

# **Akathist to the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos "The Virgin of Pochaiv"**



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\* From September 22 to October 11, 2009, the “Virgin of Pochaiv” visited and travelled Canada – it was the longest and the farthest travel of the Icon outside the walls of the Pochaiv Monastery to this date.

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

**Deacon:** Amen. Glory to Thee O God, Glory to Thee.

**People:** O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fills all things. Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life I Come and abide in us; cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, o Good One.

**Reader:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x 3)  
Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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 Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the 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 Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory: of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

***God is the Lord***

**Deacon:** *(in the 5th tone)* God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His mercy endures forever.

**People:** God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

**Deacon:** All nations surrounded me, but in the Name of the Lord I destroyed them.

**People:** God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

**Deacon:** I shall not die but live and recount the works of the Lord.

**People:** God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

**Deacon:** The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone; this is the Lord's doing and it is wonderful in our eyes.

**People:** God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us: blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

***Troparion Tone 5:***

Those who pray before your Icon become healed, O Mistress. When they accept the knowledge of the True Faith, they are able to resist the onslaught of the barbarians. Therefore, beseeching the remission of our sins, we approach you. Enlighten our hearts with designs of piety and convey a prayer for the salvation of our souls to your Son.

***Kontakion Tone 1:***

Your Pochaiv icon has been revealed as a fountain of healing and the preservation of the Orthodox Faith, O Theotokos. Therefore, we approach this Icon saying; free us from danger and temptation, preserve your monastery intact, establish Orthodoxy in the surrounding lands, and pardon the sins of your supplicants, for you can do whatsoever you desire.

***Kontakion 1***

Having gathered together on her holy mountain of Pochaiv, O believers, let us offer up songs of praise to the chosen battle leader of Christians. O Mistress Theotokos, do not disdain our supplications addressed before your miraculous image, as you possess ineffable kindheartedness. Therefore, in compunction of heart, we call out to you:

Rejoice, O great pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world"

**People:** Rejoice, a great pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!"

***Oikos 1***

The Archangel Gabriel has offered you the first "Rejoice", a Mistress, when he proclaimed the good news of the conception of the Son of God. In consequence of your all-glorious Dormition, all the powers of

heaven forever offer the same praise to you in heaven. How, then, can we sinners dare to blend our voices with those of the incorporeals? Nonetheless, being mindful that your kindheartedness is for all those who are penitent, we open our mouths with awe and love and say:

Rejoice, O gulf of mercies!

Rejoice, O inexhaustible sea of love!

Rejoice, O Gracious Champion of the Christian people!

Rejoice, O unassailable wall of the cloister at Pochaiv!

Rejoice, for you have drawn together the people of Rus' on the mountain at Pochaiv as members in your love!

Rejoice, for you have driven off every grief from their souls!

Rejoice, O you whose miraculous image leads us onward like a star from the mountain at Pochaiv!

Rejoice, for those who offer up prayers to you are swiftly rescued from attacks of passions!

Rejoice, for you have comforted the people by your appearance on the mountain!

Rejoice, for you have left the imprint of your footstep upon it!

Rejoice, O everlasting daring for the faithful!

Rejoice, O foundation for good to those who are confused!

Rejoice, O Great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

***Kontakion II:***

The wilderness-dwellers at Pochaiv and the barefoot John the Simple beheld the most holy Mother of God appear as a fiery column on the rock. They kissed the imprint of her foot on the stone and they sprinkled themselves with the water, which flows at that place as they cried to God: Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia! (x 3)

***Oikos II:***

Although we do not understand the reason for your appearance, O Mistress, we are, nevertheless, made steadfast in our hopefulness through such things. You have been benevolent to preserve the stronghold of Orthodox upon the mountain at Pochaiv, first against the Hagarenes and then against the heretics. Therefore, as we enter into the holy temple with hearts filled with the fervor of faith, we declare:

Rejoice, O confirmation of the True Faith!

Rejoice, O clear unmasking of impiety!

Rejoice, O you who of old have heralded yourself in the Unburning Bush at Sinai!

Rejoice, O you who have appeared to the Christians here in a pillar of fire!

Rejoice, for the sons of Abraham in the fiery furnace have proclaimed you beforehand as the dove of salvation!

Rejoice, for through the water, which flows from the imprint of your foot, the Grace of healings has been preached forth!

