

Akathist Hymn to Saint Nectarios of Aegina



The life of St Nektarios the Wonderworker, Metropolitan of Pentapolis

The divine Nektarios of Aegina, is one of the most widely known of Greek Orthodox Saints. He was born on October 1st, 1846 in Silyvria, in Asia Minor (now occupied by Turkey). At Holy Baptism he was given the name Anastasios. His parents were simple pious Christians. They brought him up in a manner pleasing to God, and did what their very limited means allowed for his formal education. Having completed elementary school in his hometown, he left for the great city of Constantinople at the age of 14. There, he found employment as a shop assistant and was able to earn a meager living. As well as regularly attending the Divine Liturgy, he also read the Holy Scriptures and Writings of the Holy Fathers of the Church on a daily basis. From his wide reading, the young Anastasios made a collection of wise sayings, which he fervently spread to the customers of his store by writing them on the paper used to wrap their goods. He was selected to teach the lower grades of the orphanage of the All-Holy Sepulchre in Constantinople. This allowed him to continue his studies, for he longed to become a Theologian. In 1866, at the age of 20, Anastasios went to the island of Chios, where he was appointed a teacher. After 7 years, he entered into the local monastery, under the care of the venerable elder Pachomios.

After 3 years as a novice Athanasios was tonsured a Monk and given the name Lazarus. A year later, he was ordained a Deacon and received the name Nektarios. Elder Pachomios, and a wealthy local benefactor convinced the young monk to complete his high school studies in Athens. From there Deacon Nektarios went to Alexandria, where he was cared for by the Patriarch of Alexandria, Sophronios. The Patriarch insisted that Nektarios complete his Theological studies, and so in 1885 he graduated from the School of Theology in Athens. The Patriarch of Alexandria ordained Deacon Nektarios to the Priesthood in 1886. His great service to the Church, prolific writings and teachings, energy and zeal led Fr Nektarios to be ordained as the Metropolitan of Pentapolis in Egypt.

As a Metropolitan he was greatly admired and loved by his flock for his virtue and purity of life. But this great admiration by the people aroused the envy of certain high officials, who plotted and succeeded in having the Blessed Metropolitan removed from office in 1890 - without a trial or any explanation whatsoever. He returned to Greece to become a monk and Preacher, to the great edification of the people. There the Blessed Metropolitan continued to write his now famous books. In 1894, the divine Nektarios became Director of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, where he was to remain for 15 years. As an educator, the

chief concern of the venerable Hierarch was to incite and guide youth to become good Christians. His fifteen years at Rizarios were also productive for the writing of many more books and teachings.

In 1904, our Saint founded a monastery for women in Aegina, the Holy Trinity Convent. Under his guidance the Convent flourished. In 1908, the Blessed Nektarios, at the age of 62, retired from the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School and withdrew to Holy Trinity Convent in Aegina. There, for the rest of his life as a true monk and ascetic. He served as a confessor and spiritual guide to the nuns and even priests from as far as Athens and Piraeus. His Holy and pious life shone forth like a guiding light to all near him. Many would come to him for healing. Saint Nektarios was a great "Wonder-worker" even while alive.

On September 20, 1920 one of the nuns took him to the local hospital, in spite of his protest. He was convulsing in pain from a long-standing ailment. He was admitted, and placed into a ward reserved for the poor and unwanted. There he stayed for two months among the sick and dying. At 10:30 in the evening of November 8th, although in the midst of terrible pains, in peace and at prayer he gave up his spirit unto God at the age of 74.

As soon as the Saint gave up his Spirit, a nurse came to prepare him for transfer to Aegina for burial. As the nurse removed the Saints sweater, she inadvertently placed it on the next bed, on which a paralytic lay. And O, strange wonder!, the paralytic immediately began to regain his strength and arose from his bed healthy, and glorifying God.

Some time after his repose, strangely a beautiful fragrance was emitted by his Holy body, filling the room. Many came to venerate his Holy relics prior to his burial. With amazement, people noted a fragrant fluid that drenched his hair and beard. Even after 5 months, when the nuns of the convent opened the Saints grave to build a marble tomb, they found the Saint intact in every respect and emitted a wonderful and heavenly fragrance. Similarly three years later, the Holy Relics were still whole and radiating the same heavenly fragrance.

Many people had regarded Nektarios as a Saint whilst he was still alive, because of his purity of life, his virtues, the nature of his publications, his gift of foreknowledge and the miracles he performed. The recognition of him as a Saint spread rapidly after his repose. God confirmed the Sanctity of Nektarios at his repose and by the miracles attributed to the Saint after his repose. The Orthodox Church proclaimed him as a Saint on April 20, 1961. His Blessed memory is

celebrated by the Church on November 9th.

