshrouded by the gloomy night and dark cloud of the passions, O holy Guardian of my soul, be not embittered, neither forsake me, but, imitating the long-suffering of my Saviour, wait a little while, urging me to repent, until my eyes pour forth springs of tears to wash away the impurity of my soul. For this I humbly beseech you, saying:

Rejoice, for you continually offer your supplications to God for me,
a sinner, like incense of sweet savor before Him!

Rejoice, for you ever mediate before my Creator for my salvation!

Rejoice, for His righteous wrath which is directed at me do you
avert by your intercessions!

Rejoice, for you entreat the most merciful Lord to grant me forgive-
ness for my evil deeds!

Rejoice, for you move His goodness to mercy, that He not destroy
me in my iniquities!

Rejoice, for you unceasingly pray to my Redeemer, that He grant
me time to amend my life!

Rejoice, for you encourage me to spend all the days of my life in
repentance!

Rejoice, for you inspire in me the desire to repent continually
before the Lord for all my transgressions!

Rejoice, for you admonish me to examine myself constantly in mind
and to confess my sins!

Rejoice, for you instill in my heart contrition and sorrow for having
angered my All-good God!

Rejoice, for you move me to lament my wretched and defiled life!

Rejoice, O luminous and constant mediator for my salvation!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 6

I proclaim aloud your constant care for me, a sinner, O my Angel Guardian; for amid the tribulations and perils which vex the peace of my soul amid this most tumultuous world you show yourself to be a speedy comforter for me, making plain to me that all these are sent by the All-wise Creator as a cure for the infirmities of my soul, and teaching me to chant to the heavenly Physician, my Benefactor:

Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 6

The light of gracious consolation shines in my soul, which has been darkened by sorrow and despondency because of the multitude of my transgressions, and my heart is filled with joy and gladness when, prompted by your continual instruction, O holy Angel, I make bold to lift up my voice to our compassionate God like the publican, that He be merciful and forgive me my transgressions. Wherefore, cease not, O my instructor, to admonish and strengthen me who cry to you:

Rejoice, you help me to bear the easy yoke of saving endurance
with love!

Rejoice, you strength me with trust in the Lord God amid tribulations and misfortunes!

Rejoice, you teach me with courage to withstand sorrows and pain!

Rejoice, you drive all grief and despondency from my heart!

Rejoice, you urge me to do battle against the enemy who desires to entrap me in the snare of despair!

Rejoice, you encourage me to believe the words of the Apostle, that all who desire to live piously will suffer persecution!

Rejoice, you inspire me to take the prophets and apostles as models

of patience and the endurance of evils!

Rejoice, you point out to me for my consolation the choirs of the martyrs and confessors who contended for Christ with the shedding of their blood!

Rejoice, you continually set before the eyes of my mind the sufferings of the Lord and Saviour Himself!

Rejoice, you delight my heart with the hope of the reward which is to come!

Rejoice, you enliven my soul with the most joyous expectation of everlasting good things!

Rejoice, my good and faithful comforter!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 7

My All-merciful Creator, Who desires that all men be saved, has sent you, His Angel, to me as a faithful guard and good instructor throughout the whole of my life, that in every place and at all times you may assist me by your holy inspiration, defend me against the wiles of the devil, and prepare me by good works to enter with the wise virgins into the heavenly bridal-chamber, chanting the divinely beautiful hymn:

Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 7

My Lord and Master show forth new goodness upon me, His useless servant, who have sinned more than any other; for, looking upon my evil and grievous deeds, He has not destroyed me in the iniquities which I have committed even to the present day and hour, but, showing forth His long-suffering toward me, He mercifully awaits my conversion and repentance of heart. I believe, O my good Guardian,

that by your faithful mediation for me before God I have been preserved until now; wherefore, moved by love for you, I cry:

Rejoice, for from utter drowning you save me who am tempest-tossed upon the sea of this life!

Rejoice, for with your helping hand you draw me forth from the pit of my iniquities!

Rejoice, for you rouse me from the sinful sleep of my soul-destroying slothfulness!

Rejoice, for by your radiant presence you illumine my mind which has been darkened by indifference!

Rejoice, for by your supplications you help me to kindle the flame of my cold and failing heart!

Rejoice, for you ever raise me up to glorify God!

Rejoice, for you dispose my voice to hymnody whereby it is meet and right to praise the Creator of all things!