Rejoice, for you comforted the land of Rus' by appearing against the destructive Hagarenes !

Rejoice, for now you invigorate those who pray here with many signs!

Rejoice, O speedy audience for the penitent!

Rejoice, O help and refuge for those who struggle!

Rejoice, O understanding even for the ignorant!

Rejoice, O fortification for those who are "small in spirit"!

Rejoice, O Great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

***Kontakion III:***

You revealed the intense power of your Grace upon the mountain at Pochaiv, O Mistress. After three hundred years you enriched the place of your appearance with your miraculous Icon which came from Moscow by the hands of the hierarch Neophytus the Greek. At first it had been given to the noblewoman Anna, and then the cloister at Pochaiv accepted it from her. Therefore the people are gladdened and cry out: Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia! (x 3)

***Oikos III :***

The Icon was at the home of the noblewoman Anna when it's healing was discovered through Anna's brother Philip who had been blind from birth. They were both kindled with a spirit of zeal for your glory and built a cloister of stone for the wilderness dwellers at Pochaiv in the name of your most precious Dormition. Thus we bow in worship before your holy and miraculous image and exclaim:

Rejoice, O you who have endowed us with a rich treasure in your holy Icon!

Rejoice, for through your image, given by the hand of the hierarch, you have sanctified the land of Rus'!

Rejoice, for you have converted our souls from the riches of the world!

Rejoice, for you have taught us to sing to the glory of God!

Rejoice, for beholding your miracles, our hearts are enraptured to the heavens!

Rejoice, for in your cloister we feel like we are in Paradise!

Rejoice, for you summon peoples from all countries to prayer at the monastery at Pochaiv!

Rejoice, for in this manner Faith has been increased! Rejoice, for through this despondency has been driven off!

Rejoice, everlasting jubilation of the monks at Pochaiv!  
Rejoice, never-faltering hope, even for those in the world!  
Rejoice, Great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

***Kontakion IV:***

The tempest of the heretics' fury was directed against your holy monastery, O Mistress. Your holy Icon was seized by the wicked Iconoclasts who had been urged on by their evil slanders. While the defamers were shamelessly reveling, the wrath of God swiftly overcame them as an invisible power. Just as were Artaxerxes and Herod, so they became twisted into immobility, for they had slandered against your holiness, and did not know how to sing: Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia! (x 3)

***Oikos IV***

After the slanderers had been shamed and the monks and all the Orthodox people at Pochaiv had heard that your holy Icon had been returned to the monastery after seventy years, they came forth to meet it and, exchanging their lament for joy, they cried out to you:

Rejoice, O refuge of Christians!  
Rejoice, O unmasking of the heretics!  
Rejoice, for your Icon has not abandoned the monastery at Pochaiv forever!  
Rejoice, for you have shamed the evil slander of the iconoclasts!  
Rejoice, for you have taught us not to be despondent in misfortunes!  
Rejoice, for you have commanded us to have faith in the Righteous Judgment of God!  
Rejoice, for Orthodoxy has been confirmed in the land of Rus' through you!



Rejoice, for you have taught all the universe to receive the Incarnate Truth!

Rejoice, for you have imitated the long-suffering of God!

Rejoice, for you have made your people steadfast in patience!

Rejoice, for the humble receive consolation through you!

Rejoice, for the proud are made humble through you!

Rejoice, O great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

***Kontakion V:***

O Mistress, you have been revealed as a star that flows from God for those who seek salvation, for you lead them to the Sun of Righteousness. Just as in your earthly life you were shown to be a champion before your Son for the people at Cana of Galilee, likewise, following your most glorious departure to heaven, you offer supplications on behalf of believers from the ends of the earth as you bear them before your Son. Here, on the mountain at Pochaiv, you grant manifold healings from Him to the people as they cry out to God: Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia! (x 3)

***Oikos V:***

The people have seen that on the mountain at Pochaiv, multitudes of healings have continued to occur through you. Having had their souls confirmed in the desire for salvation and having offered fervent repentance for their sins, they cry out to you:

Rejoice, O sight of the blind and caring of the lame!

Rejoice, O deliverance of those bedeviled by the demons!

Rejoice, for you have restored a captive people to your monastery miraculously through the air!

