



St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

كنيسة رقاد السيدة الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

Akathist to the Theotokos Nurturer of Children

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

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

Choir: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life! *(Twice)*

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

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our iniquities; Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

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 the evil one.

Priest: For Thine are 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.

Lord, have mercy. (twelve times)

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

Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

PSALM 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

THE NICENE-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. And on the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose Kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Kontakion 1 *(Tone 8)*

O Victorious Leader and Good Nurturer of the Christian race, we Thy servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to Thee. But as Thou hast invincible might deliver our children from all dangers that with tears we may cry to Thee: Raise our children to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Ikos 1

Intercede with Thy Son and God, O most Holy One, that an angel from heaven be sent to our children, just as to Thee was sent a most mighty protector, the Archangel Gabriel; and vouchsafe us to cry to Thee thus:

Raise our children to be earthly angels.

Raise our children to be heavenly men.

Raise our children to be Thy servants.

Raise our children to cry out to Thee:

“Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord with Thee!”

Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 2

As thou seest our parental entreaty for our children, begging help of Thee alone; do Thou take them under Thine honorable and compassionate protection, that we may cry to God: Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia.

Ikos 2

Send our children understanding, that they may know how to serve Thee well; fill their hearts with heavenly wisdom and grant that they may love it alone and scorn the things of the world. Do not hinder our lips from crying such things as these:

Raise our children to be wise as serpents and as innocent as doves.

Raise our children to have knowledge of good but not of sin.

Raise our children to be wise against the snares of the devil.

Raise our children to order their lives wisely, following the examples of the saints.

Raise our children, nourishing them with the milk of the hidden wisdom of God, that they may seek it all of their lives.

Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 3

May the power of the Most High overshadow our children through Thine unceasing intercession before Thy Son, and on account of this, having come to know Thy maternal compassion towards all who run to God with faith, may they cry to God: Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia.

Ikos 3

Having received our children from God, we do not desire to behold them dwelling in eternal torment, but rather to see them written in the Book of Life and made inheritors of eternal life. For Thy sake, O Most Pure Virgin, incline Thine ear to our supplication, as we cry to Thee:

Raise our children to flee eternal torment.

Raise our children to inherit life eternal.

Raise our children to pass the course of their life in Repentance.

Raise our children to labor to acquire the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Raise our children to exert effort to attain the Kingdom of Heaven.

Raise our children to be written in the Book of Life.

Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 4

Having within a tempest of doubting thoughts, and wanting to give our children to drink of eternal life, we weep. Thus, having remembered Thy most rich mercies, we sing to Thy Son with hope and with a contrite heart: Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia.

Ikos 4

Having heard Thy voice, crying to Thy Son, "Preserve in Thine inheritance those whom Thou hast given me unto the ages," we stretch out our hands and our heart towards Thy loving---kindness, entreating that Thou wilt keep our children among Thy servants, and fulfill these our petitions:

Raise our children in thy most holy inheritance.
Raise our children with all Thy Saints.
Raise our children to be Thy servants, fulfilling all Thy commands.
Raise our children to seek help from Thee alone.
Raise our children to inherit eternal life.
Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 5

May the Morning Star, which is Thy Son, O Most Holy Virgin, shine with unfading light in the hearts of our children, that they may cry to God: Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia.

Ikos 5

Having seen our diligent supplication rising like incense to Thy glory, turn not Thy face away from our children, though they turn away from Thee, but all the more, hear the cry of our lips, singing to Thee:

Raise our children to be poor in spirit, that they May inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.
Raise our children to weep, that they may be comforted.
Raise our children to be meek, that they may inherit the earth.
Raise our children to hunger and thirst after righteousness, that they may be filled.
Raise our children to be merciful, that they may obtain mercy.
Raise our children to be pure in heart, that they may see God.
Raise our children to be peacemakers, that they may be called the sons of God. Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 6

All we the faithful ever proclaim Thee the defense of orphans, widows and mothers, and of all Thy children who pray and cry out to Thee: Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia.

