

Prayers in time of the COVID Pandemic



Prayer in Time of the Corona Virus, published by the Holy Synod (OCA)

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible, in thine ineffable goodness, look down upon us, thy people gathered in thy Holy Name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. Thou knowest our weakness. Thou hearest our cry in repentance and contrition of heart. O Lord who lovest mankind, deliver us from the impending threat of the

Corona Virus. Send thine angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians and preserve those who are healthy. Enable us to continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace that together we may glorify thy most honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer in Time of the Corona Virus, Patriarch Daniel of Romania

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, our God, Who art rich in mercy, and with Thy wise providence governest our life, hear our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, stop the new infectious disease (the new epidemic), as Thou didst once cease the punishment of Thy people in the time of King David.

Thou, who art the Physician of our souls and bodies, grant recovery to the sick, raising them quickly from the bed of suffering so that they may glorify Thee, our Merciful Saviour, and protect the healthy ones from any disease.

Bless, O Lord, strengthen and protect with Thy grace all those who with philanthropy and sacrifice take care of the sick at their homes or in hospitals.

Remove all disease and suffering from among the people and teach us to value life and health as Thy gifts.

Give us, O God, Thy peace and fill our hearts with steadfast faith in Thy protection, with hope in Thy support and with love for Thee and our neighbour.

For Thine it is to have mercy on us and save us, O our God, and unto thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayers & Petitions from the Russian Orthodox Church

Prayer read during the Spread of Devastating Pestilence

O Lord our God, enter not into judgement with Thy servants, and compass us about with protection from the devastating pestilence stirred up against us. O kind-hearted Lord Who art inclined toward benevolence, have compassion on us, Thy humble and unworthy servants, who fall down before Thee with broken hearts and hope in Thy mercy.

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Petitions offered up at the Augmented Litany of Divine Liturgy,
during the Spread of Devastating Pestilence**

Again we pray Thee, O Lord our God, that Thou mightest mercifully protect us from the devastating pestilence stirred up against us, and deliver Thy faithful people from spiritual and physical death; grant unto the sick healing and health, and unto all of us Thy divine protection and help; we pray Thee, O kind-hearted Lord, quickly hearken and have mercy.

Again we pray, that Thou mightest pacify the troubles of men and every fearful thing, compass Thy faithful about with firm hope, and instill in our hearts quietude; we pray Thee, O Lord, hearken and have mercy.

<http://p2.patriarchia.ru/2020/03/25/1237557577/PestilencePetitions.pdf>

Excerpts from

**The Molieben Sung in Time of Devastating Epidemic
and Deathbearing Pestilence**

Troparion, Prayer in time of Epidemic - Tone 2

In Thy wrath, O God, remember Thy compassions, for we are dust and ashes, whose breath, when it departs, shall not return, and rebuke us not in Thine anger that we not be utterly destroyed. But spare our souls, as Thou only art merciful.

Kontakion, Prayer in time of Epidemic - Tone 6

The torments of Hades have encompassed us, and the darkness of death covers us, and as wax before the fire, our days melt before the face of Thine anger, O Lord. But as Thou art compassionate, remember mercy in Thy wrath, and spare Thy people, that being alive, in repentance we may glorify Thee as the only Lover of Mankind.

Sedalen, Prayer in time of Epidemic - Tone 2

Reject not utterly Thy people that have sinned, O Master, neither turn away Thy mercies and compassions from us. But as Thou art an abyss of compassion and a gulf of loving kindness, accept our prayers and deliver us from the misfortunes and necessities that have been laid upon us, for Thou only art condescending.