Rejoice, for through the prayer of the eldress you have raised up the infant Simeon, who was near death!

Rejoice, for in these signs you have revealed the might of your ancient wonders to the people!

Rejoice, for the healings from your holy Icon have not diminished even to this day!

Rejoice, for you have granted a source of healings from your holy icons to the whole world!

Rejoice, for beyond these things, you have enriched us through your supplications for spiritual gifts!

Rejoice, through whom Orthodox people are praised! Rejoice, when those of little faith also approach for help!

Rejoice, O aspiration of those born on earth!

Rejoice, O jubilation of celestial ranks!

Rejoice, O Great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

***Kontakion VI:***

As the Hagarenes approached the monastery at Pochaiv, the preachers of the glory of the most pure Virgin were made manifest. At first they did not understand the vision of the Most Holy Theotokos with venerable Father Job. But when the arrows which had been shot were redirected against those who had shot them, they understood the power of the Theotokos and offered up penance for their mindlessness and cried out in faith: Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia! (x 3)

***Oikos VI:***

As your vision was shone out upon the mountain at Pochaiv, O Mistress, the brethren of the monastery who were besieged by the Hagarenes, offered up prayer before your holy Icon and before the shrine of venerable Job. The Hagarencs were so confused by this vision that they fled. Beholding these events with rejoicing, the brethren sang out to you:

Rejoice, our deliverer and salvation!

Rejoice, everlasting assistance for the Christian people!

Rejoice, for your holiness has driven off the impious foe!

Rejoice, for you have conducted them to repentance!

Rejoice, for the invisible enemies of our salvation tremble before you!

Rejoice, for the holy Angels and the foremost of the righteous in heaven bow down in worship before you!

Rejoice, for the venerable Father Job was accepted to pray with you!

Rejoice, for trough your appearance sons of the Hagarenes were led to Holy Communion!

Rejoice, for through you the faithful have laid aside the fear of death!

Rejoice, since for your sake certain Hagarenes have become God-fearing monks!

Rejoice, everlasting demonstration of Truth!

Rejoice, recognition of the God for those who are prodigal!

Rejoice, Great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

***Kontakion VII:***

Wanting to kindle the desire for eternal life in the hearts of Christians, the most holy Mother of God has healed the ill through miracles. She has driven out demons, she has liberated captives and has raised the dead so that we may all recognize the power of God. Having placed

our concerns upon our souls and coming to hate the things of earth,  
we cry out to God ceaselessly: Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia! (x 3)

***Oikos VII:***

The monastery at Pochaiv had to endure new and heavier misfortunes for, along with the whole region, it was taken from the Orthodox through deceit and given over to the rule of heretics. After one hundred and ten years, it was given back to the Orthodox by the right-believing Tsar Nicholas. Monks who brought out the relics of the venerable Father Job from hiding were called to it. Approaching the miraculous Icon of the Theotokos, they said:

Rejoice, Zealot of Orthodoxy!

Rejoice, un-masker of heretics!

Rejoice, for in the end you have not abandoned your cloister!

Rejoice, for you have taught us the fear of God!

Rejoice, for through your assistance the land of Volyn' has been returned to Orthodoxy!

Rejoice, for-through the ages many heretics have been corrected by you!

Rejoice, for the faithful are again summoned to prayer in your holy Lavra!

Rejoice, for in this place unbelievers are taught to worship in the holiness of Orthodoxy!

Rejoice, for the righteous and the venerable sing out to you forever!

Rejoice, for you are the one to whom the fallen approach in repentance!

Rejoice, return of apostates to the Faith!

Rejoice, conduction of those who have been deceived to the Light of Truth!

Rejoice, Great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

***Kontakion VIII:***

We see a strange wonder regarding you, O Mother of God, for just as bodily infirmities are healed at the kissing of your Icon and the sprinkling of the water at Pochaiv, so, too, are the passions of the soul removed at the sight of your holiness. Faith is confirmed and our hearts are filled with compunction as we cry out to God: Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia! (x 3)

***Oikos VIII:***

I am unworthy. I am entirely filled with sin, for I have gone to the extremes of worldly dissipation and I have been careless regarding my soul. However, by gazing at your holy Icon, O Mistress, and seeing innumerable people being enlightened as they approach it, I am once again directed to the path of salvation. With joy in my heart I sing to you:

Rejoice, treasury of purity!

