

AKATHIST
To Our
VENERABLE MOTHER PARASCHIVA

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FOREWORD

The Akathist to St. Paraschiva

The akathist is an order of a service offered to the praise of our Lord, the Theotokos and the individual saints. The first akathist was dedicated to the Mother of God by the Christians of Constantinople who were grateful to her for many miracles in the defense of the city against pagan invaders.

Later, the akathist offered to the Mother of God was introduced in other churches throughout the Christian world. The order of the service was also extended to praise our Lord and the saints.

Normally, the akathist service is begun by the priest with the benediction: "Blessed is our God always, now and ever and unto ages of ages." If no priest is present, then the akathist could also be said by the lay people gathered in church, in which case, the beginning is: "Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Glory to you, O God, glory to you. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen."

The akathist to St. Paraschiva has been offered frequently in Romanian Orthodox churches, particularly after her relics were placed in the church in Jassy, the capital of Moldavia.

The text used in this booklet is the one published in the Romanian "Akathistier," published in Bucharest, 1971, 1st edition. The translation into English was done by the monastic community of the Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania.

The "Life of St. Paraschiva" was translated into English by Rev. Fr. Rade Merick from the Serbian, "Lives of the Saints for October," by Archimandrite Justin Popovich.

It is hoped that the offering of praise to the venerable Paraschiva, Patron of the A.R.F.O.R.A., will lift up our hearts and will increase our efforts toward salvation.

Vatra Romaneasca
Holy Friday, 1984

†VALERIAN, Archbishop
†NATHANIEL, Auxiliary Bishop

THE LIFE OF ST. PARASCHIVA Patron Saint of ARFORA

Our venerable Mother Paraschiva was born in the tenth century in the town of Epivat to Serbian parents, pious and God-fearing people. When Paraschiva was ten years old, in church she heard the words of the holy gospel: "If anyone wishes to follow me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Mark 8:34). These words had a profound effect on her. She immediately began to give away all her possessions to the poor, even over the objections of her parents, telling them that she could live in no other way.

When her parents died, St. Paraschiva sold her inheritance and gave the money to the poor. She went off to Constantinople for advice on how to enter a more Christian life. She desired to follow Christ in all things. She followed the example of the saints by great feats of self-discipline, fasting, and keeping long vigils in prayer. Her brother, Eftimios, meanwhile became a monk and was later elected Bishop of the city of Madit. He lived a long and holy life in service to the Church, and was later canonized. His memory is celebrated on May 5.

After living in the town of Heraklius for five years, spending her time in prayer, fasting, and alms-giving, she departed for Palestine where she visited the holy places; finally settling in the Jordanian desert. She lived in the desert for many years, eating only the desert grasses, and that only after sunset. There in the desert, only God knows how she had to struggle with her body, with her thoughts, and with evil spirits, until God granted her the gift of passionlessness. What is known is that she finally did triumph over the evil one, as David triumphed over Goliath. She became a true temple of God.

After many years in the desert, one night, during her prayers, she had a vision of an angel of God who told her to leave the desert and to return to her homeland; for it was necessary for her to return her body to the earth where she was born, and her soul to the Lord. She was sorry to leave the desert, but rejoiced in the knowledge that she was about to leave her body and go to God. She traveled first to Constantinople, where she prayed at the great church of the Holy Wisdom, and at the other shrines. Finally, she made her way to her home town of Epivat, where she lived for two more years before falling-asleep-in-the-Lord. She was buried according to Christian custom, not in the usual cemetery, but by herself, for she had not told the townspeople who she was, and she was considered a stranger.

All this was done so that God could glorify her servant after many years. The place of our venerable mother's grave was long forgotten, when God guided the townspeople to dig yet another grave in the same spot, and her relics were found. However, they did not realize that these relics were holy, or those of a saint,

until the night when two of the townspeople received identical visions of a queen sitting on a throne, surrounded by bright soldiers. One of the soldiers told those who received the vision that the relics were those of the venerable Paraschiva, whom God now wished to glorify on earth; and the queen in the vision identified herself as Paraschiva, who was herself a native of Epivat. The next day, hearing of these visions, the townspeople transported the relics to the church of Ss Peter and Paul, where many were cured for their diseases and infirmities through the intercession of St. Paraschiva.

This began a long series of movements of the relics. In 1238, the Bulgarian King John Asen obtained the relics from the Crusaders who had conquered Constantinople, and they were placed in the palace church in Turnova. When the Turks conquered Turnova over a century later, the relics were moved to what is now southwestern Romania. When the Turks also overran that area, the Sultan Bayazid granted the request of the Serbian Princess Militsa and sent the relics to Belgrade, where they were kept in the new church built for the relics. This church of St. Paraschiva in Belgrade, on the Kalamegdan, is to this day a place of pilgrimage where many miracles occur. A natural spring found in the church is said to have healing powers.

