

## For Those Seeking a Husband or Wife

For some years now, under the Resources section of our website we have included Personal Adverts for single Orthodox seeking to marry. All Orthodox priests know how difficult it is for young people to find the right husband or wife and to marry, especially in modern societies. We have always advised them to kneel down in humility and ask for the prayers of the Mother of God.

However, it is also possible to ask for the prayers of St Nicholas. If the parent, together with the son or daughter who is seeking, read the akathist to St Nicholas for forty days, they will find that, as patron saint of families, St Nicholas will send them someone. If the parent is not Orthodox or has departed this life, then their place can be taken by another close relative (brother/sister, godfather/godmother, for example) or a close friend.

## **Akathist to St Nicholas the Wonderworker**

### **Kontakion 1**

O champion Wonderworker and exceeding pleaser of Christ, who pourest out for the whole world the most precious myrrh of mercy and an inexhaustible sea of miracles, I praise thee with love, O Hierarch Nicholas; and as thou hast boldness towards the Lord, deliver me from all misfortunes that I may cry to thee: **Rejoice**, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

### **Ikos 1**

The Creator revealed thee to be an angel in form though earthly by nature; for, foreseeing the fruitful goodness of thy soul, O most blessed Nicholas, He taught all to cry to thee thus:

**Rejoice**, thou who wast purified from thy mother's womb!  
**Rejoice**, thou who wast hallowed even to the end!  
**Rejoice**, thou who didst amaze thy parents by thy birth!  
**Rejoice**, thou who didst show power of soul straightway after birth!  
**Rejoice**, garden of the promised land!  
**Rejoice**, flower of divine planting!  
**Rejoice**, virtuous vine of the vineyard of Christ!  
**Rejoice**, wonderworking tree of the paradise of Jesus!  
**Rejoice**, lily blossoming in paradise!  
**Rejoice**, myrrh of the fragrance of Christ!  
**Rejoice**, for through thee weeping is banished!  
**Rejoice**, for through thee rejoicing is brought into being!  
**Rejoice**, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

### **Kontakion 2**

Seeing the effusion of thy myrrh, O divinely wise one, we are enlightened in soul and body, understanding thee to be a wonderful life-giving source of myrrh, O Nicholas; for with miracles poured out like waters by the grace of God, thou waterest them that faithfully cry to God: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 2**

Giving the reason knowledge of the Holy Trinity beyond reason, with the holy fathers in Nicea thou wast a champion of the confession of the Orthodox Faith; for thou didst confess the Son equal to the Father, everlasting and enthroned together with Him, and thou didst expose the foolish Arius. Therefore the faithful have learned to sing to thee:

Rejoice, great pillar of piety!  
Rejoice, city of refuge for the faithful!  
Rejoice, firm stronghold of Orthodoxy!  
Rejoice, venerable vessel and praise of the Holy Trinity!  
Rejoice, thou who didst preach the Son equal in honour to the Father!  
Rejoice, thou who didst expel the demonic Arius from the Council of the saints!  
Rejoice, O father, glorious beauty of the fathers!  
Rejoice, most wise goodness of all the divinely wise!  
Rejoice, thou who utterest words of fire!  
Rejoice, thou who guidest so well thy flock!  
Rejoice, for through thee faith is affirmed!  
Rejoice, for through thee heresy is overthrown!  
Rejoice, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

### **Kontakion 3**

Through power given thee from on high thou didst wipe every tear from the face of those who cruelly suffer, O father Nicholas the bearer of God; for thou wast shown to be a feeder of the hungry, an exceeding good pilot of those on the high seas, a healer of the ailing and thou hast proved to be a helper to all that cry to God: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 3**

Truly, father Nicholas, a song should be sung to thee from heaven, and not from earth; for how can any man proclaim the greatness of thy holiness? But conquered by thy love, we cry to thee thus:

Rejoice, example for lambs and shepherds!  
Rejoice, holy purification of morals!  
Rejoice, container of great virtues!  
Rejoice, pure and honourable abode of holiness!  
Rejoice, all-shining lamp, beloved by all!  
Rejoice, golden-rayed and blameless light!