Prayer in time of Epidemic

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

O Lord, our God, look down from Thy Holy Heaven on the supplication of us, Thy sinful and unworthy servants, who have angered Thy graciousness by

our transgressions, and have provoked Thy deep compassion, and enter not into judgment with Thy servants. But do Thou turn aside Thy fearsome anger that justly has seized us, appease the destructive threatening, avert Thy terrible sword that, although invisible, is cutting us grievously, and spare Thy poor and needy servants. Enclose not with death the souls of us who have fallen down in repentance with broken hearts and tears before Thee, our kindhearted, condescending and accommodating God. For Thine it is to show mercy and to save, O our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Mollieben uses these psalms:

Psalm 37 [38]

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger,
nor chasten me in Thy wrath!
For Thine arrows have sunk into me,
and Thy hand has come down on me.
There is no soundness in my flesh
because of Thine indignation;
and there is no health in my bones
because of my sin.
For my iniquities have gone over my head;
they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.
My wounds grow foul and fester
because of my foolishness,
I am utterly bowed down and prostrate;
all the day I go about mourning.
For my loins are filled with burning,
and there is no soundness in my flesh.
I am utterly spent and crushed;
I groan because of the tumult of my heart.
Lord, all my longing is known to Thee,
my sighing is not hidden from Thee.
My heart throbs, my strength fails me;
and the light of my eyes - it also has gone from me.
My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague,
and my kinsmen stand afar off.
Those who seek my life lay their snares,
those who seek my hurt speak of ruin,

and meditate treachery all the day long.
But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear,
like a dumb man who does not open his mouth.
Yea, I am like a man who does not hear,
and in whose mouth are no rebukes.
But for Thee, O Lord, do I wait;
it is Thou, O Lord my God who wilt answer.
For I pray, "Only let them not rejoice over me,
who boast against me when my foot slips."
For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever with me.
I confess my iniquity,
I am sorry for my sin.
Those who are my foes without cause are mighty,
and many are those who hate me wrongfully.
Those who render me evil for good
are my adversaries because I follow after good.
Do not forsake me, O Lord!
O my God, be not far from me!
Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Psalm 50 (51)

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Thy steadfast love;
according to Thine abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions
and my sin is ever before me.
Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned,
and done that which is evil in Thy sight,
so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence
and blameless in Thy judgment.
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Fill me with joy and gladness;
let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice.
Hide Thy face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation
and uphold me with a willing Spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways
and sinners will return to Thee.
Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God,
Thou God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance.
O Lord, open Thou my lips,
and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.
For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice;
were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.
Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.

Psalm 90 (91)

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
who abides in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."
For he will deliver thee from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;
he will cover thee with his pinions,
and under his wings thou wilt find refuge;

his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
Thou wilt not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.
A thousand may fall at thy side,
ten thousand at thy right hand;
but it will not come near thee.
Thou wilt only look with thine eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.
Because thou hast made the Lord thy refuge,
the Most High thy habitation,
no evil shall befall thee,
no scourge come near thy tent.
For he will give his angels charge of thee
to guard thee in all thy ways.
On their hands they will bear thee up,
lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
Thou wilt tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent thou wilt trample under foot.
Because he cleaves to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.
When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will rescue him and honor him.
With long life I will satisfy him,
and show him my salvation.

After psalms we say:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages and ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.

**ANOTHER PRAYER TO THE LORD
SAID IN TIME OF DEVASTATION AND FAMINE,
THE WORK OF THE MOST SACRED PATRIARCH KALLISTOS.**

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

O Lord, our God, Who, by Thy creating command didst bring this visible creation from nothingness into being; Who, likewise, didst fashion man with Thy handout of Thine extreme goodness, having first made for him an inexhaustible and comfortable preparation for food and drink, and together, with the transgression of the commandment having deprived him of this incorrupt nourishment, gavest him another, wearisome, place of abode; Who didst command the earth that it bring forth fruit for our nourishment, and with the same command irrational animals of many and various forms; Who didst grant, therefore, other things from the same seed of the earth for our needs, and yet more, by Thy providential power, providest fish from the sea by Thy goodness; Who openest Thy right hand and fillest every living thing with satisfaction; Who didst work great and I wondrous signs both in the Old Testament and the New: Hearken Thou unto me, Thy sinful and unworthy servant; and as once through Joseph, who was an image of Thine Only-begotten Son, Thou didst abundantly nourish all the people of Israel, so also now, through Thine Only-begotten Son, our True God, do Thou grant us nourishment and rest, and give us who are afflicted, a change from famine and devastation, and who are in expectation that Thou wilt deliver us from necessities and misfortunes, that the most-holy Name may be glorified of Thee, the Father Who is without beginning, and of Thine Only-begotten Son, and of Thy Most-holy and Lifegiving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