In 1521, the Turks took Belgrade, and Sultan Suleiman II transferred the relics to his palace in Constantinople. There miracles continued to occur, so that the memory of St. Paraschiva was honored not only by the Christians, but also by the Moslems. However, this disturbed the ruling Moslems, who were afraid that veneration for Saint Paraschiva would extend among the Moslems, and would become in them a faith in Christ. They, therefore, gave the relics to the Christians of Constantinople, where they were kept in the Patriarchal church.

In 1641, Basil Lupul, ruler of Moldavia, asked the Patriarch Parthenius for the relics. God, who is glorified in his saints, desired that his servant be glorified also among the Romanians, and moved the heart of the Patriarch to grant Lupul's request. With the agreement of the Holy Synod, the Patriarch sent the relics to Basil Lupul at his capital in Jassy. They were received with great joy and thanksgiving by all the inhabitants of Moldavia, and the relics were placed, with great ceremony, in the Church of the Three Hierarchs on October 14, 1641. There, wonderful miracles have continued to take place about the holy relics of our Venerable Mother Paraschiva, to the glory of God, who is glorified in his saints.

Adapted from "Lives of the Saints for October"
by Archimandrite Justin Popovich
Translated into English
by Rev. Fr. Rade Merick

**AKATHIST
TO SAINT PARASCHIVA**

If a priest is present, the service begins with the blessing:

Priest:

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

Reader:

Amen.

If no priest is present, the service begins:

Reader:

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

Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly king, comforter, Spirit of truth, who are present everywhere and fulfilling all things, the treasury of blessings and source of life: come abide in us, cleanse us of all stains and save our souls, O good one.

Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy immortal, have mercy on us.

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 of our sins.

Master, forgive our transgressions.

Holy one, look down on us and heal our infirmities to the glory of your name.

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

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 are in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 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.

If no priest is present, the prayer concludes:

Reader:

Amen.

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

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us; we sinners, your servants incapable of response, offer you as master this supplication: have mercy on us.

Glory to the father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Lord, have mercy on us for we hope in you. Do not be angry with us, do not remember our transgressions but, being merciful,

look on us and deliver us from our enemies. For you are our God, and we are your people, we are all the work of your hands, and we call your name.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Open the door of mercy to us, blessed Birthgiver of God, so that we who hope in you do not perish but may be saved from adversities through you, for you are the salvation of the Christian race.

THE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, 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 ages: light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father, through 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 he was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried.

And on the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

And he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the remission of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Come, let us worship and bow down before God our king.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ our king.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ himself, our God and king.

PSALM 101

My song is about kindness and justice; Lord, I sing it to you.

I mean to make good progress, as the blameless do: when will you come to me?

In my household, I will advance in purity of heart;

I will not let my eyes rest on any misconduct.

I hate the practices of the apostate, they have no appeal for me; perverted hearts must keep their distance, the wicked I disregard.

The man who secretly slanders his neighbor I reduce to silence; haughty looks, proud heart, I cannot tolerate these.

I look to my religious countrymen to compose my household; only the man who makes progress, as the blameless do, can be my servant.

There is no room in my house for any hypocrite;
no liar keeps his post where I can see him.

Morning after morning I reduce to silence
all who are wicked in this country,
banishing from the city of the Lord all evil men.

TROPAR TONE 1

In you, O venerable Mother Paraschiva, the faithful image of
God shone forth, for you carried your cross and followed Christ.
You taught by your deeds how to spurn the body, for it passes
away; and how to value the soul, for it is immortal. Therefore,
your soul rejoices together with the angels.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O good one, born for us from the Virgin, you endured crucifixion and trampled down death by death. As God, you revealed the resurrection; do not overlook those whom you have fashioned with your hand, but show your love for mankind, O Long-Suffering One. Receive the intercessions of the Birthgiver of God who bore you and who prays for us, and save, O our Savior, your helpless people.

KONDAK I

We unworthy sinners bring an offering of humility to our venerable mother, the merciful Paraschiva, and ask for her intercessions. We have been granted great grace from the fount of the ever flowing bounties of our Savior, and we sing.

Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva!