Rejoice, worthy converser with angels!  
Rejoice, good guide of men!  
Rejoice, pious rule of faith!  
Rejoice, model of spiritual meekness!  
Rejoice, for through thee we are delivered from bodily passions!  
Rejoice, for through thee we are filled with spiritual delights!  
Rejoice, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

#### **Kontakion 4**

A storm of bewilderment confuses our minds: How can we worthily hymn thy wonders, O blessed Nicholas? For no man can count them, even though he had many tongues and willed to tell of them; but we make bold to sing to God Who is wonderfully glorified in thee: Alleluia!

#### **Ikos 4**

People far and near heard of the greatness of thy miracles, O divinely-wise Nicholas, for through the air with the light wings of grace thou art accustomed to forestalling those in misfortunes, swiftly delivering all who cry to thee thus:

Rejoice, deliverance from sorrow!  
Rejoice, giving of grace!  
Rejoice, dispeller of unexpected evils!  
Rejoice, planter of good desires!  
Rejoice, swift comforter of those in misfortune!  
Rejoice, dread punisher of wrongdoers!  
Rejoice, abyss of miracles poured out by God!  
Rejoice, tablets of the law of Christ written by God!  
Rejoice, strong uplifting of the fallen!  
Rejoice, affirmation of them that stand aright!  
Rejoice, for through thee all deception is laid bare!  
Rejoice, for through thee all truth is realised!  
Rejoice, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

#### **Kontakion 5**

Thou didst appear as a divinely-moving star, guiding those who sail upon the cruel sea who once were threatened with immediate death, if thou hadst not come to the help of those who called on thee, O Wonderworker saint Nicholas; for, having forbidden the flying demons who shamelessly wanted to sink the ship, thou didst drive them away and teach the faithful whom God saves through thee to cry: Alleluia!

#### **Ikos 5**

The maidens, prepared for a dishonourable marriage because of their poverty, saw thy great compassion to the poor, O most blessed father Nicholas, when by night thou

secretly gavest their aged father three bags of gold, thereby saving him and his daughters from falling into sin. Wherefore, thou hearest this from all:

Rejoice, treasury of greatest mercy!  
Rejoice, container of providence for people!  
Rejoice, food and consolation of those that flee to thee!  
Rejoice, inexhaustible bread of the hungry!  
Rejoice, God-given wealth of those living in poverty on earth!  
Rejoice, swift uplifting of the poor!  
Rejoice, speedy hearing of the needy!  
Rejoice, pleasant care of the sorrowful!  
Rejoice, blameless provider for the three maidens!  
Rejoice, fervent guardian of purity!  
Rejoice, hope of the hopeless!  
Rejoice, delight of all the world!  
Rejoice, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

### **Kontakion 6**

The whole world proclaims thee, O most blessed Nicholas, to be a swift intercessor in misfortunes; for, oftentimes going before those that travel by land and sea, thou helpst them in a single moment, at the same time keeping from evils all that cry to God: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 6**

Thou didst shine as a living light, bringing deliverance to the commanders who received sentence to an unjust death, who called on thee, O good shepherd Nicholas, when thou didst at once appear in a dream to the Emperor, terrifying him and ordering him to set them free unharmed. Therefore, together with them we too gratefully cry to thee:

Rejoice, thou who helpst them that fervently call on thee!  
Rejoice, thou who deliverest from unjust death!  
Rejoice, thou who preservest from false slander!  
Rejoice, thou who destroyest the counsels of the unrighteous!  
Rejoice, thou who tearest lies to shreds like cobwebs!  
Rejoice, thou who gloriously exaltest truth!  
Rejoice, freeing of the innocent from their shackles!  
Rejoice, quickening of the dead!  
Rejoice, revealer of righteousness!  
Rejoice, exposor of unrighteousness!  
Rejoice, for through thee the innocent were saved from the sword!  
Rejoice, for through thee they took pleasure in the light!  
Rejoice, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

### **Kontakion 7**

Wishing to drive out the blasphemous stench of heresy, thou didst appear as a truly fragrant, mystical myrrh, O Nicholas; by shepherding the people of Myra, thou hast filled the whole world with thy gracious myrrh. And so, drive away from us the stench of abominable sin that we may acceptably cry to God. Alleluia!

