Akathist to Saint Philaret, Metropolitan of Moscow

November 19

Kontakion 1. Chosen by God to be a teacher of the faith and a guardian of the word of God for the Russian people, O holy Philaret, you shepherded the Church of Moscow for nearly half a century with wisdom and prayer. Accept our song of praise, and pray to Christ for us, that we may love His word and cry to you:

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Ikos 1. You were born on December 26, 1782, in Kolomna, the son of the deacon Michael Drozdov, and you were named Basil at baptism. You grew up in the shadow of the church, learning the services and the Scriptures from your father and grandfather, and so we sing:

Rejoice, child of Kolomna;
Rejoice, son of a deacon;
Rejoice, for you grew up in the shadow of the church;
Rejoice, for you learned the services from childhood;
Rejoice, for you loved the Scriptures from your youth;
Rejoice, for your family served the altar;
Rejoice, for God prepared you for great labors;
Rejoice, flower of the land of Moscow;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Kontakion 2. You studied at the seminary of the Holy Trinity Lavra of St Sergius, where you excelled in languages and theology. Already as a young teacher, your sermons drew attention for their depth, and you sang to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 2. In 1808, you received monastic tonsure with the name Philaret, which means lover of virtue, and soon you were called to the theological academy in St Petersburg. Rejoicing in your consecration to God, we cry out:

Rejoice, student of the Trinity Lavra;
Rejoice, for you excelled in languages and theology;
Rejoice, for your sermons drew many;
Rejoice, for you were tonsured in 1808;
Rejoice, for you took the name Philaret;
Rejoice, for you loved virtue above learning;
Rejoice, for St Sergius was your patron;
Rejoice, lover of virtue;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Kontakion 3. As rector of the St Petersburg Theological Academy, you renewed the teaching of theology, insisting that it be taught in the Russian language and grounded in the Scriptures and the Fathers. Your students became bishops and teachers, and they sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 3. You labored to give the Russian people the Holy Scriptures in their own language, and under your direction the Gospels were translated into Russian. Though this work met opposition, you never ceased to promote it, and so we sing:

Rejoice, rector of the St Petersburg Academy;
Rejoice, for you renewed theological teaching;
Rejoice, for you taught in the Russian language;

Rejoice, for you grounded theology in Scripture;
Rejoice, for you formed many bishops and teachers;
Rejoice, for you labored for the Russian Bible;
Rejoice, for the Gospels were translated under your care;
Rejoice, servant of the word of God;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Kontakion 4. Your labors for the Russian Bible bore fruit at last, for after your repose the Holy Synod completed the Russian translation of the whole Bible in 1876. The Russian people received the word of God in their own tongue and sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 4. In 1823, you wrote the Longer Catechism of the Orthodox Church, which taught the faith with clarity and precision and was used for generations in Russia and translated into many languages. Thanking God for your catechism, we cry out:

Rejoice, for the Russian Bible was completed;
Rejoice, for the people heard God in their own tongue;
Rejoice, author of the Longer Catechism;
Rejoice, for you taught the faith with clarity;
Rejoice, for generations learned from your catechism;
Rejoice, for it was translated into many languages;
Rejoice, for it still teaches the faithful;
Rejoice, catechist of a nation;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Kontakion 5. In 1821, you were appointed archbishop, and later metropolitan, of Moscow, and you shepherded the Church of Moscow for forty-six years. You served the Divine Liturgy with great reverence and sang to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 5. You visited the parishes and monasteries of your diocese, cared for the poor clergy and their families, and established schools and almshouses. Seeing your pastoral care, we sing:

Rejoice, metropolitan of Moscow;
Rejoice, for you shepherded your flock for forty-six years;
Rejoice, for you served with great reverence;
Rejoice, for you visited your parishes;
Rejoice, for you cared for poor clergy;
Rejoice, for you founded schools and almshouses;
Rejoice, for you restored many monasteries;
Rejoice, good shepherd of Moscow;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Kontakion 6. Your sermons were models of wisdom and depth, explaining the Scriptures and the feasts of the Church with clarity. People from every class came to hear you, and they sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 6. You preached that the Cross is the revelation of the love of the Holy Trinity: the love of the Father crucifying, the love of the Son crucified, and the love of the Holy Spirit triumphant by the power of the Cross. Contemplating this mystery, we cry out:

Rejoice, preacher of wisdom and depth;
Rejoice, for you explained the Scriptures clearly;
Rejoice, for you illumined the feasts of the Church;
Rejoice, for all classes came to hear you;

Rejoice, for you preached the love of the Trinity;
Rejoice, for you saw the Cross as revealed love;
Rejoice, for your words are still read;
Rejoice, golden tongue of Moscow;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Kontakion 7. You loved the monasteries and supported the elders of Optina, and you founded the Gethsemane skete near the Trinity Lavra. You sought counsel from holy men and sang with them: Alleluia!