ICOS I

With praises, the heavenly angels receive your virgin spirit from its earthly dwelling and joyfully crowned you as was due. For though you bore the body of a woman, and our weak human nature, you wisely knew how to overcome the power of the enemies. Therefore, we sing to you:

Rejoice, wise virgin
Rejoice, speech-endowed dove.
Rejoice, angelic soul in a virgin body.
Rejoice, worthy hermitess of the Lord.
Rejoice, comforter of man.
Rejoice, consolation in suffering.
Rejoice, our strong hope.
Rejoice, Christians' strength.
Rejoice, calm and clear harbor.
Rejoice, example of right piety.
Rejoice, refuge of the hopeless.
Rejoice, light of the ignorant.
Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK 2

Thus, the King of all rewards the victors: the unseen divine hand strengthens the human race, faithfully embracing those who follow the way of salvation that you have walked. Therefore, let us separate

ourselves from lawlessness; how much longer must we follow the way of sinfulness. Strengthen my heart, O Lord, that I may worthily sing to you the angelic hymn: Alleluia!

ICOS 2

I have fled to you, O honorable virgin saint, to you who also sought the help of the holy ones and angels against all earthly temptations. You, who with your luminous lamp were found worthy to enter beforehand into the bridal chamber, just as the Savior Christ taught us. Be a speedy intercessor for us now, and accept this hymn:

Rejoice, priceless pearl of our treasury.
Rejoice, unfaded flower of the Church of Christ.
Rejoice, unshaken foundation of Christianity.
Rejoice, virgins' endowment, and intercessor before the Mother of God.
Rejoice, obedience of pious priests.
Rejoice, ready helper of the traveler.
Rejoice, fervent comforter of the persecuted.
Rejoice, merciful guide of widows.
Rejoice, vanquisher of the adversary.
Rejoice, deliverer of all who cry to you for help.
Rejoice, great intercessor for souls.
Rejoice, healer of bodily wounds.
Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK 3

Ever placing our hope in you, deliver our nation from disease and danger. In your goodness and enduring mercy, and through your prayers, appease God's anger which has come down upon us. In our fear of disaster, we flee to you with tears, that you may help us escape from all danger, and thus sing to God: Alleluia!

ICOS 3

Beholding its land being praised, Epivata joyfully greeted you who sprang from it, and piously witnessed to you, O venerable one. How can we who were blessed to receive your relics, worthily herald the wonders wrought by you, aside from singing thus:

Rejoice, light of Moldavia.
Rejoice, protector of Epivata.
Rejoice, teacher of your parents.
Rejoice, non-reaper of earthly possessions.
Rejoice, reaper of heavenly gifts
Rejoice, spurner of expensive garments.
Rejoice, worthy bearer of the garment of humility.
Rejoice, reformer of the proud.
Rejoice, honor of virgins.
Rejoice, supporter of the aged.
Rejoice, condemnation of enemies.
Rejoice, comforter of the poor.
Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK 4

O most pure Virgin Mary, Mother of God, receive from us unworthy debtors the prayers we bring to you through the intercessions of our

venerable mother Paraschiva. May they be for the forgiveness of sins. Give us peace and great mercy from your Son, to whom we sing unceasingly: Alleluia!

ICOS 4

According to the faith with which you followed the Word of God, you were found worthy, through your piety, to receive the gift of healing, and the heavenly reward from the Savior, who said: O good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord. We bring this song to you:

Rejoice, unwasted seed.
Rejoice, untiring body.
Rejoice, spiritual nourishment.
Rejoice, refined gold.
Rejoice, fire burning chaff.
Rejoice, abundance of the earth.
Rejoice, fruit of repentance.
Rejoice, calmer of evil thoughts.
Rejoice, disperser of storms.
Rejoice, bearer of manna.
Rejoice, bestower of comforts.
Rejoice, intercessor of Christians before the Lord.
Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK 5

As I wake up from the weariness of the burden of worldly thoughts, I behold my wretchedness and weep. I cannot hope for peace because of my deeds. I have done nothing worthy of salvation, and I fear being cut down like the fruitless fig tree. Falling before you, I cry and shout out: O holy Paraschiva, have mercy on me, that, together with you, I may sing to God the song of salvation: Alleluia!