### **Ikos 7**

We understand thee to be a new Noah, a guide of the ark of salvation, O holy father Nicholas, who drivest away the storm of all evils by thy direction, and bringest Divine calm to those that cry thus:

Rejoice, calm haven of the storm-tossed!  
Rejoice, sure preservation of those that are drowning!  
Rejoice, good pilot of those that sail upon the deeps!  
Rejoice, thou who rulest the raging of the sea!  
Rejoice, guiding of those in whirlwinds!  
Rejoice, warming of those in frosts!  
Rejoice, radiance that drivest away the gloom of sorrow!  
Rejoice, beacon that lightest all the ends of the earth!  
Rejoice, thou who deliverest people from the abyss of sin!  
Rejoice, thou who castest satan into the abyss of hell!  
Rejoice, for through thee we boldly call on the abyss of Divine mercy!  
Rejoice, for, delivered through thee from the flood of wrath, we find peace with God!  
Rejoice, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

### **Kontakion 8**

Thy sacred church is shown to be a strange wonder to those that run to thee, O blessed Nicholas; for, by offering in it even a small supplication, we receive healing from great illnesses, if only, after God, we place our hope in thee, faithfully crying aloud: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 8**

Thou art truly a helper to all, O bearer of God Nicholas, and thou hast gathered together all that flee to thee, for thou art a deliverer, a nourisher and a swift healer to all on earth, moving all to cry out in praise to thee thus:

Rejoice, source of all manner of healing!  
Rejoice, helper of those that suffer cruelly!  
Rejoice, dawn shining for prodigals in the night of sin!  
Rejoice, heaven-sent dew for those in the heat of labours!  
Rejoice, thou who givest prosperity to those that need it!  
Rejoice, thou who preparest an abundance for those that ask!  
Rejoice, thou who often forestaltest supplications!  
Rejoice, thou who renewest the strength of the aged and grey-haired!  
Rejoice, exposor of many who have strayed from the true path!

Rejoice, faithful servant of Divine mysteries!  
Rejoice, for through thee we trample down envy!  
Rejoice, for through thee we come to lead a moral life!  
Rejoice, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

### **Kontakion 9**

Assuage all our pains, O Nicholas our great intercessor, dispensing gracious healings, delighting our souls and gladdening the hearts of all that fervently run to thee for help and cry to God: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 9**

We see how the orators of the ungodly with their vain wisdom were put to shame by thee, O divinely-wise father Nicholas; for thou didst confute Arius the blasphemer who divided the Godhead, and Sabellius who confused the Persons of the Holy Trinity, but thou hast strengthened us in Orthodoxy. Therefore we cry to thee thus:

Rejoice, shield that defendest piety!  
Rejoice, sword that cuttest down impiety!  
Rejoice, teacher of the Divine commandments!  
Rejoice, destroyer of impious teachings!  
Rejoice, ladder raised up by God, by which we climb to heaven!  
Rejoice, God-given protection, by which many are protected!  
Rejoice, thou who makest wise the unwise by thy words!  
Rejoice, thou who movest the slothful by thine examples!  
Rejoice, inextinguishable brightness of the commandments of God!  
Rejoice, brightest ray of the statutes of the Lord!  
Rejoice, for through thy teaching the heads of heretics are broken!  
Rejoice, for through thee the faithful are counted worthy of glory!  
Rejoice, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

### **Kontakion 10**

Wishing to save thy soul, thou didst truly subject thy flesh to the spirit, O our father Nicholas; for first by silence and struggling with thoughts, thou didst add contemplation to action, and by contemplation thou didst acquire perfect knowledge, with which thou didst boldly converse with God and Angels, ever crying: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 10**

Thou art a rampart, O most-blessed one, to those that praise thy miracles and to all that flee to thine intercession; wherefore, free us too who are poor in virtue, from poverty, temptation, sickness and diverse needs, as we cry to thee with love thus:

Rejoice, thou who deliverest from eternal wretchedness!  
Rejoice, thou who bestowest incorruptible riches!