Akathist Hymn to Saint Nectarios of Aegina

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: In joy of heart let us hymn with songs the newly revealed star of **Orthodoxy**, / the newly erected **bulwark** of the Church; / for, glorified by the activity of the **Spirit**, / he pours forth the abundant grace of healings upon **those** who cry: // Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

IKOS I

Priest: In the world you were shown to be a man of heavenly mind, Saint Nectarios, hierarch of Christ. Having passed through life in holiness, you were shown to be blameless, venerable, and God-pleasing in all things. Therefore, you hear from us such praises as these:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, new teacher of eternal **guidelines**.
Rejoice, earnest reflection of Christ before the **enemy** of mankind.
Rejoice, for you came forth to meet the holy fathers in their **writings**.

Rejoice, for you taught your flock the lessons of truth and **mercy**.
Rejoice, for you sing with all the saints in the **choirs** of the Church.

Rejoice, for all the cities on earth **rejoice** with you.

Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION II

Priest: Having adorned yourself with meekness of soul from your youth, holy father, only one desire consumed your heart. You longed to become a preacher of the Gospel. From childhood you knew the Scriptures which are able to make men wise for salvation, teaching them to cry: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS II

Priest: When you left your home and traveled to Constantinople, you labored in the midst of worldly distractions. Yet, you did not forsake the Faith which first dwelt in your grandmother and mother and then dwelt in you. Steadfastly, you dedicated yourself to prayer, and to the sayings of the fathers which you wrote on packages and wrappings so that others might read them and receive spiritual profit. Therefore, to one who was in the world but not of it, we the faithful cry aloud in thanksgiving:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, heavenly abode of God's mysterious ways on earth.

Rejoice, honorable dwelling-place of **God's** grace.

Rejoice, for you did not discard the virtuous ways of your mother and **grandmother**.

Rejoice, for you renounced material things and sought the **Kingdom**.

Rejoice, victor of faith throughout a **lifetime**.

Rejoice, conqueror of distractions and **passions**.

Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION III

Priest: A fervent lover of the monastic life, you often visited the

Monastery of the Holy Fathers, conversing there about the spiritual struggle with its holy founder, Elder Pachomios. Since you aspired to the angelic habit, Saint Nectarios, you were tonsured, dedicating yourself to prayer on behalf of the people as you sang: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS III

Priest: Wholly consumed with the love of heavenly knowledge, you received a blessing to continue your theological education to which you devoted yourself with zeal and self-denial. While living in Athens, you studied day and night, knowing no other roads but those to the school and to the church. Accordingly, as to our instructor in heavenly theology, we your children joyfully cry:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, seeker of understanding of **things** divine.

Rejoice, heavenly haven for those who struggle in the **spiritual** life.

Rejoice, for you abide in the Holy Church with **love** for all.

Rejoice, for you stand in awe of the Holy **Trinity**.

Rejoice, for you testified in these latter times to eternal truth and the undying love of the **crucified** Christ.

Rejoice, for you pour out blessings upon all believers who repent of sin and love their **neighbor**.

Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION IV

Priest: Arrayed in true holiness and pure morals, your great potential for service to Christ's Holy Church was seen by

Patriarch Sophronios of Alexandria. You were ordained to the sacred priesthood and elevated to the office of bishop. Saint Nectarios, you wisely offered your life to Christ as a pure sacrifice, ever chanting: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IV

Priest: In your position as Metropolitan of Pentapolis, you were deeply loved by the faithful, for clothed in the vesture of the hierarchy you adorned your life with humility. Ever disdainful of material possessions, you opened your hand freely and distributed alms to the poor. Like your Master, you willingly came not to be served but to serve, and to give your life as a ransom for many. Conquered by your love, Father Nectarios, we who honor your holy memory cry to you thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, humble **hierarch**.

Rejoice, sacred **sacrifice**.

Rejoice, wise **warrior**.

Rejoice, charitable **Christian**.

Rejoice, through you we are delivered from pride and **vanity**.

Rejoice, through you we are rooted in the good soil of pure **morals**.

Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION V

Priest: When the enemy of our souls saw you laboring in humility, he could not abide your holy presence among the people. Stirring up slanders and inciting rumors, he sought to destroy your good name and to lead you to bitterness and anger. You overcame all of his devices, Saint Nectarios, for in all things

you meekly chanted to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS V

Priest: Lacking even your daily bread and slandered on all sides, you prayed for your accusers, begging the Father to forgive them. Refusing to speak one word in your own defense, you joyfully suffered according to the will of God, committing yourself to Him and doing good for your faithful Creator. Amazed by your longsuffering and steadfast endurance, we your children exclaim:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, treasury of knowledge and prayers for **believers**.