Rejoice, for you train me to glorify my Lord, not only with my mouth but with my heart as well!

Rejoice, for you urge me to fulfill His all-holy will!

Rejoice, for you strive to teach me self-denial and the rejection of my evil will!

Rejoice, for you earnestly desire that I acquire the simplicity of the dove and the meekness of the lamb!

Rejoice, for you mediate for me, that I be granted the innocence of children and the goodly prudence of elders!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 8

A stranger and sojourner am I upon this earth: my life is vain and of short duration; yet, wretch that I am, I never consider the certainty of

death or ponder the dread tribunal at which I must stand before the righteous Judge and give answer to my every deed and word. Wherefore, I beseech you, O Guardian of my soul: Rouse me quickly from the sleep of sin, for fear that the hour of death find me uncorrected, and that I may be counted worthy to ask of the most merciful God forgiveness for my iniquities, and may chant to Him with a voice of rejoicing: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 8

When my Lord and Creator shall appoint the time for me to pass from this life, do you, O my good Guardian, foreseeing the terrible torments which have been prepared for the evil spirits and for unrepentant sinners and which await me, shelter me beneath the wings of your lovingkindness like an eagle covers its nestlings; and when my spirit departs from me, let me behold you standing near me and repelling the cruel foe. For this do I entreat you with compunction and exclaim:

Rejoice, you set before the eyes of my mind the bitter and
dreadful hour of death!

Rejoice, for you ever remind me of that inescapable hour, whose
time none can know!

Rejoice, you teach me to look upon every day as the last of my life!

Rejoice, you at every hour prepare me to depart to the next world!

Rejoice, you give rise within me to compunction of soul and
contrition of heart!

Rejoice, you ever desire that I may repent, if only at the end of my
days!

Rejoice, you forbid me to love the world and the things in the
world!

Rejoice, you help me to uproot from my heart the passionate
attachment to corruptible riches!

Rejoice, you show me that all earthly good things are transitory and pass quickly away!

Rejoice, you warn me that all the beauties of this world are like a flower of the field!

Rejoice, you adjure me not to seek the glory of men, in that it is like a fleeting shadow!

Rejoice, for you strive to turn me away from this ephemeral world to the everlasting blessings of Heaven!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 9

Every sin have I committed in this life, and, having passed my entire life in great vanity, I have drawn unto my end; and my enemies launch themselves at me, ravening to devour me and drag me down into the abyss of hell. Wherefore, I beseech you, O my good Guardian, be my defender when I must pass through the cruel way-stations, and lead me unharmed to the gates of the Heavenly Kingdom, where with joy the choirs of angels greet those who cry aloud: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 9

Even the tongue of an orator is unable to recount what you have done for me throughout my life, O my holy Guardian; for, having received my soul from the font of holy baptism, you preserved me in infancy, taught and admonished me in my childhood, kept me from stumbling into sin during my youth, guided me when I arrived at adulthood, and has kept me in all my ways even unto old age, chastising and comforting me,

always helping and guiding me toward the path of salvation.

Wherefore, I cry out to you with thanksgiving:

Rejoice, for you never withhold from me your help and assistance!

Rejoice, for you rouse me from sleep to offer thanks to the Lord

Who strengthens my powers!

Rejoice, for you teach me to hallow the beginning of every day with prayer!

Rejoice, for you admonish me that it is audacious to begin anything by myself, without praying to Providence most good!

Rejoice, for you strive to remove self-regard from my heart!

Rejoice, for you urge me to utter the sweet name of the Lord Jesus Christ continually with my mouth and to keep it in my mind!

Rejoice, for you inspire me to always utter with my tongue only those things which are needful and profitable!

Rejoice, for you restrain me from idle talking, excess of speech and blasphemy!

Rejoice, for you ever abide with me as I eat, drink and all else!

Rejoice, for you take care to teach me temperance in eating and drinking!

Rejoice, for you guard me when I sleep, and drive away the enemy who would tempt me with phantasmal dreams!

