

**AKATHIST HYMN
TO OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS
ALEXIS OF WILKES-BARRE**



**CONFESSOR AND DEFENDER OF
ORTHODOXY IN AMERICA**

**AKATHIST HYMN
TO OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS
ALEXIS OF WILKES-BARRE
CONFESSOR AND DEFENDER OF ORTHODOXY IN
AMERICA**

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.

KONDAK I

Choir/Faithful: O chosen defender and confessor of the faith, our Father **Alexis**,/ we offer this song of praise honoring your struggles, patience and great **sufferings**/ they revealed you as a new **man** of God / leading your people back to the **true** faith./As you have boldness in prayer before God free us, your children, from every **adversity**,// that we may cry **out** to you: //Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

Ikos I

Priest: In Austria-Hungary, you were raised by your God- loving parents. Though poor in worldly possessions, you became rich in divine knowledge. You learned to distinguish truth from falsehood. Standing now before Christ together with the ranks of angels and all the saints, you have been glorified in heaven and on earth. Therefore, we who have been enlightened by you cry out with joy:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, blessed one raised in the **fear** of God.

Rejoice, for you inscribed the law of **God** in your heart.

Rejoice, for you sought the Discerner of the **heart** of man

Rejoice, for you found the One Whom **you** desired.

Rejoice, **lover** of the truth.

Rejoice, enemy of **falsehood** and lies.

Rejoice, teacher seeking the source of Divine **Wisdom**.

Rejoice, warrior following Christ the **Commander**.

Rejoice, new wise man following the **star** in the East.

Rejoice, new apostle to **us** in the West.

Rejoice, bulwark of the faith.

Rejoice, vanquisher of **heresy**.

Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK II

Priest: Envious of your God-pleasing life, the enemy of mankind sought to ensnare you, O long-suffering Father. But like Job of old, you patiently endured the test. Losing both wife and only child, you continued to seek the Lord, in humility

singing to Him: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos II

Priest: Deprived of an earthly family, you became a father to orphans and a teacher for those seeking the truth. Acquiring heavenly knowledge, you surpassed your own teachers in wisdom and zeal. Therefore we offer to you who were made wise by God such praises as these:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, for you taught that the beginning of Wisdom is the **fear** of God.

Rejoice, for your words were **confirmed** by your deeds.

Rejoice, for you kept the **commandments** of the Lord.

Rejoice, for from childhood you committed yourself to serve **Christ** alone.

Rejoice, for you loved Him **more** than all else.

Rejoice, for you sought His voice in Holy **Scripture**.

Rejoice, for you meditated on how He **cared** for His Church.

Rejoice, for you were zealous for divine **order** in all things.

Rejoice, adornment of **Presov**.

Rejoice, boast of **Carpathian-Rus'**.

Rejoice, new blossom of the **Orthodox** Church.

Rejoice, joy of the Orthodox in North **America**.

Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK III

Priest: The power of divine grace and your own good will, O blessed one, enabled you to grow like a cedar of Lebanon planted in the courts of the Lord. Before every new obedience and cross set before you, you bowed your head, singing to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos III

Priest: Like a new Abraham, you left your country, kin and father's house to journey to a distant and foreign land, for God desired you to cultivate a great nation of Orthodox believers. Wherefore, we, your spiritual children, rejoice at your selfless obedience and cry out to you:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, for you left behind the homeland of your **fathers**.

Rejoice, for you inherited the heavenly **city**.

Rejoice, for you ran the long and difficult race to **salvation**.

Rejoice, for you abandoned worldly honor and glory for the sake of the **Kingdom** of Christ.

Rejoice, for you went to save others and saved your**self** as well.

Rejoice, for you were obedient to the voice of **God** in your heart.

Rejoice, for you escaped from the nets of **error**.

Rejoice, for you made your way to the **Light** of the Truth.

Rejoice, faithful pastor who **cared** for his flock.

Rejoice, meek sheep following the Good **Shepherd's** staff.

Rejoice, otherworldly **pilgrim** on this earth.

Rejoice, **Apostle** to our land.

Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK IV

Priest: Undaunted by a storm of persecution which threatened you and your flock, you continued your journey towards Christ. No threat or action of your superiors could prevent you from giving thanks to the Lord, calling out to Him: Alleluia

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos IV

Priest: Hearing about your courageous stand before those who claimed authority over you, all were amazed. How could a simple priest dare to stand against them so firmly for that which is true. Steadfast in the faith, you strove to protect your sheep from the ravening wolves. Wherefore, we marvel at your divine boldness and cry

to you:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, good shepherd who would lay down your **life** for your sheep.
Rejoice, for the howling of wolves could not make you **leave** your flock.
Rejoice, new David armed to fight **Goliath**.
Rejoice, new Gideon trusting in **God** against all odds.
Rejoice, new Elijah of un**quenchable** zeal.
Rejoice, new Paul whom no skillful **speaker** can dispute.
Rejoice, new Moses undaunted by Pharaoh's **mighty** hosts.
Rejoice, new Samuel hearing **God** instead of man.
Rejoice, new Jeremiah suffering with your **people**.
Rejoice, new Job never imputing **folly** to the Lord.
Rejoice, new defender of the Faith willing to endure **all** for the truth.
Rejoice, new confessor with a never-**silent** tongue.
Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK V

Priest: For your people, you were a divinely-ordained star leading back to the Orthodox East, and your flock did not abandon you in adversity, for they knew that you were their shepherd who had taught them to sing: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos V

Priest: Thirsting for the Orthodox Faith, your flock blessed you on your journey to far-off San Francisco where you were joined to the Church of your forefathers. Wherefore we cry to you:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, merchant in **search** of fine pearls.
Rejoice, for you found the **pearl** of great price.
Rejoice, for you broke the yoke of **oppression**.
Rejoice, for you brought your people back to the **faith** of their heart.

Rejoice, glory and boast of the **Orthodox** Church.
Rejoice, joy of the North American **faithful**.
Rejoice, dove flying towards the **ark** of the Church.
Rejoice, for you took refuge under the heavenly **Eagle's** wings
Rejoice, for you embraced the faith that established the **universe**.
Rejoice, for you drank from the fountain of divine **wisdom**.
Rejoice, for you found the faith of your **fathers**.
Rejoice, for with it you **enlighten** us all
Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK VI

Priest: What ineffable joy entered your God-loving heart when you and your flock were reunited to the Church of your fathers. And your flock, prepared by your divinely wise preaching, glorified God for His great mercy, proclaiming to all: Alleluia

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos VI

Priest: From this new Triumph of Orthodoxy, you shone with the grace of God, which was not bestowed upon you in vain. For thus strengthened, you prepared yourself for the cross before you. Wherefore we cry out to you:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, for you were persecuted for **righteousness'** sake.
Rejoice, for you were the object of **slander** and lies.
Rejoice, model of patience who endured afflictions and **sorrows**.
Rejoice, for you did battle in the **depths** of your heart.
Rejoice, for the Lord enabled you to cast down the powers of **darkness**.
Rejoice, for you ceased to be the disdained servant of a harsh **master**.
Rejoice, for abuse did not cool your **God-loving** heart.
Rejoice, for in all things you **glorified** the Lord.
Rejoice, for your enemies called you an **impostor** and fraud.
Rejoice, for your flock recognized you as a **guardian** of the truth.

Rejoice, lover of the **people** of God.

Rejoice, their preservation from **destruction**.

Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK VII

Priest: Your one desire was to please God, O heavenly rod of Christ the Lord. Disdaining hardships, you led your children out of the bondage to Pharaoh into the green pastures of the Heavenly Kingdom where you now cry to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos VII

Priest: Like a householder bringing out of his treasure things new and old, so you brought forth divine teachings, O scribe of the Kingdom, divinely wise Alexis. And we, fed by your teachings together with your newly-illuminated people, call out to you with such words as these:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, for your eyes were ever turned to the **spiritual** East.

Rejoice, for you taught your people to look to the East for the Truth of the **Orthodox** Faith.

Rejoice, for you pointed Eastward where the True **Faith** is preserved.

Rejoice, for the Sun of Righteousness **illuminated** your soul.

Rejoice, for Christ's light and beauty captured the **hearts** of your flock.

Rejoice, for He is the Pillar of fire you **followed** by night.

Rejoice, for you proclaimed that He alone is the **Head** of the Church.

Rejoice, for you stood upon the Rock of the **divinity** of Christ.

Rejoice, for you taught the infallibility of **God**, not man.

Rejoice, for you exposed falsehood by the divine **Light** of Christ.

Rejoice, radiant lamp shining your **light** before men.

Rejoice, **enlightener** of our land.

Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK VIII

Priest: You were a stranger and sojourner in this land, ever looking toward the heavenly Kingdom, O Father Alexis. Working to earn your own bread you shared it with the poor while teaching them to sing: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos VIII

Priest: Wholly caught up in your love for Christ and His Most pure Mother, you taught your spiritual children that nothing could separate them from the love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Wherefore, trusting in your intercessions and with love for you we cry out:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, faithful servant of the God-man, our **Lord** Jesus Christ.