Rejoice, gulf of mercies!

Rejoice, you who constantly offer up supplications for the faithful before your Son!

Rejoice, for you do not refuse the prayers of sinners!

Rejoice, for many desperate sinners have taken refuge in you!

Rejoice, for those who call upon your name are raised up from the pitfalls of the passions!

Rejoice, you through whom the heresy of Iconoclasm has been shamed throughout the universe!

Rejoice, for the True Faith has been restored to the land of Volyn' through you!

Rejoice, you who lead souls in the struggle for chastity!

Rejoice, for you have taught us to pardon those who are offensive!

Rejoice, compunction of our hearts!

Rejoice, hope of our souls!

Rejoice, Great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

***Kontakion IX:***

You have forgiven the penitent people of Volyn' every one of their apostasies and prodigality's, O Theotokos. Once again you have opened wide the fountain of healings from your miraculous Icon and from the imprint of your foot for the people at Pochaiv as they offer penance for their sins and cry out to God: Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia! (x 3)

***Oikos IX:***

The blind and the lame have been revealed as the witnesses of your glory, O Theotokos, as they have received healing from your Icon, which has been returned to the Orthodox people. Also, a certain heretical woman who was ill called upon you for help and in being healed confessed the True Faith and was converted. Therefore, we cry out to you:

Rejoice, O supplication of the King of Heaven!

Rejoice, O everlasting champion for those on earth!

Rejoice, for through the healing of her infirmity a certain woman was converted from the Lutheran prodigality!

Rejoice, for you have instilled people with faith in the truth of Orthodoxy!

Rejoice, for your sake the people of Rus' have vanquished the vexations of the Hagarenes a hundred times over!

Rejoice, O you upon whom the eyes of the faithful are raised up in prayer!

Rejoice, for those who pray for the reposed call upon you for help!

Rejoice, for you rescue those who take refuge before you from life's needs!

Rejoice, for you grant strength in every need for those who have long patience!

Rejoice, assistance of Orthodox forces in battle!

Rejoice, gracious direction of those who war against the demons!

Rejoice, Great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

***Kontakion X:***

The Holy Theotokos wished to save a very simple old woman who had resided in the Latin sightlessness and who had a small grandson. She came to be enlightened in Orthodoxy, but the eyes of her body remained sightless. Grandmother and grandson bowed down in worship before the miraculous Icon at Pochaiv and laid down their wish for Grace before it. The blind handmaiden was wondrously healed and she was taught how to confess the True Faith, crying to God: Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia! (x 3)

***Oikos X:***

You have been revealed as an unassailable wall of the True Faith, O Theotokos. Therefore, just as the impious heretics have turned away from glorifying you as the True Theotokos, so the Orthodox have remained firm in loyalty to you. Not one of them wishes to be turned aside from offering up supplications to you. The words of the heretics do not dare reach their ears. With thankfulness of heart they never cease in praising you while declaring:

Rejoice, delight and comfort of Christians!

Rejoice, glory and worship of the ranks of Angels!

Rejoice, for you turn the deceptive sayings of the heretics away from us!

Rejoice, for you uplift our minds before God through the remembrance of your mercies!

Rejoice, for you have summoned the holy Apostles to your Dormition upon the clouds of the atmosphere!

Rejoice, for thousands of sinners also gather together at Pochaiv on that day!

Rejoice, for whose sake Christians take up the narrow way as if it were sweet repose!

Rejoice, for whose sake the slothful endeavor to imitate them!

Rejoice, you who assist the monks in forgetting the sweet things of the world!

Rejoice, you who put dread into those monks who take regard for worldly things!

Rejoice, diadem excelsior of the Church of Christ!

Rejoice, impenetrable shield of the land of Rus' ! Rejoice, Great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

***Kontakion XI:***

A song of thanksgiving for your benefactions is offered up by the Christians in the world, O Theotokos. It advances like incense to the heavens as they think of you. We ask you not to turn away our pitiful praises, for we ask you to grant us the Grace of repentance and with compunction we cry to God: Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia I (x 3)

***Oikos XI:***

You have been revealed as the light of temporal living and the hope for eternal life O Mother of God. A certain man from Bessarabia was about to die when upon tasting the water of Pochaiv he became healthy.



