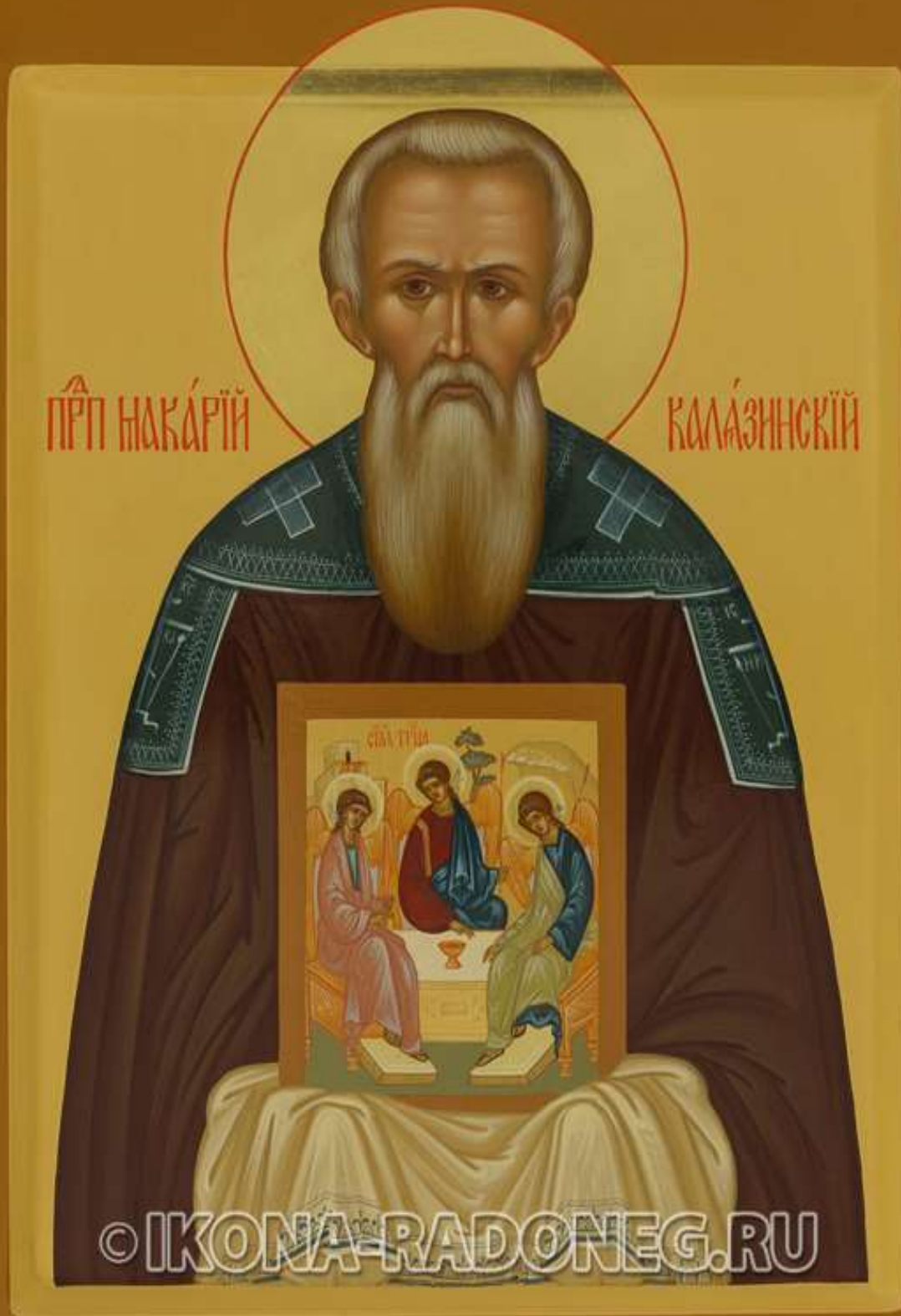


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NATALIA GARLAND**

**ACATISTUL
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DE LA
KALIAZIN**



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Akathist Hymn to Saint Macarius, Abbot of Kalyazin

Kontakion 1

O Life-Giving Trinity, we know that the meek shall inherit the earth, and this was true of Saint Macarius of Kalyazin who devoted his life to work and prayer. As Your people on earth, we have inherited his example of vigilance, and we humbly gather and say:

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Ikos 1

Saint Macarius, you were born Matthew Kozha in the year 1400, near the city of Kashin, and your father was a boyar. You were bound to certain family expectations, and in meekness you endeavored to obey the will of God for your life and to uplift your loved ones into Heavenly joy:

Rejoice, for you loved God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

Rejoice, for you vanquished impurities by gaining the virtues.