ANOTHER, SIMILAR PRAYER, BY THE SAME KALLISTOS

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

O God of Wonders, Who workest great and wondrous things; Who, in ancient times, through Moses didst free Israel from the bitter bondage of Pharaoh; Who, guiding him with Thy right hand, and preserving them unharmed on their way to the Promised Land, at first didst nourish great numbers of people to satisfaction with quail in the extremely dry desert, then didst bedew them with manna as with water from an everflowing spring; Who didst arrange to bedew them with fountains of water from an unhewn rock; and Who didst satisfy with the spilling out of waters them that were exhausted with thirst: Do Thou now also, in like manner, nourishing us with Thy usual love for mankind and

graciousness, grant us that which is necessary, and feed us with that which serves us for nourishment; and show in us Thy great and wondrous deeds; and satisfy us with the blessings of Thy goodness. For Thou art able to do all things, and there is nothing that Thou canst not do. Yea, O Lord, our God, Who didst nourish a multitude of people with a few loaves in the Wilderness: Do Thou nourish us now also with Thine ineffable deep compassion, and disdain not the supplication of us, Thy sinful and unworthy servants, that Thy Most-holy Name may be most-glorified: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

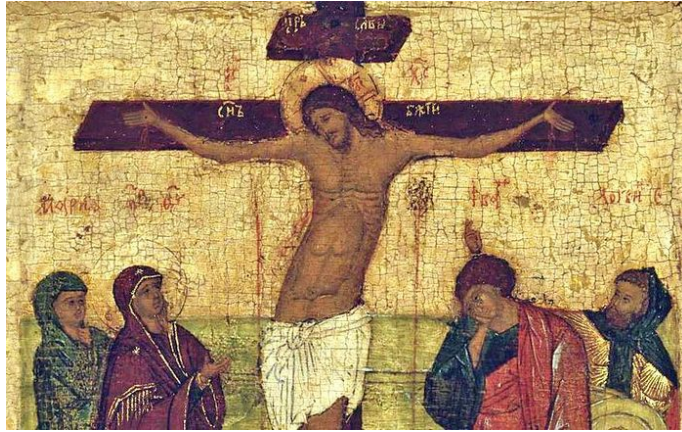
A PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION AT EVERY LITYA

This Prayer is read at Lityas in time of evident misfortune

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

O Lord, Who alone art rich in mercy, and Who, through deep goodness, inclinest unto the supplications of us, Thy sinful and unworthy servants; Who arrangest and directest all that is profitable for us; Who leadest our life by Thy most-wise Providence, and desirest our salvation by every example; Who art longsuffering and greatly-merciful by nature; Who punishest and again healest; Who also graciously, out of love for mankind, extendest chastisement, but, not to destroy the creation of Thy hands with it, but, beyond that, to again bring it to the original goodness and to this first nobility, which we have destroyed by simpleness of mind and most-cursed counsel, desiring again to lift it up, and, considering every example by which Thou mightest save that which has been weakened by falls: Do Thou Thyself, O Almighty Master, look down on us, and attend unto the supplications of us sinners. For the multitude of our transgressions has made us timid, and we absolutely dare not to entreat forgiveness of transgressions. Yet, knowing Thy love for mankind, deep compassion, great mercy, longsuffering, gentleness, and superior goodness, and having confidence in the depth of these things, and in the abyss of Thy goodness, lifting up our hands, we fervently cry out unto Thee: We have sinned, we have transgressed, we have been dishonorable, for we have forgotten Thy commandments, and we have walked in the footsteps of our evil thoughts; and we have passed our lives as ones unworthy of our calling, and the Gospel of Thy Christ, His holy Passion, and the spilling out of His Blood for us; and we have become a reproach unto Thy Beloved Son. We, Thy priest and people, have transgressed; all together we have turned away; we have become useless. There is no one that works justice and righteousness, not even one; we have shut out Thy compassions and Thy love for mankind, and the depth of the mercy of our God, because of our evils, and the striving for wickedness, by which

