



# The Life & Akathist Hymn to Saint John of Kronstadt



# The Life of Saint John of Kronstadt

Saint John of Kronstadt was born in the village of Sura in Archangel province on October 19, 1829, and was called John in honor of Saint John of Rila (August 18). His parents were very poor but were very devoted to the Church. Even though he was poor, as a young boy John learned to feel compassion for others in their misfortune. His neighbors frequently asked him to pray for them, as they noticed this special grace-endowed gift in him. When John was ten, his parents were able to raise some money and send him to the local school which was attached to the church. At first, the boy had an extremely difficult time with his studies. He worked for days on end, but still failed to keep up.

Writing about his life he once recalled an evening when everyone had already gone to bed. “I could not sleep, and I still failed to understand anything I was taught. I still read poorly and could not remember anything I was told. I became so depressed I fell to my knees and began to pray. I don’t know whether I had spent a long time in that position or not, but suddenly something shook my whole being. It was as if a veil had fallen from my eyes, and my mind had been opened, and I remembered clearly my teacher of that day and his lesson. I also recalled the topic and the examples he had given. I felt so light and joyous inside.” After this experience he did so well he became one of the first in his class to be chosen to go to seminary, and after seminary to the Theological Academy in Saint Petersburg (a great honor at that time).

Throughout his studies, John thought about the importance of forgiveness, meekness, and love, and came to believe that these were the very center and power of Christianity, and that only one path—the path of humble love—leads to God and the triumph of His righteousness. He also thought a great deal about the Savior’s death on the Cross at Golgotha, and pitied those who did not know Jesus Christ. He wished to preach to them about His death and Resurrection. He dreamed about becoming a missionary to distant China, but saw that there was a great deal of work for a genuine pastor of Christ’s flock both in his own city and the surrounding towns.

When John graduated from the Academy he met Elizabeth Nesvitsky who lived in the town of Kronstadt. They dated, he proposed, and they were married. After his studies, John still desired to learn more about his faith and his Church.

It was in this frame of mind that he prepared to be a priest and to enter public ministry. He was ordained a deacon on December 10, 1885, and then priest on December 12. He was assigned to Saint Andrew’s Cathedral in the city of Kronstadt. He said, “I made myself a rule to be as sincere as possible in my work, and of strictly watching myself and my inner life.”

Father John wanted most of all to earn the love of the people in his care, because only a loving attitude could provide the firm support and help he needed as he faced the difficult work of the priesthood. His constant thought was how he would come before the Last Judgment and have to give an account, not only for his

own deeds, but also the deeds of his flock, for whose education and salvation he was responsible. To him no one was a stranger; everyone who came to him for help became a friend and relative. He would tell people “The Church is the best heavenly friend of every sincere Christian.” He conducted divine services daily and offered the prayers of the faithful. He called all who rarely receive Holy Communion to prepare themselves and live their lives in a Christian way so that they could receive more often. Listening to Father John, many people changed their lifestyle, repented sincerely, and joyfully received Holy Communion on a regular basis.

At that time the government exiled murderers, thieves and other criminals to Kronstadt. Life was horrible for the exiles. Even children of exiles would become thieves and criminals. He would go to their dugouts, hovels and shacks to visit with them. Not satisfied with staying for five or ten minutes to administer some rite and then leave, Father John believed he was coming to visit a priceless soul, his brothers and sisters. He would stay for hours, talking, encouraging, comforting, crying, and rejoicing together with them.

From the beginning he also concerned himself with the material needs of the poor. He would shop for food, go to the pharmacy for prescriptions, to the doctor for help, many times giving the poor his last few coins. The inhabitants of Kronstadt would see him returning home barefoot and without his cassock. Often parishioners would bring shoes to his wife, saying to her, “Your husband has given away his shoes to someone, and will come

home barefoot.” He would also write articles for the newspaper exhorting the people of Kronstadt to “support the poor morally and materially.” These appeals touched the hearts of many and Father John organized many charitable efforts. Realizing that his individual charity was insufficient for aiding the needy, he founded the Orthodox Christian House Parish Trusteeship of Saint Andrew the First-Called. This brotherhood coordinated many charitable efforts throughout the city and helped many needy people.