Rejoice, for you followed Christ Who gave His life to save the world.

Rejoice, for you worked and prayed in hope of eternal blessedness.

Rejoice, for you grieved not the Holy Spirit in your daily activities.

Rejoice, for you fought passions with contrition and fruitfulness.

Rejoice, for you deferred to the sacred teachings of the Church fathers.

Rejoice, for you defeated falsehood by contemplating true doctrine.

Rejoice, for you walked in the glorious footsteps of the saints and elders.

Rejoice, for you enriched those around you with your meek disposition.

Rejoice, for you immersed your being in Scripture for constant nurture.

Rejoice, for you cast out fear and darkness when you took up your cross.

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Kontakion 2

From your boyhood, Saint Macarius, you wanted to become a monk living in obedience and humility, following a rule of prayer, eating your meals in common with the brethren, performing your assigned tasks, showing hospitality to the pilgrims and always saying: Alleluia.

Ikos 2

Saint Macarius, your parents wanted you to marry and, in meekness, you complied with their wishes. A year after your marriage, your parents died. Three years after that, your wife also departed this life. Your loved ones having fulfilled their hopes on earth, you then pursued a life of prayer:

Rejoice, for God was always with you.

Rejoice, for all things are possible with God.

Rejoice, for you shone your light for everyone to see.

Rejoice, for you loved with undying love.

Rejoice, for God has a divine sense of timeliness.

Rejoice, for all things are easy for God.

Rejoice, for you desired the salvation of your loved ones.

Rejoice, for you subdued your pride and vanity.

Rejoice, for God is the God of the living.

Rejoice, for the righteous shall be rewarded by God.

Rejoice, for you viewed all events with spiritual sight.

Rejoice, for you labored for bread that does not perish.

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Kontakion 3

Heavenly Father, You guided Saint Macarius to the Nikolaev-Klobukov Monastery, one of two churches named for Saint Nicholas in today's city of Sofia, Bulgaria. It was here that the klobuk of Saint John Novgorodsky was dropped, and since then all believers have said: Alleluia.

Ikos 3

We see that the monastic state is regarded as a second Baptism: a life of repentance and joy, a return of the prodigal to the Father, a renunciation of the former way of life and the attainment of perfect love. We therefore turn to Saint Macarius for direction and healing:

Rejoice, for you did everything in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Rejoice, for you were pleased to be of service to the Church.

Rejoice, for you worshipped and obeyed in complete consecration.

Rejoice, for you were of the lineage of Saints Anthony and Basil.

Rejoice, for you sought a life of faith, purity, and contentment.

Rejoice, for you were grateful to Saint Nicholas for his patronage.

Rejoice, for you assisted any brother who was in need.

Rejoice, for you were both prodigal son and Good Samaritan.

Rejoice, for you gave your whole heart to the pursuit of righteousness.

Rejoice, for you were eager to say, “Thy Kingdom come.”

Rejoice, for you expressed love with every facet of your being.

Rejoice, for you were inclined toward meekness and glorifying God.

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Kontakion 4

Saint Macarius, your love of prayer also disposed you toward a life of greater solitude in the wilderness. You discussed this yearning with the abbot of the monastery, and he blessed you to follow the calling of God into the trees and thickets, and you said: Alleluia.

Ikos 4

It is essential that the monk, and every Christian, live according to the will of God and not according

to pride and vanity. Hence, you found refuge in the forest, not in disdain of people but to lift them up in prayer to Heaven. In meekness, you were united with All Saints and with all creation.

Rejoice, for you commiserated with the hardships of mankind.

Rejoice, for you prayed for the spiritual growth of children.

Rejoice, for you asked for nothing in return.

Rejoice, for you found joy in building up the Kingdom.

Rejoice, for you readied yourself for judgment.

Rejoice, for you anticipated the hour of death.

Rejoice, for you obstructed the downward spiral of sin.

Rejoice, for you broke the momentum of misery.

Rejoice, for you blessed the wilderness with your presence.

Rejoice, for you sanctified the earth with your prayers.

Rejoice, for you passed on that which you inherited.

Rejoice, for you gave forth everything you learned.

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Kontakion 5

Heavenly Father, Your beloved servant and the friend of mankind, Saint Macarius, founded a wilderness monastery where monks could pray apart from the world and yet for the world, and in appreciation of the beauty of nature. Saint Macarius has thereby enabled everyone to say: Alleluia.

Ikos 5

Let us pray from wherever we are and in whatever state of life, and let us thank the monks and nuns who keep vigil so that everyone can work out their salvation. May God look upon us with mercy, and may Saint Macarius cure us of our inward and outward maladies:

Rejoice, for you invested your trust in God's mercy and wisdom.

