

# The Akathist Hymn to Saint Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow *Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of North America*



## **Kontakion 1 – Tone 8**

O Holy Father, Good Shepherd of the Flock entrusted to thee by the Lord!  
Thou didst dedicate all thy strength and heart, all thy mind and soul to Christ!  
In the remotest regions thou didst labore tirelessly without thought of earthly reward  
for the sake of His Holy Church and the salvation of all.  
We, the recipients of thy great spiritual legacy, offer to thee this hymn of praise.  
As thou standest before the Throne of the Lord of Glory,  
intercede for our land and its people!  
That united in One Holy, Orthodox Church we may gratefully sing to thee: //  
Rejoice O Holy Father, Metropolitan Innocent,  
Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska.

## **Ikos 1**

O Holy Father Innocent! Thy glory has shone from the Far Eastern lands to the  
Western World. From humble origins in a Siberian village thou didst rise to world  
renown as a modern Apostle. The Lord chose thee to bring the Orthodox Faith to the  
ancient Peoples of Alaska and Asia, who together with us honor thee with these songs  
of praise:  
Rejoice! Imitator of the Apostles and their Successor!  
Rejoice! Evangelizer of the Arctic Peoples!  
Rejoice! Scholar and Teacher of the Aleuts!  
Rejoice! Illuminator of the Eskimos and Indians!

Rejoice! Humble genius whose footsteps were guided by the Lord!  
 Rejoice! Visionary Architect of the Orthodox Church in America!  
 Rejoice! O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

### **Kontakion 2**

Thou didst distinguish thyself as a young student, displaying thy many interests and talents by excelling in thy studies at home and in school. Thy greatest joy was the service of God and His Holy Church. Thine uncle instructed thee in the ways of piety and faith so that from an early age thou didst sing to the Lord: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 2**

In thy youth, the Lord prepared thee for thy lifetime of service by enabling thee to study various disciplines. Remembering thy dedication, we thankfully celebrate thy memory:

Rejoice! Thy talents were employed in the service of Christ!  
 Rejoice! Thine achievements inspire all who are familiar with them!  
 Rejoice! Skilled craftsman, imitator of the Carpenter of Nazareth!  
 Rejoice! Clock--maker who proclaimed the Timeless One!  
 Rejoice! Thy teachers marveled at thine intelligence!  
 Rejoice! Thy spiritual children praise thy humility!  
 Rejoice! O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

### **Kontakion 3**

Completing thy preparation at the seminary at Irkutsk, thou didst accept the Divine Call to the missionary frontier of Alaska. Together with thy wife, the beloved Katherine, thou didst set out on thine Apostolic journey to Russian America, as thou didst sing to the Lord: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 3**

As a newly ordained priest thou didst show great determination in reaching thy destination, a thousand miles away, in the Bering Sea. Thou didst willingly forsake all for the sake of the Gospel of Christ, traveling for many months over frozen tundra and treacherous seas. Inspired by thy dedication, we sing to thee:

Rejoice! Apostle to America!  
 Rejoice! Heroic Founder of Orthodoxy in the Western World!  
 Rejoice! Imitator of the Holy Apostle Paul!  
 Rejoice! Courageous voyager on the northern seas!  
 Rejoice! Thy dedication equalled that of the Apostles!  
 Rejoice! Thy perseverance was a Gift of the Holy Spirit!  
 Rejoice! O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

### **Kontakion 4**

Arriving at Unalaska, thou didst render thanks to the Lord for thy safe passage. Kneeling on the beach together with all those in thy company, thou didst praise God

with the hymn: Alleluia!

#### **Ikos 4**

Together with thy tutor, the Aleut chieftain Ivan, thou didst study the Native language and devised a writing system for it. Thou didst labor for many years, preparing the Word of God for publication in the Aleut tongue. Thou didst astound the indigenous peoples with thine ability to preach to them in their own language, thus enlightening them with the Light of Christian Truth. We glorify God for bringing thee to our shores and honor thine evangelical accomplishments:

Rejoice! Ennoblement of Ancient Peoples!

Rejoice! Father of Learning in Alaska!

Rejoice! Teacher of Virtue and Divine Truth!

Rejoice! Catechist of those seeking Righteousness!

Rejoice! Thy vision inspires all future missionaries!

Rejoice! Thy brilliance illumines the arctic night!