In 1857, he began teaching in the local city schools. He would tell people, “If children cannot listen to the Gospel, it is only because it is taught like any other subject, with boredom and indifference. Such teaching defeats the purpose of the Gospel. It fails because it forces students only to read words and memorize them instead of making them live in their lives.” To Father John there were no incapable students. He taught in such a way that poor pupils as well as good ones were able to understand. His attention was aimed not so much at forcing students to memorize as to fill their souls with the joy of living according to Christian values, sharing with them the holy thoughts which filled his soul.

When speaking to other priests about their vocation he would say, “You are a representative of the faith of the Church, O priest; you are a representative of Christ the Lord Himself. You should be a model of meekness, purity, courage, perseverance, patience, and lofty spirit. You are doing the work of God and must not let anything discourage you.”

Saint John has performed more miracles than almost any other saint, with the possible exception of Saint Nicholas. Through his prayers he healed the sick, gave hope to the hopeless, and brought sinners to repentance.

Father John labored endlessly in his work for the Lord preaching, teaching, and helping those in need. Having spent his entire life serving God and His people, Father John fell ill and died on December 20, 1908. Almost immediately, people from near and far began to make pilgrimages to the monastery where he was buried. Even today millions of Orthodox Christians in Russia and around the world pray to him to intercede for them as he had always done from his childhood.

Saint John was glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church on June 8, 1990





# Akathist Hymn to Saint John of Kronstadt

**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to Thee O God. Glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fills all things. Treasury of blessings and giver of life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity. And, save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty , Holy Immortal, have mercy on us **(3)**.

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy **(3)**.

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**Priest:** For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of

the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

## **KONTAKION I**

**Choir/Faithful:** Dear God in **Heaven**, / we thank You for the life and works of Your **virtuous** priest, / Saint John of **Kronstadt**, / who presented the pure **teachings** of the Church / to the **faithful** / and also to the critics and **to** the lost. / Since we desire his holy intercession and **guidance**, / we wholeheartedly declare: // **Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light of salvation.

## **IKOS I**

**Priest:** Saint John, you began your life of holiness and goodwill as a boy serving in the altar, and then went faithfully onward into your days as a priest healing the sick. In every place and among all people, you gave glory to God for sending you forth to serve those in need:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, benevolent priest who taught and lived the **message** of Christ.

Rejoice, steadfast servant who labored and **sacrificed** for the Church.

Rejoice, for you beheld truth and love in every word of the **Bible**.

Rejoice, for you found sacred meaning in every thought of the **Fathers**.

Rejoice, fruitful branch who joyfully reached out to the **destitute**.

Rejoice, Cathedral pastor who gladly watered the **seedlings** of faith.

Rejoice, for in your soul there was no separation from **others**.

Rejoice, for in your heart there was no hindrance to **friendship**.

Rejoice, sacred flame who exposed the wasteland of **atheism**.

Rejoice, Godly theologian who preached the wisdom of the **apostles**.

Rejoice, for you prized your countrymen as **images** of God.

Rejoice, for you valued all people for whom Christ **gave** His life.

**Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light of salvation.

## **KONTAKION II**

**Priest:** You were born to Elias and Theodora, in the year 1829, on the feast day of Saint John of Rylsk. Your parents had few resources, but your father was a reader in the Church and you were raised as a true son of the True Father. Even as a child, Saint John of Kronstadt, you confidently said: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## **IKOS II**

**Priest:** Saint John, you thereby inherited all the spiritual riches of the Heavenly Father, including abundant knowledge and hearty fortitude. For as a boy, you were sickly and a slow learner. Yet, this only prompted you to pray to God for help, and He amazingly came to your aid:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, youth who realized the blessings of God as vital to **happiness**.

Rejoice, schoolboy who drew near to God and thrived in His

**healing.**

Rejoice, for you depended on God and not on pretenders of **greatness.**

Rejoice, for you looked to God and not to illusions of well**being.**

Rejoice, faithful one who chose prayer over idle conversation.

Rejoice, wise one who chose obedience over vain gratification.

Rejoice, for falsehood never proceeded from your lips.

Rejoice, for inattention never ate **away** your prayers.

Rejoice, child of God who was at home with the saints and **martyrs.**

Rejoice, follower of Christ who lived for His **Body** and Blood.