we have lived. Thou art good, but we have transgressed; Thou art longsuffering, but we are fit for wounds; we know Thy goodness, although we are senseless; we have sinned for little, and we are beaten; Thou art awesome, and who can stand against Thee? The mountains shake because of Thee, and who can speak against the majesty of Thine arm? If Thou shouldest close the Heaven, who could open it? And if Thou shouldest close Thine abysses, who could prevent this? To make poor and to make rich, to give life and to kill, to wound and to heal, is easy before Thine eyes. Whatsoever Thou shalt desire is perfectly fulfilled. "Thou hast been angered, yet we still have sinned," says one of the ancients, confessing his sins. And we also say in the present time: "We have sinned, and Thou hast been angered; therefore, we have become a reproach to our neighbors. Thou hast turned away Thy face, and we have been filled with dishonor." Yet, do Thou cease from Thine anger, O Lord; being appeased, O Lord, do Thou diminish it; and give us not up utterly because of our transgressions, neither punish us with other afflictions. Dost Thou give us over to be chastened with the torment of others, such as these: of nations that have not known Thee, and kingdoms that have not been obedient to Thy dominion? But we are Thy people and the staff of Thine inheritance. Therefore, do Thou chastise us, but in goodness, and not in Thine anger, that Thou not make us decrease and be humiliated more than anyone else that lives on the earth. For Thy mercy is ineffable, Thy love for mankind is invincible, and the riches of Thy goodness is unfathomable, in which having boldness, we pray and entreat Thee, bending the knees of our hearts: Do Thou cease from the cutting of Thy wrath, we fervently pray, as Thou didst for Thy people in the time of David, even if we do not show seemly repentance. But as Thou art most-gracious, do Thou put an end to Thy wrath, appease Thy righteous anger, grant health unto them that suffer and strength unto them that are infirm, and preserve them that are healthy; and drive away every sickness and every wound from Thy people. Do Thou liberate everyone from expectation of this, preserving them from falling into sickness, and, by Thine almighty arm, keeping them inviolate from this cruel affliction and devastating destruction; for, truly, the anger of Thy wrath has shaken and troubled everyone. If, therefore, we turn not from all our wickedness, yet do Thou Thyself deliver all of us from our evil counsels, and grant that we may please Thee with every good work: through the prayers of the pure Mother of God, the Ever-Virgin Mary, who gave birth unto Thee without a husband, and the intercessions of the Holy and God-seeing Angels, and of all the Saints. For Thou art the Fountain of Mercies and the Unfathomable Depth of Loving-kindness, and unto Thee do we send up glory, together with Thy Father Who is without beginning, and Thy Most-holy, Good, and Lifegiving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.



Prayers for the Sick **Troparion - Tone 4**

O CHRIST, who alone art our Defender,
speedily from on high visit thy suffering servant,
delivering him from sickness and bitter pains;
raise him up that he may sing to thee and praise thee without ceasing
through the prayers of the Theotokos, O thou who alone lovest mankind.

Kontakion - Tone 2

O MERCIFUL Lord, visit and heal this sick person,
now lying on the bed of sickness and sorely afflicted,
as thou, O Savior, didst once raise Peter's wife's mother
and the man sick of the palsy who was carried on his bed:
for thou alone hast borne the sickness and afflictions of our race,
and with thee nothing is impossible
for thou art all-merciful.

A Prayer for the Sick

O holy Father, heavenly Physician of our souls and bodies, who hast sent thine
Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to heal all our ailments and deliver us
from death: do thou visit and heal thy servant **N.**, granting him release from
pain and restoration to health and vigor, that he may give thanks unto thee and
bless thy holy Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now
and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A Prayer of a Sick Person

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, Physician of souls and bodies, who didst
become man and suffer death on the Cross for our salvation, and through thy
tender love and compassion didst heal all manner of sickness and affliction; do
thou O Lord, visit me in my suffering, and grant me grace and strength to bear

this sickness with which I am afflicted, with Christian patience and submission to thy will, trusting in thy loving kindness and tender mercy. Bless, I pray thee, the means used for my recovery, and those who administer them. I know O Lord, that I justly deserve any punishment inflicted upon me for I have so often offended thee and sinned against thee, in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, I humbly pray thee, look upon my weakness, and deal not with me after my sins, but according to the multitude of thy mercies. Have compassion on me, and let mercy and justice meet; and deliver me from this sickness and suffering I am undergoing. Grant that my sickness may be the means of my true repentance and amendment of my life according to thy will, that I may spend the rest of my days in thy love and fear: that my soul, being helped by thy grace and sanctified by thy Holy Mysteries, may be prepared for its passage to the Eternal Life, and there, in the company of thy blessed Saints, may praise and glorify thee with thy Eternal Father and Life-giving Spirit. Amen.