Rejoice! O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

#### **Kontakion 5**

Thou didst travel throughout the Aleutian region, braving storms and hostile seas in thine efforts to evangelize thy scattered flock. Warmed by thy love for the Lord, thou didst journey in thy bidarka on the icy waves, softly singing to the Creator of all: Alleluia!

#### **Ikos 5**

During the ten years thou hadst remained in the Aleutian Islands, thou didst devote much time and energy to the study of the land, people, and wildlife of the area. Thou didst keep careful records of thine experiences and observations so that this heritage could be preserved for future generations. Thou didst open schools for the Native children so that they could advance in the knowledge of God and His Creation.

Praising the Lord for His bounties, we offer a hymn to thee:

Rejoice! Patient instructor of the simple and the wise!

Rejoice! Scholar and Teacher of the Aleutian languages!

Rejoice! Preserver of Alaska's ancient heritage!

Rejoice! Dispeller of the darkness of ignorance!

Rejoice! Perceptive observer of the wonders of Creation!

Rejoice! Messenger of the Good News of Salvation!

Rejoice! O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

#### **Kontakion 6**

Having created a written language for the Native people, thou didst develop textbooks for them so that they could become literate. Reading the Word of God in their own tongue, and giving thanks to God, the Aleuts sang with joy: Alleluia!

#### **Ikos 6**

O Holy Father, thou didst travel beyond the limits of thine own extensive district into

the land of the Eskimo people. Thou didst bring to the natives of Bristol Bay the sanctifying Grace of Holy Baptism. Thou madest the Nushagak River a new Jordan for them, bringing Christianity to the northern shores of the Bering Sea, where thou art remembered today with these words of praise:

Rejoice! Enlightener of the Eskimo Nation!

Rejoice! Sanctification of the Nushagak!

Rejoice! Husbandman sent to the plentiful harvest!

Rejoice! Laborer in the Vineyard of Christ!

Rejoice! Warrior clothed in the armor of Truth!

Rejoice! Soldier armed with the Gospel of Peace and the sword of Prayer!

Rejoice! O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

### **Kontakion 7**

Using thy talents, thou didst erect the first Orthodox Cathedral in the New World, designing the Temple and supervising its construction thyself. The faithful celebrated the consecration of the new church, singing the hymn of Thanksgiving: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 7**

Transferring the center of thy missionary activity to the city of New Archangel, thou didst begin anew the evangelization of the Tlingit People. Thou becamest proficient in their language and preached the Gospel in their villages winning converts to Christ by thy knowledge of medicine as well as theology. Thou didst admire the nobility of these proud warriors, who together with us offer these praises to thee:

Rejoice! Teacher of the Tlingit Indians!

Rejoice! Physician of souls and bodies!

Rejoice! Fearless apostle, protected by God!

Rejoice! Illuminator of the Northern Peoples!

Rejoice! Mountain rising above the clouds of error!

Rejoice! Harbor sheltering from treacherous seas!

Rejoice! O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

### **Kontakion 8**

Thou wast summoned to appear before the Holy Synod to present thy many translations for ecclesiastical approval. Thou didst return to thy homeland by circumnavigating the globe; arriving at St. Petersburg thou didst praise God in song: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 8**

Learning of the repose of thy wife, Katherine, during thine absence, thou didst prayerfully visit the Holy monasteries at Kiev and Sergiyev Posad in order to discern the Lord's Will. The Emperor himself, impressed with thine apostolic fervor and achievements, approved thy elevation to the rank of bishop. Returning to Alaska, thou wast welcomed with these words:

Rejoice! Thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ!  
 Rejoice! Thou didst first bring the Joy of the Resurrection to Alaska!  
 Rejoice! Thou wast inspired by the heroic example of St. Innocent of Irkutsk!  
 Rejoice! Thou didst promote the apostolic labors of St. Nicholas of Japan!  
 Rejoice! Thou wast among the first to ask the Elder Herman to intercede for thee!  
 Rejoice! By his prayers thou didst arrive safely in Kodiak!  
 Rejoice! O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

### **Kontakion 9**

As bishop of the Russian colony, thou didst renew thine efforts to bring the Gospel to all Alaska. Thou didst open a seminary in Sitka for the training of indigenous clergy and designed a new cathedral for the capital city. Thou also didst construct the clock for the church bell tower. When the Holy Temple was completed, thou didst sing out in gratitude to the Lord: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 9**