Rejoice, imperishable food for those that hunger after righteousness!  
Rejoice, inexhaustible drink for those that thirst for life!  
Rejoice, thou who preservest from revolt and war!  
Rejoice, thou who freest us from bonds and captivity!  
Rejoice, most glorious intercessor in misfortunes!  
Rejoice, greatest defender in misfortunes!  
Rejoice, thou who hast snatched many from destruction!  
Rejoice, thou who hast kept countless numbers unharmed!  
Rejoice, for through thee sinners escape a frightful death!  
Rejoice, for through thee those that repent obtain Eternal Life!  
Rejoice, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

### **Kontakion 11**

Thou didst bring a song to the Most Holy Trinity, surpassing others in thought, word, and deed, O most-blessed Nicholas; for with much searching thou didst explain the precepts of the true Faith, guiding us to sing with faith, hope and love to the One God in Trinity: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 11**

We see thee as a radiant and inextinguishable ray of light for those in the darkness of this life, O Divinely-chosen father Nicholas; for thou dost converse with the immaterial angelic lights on the uncreated light of the Trinity and thou enlightenest the souls of the faithful who cry to thee thus:

Rejoice, radiance of the Threefold sun of light!  
Rejoice, daystar of the unsetting Sun!  
Rejoice, lamp kindled by the Divine Flame!  
Rejoice, for thou hast quenched the demonic flame of impiety!  
Rejoice, bright preaching of the true faith!  
Rejoice, shining radiance of the light of the Gospel!  
Rejoice, lightning that consumest heresies!  
Rejoice, thunder that terrifiest tempters!  
Rejoice, teacher of true knowledge!  
Rejoice, revealer of the mystery of perception!  
Rejoice, for through thee the worship of creation has been trampled down!  
Rejoice, for through thee we have learned to worship the Creator in the Trinity!  
Rejoice, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

### **Kontakion 12**

Knowing the grace that has been given thee by God, joyfully we celebrate thy memory as is due, O most glorious father Nicholas, and with all our souls we run to thy miraculous intercession; unable to count thy most glorious deeds, which are like unto the sand of the sea and the multitude of the stars, at a loss to understand, we cry to God: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 12**

Singing of thy miracles, we praise thee, O all-praised Nicholas; for in thee God Who is glorified in the Trinity is wondrously glorified. But even if we were to offer thee a multitude of psalms and hymns composed from the soul, O holy Wonderworker, we would do nothing to equal the gift of thy miracles, and amazed by them we cry to thee thus:

Rejoice, servant of the King of kings and the Lord of lords!  
Rejoice, dweller together with His heavenly servants!  
Rejoice, aid of faithful kings!  
Rejoice, exaltation of the race of Christians!  
Rejoice, namesake of victory!  
Rejoice, eminent victor!  
Rejoice, mirror of all the virtues!  
Rejoice, strong buttress of all who run to thee!  
Rejoice, after God and the Birthgiver of God, all our hope!  
Rejoice, health of our bodies and salvation of our souls!  
Rejoice, for through thee we are freed from eternal death!  
Rejoice, for through thee we are counted worthy of life unending!  
Rejoice, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!

### **Kontakion 13**

O most holy and most wonderful father Nicholas, consolation of all that sorrow, accept our present offering, and entreat the Lord that we may be delivered from Gehenna through thy intercession that is pleasing to God, that with thee we may sing: Alleluia!

*This Kontakion is read three times. And again Ikos 1 and Kontakion 1:*

### **Ikos 1**

The Creator revealed thee to be an angel in form though earthly by nature; for, foreseeing the fruitful goodness of thy soul, O most blessed Nicholas, He taught all to cry to thee thus:

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Rejoice, thou who wast hallowed even to the end!  
Rejoice, thou who didst amaze thy parents by thy birth!  
Rejoice, thou who didst show power of soul straightway after birth!  
Rejoice, garden of the promised land!  
Rejoice, flower of divine planting!  
Rejoice, virtuous vine of the vineyard of Christ!  
Rejoice, wonderworking tree of the paradise of Jesus!  
Rejoice, lily blossoming in paradise!  
Rejoice, myrrh of the fragrance of Christ!  
Rejoice, for through thee weeping is banished!

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### **Kontakion 1**

O champion Wonderworker and exceeding pleaser of Christ, who pourest out for the whole world the most precious myrrh of mercy and an inexhaustible sea of miracles, I praise thee with love, O Hierarch Nicholas; and as thou hast boldness towards the Lord, deliver me from all misfortunes that I may cry to thee: **Rejoice**, O Nicholas, great Wonderworker!