Thanksgiving After Recovery From Sickness

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Source of life and Fountain of all good things, I bless thy Holy Name, and offer to thee most hearty thanks for having delivered me from my sickness and restored me to health. Grant me thy continuing grace, I pray thee, that I may keep my good resolutions and correct the errors of my past life, and improve in virtue, and live a new life in dutiful fear of thee, doing thy will in all things, and devoting this new life which thou hast given me to thy service: that thus living for thee, I may be found ready when it pleaseth thee to call me to thee, O heavenly Father, to whom with thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and thine all-holy and Life-giving Spirit, is due all honor, praise, glory, and thanksgiving: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayers for the Dying

Prayer at the Departing of the Soul

O LORD and Master and Governor of all, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who desirest not the death of a sinner,
 but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live,
 willing that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth,
 we pray thee to loose the soul of thy servant *N.* from every bond,
 and to free him from every unfulfilled pledge which he has given,
 granting him forgiveness of all his sins from his youth till now,
 known and unknown, in deed and word,
 both those which he has sincerely confessed,

and those which he has concealed through forgetfulness or shame.

For thou alone loosest bonds and restorest the downtrodden,
thou art the hope of them that are in despair,
mighty in forgiving the sins of every creature who puts his trust in thee.

O Lord, the Lover of mankind,
bid him to be released from all the bonds of sin and the flesh.
Receive in peace the soul of this thy servant *N.*

and give him rest in thine eternal dwelling with all thy Saints,
by the grace of thine only Son our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ,
with whom thou art blessed together with thine all-holy, good and life-giving
Spirit

now and for ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer after the Departing of the Soul

REMEMBER, O Lord our God,
this thy servant our brother *N.* ,
who now stands before thee in the faith and hope of life eternal.

Release him from his sins, destroying his iniquity,
pardoning, loosing and freeing him from all his transgressions,
voluntary and involuntary.

Save him from the eternal sufferings and fires of hell.

Grant him to enjoy and to share in thine eternal bliss

which thou hast prepared for all that love thee:
though he has sinned, yet has he not rejected thee,
confessing thee faithfully even in his latest breath -

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
and believing in God glorified in the Holy Trinity,

One in Three and Three in One, according to the Orthodox Faith.

Be thou therefore merciful to him,

looking rather upon his faith than his works,

and grant him rest with all thy saints, for thou art bountiful.

No man who lives is without sin, and thou alone art free from all stain,
and thy truth abides for ever.

Thou art the one merciful and bountiful God who lovest mankind,
and to thee we send up glory,

to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
now and for ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayers to the Holy Archangel Michael

Troparion, Synaxis of Archangel Michael & all the Bodiless Hosts - Tone 4

Commander of the heavenly hosts,
 we who are unworthy beseech thee,
 that by thy prayers encompass us
 beneath the wings of thy immaterial glory,
 and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry to thee:
 "Deliver us from all dangers, //
 for thou art the commanders of the powers on high!"

Kontakion, Synaxis of Archangel Michael & all the Bodiless Hosts - Tone 2

Commander of God's armies and minister of the divine glory,
 prince of the bodiless angels and guide of mankind,
 ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy, //
 supreme commander of the Bodiless Hosts.