Ikos 6

With rays of grace teach our children so that enlightened by Thee on high they may see they path leading to life eternal and follow on it, nourished beneath Thine all---powerful protection in the Church of Thy Son where there is unending light. For the sake of this, hear us who cry to Thee thus:

Raise our children to be the light of the world, that their light may shine before men, and that seeing their good deeds, men will glorify their Father in Heaven.

Raise our children to be enlightened by Thy Son, that in His light they may see light and direct their steps towards Him.

Raise our children always to turn the eyes of their heart to the Redeemer of all.

Raise our children to be guided to the habitation of the Righteous by the Morning Star which is Thy Son.

Raise our children to be meek and silent and to tremble before the word of God.

Raise our children to love Thee and Thy Son not only with their minds but also with their Hearts.

Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 7

Desiring for our children eternal salvation, with tears we stand before Thy most honorable icon, O Lady, that disdaining not our supplication, thou wilt cry to Thy Son: Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia.

Ikos 7

By the wonderous and incomprehensible action of Thy Son, lead our children with Thy merciful hand beneath Thy gracious protection, that with sincerity we may cry to Thee:

Raise our children to seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness.

Raise our children to walk the narrow way leading to life eternal.

Raise our children to do the will of Thy Son and God in every place.

Raise our children to long to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.

Raise our children to be numbered among Thy chosen ones.

Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 8

Where will our children, wandering in the greatly perilous and stormy valley of the world, receive joy and consolation, if not in Thee, O Most Pure One. Travel with them and teach them the true path, that they may cry to God: Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia.

Ikos 8

To all art Thou a merciful Mother, O Lady, and we desire that we may become Thy children. Thus we place our children in Thy hands and in humility we beg of Thee:

Raise our children to keep vigil and pray that they may not fall into temptation.
Raise our children to be merciful so that their Father in Heaven will be merciful to them.

Raise our children in purity of childhood, for to children belongs the Kingdom of God.

Raise our children to be the least of all, that they may be great before God. Raise our children to fulfill the Word of God, and to be partakers of the heavenly blessedness for which they came into being.

Raise our children to have good hope in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 9

Fill the souls and hearts of our children with all good, driving away from them the spirit of evil atheism, giving to each of them as is needed from Thy compassion toward all, that we may cry to God: Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia.

Ikos 9

Deliver our children from association with falsely---theorizing orators, who speak lies about Thine all---powerful intercession, and look upon us, faithfully singing:

Raise our children to love Thee with all their hearts and minds.

Raise our children to open their lips only in the praise and glory of Thy blessings.

Raise our children to await the coming of Thy Son with tears.

Raise our children in watchful and continual prayer.

Raise our children to stand always before Thee with reverence.

Raise our children to bear good fruit.

Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 10

Desiring to save the world, Thy Son came from heaven to call, not the righteous, but sinners to repentance. For the sake, of this, pray to Thy Son that having been saved through Thee our children may call to God: Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia.

Ikos 10

Surround our children with indestructible walls, O Heavenly Queen, that under Thy blessed protection, they may accomplish a multitude of good deeds, and that with them we may cry to Thee thus:

Raise our children to be leaders in doing the will of Thy Son and God.

Raise our children to hate sin and all transgression.

Raise our children to love good and all virtue.

Raise our children in blameless purity.

Raise our children to ascent the ladder of their lives every day.

Raise our children to turn their eyes to Thy compassion in the midst of sorrows.

Raise our children to serve Thee in obedience and chastity.

Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 11

Make our children worthy always to hymn Thine unshakable intercession, and through Thy grace direct their lips to sing to God: Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia.

Ikos 11

O Shining lamp from on high, make the lives of our children to burn and their hearts to melt day and night with love for Thee, and Thy Son, and for their neighbors, and disdain us not who cry to Thee:

Raise our children to love Thee with all their hearts and minds.

Raise our children to open their lips only in the praise and glory of Thy blessings.