When his relatives saw him, with fear and penitence they called to you:

Rejoice, O healing of those in pain!

Rejoice, O audience for those in tribulations!

Rejoice, for through you the advance of death can be driven off!

Rejoice, for unconfused faith has been given to us through you!

Rejoice, for the fore-heralding of Gabriel remains before our eyes!

Rejoice, for now and ever, in accord to your word, you are beatified by all generations!

Rejoice, for you have consecrated the mountain at Pochaiv as a place of your residence!

Rejoice, for you have revealed it as a second Nazareth!

Rejoice, for you turn the petitions of no one away! Rejoice, for you accept all fervent prayer!

Rejoice, for you have endowed us with health!

Rejoice, for you have conducted us to salvation!

Rejoice, O Great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

***Kontakion XII:***

The Grace of cures and the compunction of prayers stream forth from your Icon O Theotokos. Let it not be of no avail to our souls. For even if we should fall into stone-like insensitivity through sin, awaken our souls and illumine our hearts with better thinking, for you possess the power to raise even the dead. Having come to hate the delusion of sin, we sing out to God: Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia I (x 3)

***Oikos XII:***

In singing of your miracles which have been manifested at the monastery at Pochaiv, we pray you not to turn your face from our country O Mother of God. Fulfill the entreaties of all who approach you seeking your mercy so that all can say these things to you:

Rejoice, O you who urge the All-Righteous God to take pity!

Rejoice, O boldness of Christians before Christ!

Rejoice, for you have manifested the solemnity of the Faith in your Lavra!

Rejoice, for you enkindle the hearts of mankind with love!

Rejoice, for you have enabled the people here to behold wonders like those of old!

Rejoice, for this mountain, like a second Sinai, has been highly glorified in the countries of tire Christians!

Rejoice, for you have carried in your womb, God who has appeared on earth!

Rejoice, for through your prayers you place mankind before God!

Rejoice, for you have left us your Icon as a proclaimer of salvation!

Rejoice, for you have glorified the imprint of your footstep, as it is filled with curative water and miracles!

Rejoice, for you take regard for your servants from the heights of heaven!

Rejoice, for you direct the faithful toward good deeds!

Rejoice, O Great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!

***Kontakion XIII (3 times)***

O all-praised Mother of Christ God, who in your own love have adopted all the generations of Christians! We sinners do not understand how to sing in praises worthy of you. However, having been vanquished by your love, and having lifted up our eyes before your wonder-working

image, we pray you: Do not abandon your progeny in our fights and needs, as we trust ardently in your advocacy, and we cry out to your Son: Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia I (x 3)

***Kontakion I:***

Having gathered together on her holy mountain of Pochaiv, O believers, let us offer up songs of praise to the chosen battle leader of Christians. O Mistress Theotokos, do not disdain our supplications addressed before your miraculous image, as you possess ineffable kindheartedness. Therefore, in compunction of heart, we call out to you:

Rejoice, O great pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the whole world!"

***Oikos I***

The Archangel Gabriel has offered you the first "Rejoice", a Mistress, when he proclaimed the good news of the conception of the Son of God. In consequence of your all-glorious Dormition, all the powers of heaven forever offer the same praise to you in heaven. How, then, can we sinners dare to blend our voices with those of the incorporeals? Nonetheless, being mindful that your kindheartedness is for all those who are penitent, we open our mouths with awe and love and say:

Rejoice, O gulf of mercies!

Rejoice, O inexhaustible sea of love!

Rejoice, O Gracious Champion of the Christian people!

Rejoice, O unassailable wall of the cloister at Pochaiv!

Rejoice, for you have drawn together the people of Rus' on the mountain at Pochaiv as members in your love!

Rejoice, for you have driven off every grief from their souls!

Rejoice, O you whose miraculous image leads us onward like a star  
from the mountain at Pochaiv!

Rejoice, for those who offer up prayers to you are swiftly rescued from  
attacks of passions!

Rejoice, for you have comforted the people by your appearance on the  
mountain!

Rejoice, for you have left the imprint of your footstep upon it!

Rejoice, O everlasting daring for the faithful!

Rejoice, O foundation for good to those who are confused!

Rejoice, O Great Pleasure of Pochaiv, the hope and comfort of the  
whole world!