Prayer to the Holy Archangel Michael

O great and holy Michael, Archangel of God, standing at the head of the angels before the everlasting Trinity, thou advocate and preserver of mankind who with thine hosts hast broken in heaven the head of the Day Star, exceeding proud, and who dost always put to shame his evil and cunning on earth, we run to thee with faith and pray to thee with love: be thou an unbreakable shield and firm bastion for the Holy Church, protecting her with thy lightning sword. Be thou a guardian angel, a wise counsellor and helper of this country bringing to it enlightenment and strength, joy, peace and comfort from the throne of the ruling King. Be thou the chief captain and fellow-fighter of christian warriors, police and first responders, that they may know that God and his holy angels are with them. Be thou the physician and healer of those wounded in battle. Be thou the pillar and defender of those stewards and children of the Church of God that are in captivity. And forsake not, O Archangel of God, with thy help and protection those of us glorifying today thy holy name. For, behold, though we are great sinners yet we desire not to perish in our iniquities but to turn to the Lord and be made by Him to live unto good works. Illuminate our minds with the light of the Countenance of God that shines without ceasing on thy lightning-like

forehead, that we may understand that the will of God concerning us is good and perfect and knoweth all that it is right for us to do and even that which it is right to remit and overlook. Strengthen by the grace of the Lord our weak will and our feeble purpose, that made firm in the commandment of the Lord we may cease to wallow in earthly thoughts drawn by the lusts of the flesh as senseless children through the perishable beauties of this world. Above all these things ask from on high for us the true spirit of repentance, true sorrow and contrition for our sins before God, that we may spend the remaining number of our days in this temporal life not in the satisfying of our feelings and in bondage to our passions but in blotting out the evil we have done by tears of faith and heartfelt compunction, by feats of chastity and holy acts of mercy. And when the hour of our end and of our liberation from the earthen bonds of our own bodies draws near, O Archangel of God, leave us not without defense against the earthly spirits of evil whose custom it is to hinder the entry of man's soul into the upper places, that preserved by thee we may without hindrance reach those all glorious dwelling-places of Paradise where there is neither sorrow nor sighing but life without end; that we may be made worthy to behold the Face of our all-gracious Lord and Master and that falling at His feet with tears we may cry out in joy and tender feeling: Glory to Thee, our most dear Redeemer Who, because of Thy great love for us unworthy, hast been pleased to send Thine angels in the service of our salvation; with Thine unoriginate Father, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. **Amen.**



Hieromartyr Haralambos, Bishop of Magnesia



Troparion, Hieromartyr Haralambos - Tone 4

Thou didst become a firm pillar in the Church of Christ, wise Haralambos;
a lamp of everlasting light to the world:
well known to the world through thy martyrdom,
thou didst dispell the dark night of idolatry. //
Boldly intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls!

Another Troparion, Hieromartyr Haralambos - Tone 4

Thy holy martyr Haralambos, O Lord,
through his sufferings have received an incorruptible crown from Thee, O our God.
For having Thy strength, he laid low low his adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. //
Through his intercessions, save our souls!

Kontakion, Hieromartyr Haralambos - Tone 4

Thou didst rise from the East like a star, Hieromartyr Haralambos, and didst enlighten the faithful with the brightness of thy miracles. // Therefore we honor thy holy contest.

**Hieromartyr Haralambos, Bishop of Magnesia in Thessaly,
the Martyrs Porphyrius and Baptus, and three women Martyrs
Commemorated on February 10****LIFE from**

The Hieromartyr Haralambos (Charalampus), Bishop of Magnesia, the martyrs Porphyrius and Baptus and three women martyrs suffered in the year 202.

Saint Haralambos, Bishop of Magnesia (Asia Minor), successfully spread faith in Christ the Savior, guiding people on the way to salvation. News of his preaching reached Lucian, the governor of the district, and the military commander Lucius. The saint was arrested and brought to trial, where he confessed his faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifice to idols.

Despite the bishop's advanced age (he was 113 years old), he was subjected to monstrous tortures. They lacerated his body with iron hooks, and scraped all the skin from his body. During this the saint turned to his tormentors, "I thank you, brethren, that you have restored my spirit, which longs to pass over to a new and everlasting life!"

Seeing the Elder's endurance and his complete lack of malice, two soldiers (Porphyrius and Baptus) openly confessed Christ, for which they were immediately beheaded with a sword. Three women who were watching the sufferings of Saint Haralambos also began to glorify Christ, and were quickly martyred.

The enraged Lucius seized the instruments of torture and began to torture the holy martyr, but suddenly his forearms were cut off as if by a sword. The governor then spat in the face of the saint, and immediately his head was turned around so that he faced backwards.