As overseer of the huge diocese which included Eastern Siberia as well as Alaska, thou didst dispatch priests to areas where no missionaries had ever gone. Thine own son-in-law was assigned to the Nushagak, while thy former student, Father Jacob, set out for the Yukon delta. Because of thy great vision for the future of Orthodoxy in this land, we honor thee with these hymns:

Rejoice! Good Shepherd of the Arctic!  
 Rejoice! First Hierarch of America!  
 Rejoice! Our guide to the Kingdom of God!  
 Rejoice! Benefactor of the needy and oppressed!  
 Rejoice! Thy foresight determined the growth of the Church in Alaska!  
 Rejoice! Thy boundless energy established the True Faith in the North!  
 Rejoice! O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

### **Kontakion 10**

With characteristic enthusiasm thou didst visit the peoples of the Amur Valley in Siberia and began yet again to study their languages and traditions. Together with the Aleuts and Tlingits they learned to praise the Almighty Creator with the song of Thanksgiving: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 10**

Transferring thy headquarters to the Far East, thou didst bid farewell to the New World and returned to the Old. Following the example thou hadst set for them, the Native clergy of Alaska continued thy work in America. Through them we have become thy spiritual children and venerate thy memory in these words:

Rejoice! Student of Alaskan languages and Teacher of the True Word!  
 Rejoice! Preacher 'in tongues' like the Apostles on Pentecost!  
 Rejoice! Thou didst publish the Gospel in the Aleut language!  
 Rejoice! Thou didst found schools for the enlightenment of the Native Peoples!

Rejoice! Thou didst direct the evangelization of Alaska and Siberia!  
 Rejoice! Thou didst plant the seeds of the Orthodox Faith on American soil!  
 Rejoice! O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

### **Kontakion 11**

Thou didst spend thine entire life laboring in remote regions for the propagation of the Holy Faith. In thy later years thou wast called to yet another great task. Thou wast elected Metropolitan of Moscow to succeed the venerable Philaret. As thou didst journey across the frozen steppes of Asia on the way to thine enthronement, thou didst sing in amazement to God: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 11**

Thou didst revitalize the missionary spirit of thy homeland by organizing societies for the support of evangelical works. Thou didst assist thy former flocks with thy holy prayers and material aid. We who have benefited from these labors sing to thee in gratitude:

Rejoice! Thou wast faithful in little things!  
 Rejoice! Thou hast been set over much!  
 Rejoice! Rushing Wind dispelling the fog of ignorance and fear!  
 Rejoice! Mighty River watering the spiritual wilderness!  
 Rejoice! Precious Vessel filled with the Holy Spirit!  
 Rejoice! Adornment of the Church in the Old World and the New!  
 Rejoice O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

### **Kontakion 12**

With the same humility thou hadst exhibited throughout thine earthly life, thou didst ask that no eulogies be delivered at thy burial. Instead, thou didst request an edifying sermon be preached for the benefit of all. Learning of thy falling asleep, thy spiritual children commended thy soul to the Lord, singing: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 12**

The heirs of thy spiritual legacy throughout the New World rejoice today at thy glorification, O Holy Father. Asking for thy prayers for the Church in America, we gather to celebrate thy remarkable achievements with these words:

Rejoice! Inspiration of Orthodox pastors and teachers!  
 Rejoice! Indicator of the Way to the Kingdom of Heaven!  
 Rejoice! Faithful steward in the Household of Faith!  
 Rejoice! Farsighted Champion of Orthodoxy!  
 Rejoice! Loving Father of thy spiritual Children!  
 Rejoice! Intercessor for all who come to the Orthodox Faith!  
 Rejoice! O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

**Kontakion 13**

O Holy Father, Bishop Innocent! As we remember all the glorious deeds thou didst so humbly accomplish, we are inspired by thy vision, courage and perseverance. Pray therefore that we may be accounted worthy to continue thy work in the New World, and to sing gratefully to the Lord: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*This Kontakion is said 3 times.*

**Ikos 1**

O Holy Father Innocent! Thy glory has shone from the Far Eastern lands to the Western World. From humble origins in a Siberian village thou didst rise to world renown as a modern Apostle. The Lord chose thee to bring the Orthodox Faith to the ancient Peoples of Alaska and Asia, who together with us honor thee with these songs of praise:

Rejoice! Imitator of the Apostles and their Successor!

Rejoice! Evangelizer of the Arctic Peoples!

Rejoice! Scholar and Teacher of the Aleuts!