Ikos 7. You corresponded with the poet Pushkin, answering his despairing verses with a poem of hope, and he was moved to reply with gratitude. Seeing your care for souls of every kind, we sing:

Rejoice, friend of the monasteries;
Rejoice, supporter of the Optina elders;
Rejoice, founder of the Gethsemane skete;
Rejoice, for you sought the counsel of holy men;
Rejoice, for you answered Pushkin with hope;
Rejoice, for the poet was moved by your words;
Rejoice, for you cared for every kind of soul;
Rejoice, physician of despair;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Kontakion 8. In 1861, you were asked to write the manifesto of Tsar Alexander II freeing the serfs of Russia. You wrote it with care and with a prayer for the freed people, and many sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 8. You lived in simplicity and prayer, rising early, serving often, and giving generously to the poor, and you were sparing of words but rich in wisdom. Learning from your life, we cry out:

Rejoice, for you wrote the manifesto of emancipation;
Rejoice, for millions were freed from serfdom;
Rejoice, for you prayed for the freed people;
Rejoice, for you lived in simplicity;
Rejoice, for you rose early to pray;
Rejoice, for you gave generously to the poor;
Rejoice, for you were sparing of words;
Rejoice, rich in wisdom;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Kontakion 9. Your spiritual children marveled at your insight, for you discerned their thoughts and answered their needs before they spoke. Glorifying God, who gave you this gift, they sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 9. On November 19, 1867, after serving the Divine Liturgy, you gave your soul to God in peace, as you had foreseen in a dream when your father told you to remember the nineteenth. Rejoicing at your blessed end, we sing:

Rejoice, for you discerned the thoughts of your children;
Rejoice, for you foresaw the day of your death;
Rejoice, for your father told you to remember the nineteenth;
Rejoice, for you served the Liturgy on your last day;
Rejoice, for you reposed in peace;
Rejoice, for you finished your course with faith;
Rejoice, for the angels received your soul;
Rejoice, blessed end of a holy life;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Kontakion 10. You were buried at the Trinity Lavra of St Sergius, beside the saint you had loved from your youth. In 1994, the Russian Orthodox Church glorified you among the saints, and the faithful sang: Alleluia!

Ikos 10. Your writings continue to teach the faithful, and your catechism and sermons are read in many lands, for your voice was not silenced by death. Rejoicing in your glorification, we cry to you:

Rejoice, for you rest at the Trinity Lavra;
Rejoice, for you lie near St Sergius;
Rejoice, for you were glorified in 1994;
Rejoice, for your writings teach the faithful;
Rejoice, for your sermons are read in many lands;
Rejoice, for your voice was not silenced by death;
Rejoice, for the Church honors you as a teacher;
Rejoice, glory of Moscow;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Kontakion 11. Every hymn falls short of your wisdom, O holy Philaret, for you were a master of words. Receive our poor song, offered with love, as we sing to God: Alleluia!

Ikos 11. You are a light for all who teach the faith, translate the Scriptures and preach the word of God, for you joined learning to prayer and wisdom to humility. Calling on your prayers, we sing:

Rejoice, patron of catechists;
Rejoice, guide of translators of the Scriptures;
Rejoice, model of preachers;
Rejoice, for you joined learning to prayer;
Rejoice, for you united wisdom and humility;
Rejoice, for you teach us to love the word of God;
Rejoice, for you call us to clarity in the faith;
Rejoice, teacher of teachers;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Kontakion 12. The grace of God works through your prayers and your writings, and many have come to know the faith through your catechism. Glorifying the Lord who gave you to His Church, we sing: Alleluia!

Ikos 12. Singing of your labors, we praise Christ, who made you a shepherd, a teacher and a guardian of His word. We honor your memory and cry to you:

Rejoice, son of Kolomna;
Rejoice, rector of the academy;
Rejoice, servant of the Russian Bible;
Rejoice, author of the catechism;
Rejoice, metropolitan of Moscow;
Rejoice, preacher of the love of the Cross;
Rejoice, friend of the elders;
Rejoice, luminary of the Russian Church;

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Kontakion 13. O holy hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God, receive this our hymn of praise. Pray to Christ our God that He may enlighten our minds with His word, establish us in the true faith, and grant us to stand with you in His Kingdom, singing: Alleluia!

This kontakion is said three times.

Ikos 1 (repeated). You were born on December 26, 1782, in Kolomna, the son of the deacon Michael Drozdov, and you were named Basil at baptism. You grew up in the shadow of the church, learning the services and the Scriptures from your father and grandfather, and so we sing:

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Kontakion 1 (repeated). Chosen by God to be a teacher of the faith and a guardian of the word of God for the Russian people, O holy Philaret, you shepherded the Church of Moscow for nearly half a century with wisdom and prayer. Accept our song of praise, and pray to Christ for us, that we may love His word and cry to you:

Rejoice, holy Hierarch Philaret, wise teacher of the word of God!

Prayer

O holy hierarch Philaret, you who labored to give the Russian people the Scriptures in their own tongue, who taught the faith with clarity in your catechism, and who preached the love of the Holy Trinity revealed in the Cross, we come to you with faith and ask your prayers.

Pray to Christ our God for all who translate, teach and preach the word of God, that He may give them wisdom, clarity and humility; for catechists and catechumens, that the faith may be planted deeply in their hearts; and for all who live in despair, that He may give them hope. Help us, by your example, to read the Scriptures daily, to study the faith with diligence, and to join our learning to prayer.

Through your prayers, may the Lord grant us to understand and keep His word, so that with you we may glorify the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.