Then Lucius entreated the saint to show mercy on him, and both torturers were healed through the prayers of Saint Haralambos. During this a multitude of witnesses came to believe in Christ. Among them also was Lucius, who fell at the feet of the holy bishop, asking to be baptized.

Lucian reported these events to the emperor Septimus Severus (193-211), who was then at Pisidian Antioch (western Asia Minor). The emperor ordered Saint

Haralambos to be brought to him in Antioch. Soldiers twisted the saint's beard into a rope, wound it around his neck, and used it to drag him along. They also drove an iron nail into his body. The emperor then ordered them to torture the bishop more intensely, and they began to burn him with fire, a little at a time. But God protected the saint, and he remained unharmed.

Many miracles were worked through his prayer: he raised a dead youth, and healed a man tormented by devils for thirty-five years, so that many people began to believe in Christ the Savior. Even Galina, the daughter of the emperor, began to believe in Christ, and twice smashed the idols in a pagan temple. On the orders of the emperor they beat the saint about the mouth with stones. They also wanted to set his beard on fire, but the flames burned the torturer.

Full of wickedness, Septimus Severus and an official named Crispus hurled blasphemy at the Lord, mockingly summoning Him to come down to the earth, and boasting of their own power and might. The Lord sent an earthquake, and great fear fell upon all, the impious ones were both suspended in mid-air held by invisible bonds, and only by the prayer of the saint were they put down. The dazed emperor was shaken in his former impiety, but again quickly fell into error and gave orders to torture the saint.

And finally, the emperor sentenced Saint Haralambos to beheading with a sword. During Saint Haralambos' final prayer, the heavens opened and the saint saw the Savior and a multitude of angels. The holy martyr asked Him to grant that the place where his relics would repose would never suffer famine or disease. He also begged that there would be peace, prosperity, and an abundance of fruit, grain, and wine in that place, and that the souls of these people would be saved. The Lord promised to fulfill his request and ascended to heaven, and the soul of the hieromartyr Haralambos followed after Him. By the mercy of God, the saint died before he could be executed. Galina buried the martyr's body with great honor.



Saint Nicephorus the Leper

Commemorated on January 4

Troparion, Ven Nicephorus the Leper - Tone 1

All the angels were astonished by the struggles and and strict asceticism of the Venerable Nicephorus the Leper; / for like another Job, patiently enduring his pain, he glorified God, / Who has crowned him now with glory, distinguishing him through miracles. / Rejoice, instructor of monastics. / Rejoice, beacon of light. / Rejoice, for a delightful fragrance pours forth from your relics.

Kontakion, Ven Nicephorus the Leper - Tone 8 *Podoben*: O Victorious Leader The valiant athlete of endurance and fortitude, / the steadfast diamond of patience and long-suffering was tried by affliction and sickness, / and in this way he glorified the Most High God, let us extol Nicephorus the Leper, / saying unto him: Rejoice, O namesake of victory.



Life from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2016/01/04/205506-saint-nikephoros-the-leper>

Father Nikephoros (Nicholas Tzanakakis in the world) was born in 1890 in a mountainous village in Khania, in Sikari, Kastanohori to the west of the prefecture with a healthy climate, with beautiful forests, rich waters, gorges and caves. This village has a peculiarity that we do not often encounter: it is divided into eleven neighborhoods, which have also been named after the families who first settled there. So Saint Nikephoros was born in the neighborhood of Kostoyianides.

His parents were simple and pious villagers, who died when he was still a young child, leaving him as an orphan. So, at the age of thirteen, he left his home. His grandfather, who had undertaken to raise him, went to Khania to work there in a barber shop in order to learn the job. Then he showed the first signs of Hansen's disease, i.e. leprosy. The lepers were isolated on the island of Spinalonga because leprosy was a contagious disease and it was treated with fear and dismay.

Nicholas was sixteen years old when signs of the disease began to become more conspicuous, so he left on a boat to Egypt in order to avoid being confined to Spinalonga. He remained in Alexandria, working in a barber shop again, but the signs of the disease became more and more apparent, especially on his hands and face. That is why, through the intervention of a cleric, he went to Chios, where there was a church for lepers at that time, and the priest was Father Anthimos Vagianos, later Saint Anthimos (February 15).