Rejoice, for you found your strength in Christ's body and blood.

Rejoice, for you acquired peace through the Holy Spirit's indwelling.

Rejoice, for you received joy from the Incarnation and the Resurrection.

Rejoice, for you enkindled your faith through prayer and fasting.

Rejoice, for you prospered your soul by helping the brethren.

Rejoice, for you gained Eternity with the fathers and forefathers.

Rejoice, for you multiplied goodness with every word and deed.

Rejoice, for you illuminated your path through reading Scripture.

Rejoice, for you brightened your days by loving all people.

Rejoice, for you conquered evil through vigilance at night.

Rejoice, for you obtained courage from a consistent rule of prayer.

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Kontakion 6

Saint Macarius, the land surrounding the monastery was owned by a boyar who did not want the monks to use the monastery grounds for agriculture. He was resentful of your holiness and swayed by the devil who hates monks. Yet, you maintained God's will and continued to say: Alleluia.

Ikos 6

The boyar, Ivan Kolyaga, was infected with envy and vengeance, and he conceived of an evil plan to kill you, O holy Saint Macarius. The boyar had a spiteful disposition, in contrast to your meekness, and he followed not the way of the Cross but the way of perdition:

Rejoice, for you would have laid down your life for Christ.

Rejoice, for you had already died to the world.

Rejoice, for you became a new creature within your monastic robes.

Rejoice, for you crucified the old self with its impure demands.

Rejoice, for you were quick to say, “Thy will be done.”

Rejoice, for you repented even of seemingly trivial sins.

Rejoice, for you cherished each person God placed on your path.

Rejoice, for you understood that only the sick need a Physician.

Rejoice, for you perceived the tactics of the devil.

Rejoice, for you discerned the hearts of men.

Rejoice, for you entrusted your whole being to God.

Rejoice, for you wished salvation for the suffering.

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Kontakion 7

O Life-Giving Trinity, all things work to the good of those who love You, for Your ways are mysterious. The boyar became extremely ill and, with death at his doorstep, he reflected on his life and was stirred to repent of his evil plans, and soon he would say: Alleluia.

Ikos 7

Saint Macarius, the servants of Ivan Kolyaga brought him to the monastery where he asked forgiveness of his wicked desire to kill you. In response, you healed him through the forgiveness of Christ, for we are all in need of great mercy and we seek undeserved blessings upon our lives:

Rejoice, for you held nothing back from those in need.

Rejoice, for you denied no man's contrition and repentance.

Rejoice, for you conquered the impact of the devil.

Rejoice, for you extinguished the progression of sin.

Rejoice, for you built the monastery for the love of God.

Rejoice, for you opened the gates to prodigals and paralytics.

Rejoice, for you recognized the struggles of each individual.

Rejoice, for you detected the battle against evil principalities.

Rejoice, for you came to serve and not to be served.

Rejoice, for you took the lowly place and raised up others.

Rejoice, for you put on the whole armor of God.

Rejoice, for you prayed unceasingly and spoke truth.

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Kontakion 8

From that point, the boyar followed Christ and brought forth the fruits of repentance. Sorrowing for his sins and wishing to acquire meekness, he donated his surrounding lands to the Kalyazin Monastery. In thanksgiving, the monks and all the people from roundabout said: Alleluia.

Ikos 8

Saint Macarius, upon the marvelous transformation of Ivan Kolyaga, the monastery became renowned as Heaven on earth, a continuation of the holy traditions of work and prayer, akin to Mount Athos in righteousness, and the spiritual inheritance of all who seek and find:

Rejoice, for you worshipped the One True God.

Rejoice, for you scorned idols and mammon of all kinds.

Rejoice, for you gave honor and tribute to Jesus Christ.

Rejoice, for you shunned any credit for yourself.

Rejoice, for you prayed through the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice, for you rejected all blasphemy and deviation.

Rejoice, for you saw the light and comprehended the Cross.

Rejoice, for you thought on whatsoever things were true.

Rejoice, for you inherited the earth and established a monastery.

Rejoice, for you renounced worldliness under all circumstances.

Rejoice, for you developed a Heavenly place for the burdened.

Rejoice, for you prohibited Satan from controlling any situation.

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Kontakion 9

Heavenly Father, we see that many churches and monasteries have been built over the centuries, and people have generously donated property, labor, and money to places of worship. May each soul be rewarded, and may we all cultivate an inward chapel and unceasingly say: Alleluia.

Ikos 9

When you were 53-years old, Saint Macarius, the monks of Kalyazin asked you to become their abbot. In humility, you declined. But in meekness, you eventually complied with their wishes. You

received the grace of God for this task, for you wanted not to neglect but to contribute:

Rejoice, for you treated others as you would be treated.