Rejoice, for you found your true being among the holy **icons.**

Rejoice, for you established an early foundation in right **worship.**

**Rejoice, Saint John,** shining forth the wondrous light of salvation.

### **KONTAKION III**

**Priest:** As you grew into an excellent student of theology as well as a man of piety, you desired to become a missionary among the native peoples of Siberia or Alaska. However, God directed you to the St. Andrew Cathedral, which you had beheld in a childhood vision, and you obediently said: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

### **IKOS III**

**Priest:** Saint John, you married Elizabeth, the daughter of a priest, and then you were ordained to the priesthood. You lived with your wife as though you were her brother, for God called you to serve the Cathedral with all your being and to personally enfold the families of Kronstadt and beyond:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, doer of the will of the **Sovereign** God.  
Rejoice, recipient of the grace to **uphold** His plan.  
Rejoice, for you found tranquility in serving the Father  
**Almighty**.  
Rejoice, for you fulfilled your life in the priesthood as you were  
**chosen**.  
Rejoice, enlightener of men and women who had no **other** help.  
Rejoice, illuminator of a civilization **declining** from within.  
Rejoice, for you knew the only source of **peace** for the heart.  
Rejoice, for you understood the only way of survival in the  
**homeland**.  
Rejoice, beloved pastor of all nations seeking **righteousness**.  
Rejoice, strong support of every citizen who takes **up** the cross.  
Rejoice, for all true believers are your **posterity**.  
Rejoice, for every baptized person **is** your heir.  
**Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light of  
salvation

#### **KONTAKION IV**

**Priest:** Father John, it became your holy routine to celebrate the Divine Liturgy every day. This involved rising early in the morning to say your prayers, and then walking to the Cathedral for Matins and Liturgy. You slept little, but God replenished you exceedingly, and you gratefully said: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

#### **IKOS IV**

**Priest:** You poured out your love for God and Church, and you never celebrated the Liturgy without giving a simple yet profound sermon, reaching the faithful of Kronstadt and the many visitors who came to see and hear you. We also gather as

a royal priesthood, as though in the Cathedral with you:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, blessed feet entering through the narrow gate.

Rejoice, beautiful voice preaching the **word** of God.

Rejoice, for you thrived as a priest with **divine** zeal.

Rejoice, for you prayed as a mortal with a **Godly** gift.

Rejoice, clear-minded disciple in a crumbling **society**.

Rejoice, right-thinking theologian in a turbulent **era**.

Rejoice, for you assembled with the angels and **archangels**.

Rejoice, for you prayed to your Guardian Angel for **daily** help.

Rejoice, intercessor for the least and for the **multitudes**.

Rejoice, advocate for your city and for your **nation**.

Rejoice, for you continued in holiness from the Liturgy **to** the streets.

Rejoice, for you conducted yourself as a **Temple** of God.

**Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light of salvation.

### **KONTAKION V**

**Priest:** The city of Kronstadt was a warehouse for St. Petersburg, the capital of Russia at the time, for the vagrants and undesirables were sent there. Nevertheless, God in His mercy sent you, Father John, to assist and comfort these people in their misery, and you eagerly said: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

### **IKOS V**

**Priest:** Saint John, you actually sought them out: the criminals and unemployed, the alcoholics and beggars, and you ministered

to their bodies and souls. Your family upbraided you, your elders scolded you, the worldly ridiculed you, but you persisted in the will of God and in the message of the Bible:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, Good Samaritan of the byways and **shantytowns**.

Rejoice, spiritual father of many prodigal sons and **daughters**.

Rejoice, for you restored the wretched to **dignity**.

Rejoice, for you released the **disgraced** from shame.

Rejoice, Christ-like figure who was reproached for **doing** good.

Rejoice, angelic man who was rebuked by religious **superiors**.

Rejoice, for you nursed the sick **back** to health.

Rejoice, for you cradled the **children** in your arms.

Rejoice, gatherer of the exiles **back into** the fold.

Rejoice, rescuer of the forgotten from the bottom of **existence**.

Rejoice, for you never judged by **appearances**.

Rejoice, for you always discerned the **spirits**.

**Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light of salvation

## **KONTAKION VI**

**Priest:** Your days were filled with holy prayers at the St. Andrew Cathedral and with charitable deeds in the slums of Kronstadt. Truly, Father John, you exemplified the monastic standard of work and prayer while living in the world. For, it was the world that needed you, that all might say: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## **IKOS VI**

**Priest:** Saint John, though you were berated as excessively

generous, the poor of Kronstadt regarded you as saintly. You became their spiritual father, and often the only true father figure they had ever known. Accordingly, you pointed them to the Heavenly Father and gave Him all tribute:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, wholesome boy who became a wondrous **man** of God.

Rejoice, Cathedral priest who prepared for the Day of **Judgment**.

Rejoice, for you were **hidden** in prayer.

Rejoice, for you were recognized in **charity**.

Rejoice, bearer of the hardships of **others**.

Rejoice, preserver of a benevolent **disposition**.

Rejoice, for you renounced bondage to **impurities**.

Rejoice, for you cherished your baptism **into** Christ.

Rejoice, able father who radiated holiness in the altar and in the **ghetto**.

Rejoice, paternal intercessor who regarded each person as **God's** gift.

Rejoice, for you beautified Kronstadt with your **righteousness**.

Rejoice, for you clothed the multitudes with God's **mercies**.

**Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light of salvation.

## **KONTAKION VII**

**Priest:** Let us not forget, that added onto your liturgical and charitable duties, Saint John, you were also a teacher of religion for many years. You taught at a high school and an elementary school in Kronstadt, developing young minds and hearts to love God and to say: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



## IKOS VII

**Priest:** As a teacher, your lessons were not only scholarly, but overflowing with love for these children whom God placed under your care. You were filled with inspiration from the Holy Spirit to speak to their needs. Saint John, each child was precious to you, and you thanked God for them:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, priest who gave birth to **children** in Christ.

Rejoice, father who had many spiritual **descendants**.

Rejoice, for God motivated you to teach and the **children** to learn.

Rejoice, for the Holy Spirit directed their **educational** path.

Rejoice, teacher who perceived each child's **potential** to thrive.

Rejoice, humanitarian who noticed the **little** ones who were sick.

Rejoice, for not only did you love them but you **liked** them.

Rejoice, for not only did you teach them but you **nourished** them.

Rejoice, slow learner who himself was **healed** by God.

Rejoice, excellent theologian who was constantly **learning** of God.

Rejoice, for in your classroom all children understood their **lessons**.

Rejoice, for under your instruction no child was left in **darkness**.

**Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light of salvation.

## KONTAKION VIII

**Priest:** A new phase of life began for you, Saint John, when God gave you the gift of healing others through your prayers or the laying-on of your hands. The working of miracles would not

only change the lives of others, but would require great adjustment on your part, yet you continued to say: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

### **IKOS VIII**

**Priest:** Saint John, you healed people of diseases and disorders, and not just the Orthodox, but Catholics, Jews, and Muslims in your wondrous love and mercy toward mankind. Even non-believers were converted to the True Church in witness of your Christ-like demeanor:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, healer of men and women in conditions of **agony**.

Rejoice, caregiver of Christ Himself through the **least** on earth.

Rejoice, for you knew truth but you repelled arrogance and **bias**.

Rejoice, for you fought error but you never refused a **sincere** request.

Rejoice, miracleworker who healed beyond medical **knowledge**.

Rejoice, spiritual physician who readied souls for **Heaven**.

Rejoice, for you loved from within your **soul** most deep.

Rejoice, for you healed from faith in **God** Most High.

Rejoice, unceasing representation of **meekness**.

Rejoice, everlasting true branch of the **True** Vine.

Rejoice, for you were a continuous sunrise over the city of **Kronstadt**.

Rejoice, for you were already known as “John of **Kronstadt**.”

**Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light of salvation.

### **KONTAKION IX**

**Priest:** Father John, you humbly accepted your ability to heal as

a new obedience to God, for your reputation spread throughout Kronstadt and farther. The Cathedral daily filled with thousands of people looking to be healed, to be blessed or to touch your vestments, for everyone said: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS IX

**Priest:** Those who could not travel to the Cathedral sent letters and telegrams expressing their needs. So many, that the Kronstadt postal service opened a new section. Saint John, you hired secretaries to manage the delivery of these requests, and you diligently prayed for God's mercy on each person:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, outpouring of mercy to the **stricken** ones.

Rejoice, torrent of compassion to the tens of **thousands**.