Rejoice! Illuminator of the Eskimos and Indians!

Rejoice! Humble genius whose footsteps were guided by the Lord!

Rejoice! Visionary Architect of the Orthodox Church in America!

Rejoice! O Holy Father Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska!

**Kontakion 1 – Tone 8**

O Holy Father, Good Shepherd of the Flock entrusted to thee by the Lord!

Thou didst dedicate all thy strength and heart, all thy mind and soul to Christ!

In the remotest regions thou didst labore tirelessly without thought of earthly reward for the sake of His Holy Church and the salvation of all.

We, the recipients of thy great spiritual legacy, offer to thee this hymn of praise.

As thou standest before the Throne of the Lord of Glory,

intercede for our land and its people!

That united in One Holy, Orthodox Church we may gratefully sing to thee: //

Rejoice O Holy Father, Metropolitan Innocent,

Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Alaska.

## Prayer to Saint Innocent

O Holy Hierarch and Father Innocent! The Lord chose thee and ordained thee to go and bring forth much fruit in His new vineyard on the frontiers of Russia and America. Thou didst dedicate thy life to building up the Body of Christ in the New World and the Old, and brought the treasures of the Holy Apostolic Faith to Alaska and Siberia. We, thy spiritual children, kneel before thy holy icon and ask thee to intercede for the Holy Orthodox Church in thine adopted and native lands. As thou wast humble and kind, help us by thy prayers to be patient and generous. As thou didst persevere under difficult circumstances in a remote and lonely region, strengthen us in our dedication to Christ and His Gospel. As thou didst love God and thy flock and didst devote thy life in service to them, pray to Our Lord that our hearts may be filled with love for Him and our neighbor. Thou didst plant the seeds of the Orthodox Faith in Alaskan soil: implore the Lord that we may be accounted worthy to continue the work thou didst so gloriously began, to bring the Light of Christ to every corner of America. Thou didst indicate the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven by thy words and example: intercede for the salvation of all of us who venerate thy holy memory. By thy holy prayers may we become worthy of the precious spiritual heritage which God has entrusted to us through thee, and sing eternally the praises of the Holy, Consubstantial, and Life-Creating Trinity; the Father and Creator who is without Beginning; the Son, Our Lord and Savior who became Man in order to sanctify and save us; and the Comforter, the Holy Spirit who enlightens and enlivens all, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.





*Hymns from the Festal Service to Saint Innocent***Troparion, St Innocent – Tone 4**

O Holy Father Innocent,  
 in obedience to the will of God  
 thou didst accept dangers and tribulations,  
 bringing many peoples to the knowledge of truth.  
 Thou didst show us the path;  
 now by thy prayers help lead us  
 into the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Another Troparion, St Innocent – Tone 2**

Thou didst evangelize the Northern people of America and Asia,  
 proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to the natives in their own tongues,  
 O Holy Hierarch, Father Innocent,  
 Enlightener of Alaska and All America, whose ways were ordered by the Lord.  
 Pray to Him for the salvation of our souls in His Heavenly Kingdom.

**Another Troparion, St Innocent – Tone 3**

O holy hierarch Innocent our father,  
 thou who wast first to teach the tribes which before lay in heathen darkness,  
 and first to show them the way to salvation,  
 who didst labor as an apostle in the enlightenment of Siberia and America:  
 entreat the Master of all,  
 that He grant peace to the whole world //  
 and great mercy to our souls.

**Kontakion, St Innocent – Tone 2**

A true celebration of the Providence and Grace of God,  
 is thy life, O Holy Father Innocent, the Apostle to our Land.  
 For in hardships and dangers toiling for the Gospel's sake,  
 thou wast preserved unharmed and often delivered,  
 while from obscurity thou wast highly exalted as an example  
 to the faithful everywhere, //  
 that the Lord truly guides a man in the way he should go.

**Another Kontakion, St Innocent – Tone 4**

Thou wast a true and truthful teacher;  
for, having thyself done what the Lord commanded,  
thou didst thereby teach and instruct in piety those who came to thee,  
didst enlighten unbelievers to recognize the true Faith,  
illuminating them with holy baptism.  
Therefore, thou rejoicest with the apostles, //  
receiving the honor of an evangelist of Christ.

**Magnification**

We magnify thee, / O holy hierach father Innocent, / and we honor thy holy  
memory, // for thou dost pray to Christ our God for us!