Rejoice, for you forgave but never condoned sin.

Rejoice, for you relied on fathers such as Saint Gregory the Theologian.

Rejoice, for you taught but never altered doctrine.

Rejoice, for you displayed compassion in all relationships.

Rejoice, for you guided but never dominated seekers of truth.

Rejoice, for you prayed alone and also with the brethren.

Rejoice, for you loved solitude but never withheld your blessings.

Rejoice, for you redeemed the time with patience and wisdom.

Rejoice, for you grew old but never held grudges.

Rejoice, for you stood before God in every moment.

Rejoice, for you repented but never demanded.

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Kontakion 10

Saint Macarius, though an abbot with crucial responsibilities, you lived in simplicity and without pretense. Your black robes were old and mended, and your appearance hid the stature of your saintliness and your life in Christ. Desiring to please God rather than the world, you said:
Alleluia.

Ikos 10

There was a heretic in the region, a man named Vassian, who ridiculed you as the farmhand of Kalyazin Monastery. Yet, you accepted his contempt as a guard against pride. For, you wandered peacefully in the forest where even the wild animals acknowledged you as their good shepherd:

Rejoice, for you regarded compliments as poison to your soul.

Rejoice, for you avoided superficial conversation.

Rejoice, for you accepted mockery as an opportunity for humility.

Rejoice, for you refrained from emotional overreaction.

Rejoice, for you renounced the arbitrary standards of the world.

Rejoice, for you thrived on pure doctrine and worthy tradition.

Rejoice, for you withstood various personal opinions on life.

Rejoice, for you turned to Scripture and the daily readings.

Rejoice, for you resisted the changing trends of society.

Rejoice, for you preferred to wear rags as an answer to vanity.

Rejoice, for you repelled external intellectualism.

Rejoice, for you internalized knowledge spiritually.

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Kontakion 11

Heavenly Father, another saint of the time, Saint Joseph of Volokolamsk, visited Saint Macarius in 1478 along with seven revered monks from the Nikolaev-Klobukov Monastery. They were all highly impressed with the level of authentic monasticism in Kalyazin, and they said: Alleluia.

Ikos 11

Let us endeavor to repent and to do the will of God, for the hour of death comes to everyone. Saint Macarius, you followed your rule of prayer into old age, and you healed many people of diseases and demons. Then, you departed this life in 1483, and now you guide and heal us from above:

Rejoice, for you worked and prayed in youth as well as old age.

Rejoice, for you remained faithful throughout the years.

Rejoice, for you interceded for the brethren and the world.

Rejoice, for you acquired a perfect love of all creation.

Rejoice, for you closed the monastery gates to the devil.

Rejoice, for you were zealous to say, “Away with you, Satan!”

Rejoice, for you cast out numerous maladies of body and soul.

Rejoice, for you ate at the table with sinners and strangers.

Rejoice, for you gave completely of your gifts and talents.

Rejoice, for you took nothing with you to the grave.

Rejoice, for you attained a legacy of helpfulness.

Rejoice, for you blessed many generations after you.

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Kontakion 12

There was a merchant, Michael Voronkov, who donated funds to replace the old wooden church at the Kalyazin Monastery with a stone church, in the year 1521. As the construction commenced, they

found a grave which gave forth an amazing fragrance, and everyone said: Alleluia.

Ikos 12

The abbot at the time, Joasaph, identified it as the grave of Saint Macarius. Yea, the body was incorrupt and healings began to pour forth upon the people. Saint Macarius, you were venerated locally and now throughout the world as we learn of you and request your aid:

Rejoice, for you hear the cries of the suffering.

Rejoice, for you see the plight of the burdened.

Rejoice, for you strengthen the monks and nuns in prayer.

Rejoice, for you fortify the congregants in worship.

Rejoice, for you encourage beginners in the ways of spirituality.

Rejoice, for you protect the aged from sliding backwards.

Rejoice, for you pour out the glorious fragrance of meekness.

Rejoice, for you shine forth the brilliant light of humility.

Rejoice, for you prepare a path for abbots and abbesses.

Rejoice, for you make a way for peasants dressed in rags.

Rejoice, for you uplift believers in their quest to do good.

Rejoice, for you triumph with those who conquer evil.

Rejoice, Saint Macarius, holy wonderworker who delighted in God.

Kontakion 13

Saint Macarius, you entered monastic life with the demeanor of a prodigal son and became a holy abbot and wonderworker. You found joy in people and in nature, in the Divine Liturgy and alone in prayer at night. You healed the sick and praised God unceasingly. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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