Raise our children in watchful and continual Prayer.
Raise our children to stand always before Thee with reverence.
Raise our children to bear good fruit.
Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 12

Fill the hearts of our children with the inexpressible grace of the Holy Spirit, so that they may love only Thy Son and God, and Thee, O Most Good One, that being inspired by Thee, we may cry to the King of all: Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia.

Ikos 12

Singing of Thy loving---kindness, we pray Thee, who feeds and hast mercy on our children; cease not to intercede for them with Thy Son, for we believe that all is possible for Thee, and do Thou fulfill these our entreaties:

Raise our children to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
Raise our children to be found on the right hand at the Judgment Seat of Thy Son.
Raise our children to live in a holy manner.
Raise our children to dwell securely on the path of faith by the grace of the Spirit of God.
Raise our children to hunger and thirst insatiably for the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit.
Raise our children to perfect as our Father in Heaven is perfect.
Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 13

O All Hymned Mother of our Sweetest Jesus! Accept this small hymn of supplication for our children as a sweet fragrance and take them under Thy compassionate protection. Grant them to think, know, near, say and do, only that which brings them close to Thee and Thy Son, and helps them attain eternal salvation. And send them in this present life all that is profitable for the salvation of their souls, that they may cry to God: Alleluia. *(Thrice)*

Choir: Alleluia.

Ikos 1

Intercede with Thy Son and God, O most Holy One, that an angel from heaven be sent to our children, just as to Thee was sent a most mighty protector, the Archangel Gabriel; and vouchsafe us to cry to Thee thus:

Raise our children to be earthly angels.

Raise our children to be heavenly men.

Raise our children to be Thy servants.

Raise our children to cry out to Thee:

“Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord with Thee!”

Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Choir: Raise our children, O Lady, to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion 1 *(Tone 8)*

O Victorious Leader and Good Nurturer of the Christian race, we Thy servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to Thee. But as Thou hast invincible might deliver our children from all dangers that with tears we may cry to Thee: Raise our children to be made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and make them heirs of eternal blessings.

Theotokion (Plain Reading)

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, who art ever-blessed and all-blameless, and the mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Thou who without corruption bearest God the Word; and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

(The people kneel)

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy Most Pure Mother, hearken unto us, Thine unworthy servants. O Lord, govern in mercy our children. Have mercy on them and save them, for Thy name's sake.

O Lord, forgive them all their transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, that they may be perfected before Thee. O Lord, set them on the true path of Thy commandments and enlighten their minds with the Light of Christ unto salvation of their souls and the healing of their bodies.

Bless them, O Lord, at home, at school, in their journeys and in every place of Thy dominion. Preserve and shelter them, O Lord, from flying bullets, arrows, the

sword, poison and fire, from mortal wounds and sudden death. Guard them, O Lord, from all visible and invisible enemies, and from all danger, evil and misfortune.

Heal them O Lord, from all sickness, deliver them from every impurity, and lighten their spiritual sufferings. Grant them, O Lord, the grace of Thy Holy Spirit and a long life; grant them health and chastity in all piety and love, and to live in accord with all their neighbors, near and far.

Multiply and strengthen them, O Lord, in mental ability and bodily strength, given to them by Thee. Bless them to lead a pious life and, if it is pleasing to Thee, grant them married life and honorable childbearing.

For Thy name's sake, O Lord, give us, Thy sinful and unworthy servants, a parental blessing for our children and Thy servants, both in this present time, morning, noon and night, and also in Thine eternal, almighty and all-powerful Kingdom. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. *(The people rise)*

Trisagion Prayers

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(Thrice)*

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

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our iniquities; Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Thrice)*

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 the evil one.

Priest: For Thine are 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.

Dismissal

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ God and our Hope, glory to Thee.

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

Lord, have mercy (*Thrice*)

Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother, patron and protectress of our holy church; of (*daily commemoration*); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of (*saints of the day*) whose memory we celebrate, and of all the Saints, have mercy upon us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs...

Choir: ...bestowing life!