Rejoice, for you restrain me from passionate urges and set chaste shame before my eyes!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 10

O my All-good Jesus Who came to save all, with compunction I pray to You: In your lovingkindness forgive the incalculable multitude of my evil deeds, inclined so to do by the entreaties of Your immaterial

minister, who you have appointed to guard me from my infancy, in that You love mankind; that I may be shown to be worthy to enter into the bridal-chamber of Your glory and to chant with the souls of the righteous: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 10

You reveal yourself to me as a steadfast rampart against the predations of my evil enemies who seek my eternal destruction and weaken my soul with slothfulness and negligence. Wherefore, I beseech you, O my Guardian, that by your mediation I may be vouchsafed, when my soul will be parted from my body, to partake of the all-pure Body and most holy Blood of my Saviour; that, strengthened by that incorruptible Food and life-creating Drink, I may pass over to the next world without trembling, singing to you, my benefactor:

Rejoice, for power and authority have been given to you to fend off the demons' assaults upon me!

Rejoice, for you have received from God the strength to vanquish my invisible foes!

Rejoice, for you are able to deliver me from all the malice and wiles of the demons!

Rejoice, for you repel the attacks of the governor of the cruel way-stations, the evil prince of this world!

Rejoice, for, protected by your presence, I have hope that, at the hour of my death, I shall escape the horror of the dark countenances of the spirits of evil!

Rejoice, for, preserved by you, I hope to pass the aerial toll-houses unharmed!

Rejoice, for, strengthened by your aid, I do not expect to be kept outside the gates of the garden of Paradise which I desire!

Rejoice, for so mighty is your intercession for me before God, that it

will prevent me from being cast into the outer darkness!
Rejoice, for you urge me to move the Lord to mercy with tears of
repentance, that I may be delivered from the Gehenna of
hell!
Rejoice, for you prompt me to pray, day and night, that I be not
sent into torment with the demons!
Rejoice, O my constant guide and instructor!
Rejoice, O my mighty ally and speedy helper!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 11

Even though this hymnody is offered to you with fervor, O my holy Guardian, I know that it does not suffice to express the gratitude of my heart for all the good things you have done for me, and which you continue to do to this very day and hour; yet I entreat you to move Him Who has created both of us, that He have mercy upon me, and that at His dread judgment He deliver me from a place at His left hand, but may vouchsafe me to chant to Him with all the saints: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 11

My lamp has gone out, and I have not the oil of good works wherewith to light it. Where shall I turn, a wretch who am heavy with the sleep of sin, when midnight, the hour of my end, shall suddenly come upon me? Let me not hear the dread voice of the Bridegroom say to me what He said to the foolish virgins: I know you not! O my tireless Guardian, help me to fill the vessel of my soul with the oil of good deeds, with loving-kindness and humility. And accept now from me these hymns:

Rejoice, you urge me to have the Lord alone in my thoughts!
Rejoice, you renew in my heart the commandment to love the All-good One!
Rejoice, you admonish me to love the Creator with all my mind and all my thoughts!
Rejoice, you remind me continually to please God by nurturing sincere love for my neighbors!
Rejoice, you teach me to express my love for them not merely by word and tongue, but in deed and truth!
Rejoice, you instill within me the desire to help them in all their needs!
Rejoice, you direct me to comfort the sorrowful and to help the oppressed!
Rejoice, you incline my heart to share what I have with the poor and indigent!
Rejoice, you urge me to lay down my life for my friends, as the Saviour has commanded!
Rejoice, you cover my eyes, that I may not see the transgressions of my brother!
Rejoice, you permit me not to judge my neighbor who has fallen into sin!
Rejoice, you forbid me to place credence in the accusations of my friends!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 12

O my holy protector, the Lord Almighty has imparted to you the grace to preserve me in all my ways, that my feet may not stumble over the rock of any temptation, until you present me, saved, before Christ God,

to Whom all the hosts of Heaven cry out unceasingly: **Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 12

I hymn your right wondrous lovingkindness and your great condescension, O incorporeal servant of the Lord, your keen intelligence; for you do not spurn the fetor of my sin, nor do you cease to offer up before the most holy throne of God in three Hypostases your holy supplications for me who am unprofitable, that He not destroy me utterly, but may grant that I inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. Wherefore, be well-pleased to accept the hymnody offered to you from the treasuries of my soul:

Rejoice, for you separate me from sin by the remembrance of the coming dread judgement of God!

Rejoice, for you encourage me to prepare my soul like a bride to greet Christ, the All-comely Bridegroom!

Rejoice, for you ever desire to make me worthy of His bridal-chamber!

Rejoice, for you continually teach me to light the lamp of my soul, that I may enter therein with the wise virgins, the souls of the righteous!