Rejoice, wealth of cleansing waters for false **accusers**.

Rejoice, vessel filled with the Christian **virtues**.

Rejoice, true embodiment of spiritual **meekness**.

Rejoice, for you said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what **they** have done.”

Rejoice, for you repaid evil with good, following your **master** Christ.

Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION VI

Priest: Although having a strong desire for the life of stillness on the Holy Mountain, you could not abandon the people. You heeded their call to remain in the world and to proclaim the words of salvation. Freely you received and freely you gave, calling all men to exclaim: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VI

Priest: With the words of your mouth you dropped heavenly sweetness into the hearts of those who accepted your words with faith, directing the minds of the faithful to seek those things which are above. The sacred writings of your teachings continually gladden the souls of the pious. Moved by the Holy Spirit, O Saint Nectarios, you wisely recorded words of grace and instruction for those who cry to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, faithful servant directing **souls** to Christ.
Rejoice, virtuous habitation filled with the words of the **Gospel**.
Rejoice, ray of light illuminating our **days** on the earth.
Rejoice, bright star leading people out of the **night** of sin.
Rejoice, for you praised truth and lived by **mercy**.
Rejoice, for you gave the words of life to all **freely**.
Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION VII

Priest: Invited to assume the direction of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, you brought peace where there once existed confusion, for you treated all as a loving father. Thus, your students in gratitude sang to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VII

Priest: Strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, having received the words of life, you committed these to faithful men who, because of your good instruction and spiritual example, were enabled to teach them to others. Enduring hardships as a good soldier of Christ, you did not entangle yourself in the affairs of this world but thought only how to please the Master. Therefore,

as to a worker who does not need to be ashamed — for you rightly divided the Word of Truth — we cry out to you in words such as these:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, devout teacher of the Divine Commandments.

Rejoice, for by teaching others you pleased your **Master**.

Rejoice, new Paul, who has bequeathed us the pattern of **sound** words.

Rejoice, new Jude, who has given us the exhortation to contend **earnestly** for the Faith.

Rejoice, new Chrysostom, who has poured forth upon the Holy Church the pure waters of **piety**.

Rejoice, new Damascene, who has defended the faithful from impious **doctrines**.

Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION VIII

Priest: Wisely adorned with understanding and meekness, you brought together venerable virgins in godliness, leading them to Christ by your words and the works of your blameless life, teaching them to sing: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS VIII

Priest: Listening to your prayers and earnest supplications, the Lord Who does the will of those who fear Him, led you to the island of Aegina where you rebuilt the monastery which had been abandoned. Who can describe your labors and toils? Exercising vigilance in all things, Saint Nectarios, you showed forth a model of divine virtue. Mindful of this, your spiritual daughters in

thanksgiving cry to you thus:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, laborer for Christ, building His holy house for **worshippers**.

Rejoice, all-luminous lamp, lighting the way to **salvation** for all.

Rejoice, blameless instructor in the **True Faith**.

Rejoice, branch bringing forth fruits worthy of **repentance**.

Rejoice, righteous guardian of **chastity**.

Rejoice, holy caretaker of spiritual **children**.

Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION IX

Priest: Worldly minded men cannot understand your patience, for despite the many cares of the monastery, you did not cease writing instructive books for Christians living in the world. Amazed at the great wisdom which you were given, we cry to God: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS IX

Priest: Having settled at the monastery in Aegina, you became all-spirit and led an altogether spiritual life. Venerable, meek, kindly, humble, extremely compassionate and charitable, you carried on the good fight in order to lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus laid hold of you. In your pious ways you blamelessly followed Dionysios, the godly pastor of Aegina. Now, as you partake of heavenly glory with him, receive from us these praises:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for you renounced the **greed** of this world.

Rejoice, for you received in exchange the spirit of **charity**.

Rejoice, for you gladly crucified your flesh to your **spirit**.
Rejoice, for you submitted your spirit to your Sweetest Lord
Jesus.

Rejoice, lover of the holy fathers and leader of the **people**.

Rejoice, pious instructor in the **prayer** of the heart.

Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION X

Priest: Never neglecting mental prayer but always crying from the depth of your heart, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me," all bore witness that you had become truly spiritualized. Noticing in you an exceptional sweetness which radiated from your serene countenance, the faithful joyfully exclaimed: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS X

Priest: Knowing that the most holy Virgin is a bulwark for all saints and a joy to monks and nuns, you offered your intercessions to her with tears and committed yourself to her motherly protection. Writing beautiful hymns, you gave to the faithful the gift of your love, teaching them to sing, "Rejoice, O unwedded bride." We therefore cry to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, pure heart filled with **prayers** and hymns.