Rejoice, for you had your being in the **company** of the saints.

Rejoice, for you looked forward to Heaven with all the **faithful**.

Rejoice, helper according to need and not to **worthiness**.

Rejoice, worker of God's will and not of self-**importance**.

Rejoice, for you regarded yourself as a **debtor** to God.

Rejoice, for you scorned everything that could **lead** you into sin.

Rejoice, worshipper of God and friend of the **suffering**.

Rejoice, giver of everything and owner of **nothing**.

Rejoice, for you watched over your **own** heart.

Rejoice, for you prayed over your own **weaknesses**.

**Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light of salvation.

## KONTAKION X

**Priest:** Money was sent to you, and we know that money

becomes a source of evil for many people, tempting even priests and other servants of God. You maintained your focus, Saint John, using the money to uplift the poor from their desolation. These brothers and sisters in Christ then said: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS X

**Priest:** So much money was sent to you, Saint John, that you were able to build a complex which included a church, school, orphanage, and workshops. In addition, you built two women's monasteries. All the nuns and orphans, and all the homeless and jobless benefitted from your purity:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, unifier of the people placed into your **care** by God.

Rejoice, distributor of the resources entrusted to **you** by God.

Rejoice, for God was the origin of your **abundance**.

Rejoice, for God Himself was your only true **treasure**.

Rejoice, dependent on God with no attachment to **anything**.

Rejoice, confident in God as the endless source of **everything**.

Rejoice, for God never failed you in His **plan** for you.

Rejoice, for God constantly upheld you in your **service** to Him.

Rejoice, creature of God and His ever-flowing spring of **charity**.

Rejoice, saint of God and His ever-cleansing **river** of prayer.

Rejoice, for God was your perpetual benefactor.

Rejoice, for God was your eternal consolation.

**Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light of salvation.

## KONTAKION XI

**Priest:** Upon the request of the needy from other cities, you began travelling to their churches to preach and heal. Saint John, you were greeted by many thousands of faithful in the streets and pouring into the churches. All were filled with hope and expectation, as they joyfully said: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS XI

**Priest:** However, there were others who hated you: the atheists and subversives, the materialistic and unrepentant, and the false intellectuals of the era. Saint John, you warned and prophesized about the bleak future of the homeland unless everyone repented while there was time:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, admonisher of the ungodly.

Rejoice, cautioner of the unremorseful.

Rejoice, for you lifted up the True Faith for a **nation**.

Rejoice, for you denounced the instigators of **division**.

Rejoice, vital member of the **Body** of Christ.

Rejoice, priest forever in the **Church** of Christ.

Rejoice, for you regarded faith itself as a **miracle**.

Rejoice, for in faith you were made **beautifully** whole.

Rejoice, sunray piercing the gray clouds of **depravity**.

Rejoice, wind blowing against the chaff of **deviation**.

Rejoice, for you fulfilled the days which God **allotted** you.

Rejoice, for you completed the tasks which He **assigned** you.

**Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light of salvation.

## KONTAKION XII

**Priest:** Saint John, within the fullness of your life, you found time to write a diary, My Life in Christ. It contains your quest for knowledge, your counsel to the faithful, and serves as further testament of your holiness of life. Those who are true seekers of God will certainly say: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS XII

**Priest:** In the year 1908, you departed this life to the Lord, and your funeral was attended by tens of thousands. It was more like a day of celebration than a day of mourning, Saint John, for your charity remained alive as many more people were healed of their afflictions on that day:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, departed from the world but alive in **Heaven**.

Rejoice, returned to the dust but listening to **those** who pray.

Rejoice, for you are victorious over death and **forgetfulness**.

Rejoice, for you are beloved in every **corner** of the earth.

Rejoice, wisdom to all the nations that heed your role in **history**.

Rejoice, vindication of all priests who preach true **doctrine** today.

Rejoice, for your message is the same as that of **Jesus Christ**.

Rejoice, for your meaning is applicable to the present **generation**.

Rejoice, new friend to those who had never **heard** of you.

Rejoice, loyal father to those who are coming **back** to you.

Rejoice, for you open your arms to the **repentant**.

Rejoice, for you keep vigil over the long**suffering**.

**Rejoice, Saint John**, shining forth the wondrous light of

salvation.