Rejoice, for you urge me to cast off from myself the garments of sin!

Rejoice, for you assist me in putting on the vesture of blamelessness and purity!

Rejoice, for you mediate that I may be vouchsafed to stand at Christ's right hand at His dread judgment!

Rejoice, for you entreat the compassion of God that He assign me to the choir of His elect!

Rejoice, for you move your fellow inhabitants of Heaven to pray to

the Lord, that He cause me to dwell with them in His Kingdom!

Rejoice, O my good and vigilant watchman!

Rejoice, O fervent advocate and good intercessor for me, a sinner!

Rejoice, O my mighty hope, after the Lord God and the All-holy Theotokos!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 13

(To be read three times)

O Angel of God, all-glorious and noetic Intelligence! Accept this hymnody of thanksgiving and supplication, and when I depart this earth and present myself for trial, show forth your lovingkindness upon me, a sinner; stand near me, calm and full of joy, removing my fear with the hope of salvation, that with you I may be counted worthy to chant forever unto the pre-eternal King of glory in the mansions of Paradise: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

Ikos 1

O holy Angel who has been sent from Heaven to guard and guide me all the days of my life, falling down I pray to you: Instruct and admonish me who begin to utter hymns of praise to you with heartfelt love and zeal:

Rejoice, O Angel of God, my intercessor before the All-holy Trinity!

Rejoice, O incorporeal soldier of the King of kings!

Rejoice, heavenly servant of the Lord of lords!

Rejoice, you dwell with His noetic and immaterial ministers!

Rejoice, you always do the will of your Master!

Rejoice, you have received from God the mandate and authority to

guard my soul!

Rejoice, you are never parted from me, a sinner!

Rejoice, you continually abide with me who am unworthy!

Rejoice, you keep me in all my ways!

Rejoice, you preserve me from all evil!

Rejoice, O guide upon the paths of my life, who is given to me by
God!

Rejoice, O my good instructor!

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Kontakion 1

O holy Angel chosen by the Lord God to guard my soul and body, I, your unworthy servant, make bold to chant hymns of praise to you. As you have boldness before the King of Heaven, from all misfortunes and sorrows, from enemies visible and invisible, defend me who cry:

Rejoice, O Angel of the Lord, my tireless Guardian!

Prayer to My Holy Guardian Angel

O holy Angel, my good Guardian and Protector! With contrite heart and anguish of soul I stand before you, praying: Hearken to me, your sinful servant (handmaiden) (Name), who cry aloud with a mighty voice and bitter lamentation. Remember not my iniquities and injustices, whereby, wretch that I am, I anger you every day and hour, and render myself abominable to our Lord and Creator. Show yourself to be loving towards me, and even though I have defiled myself, depart not from me until the end of my life. Rouse me from the sleep of sin, and by your supplications enable me to pass the remaining time of my life blamelessly, and to bring forth fruits worthy of repentance. Preserve me from falling into deadly sins, lest I perish in despair that the enemy may not

rejoice at my destruction. I truly know and I confess with my lips, that no one has such a friend and intercessor, such a defender and ally as you, O holy Angel; for, standing before the throne of the Lord, you pray for me, who more than all others am useless and most sinful, that the All-good One not call my soul away on a day when I am in despair, on a day when I have committed evil. Wherefore, never cease to move my All-loving Lord and God to pity, that He remit the offenses which I have committed throughout my whole life, in deed and word and with all my senses, and that He save me by the judgment which He knows; that He chastise me here according to His ineffable mercy, but that He not denounce and punish me after my death, according to His impartial judgment; that He count me worthy to offer repentance, and that with repentance I may worthily receive divine Communion, for which I fervently beg most earnestly desiring such a gift. Do not be aloof at the dread hour of my death, O my good Guardian, but drive away the dark demons who will seek to terrify my trembling soul; defend me from their pursuit when I must pass through the aerial toll-houses, that preserved unharmed by you, I may safely attain the paradise which I have desired, where the choirs of saints and the heavenly hosts unceasingly praise the most worshipful and majestic name of God Who is glorified in the Trinity – the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit – to Whom is due honor and worship unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Glorifying God through His Light.

50 Hour Prayer Vigil

Orthodox Mission Church

Serving Coolidge and Florence, AZ

Prayer from St. Paisius Orthodox Monastery

Prepared, Edited and Provided by the 50 Hour Prayer Committee.

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