Rejoice, fulfiller of His **divine** commands.

Rejoice, for His grace-filled words were sweeter than **honey** in your mouth.

Rejoice, for His humility was ever **before** your eyes.

Rejoice, for His love for sinners was the **model** for your own.

Rejoice, for you embraced His zeal for the **House** of the Lord.

Rejoice, for you loved the purity of the **Orthodox** Church.

Rejoice, for you despised all human **innovation**.

Rejoice, for you ever honored the **heavenly** Queen.

Rejoice, for she protected you in your **struggles**.

Rejoice, for you taught that she was a child of Adam yet gave **birth** to God.

Rejoice, for she was your **consolation** and hope.

Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK IX

Priest: All were amazed at your courage in battle, O valiant athlete, our Father Alexis, for you were undaunted by the threats of your enemies. Your actions themselves revealed that you feared God alone, and not man Wherefore, we cry to you: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos IX

Priest: The most eloquent of orators are unable to praise your great struggles worthily, O divinely wise Alexis. Living in poverty, robbed by thieves, stoned by your enemies, you endured all and forgave all, O blessed one. And we sinners, instructed by your life cry to you:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, confessor suffering at the hands of **impious** men.

Rejoice, for you forgave those who cast **stones** at you.

Rejoice, for you were slandered for the **sake** of the Faith.

Rejoice, for you were led before magistrates and **courts** of law.

Rejoice, for the false witnesses could **not** agree.

Rejoice, for your good life shone **brighter** than their lies.

Rejoice, for you always had the name of **God** on your lips.

Rejoice, for you called on the Lord and **refused** to despair.

Rejoice, for you trusted in the help of the **Mother** of God.

Rejoice, for you were not **disappointed** in your hope.

Rejoice, for you were condemned by men, yet **saved** by God.

Rejoice, for in dying, **yet** you live.

Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK X

Priest: Your sojourn on this earth proved a good example of how we should lay down our lives for our friends, O faithful laborer in the American vineyard of Christ, for thousands of Galicians and Carpatho-Rusyns returned to Orthodoxy through you. Wherefore with them, we your children here on earth cry to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos X

Priest: You were a wall and haven and treasury of loving kindness for your people, O righteous Father Alexis, adornment of the Church of God. Teaching them the commandments of Christ, you worked with them until the faith of Christ took root

in them Wherefore, we who are also instructed by your teachings, cry out to you:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, instructor of the **love** of God.

Rejoice, teacher of abstinence and **self**-control.

Rejoice, lover of the **lives** of the Saints.

Rejoice, for you suffered the little ones to draw **near** to the Lord.

Rejoice, for you taught us to love one **another**.

Rejoice, for you kept your people from judging **others**.

Rejoice, for you taught that the Faith is spread more by example than by **argument**.

Rejoice, for being tolerant you never **compromised** the Truth.

Rejoice, for you taught us how to **control** the tongue.

Rejoice, for you always **spoke** the truth.

Rejoice, for you were all **things** to all men.

Rejoice, for through you, **many** were saved.

Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK XI

Priest: Foreseeing your approaching death, O saint favored by God, and having completed the task that God appointed for you, you humbly declined the office of bishop. Instead you prepared yourself for your last journey from earth to heaven, where you unceasingly cry to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos XI

Priest: Your death, O holy Alexis, was a rest from unceasing struggles and sufferings; a passing over from the worse to the better. Archbishop Platon praised you as the Father of the Russian Church in America. And we too join him in singing to you thus:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, glorious founder of the Church in **Wilkes** -barre.

Rejoice, new apostle traversing our land.

Rejoice, first priest of Minne**ap**olis.

Rejoice, wise instructor who shows all where to **seek** the Truth.

Rejoice, first pilgrim to the Monastery of Saint **Tikhon** of Zadonsk.

Rejoice, preserver of Slavic **piety**.

Rejoice, planter of Orthodoxy in Pennsylvania

Rejoice, nurturer who feeds all the **faithful**.

Rejoice, beacon of **Bridgeport**.

Rejoice, lamp illumining the **ends** of our land.

Rejoice, golden trumpet of the **Gospel** of Christ.

Rejoice, uniter of those who were **divided**.

Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK XII

Priest: Your holy relics, O Confessor of the faith, our Father Alexis, are shown to be a vessel of grace given to us by Christ our God. We earnestly have recourse to them and, through your intercession, receive remission of sins, crying out to God with all our heart: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ikos XII

Priest: Praising the struggles of your much-suffering and most wondrous life, O new Man of God, our Father Alexis, we praise, glorify and bless you with heartfelt love as our heavenly protector and defender. And now O holy one, with the grace given to you from on high, continue to sanctify, enlighten, and instruct us, your sinful children, that uncondemned, we may cry to you:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, shepherd who took the lost sheep on his **shoulder**.

Rejoice, priest who offered those same **sheep** to the Lord.

Rejoice, for the son who was dead is **now** alive.

Rejoice, for the one who was **lost** is now found.

Rejoice, sower sowing the good **seed** of the Word.

Rejoice, tireless laborer in the **vineyard** of Christ.

Rejoice, unmercenary **physician** of the sick.

Rejoice, good comforter of the **suffering**.

Rejoice, gracious encouragement of the **despondent**.

Rejoice, **intercessor** for our souls.

Rejoice, guardian of the Holy **Orthodox** Faith.

Rejoice, **protector** of our land.

Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK XIII

Priest: O holy and righteous Father Alexis, apostle to our land and defender of our faith, accept this our hymn of thanksgiving. Entreat the all-good God to increase His mercy toward us, to make us steadfast in true faith and piety, and to preserve us from all misfortune, that through you we may be accounted worthy, as children with their father, to sing to God forever: Alleluia! **(3X)**

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. **(3X)**

This Kontakion is chanted three times. Then Ikos I and Kondak I are repeated.

Ikos I

Priest: In Austria-Hungary, you were raised by your God- loving parents. Though poor in worldly possessions, you became rich in divine knowledge. You learned to distinguish truth from falsehood. Standing now before Christ together with the ranks of angels and all the saints, you have been glorified in heaven and on earth. Therefore, we who have been enlightened by you cry out with joy:

Choir/Faithful:

Rejoice, blessed one raised in the **fear** of God.

Rejoice, for you inscribed the law of **God** in your heart.

Rejoice, for you sought the Discerner of the **heart** of man

Rejoice, for you found the One Whom **you** desired.

Rejoice, **lover** of the truth.

Rejoice, enemy of **falsehood** and lies.

Rejoice, teacher seeking the source of Divine **Wisdom**.

Rejoice, warrior following Christ the **Commander**.

Rejoice, new wise man following the **star** in the East.

Rejoice, new apostle to **us** in the West.

Rejoice, bulwark of the faith.

Rejoice, vanquisher of **heresy**.

Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

KONDAK I

Choir/Faithful: O chosen defender and confessor of the faith, our Father **Alexis**,/ we offer this song of praise honoring your struggles, patience and great **sufferings**/ they revealed you as a new **man** of God / leading your people back to the **true** faith./As you have boldness in prayer before God free us, your children, from every **adversity**,// that we may cry **out** to you: //Rejoice, O Father **Alexis**, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in **America**.

Priest: Again and again on bended knees let us pray to our Holy Father Alexis

Choir/Faithful: O Holy Father **Alexis** pray to **God** for us.

Prayer to Saint Alexis (Before his relics)

Priest: O Holy and Righteous Father Alexis, great favorite of Christ and new Man of God, you now stand in heaven before the Throne of the All-holy Trinity. Bending the knees of our heart and falling down before the holy shrine of your precious relics, we unworthy sinners praise, bless and magnify God Who glorified you and showed us, through you, His great mercy. With contrite hearts and tears of repentance, we entreat you to intercede before our merciful Master that we may be granted remission of our many sins and that we may remain steadfast and uncompromising in the true Faith. You strove in your earthly life to enlighten those in darkness and the shadow of death with the light of the Holy Orthodox Faith. You sought to instruct all to do the will of God. So now also supplicate the Lord to illumine the eyes of our heart that we may grow in faith and piety; to kindle the flame of true prayer in the hearts of the faithful in this land; to instill in His pastors divine zeal to care for the flocks entrusted to them; to grant wisdom and grace to our right-believing hierarchs that they might protect the faith of our fathers which

you so earnestly sought out; to strengthen us to bear the Cross set before us; and to grant us divine grace to endure all and forgive all. O Holy Father Alexis, entreat the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, to dispel the storm of the passions which beset us and to direct our gaze from this transitory life to the heavenly and eternal one. Cease not, O Blessed Father, to pray for the Orthodox Faithful of this land. Delivered from temporal and eternal misfortunes, may we magnify you, our helper and intercessor, and glorify our Master and Lord, Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all glory, honor and worship, together with His Father who is from everlasting, and His all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir/Faithful: Amen.

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 Fr. Alexis Pray to God for Us!

Glory to God for All Things!