Nicholas arrived in Chios in 1914 at the age of twenty-four. In the leper hospital of Chios, which was a complex with many homesteads, there was a chapel of Saint Lazarus, where the wonderworking icon of Panagia Ypakoe¹ (Feb. 2) was kept. In this space, the course of virtues was opened for Nicholas. Within two years Saint Anthimos considered him ready for the angelic Schema and tonsured him with the name Nikephoros. The disease progressed and evolved in the absence of suitable drugs, causing many large lesions (a drug was found in 1947).

Father Nikephoros lived with unquestioning, genuine obedience to his Spiritual Father, and with austere fasting, working in the gardens. He also recorded the miracles of Saint Anthimos, which he had witnessed with his own eyes (many of these were related to the deliverance of those possessed by demons).

There was a special spiritual relationship between Saint Anthimos and the monk Nikephoros, who always remained close to him, as Father Theoklitos Dionysiatis writes in his book Saint Anthimos of Chios. Father Nikephoros prayed at night for hours on end making countless metanias, he did not quarrel with anyone, nor injure

1 The name of the icon honors the obedience of the Theotokos to God's will for her to give birth to His Son, so by her obedience people would also obey His will. The Greek word Υπακοή means "obedience."

anyone's heart, and he was the master chanter of the temple. Because of his illness, however, he slowly lost his sight, and so he chanted the troparia and the Epistles from memory.

The Chios leprosarium was closed in 1957 and the remaining patients, together with Father Nikephoros, were sent to Saint Barbara's home for lepers in Athens, in Aigaleo. At that time, Father Nikephoros was about 67 years old. His members and his eyes were completely altered and distorted by the disease.

There, Father Eumenios also lived there at the home for lepers. He also suffered from Hansen's disease, but with the medication he received, he was completely cured. However, he decided to remain in the home for lepers for the rest of his life near his fellow sufferers, caring for them with much love. Thus he submitted to Father Nikephoros, to whom the Lord had given many gifts as a reward for his patience. A crowd of people gathered in the humble cell of the leper Nikephoros, in Saint Barbara in Aigaleo to obtain his prayers. Here are some testimonies of those who met him:

"While he was prostrate with wounds and pains, he did not complain, but he showed great patience."

"He had the charisma of consoling those who were sad. His eyes were permanently irritated, and he had limited sight. He also had stiffness in his hands and paralysis in his lower limbs. Nonetheless, he endured all of this in the sweetest, meek, smiling, delightful way, and he was also pleasant and lovable."

"His face, which was eaten away by the marks of his illness, and his wounds, shone. It was a joy for those who saw this destitute and seemingly feeble man saying, May His holy name be glorified."

Father Nikephoros reposed on January 4, 1964 at the age of 74. After three years, his holy relics were exhumed and found to be fragrant. Father Eumenios and other believers reported many cases where miracles occurred by calling on Saint Nikephoros to intercede with God.

The life of Saint Nikephoros was a brilliant example and model for everyone. He was pleasing to God because he had endured so much. For this reason, we have many testimonies that our saint received from the Holy Spirit the gift of discernment as and a host of other charisms. We should note that most of the miracles are recorded, and today the saint gives generous help to anyone in need. Surely there will be many more miracles which have not yet been made manifest.

Another Troparion Ven Nicephorus the Leper - Tone 3

O venerable father Nicephorus the Leper,
 thy struggles and courageous asceticism brought wonder to the angels of heaven.
 Like another Job in pain,
 thou didst endure and give glory to God.
 And so, he arranged for thee a resplendent crown of miracles.
 Rejoice, O guide of monastics!
 Rejoice, O prism of light!
 Rejoice, O delightful fragrance radiating from your relics!

Another Kontakion, Ven Nicephorus the Leper - Tone 2

O venerable father Nicephorus,
 shunning pain and bodily corruption,
 like a horse thou dost gallop towards the heavens,
 the steadfast support of lepers.
 A brilliantly lit temple of God,
 thy body shone in its illness.



Collection of prayers made at St Innocent Orthodox Church, Tarzana CA