### **A Prayer to the Most Holy Theotokos**

Being mindful of your miracles, which you have revealed in the holy  
Lavra at Pochaiv, and being contrite for the sake of our transgressions,  
we sinners approach in prayer, O Mother of God. We know, O Mistress,  
that it is not fitting for us sinners to ask for anything but that our  
iniquities be pardoned by the Righteous Judge. For all the things,  
which we have endured in life; the tribulations, the needs and the  
pains have served to lead us on a better path of life. As the Lord has,  
in His Truth, allowed all these things to occur in our lives, we approach  
you in our troubles, O most pure One. Be not mindful of our sins and  
iniquities, O Gracious One. Rather, stretch forth your most precious  
hand as you stand before your Son and God, that He might pardon us  
our cruel deeds and that He not turn His face away from His servants  
because of our most numerous failures in fulfilling our promises. Let  
Him not remove His assistance from the salvation of our souls. Yes, O  
Theotokos, be the intercessor for our salvation, and as you are not  
moved to disgust by Our small-spiritedness, take regard of our  
sorrows which we offer up before your miraculous Icon. Enlighten our  
minds with thoughts of repentance. Strengthen our faith, confirm our

hopes, enable us to accept the sweetest gift of love, so that through these endowments our lives may be led to salvation. Defend our souls from despondency and desperation. Deliver us who are not able to do much from the perils and needs that come upon us, and from the slanders of men. Grant peace and good order to the Christian community, O Theotokos, and strengthen the government of our country. Preserve the Orthodox Faith in Our country and in all the world through your prayers. Do not allow the Apostolic Orthodox Church to be diminished. Preserve the teachings of the Holy Fathers as unchanging unto the ages and save all of those who come to you from the pit of perdition. Conduct our brethren who have been seduced by heresies or have fallen from the faith of salvation to the True Faith, so that they can once again bow before your miraculous image as they confess your glory. O most holy Lady Theotokos, allow us to see the victory of the Truth. Allow us to receive the joy of Grace before our end just as you have shown the dwellers at Pochaiv to be victors and enlighteners of the Hagarenes through your appearance. Account us all worthy that, with thankful hearts, together with the angels, prophets, apostles and all the saints, we can highly glorify your kindheartedness. We offer up glory, honour and worship to God, Who is hymned in Trinity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Priest:** Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

**People:** 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 You, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to You!

**People:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever unto the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy! Master bless!

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, the Birthgiver of God, through the prayers of our father among the saints, Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts, Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow, Enlightener of North America, the Confessor, John of Shanghai and San Francisco, the Venerable fathers Job and Amthelochiy of Pochaiv and Herman of Alaska and all America, the Wonderworker, the holy and Righteous Forbearers of God, Joachim and Anna, the holy and Righteous Alexis of Wilkes-Barre and Minneapolis, and Yakov, enlightener of the native peoples of Alaska, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is a Good God and loves mankind.

**People:** Amen.

### **Order for Reading an Akathist Alone**

Read the following seven prayers, with a bow after each one (if it is Tuesday or Thursday evening, then make a prostration after each one and sign yourself with the cross each time):

1. O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. +
2. O God, cleanse me a sinner, and have mercy on me. +
3. Since You are my Creator, O Lord, have mercy on me. +
4. I have sinned beyond measure! Lord, forgive me. +
5. Most holy Theotokos, pray for salvation of me, a sinner. +
6. O angel, my holy guardian, protect me from the evil one. +
7. (Call upon your patron saint, or if you are reading the Akathist with your family or another group, the name of each person's patron saint is said):

Holy \_\_\_\_\_, pray to God for us.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Glory to You, o our God, glory to You.

"Heavenly King, the Comforter... " through "Our Father". (during the Paschal Season, chant "Christ is Risen" instead of "Heavenly King")

Lord, have mercy (x 12);

Glory... now and ever:

O come let us worship...,

Psalm 51

The Symbol of Faith.

Read or chant the Akathist, then the following ending prayers:

It is truly right to bless you, Theotokos...

Holy God, holy Mighty, holy Immortal... through Our Father Lord, have mercy (x 3)

Glory... now and ever.

More honourable than the Cherubim...

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and save us.

Amen.