### KONTAKION XIII

Father John of Kronstadt, you found happiness by clinging to God and not to the things of the world. You used your mind and heart to learn of God and to do good. Though you loved your homeland, you lived as a stranger in this world and always looked to Heaven. Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*This kontakion is recited thrice; whereupon Ikos I and Kontakion I are repeated.*

### IKOS I

**Priest:** Saint John, you began your life of holiness and goodwill as a boy serving in the altar, and then went faithfully onward into your days as a priest healing the sick. In every place and among all people, you gave glory to God for sending you forth to serve those in need:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, benevolent priest who taught and lived the **message** of Christ.

Rejoice, steadfast servant who labored and **sacrificed** for the Church.

Rejoice, for you beheld truth and love in every word of the **Bible**.

Rejoice, for you found sacred meaning in every thought of the **Fathers**.

Rejoice, fruitful branch who joyfully reached out to the **destitute**.

Rejoice, Cathedral pastor who gladly watered the **seedlings** of

faith.

Rejoice, for in your soul there was no separation from **others**.  
Rejoice, for in your heart there was no hindrance to **friendship**.  
Rejoice, sacred flame who exposed the wasteland of **atheism**.  
Rejoice, Godly theologian who preached the wisdom of the  
**apostles**.

Rejoice, for you prized your countrymen as **images** of God.  
Rejoice, for you valued all people for whom Christ **gave** His  
life.

**Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light of  
salvation.

### **KONTAKION I**

**Choir/Faithful:** Dear God in **Heaven**, / we thank You for the  
life and works of Your **virtuous** priest, / Saint John of  
**Kronstadt**, / who presented the pure **teachings** of the Church /  
to the **faithful** / and also to the critics and **to** the lost. / Since we  
desire his holy intercession and **guidance**, / we wholeheartedly  
declare: // **Rejoice**, Saint **John**, shining forth the wondrous light  
of salvation.

**Priest:** Again and again on bended knees let us pray to the Holy  
Father Nikiforos.

**Choir/Faithful:** Holy Father John of **Kronstadt** pray to **God** for  
us.

### **Prayer to the Holy Father John of Kronstadt**

**Priest:** Saint John of Kronstadt, you have taught and shown us  
the essentials of the spiritual life: the truths of the Church, the  
unity of worship, the love of neighbor, and above all to abide in



Jesus Christ. We pray for your guidance, even as you guided children on the path of righteousness. We ask for your blessings, even as you blessed thousands during the Liturgy. We seek your healing of all our weaknesses and afflictions, even as you attended to each person who requested your aid. Hear us who are devoted to the Church and yet in need of encouragement. Help us to repent of sins, and strengthen us to avoid the places and things of ungodliness. Lead us through the narrow gate: so that we do not attach ourselves to our financial status rather than to Christ, so that we do not value the opinions of the world more than the teachings of the Fathers, and so that we do not become inattentive in our morning and evening prayers. Light our way forward in our troubled nation and in global matters, and also in our family problems and personal defects. We look to you as priest and father, for you served as a spiritual father to many during your lifetime as well as after your passing. Every generation produces new seekers and prodigals who need your help, and therefore we of this era ask for your great benevolence.

Father John, we thank you for your consideration of our needs, and in hope and expectation of your merciful aid we go forward today in joy.

**Choir/Faithful:** Amen.

### **The Litany**

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** Again we pray for His Beatitude, Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, His (*Grace /Eminence*), (*Arch*) Bishop \_\_\_\_\_, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** Again we pray for the president of our country, for all civil authorities and for our armed forces everywhere.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** Again we pray for mercy, life peace, health, salvation and visitation for the servants of God \_\_\_\_\_, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** Furthermore, we pray for the people here present, awaiting from Thee great and bountiful mercies for all the brethren and for all Christians.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** For Thou art a merciful God, and loves mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir/Faithful:** Amen.

**Priest:** Wisdom! Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

**Choir/Faithful:** More honorable than the Cherubim and more

glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos we magnify you.

**Priest:** Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee !

**Choir/Faithful:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
Lord have mercy (3). Father bless.

**Priest:** [pronounces the dismissal and faithful venerate the Cross]

*Holy Father John of Kronstadt pray to God for us!*

*Glory Be To God For All Things!*