Rejoice, boast of monks and nuns who **mourn** for their sins.

Rejoice, intercessor for the lost and **healer** of the sick.

Rejoice, for you work many miracles through the **power** of God.

Rejoice, for you shone forth with flames of love for **Jesus Christ**.

Rejoice, for you always honored His holy **Mother**.

Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION XI

Priest: When the time came for you to depart to Christ and receive the crown of righteousness laid up for you in Heaven, you endured severe pain and suffered with exemplary patience. Always thanking the Heavenly Father and blessing His All-Holy Name, you unceasingly cried: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XI

Priest: The Lord, Who always glorifies those who glorify Him, did not allow your virtue to be hidden. Desiring that those on earth know the glory which He has given to you in the heavens, the Lord has revealed your relics as a wellspring of healings and miracles. Immediately after your repose, as your body was being prepared for burial, the Lord worked wonders through your sweater — raising up a man who had been paralyzed for many years. Together with him, we also gratefully cry to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, wellspring of wonders for those who thirst for **healing**.

Rejoice, constant stream of mercy flowing toward **Heaven**.

Rejoice, theologian of the heart and **of** the mind.

Rejoice, studious priest and **prayerful** monk.

Rejoice, plentiful land of **good** works.

Rejoice, sower of miracles for **believers**.

Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION XII

Priest: Multitudes of faithful from all lands continually flee to

your shrine, O holy father, and from your precious relics faithfully obtain divine grace and answers for their every petition. O father, as you know how, fulfill also the petitions of those who now cry: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IKOS XII

Priest: Singing praises we glorify you, O all-praised Nectarios, for in you, God Who is glorified in the Trinity is wonderfully glorified. Even if we were to offer to you a multitude of hymns composed from the soul, we should do nothing to equal the gift of your miracles, and amazed by them we cry to you:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, for you overcame evil through the **grace** of God.

Rejoice, for you prayed always and now you **fulfill** our prayers.
Rejoice, giver of health to the body and **knowledge** to the soul.
Rejoice, healer of sicknesses and mender of **divisions**.
Rejoice, for you lived a God-pleasing life of prayer and service to **others**.

Rejoice, for you never grieved the Holy **Spirit**.

Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION XIII

Since you are a partaker in the life of Heaven and a dweller with the angels, O Father Nectarios, having labored to please God, accept our present offering. Unceasingly intercede for your flock and for all the Orthodox who honor you. Let us be healed of all diseases of both body and soul, so that together with you in the Eternal Kingdom we may truly cry: Alleluia.

Choir/Faithful: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

IKOS I

Priest: In the world you were shown to be a man of heavenly mind, Saint Nectarios, hierarch of Christ. Having passed through life in holiness, you were shown to be blameless, venerable, and God-pleasing in all things. Therefore, you hear from us such praises as these:

Choir/Faithful: Rejoice, new teacher of eternal **guidelines**.
Rejoice, earnest reflection of Christ before the **enemy** of mankind.
Rejoice, for you came forth to meet the holy fathers in their **writings**.

Rejoice, for you taught your flock the lessons of truth and **mercy**.
Rejoice, for you sing with all the saints in the **choirs** of the Church.

Rejoice, for all the cities on earth **rejoice** with you.

Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

KONTAKION I

Choir/Faithful: In joy of heart let us hymn with songs the newly revealed star of **Orthodoxy**, / the newly erected **bulwark** of the Church; / for, glorified by the activity of the **Spirit**, / he pours forth the abundant grace of healings upon **those** who cry: // Rejoice, Saint Nectarios, model of patience and lover of **virtue**.

Priest: Again and again on bended knees let us pray to Our Holy Father Saint Nectarios.

Choir/Faithful: Holy Father Saint Nectarios, pray to **God** for us.

First Prayer to Our Holy Father Saint Nectarios

Priest: Saint Nectarios, we honor you as our spiritual father who continues to pray for us in the Kingdom of Heaven. We ask you to shine the light of knowledge and virtue upon the faithful of the Church, and to divinely guide all those truly searching for salvation and renewal. We ask for your leadership as we work, learn and pray in our daily lives. Teach us to love and follow the Commandments of God. Help us especially to forgive others, for we also need forgiveness of our many and grievous transgressions. Father Nectarios, let us rightly believe in and take comfort from the holy words, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me a sinner," so that all the faithful might abide together in the Kingdom of Heaven eternally.

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 Saint Nectarios, pray to God for us!

Glory Be To God For All Things!