*With the blessing by His Eminence the Right Reverend Seraphim, Archbishop of Ottawa and All Canada*



## **Appendix**

### **History of the Pochaiv Monastery**

About the year 1240, some monks escaping the hordes of Khan Batu came to the slopes of the Pochaiv Hill from Kyiv. They brought with them the asceticism of Sts. Antony and Theodosy of the Pechers'ka Lavra in Kyiv. They lived in the caves of the Pochaiv hills, struggling in asceticism and loneliness.

It was at that time that the Mother of God appeared to them on the top of a hill in a pillar of fire. She appeared as a burning bush, with a crown on her head and a scepter in her hand.

The miraculous apparition was the blessing and protection of the Mother of God to the monks who lived and prayed in the caves of the Pochaiv hills. When she departed, she left the imprint of her right foot on the rock. From that day on, the imprint was filled with healing water.

Many years passed before these wanderers came together to form a strong monastic community, with its own rules. By the end of the century the number of brethren increased rapidly, as they were joined by the Orthodox faithful seeking refuge from the uniates. The uniates were of the Polish-Lithuanian state, and their goal was to force the Orthodox Ukrainians to convert to Catholicism.

Two events occurred at the Pochaiv Monastery which provided great spiritual consolation. In 1597, the monastery received the Miracle-working Icon of the Mother of God, and came under the administration of St. Iov (Job). St. Job came from the Dubno Monastery of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, where he had been the hegumen.

Under his leadership, a school and a printing press were opened. In 1649 a new stone church was built on top of the mountain in honour of the Holy Trinity. In the middle of the temple was the imprint of the

footstep of the Mother of God, which had been under the open sky more than 400 years. The cloister was surrounded with a stone fence; other churches dwelling places for the monks and administrative buildings were also built.

The Mother of God and St. Job remained the staunch consolers and protectors of the monastery during the difficult years of resistance to foreign invasions and the uniates. In 1675, thousands of Turks were kept from attacking the monastery by the appearance of the Mother of God and St. Job above the Trinity Church. This event remains in the memory of the faithful to this day.

One hundred years later, the power of the Pochaiv shrines was also revealed to the non-Orthodox who gradually came to revere and glorify them. One such event follows:

Count Nicolay Pototsky was a cruel and proud Polish aristocrat. One day, while riding in his carriage not far from Pochaiv, his horses became frightened and overturned his carriage. The count pulled out his pistol to shoot his coachman, who cried out, "Virgin Mary, save me!" Three times Pototsky pulled the trigger and three times his pistol misfired. Outraged and incredulous, he looked at the gun which had never before failed him, then at his coachman, full of fear but with eyes that radiated life-saving hope. Finally, he beheld the silhouette of the monastery. He realized that some hand more powerful than his had saved the life of this man. His rage gone, the count went to the monastery, entered the church and, seeing the holy icon, fell to his knees in penitent prayer. His promise to devote his life to beautifying the monastery began to be fulfilled in 1771, when he began the 11-year construction of the Assumption cathedral.

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in subsequent years, the monastery's Assumption cathedral was enriched with iconography, scenes of evangelical events and events depicting the life of the monastery. In 1859, Emperor Alexander II presented the iconostasis with 33 icons to the monastery. The miracle-working icon of the Mother of God stands on the third level of the iconostasis. A glow seems to emanate

from the icon, enhanced by the sparkling light reflected from the precious stones surrounding it. The community block where the monks live, and the Cave church originally built in honour of the great martyr Barbara, but today known as the church of St. Job, were built at this time. Also built or enhanced were a parish school, a monks' school, the bishop's house, a bell-tower with 13 bells in the style of the cathedral, and hotels for pilgrims were also built, as well as a printing house and various workshops for production of church items. Pilgrims come to venerate the holy relics of the saints and the icons, from early spring to late autumn.

In 1906, the cathedral of the Holy Trinity was founded. It took 70 years to paint the temple, from the sketches of the artists. Holy Trinity cathedral is built of white stone and is topped with a golden cupola. Together with the Assumption cathedral they form the focal point of Pochaiv monastery, where more than 100 monks work and pray.

The Cathedral and the Cave church both reflect the indescribable beauty of heaven. During the 7 centuries of this monastery, Pochaiv has survived ten wars and various attempts to overtake or destroy it. According to the people who work and pray at and around Pochaiv, the Mother of God will protect the monastery until the second coming of Jesus Christ.