ICOS 5

Who would not bless you, O venerable one, for through your struggles you were found worthy to assuage the selfish urges of the body. You honorably obtained salvation of the soul into that heavenly glory which is not bestowed by human hands. Who would not bless you, for through your courage you put to flight the thoughts woven by the deceiving evil one and shamed him. Therefore, receive the following song:

Rejoice, tower of victory.
Rejoice, door of salvation.
Rejoice, shield of the faith.
Rejoice, dwelling place of steadfastness.
Rejoice, image of virtue.
Rejoice, defender of the holy cross.
Rejoice, its worthy venerator.
Rejoice, for through its assistance you were triumphant.
Rejoice, for through it you became a follower of Christ.
Rejoice, its beautiful foundation of victory.
Rejoice, vanquisher of the mastery of hades.
Rejoice, heir of the heavenly glory.
Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK 6

How shall we unworthy ones sing more deservedly, or with what words shall we praise the greatness of your works? For neither our deeds nor our faith draw us near to the purity of your acts. But, confessing our frailty, we pray to you for help, and ask that you intercede before God, so he may receive the hymn: Alleluia!

ICOS 6

Now untold pains encompass me and I expect help from no one. All have deserted me, until suddenly even the pleasures in which I once took comfort now war against me. O, how wretched am I! I have no other hope than in the mercy of God through your holy assistance. Therefore, I pray to you: speedily hear me, cure me that I may sing to you:

Rejoice, remedy of pain.
Rejoice, hand of healing.
Rejoice, sheltering house.
Rejoice, comforting ray.
Rejoice, boundless tabernacle.
Rejoice, ardent dew.
Rejoice, salvation from disease.
Rejoice, deliverer of the frightened.
Rejoice, protector from injury.
Rejoice, wakeful nightingale.
Rejoice, luminous star.
Rejoice, ladder of deliverance.
Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK 7

“O Lord, behold and heal your servants who suffer from pains,” proclaims the venerable one in ceaseless prayer, “for they have no support, no comfort.” Though times are difficult, we have been saved that we may rejoice and bow down before God, in repentance, singing: Alleluia!

ICOS 7

The iniquities and injustices which I have committed against my neighbor now condemn me, and I know not what response to give before the judgment seat. There, all my deeds rise up against me, persecute me, and oppress me. O blameless mother, as you hear my confession, intercede before the Lord to change my condemnation to good, withdrawing all hatred from my enemies' hearts; and I will glorify you with praise:

Rejoice, intercessor for those in error.
Rejoice, helper of the oppressed.
Rejoice, reformation of corrupt judgments.
Rejoice, witness of those falsely reviled.
Rejoice, refuge of those judged and sentenced.
Rejoice, cessation of passions.
Rejoice, opponent of the selfish.
Rejoice, opposer to evil petitioners.
Rejoice, appeasement of aggressors.

Rejoice, comforter of the infirm.
Rejoice, destroyer of the malicious.
Rejoice, fountain of the compassionate.
Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK 8

Speaking thus, I find quietude, I rejoice and am glad. My soul leaps, for my enemies are unable to deride me. Through your prayers, O venerable one, God will not abandon me at the end, but will send his promised mercy upon his people. Together with them, I, the unworthy one, may partake of his goodness, so together we will cry to God: Alleluia!

ICOS 8

As the community brings to you its debt of gratitude, I will also proclaim your wonders to all, and loudly sing your praise. Glory to your honor, glory to your patience which has crowned you because of your faith, glory to the deeds which perseveringly follow the model of the lover of mankind:

Rejoice, spiritual bride.
Rejoice, crown of truth.
Rejoice, staff of victory.
Rejoice, glory of monks.
Rejoice, guide of cenobitics.
Rejoice, honor of pious nuns.
Rejoice, guardian of hermits.
Rejoice, commemorator of ages.
Rejoice, preacher of the true faith.
Rejoice, ruination of heretics.
Rejoice, proof of divine glory.
Rejoice, follower of the heavenly word.
Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK 9

Let us joyfully sing the praises of the honorable Paraschiva, the holy intercessor for those in need, for she has inherited incorruptible eternal life. Thus, she has found glory and the grace of miracles through the commandment of God, crying: Alleluia!

ICOS 9

Evil minds are rebuked and full of fear at beholding the radiant glory of God shining in you, O venerable mother. To this day, the grace of healing is brought to the faithful through you. Thus, they understand the boundless mystery of the divine image prepared for the man cleansed from all sins. They are then shamed and repent, while we rejoice and sing to you:

Rejoice, our deliverer.
Rejoice, good counsellor.
Rejoice, fine guide.
Rejoice, expulsion of wickedness.
Rejoice, bearer of sweet fragrance.
Rejoice, poison of wild beasts.
Rejoice, repellent of locust hoards.
Rejoice, protection from phantoms.
Rejoice, disperser of hailstorms.

Rejoice, bringer of fruitful rains.
Rejoice, bestower of abundant harvests.
Rejoice, joy of farmers.
Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK 10

We shall never cease proclaiming your wonders, O venerable one, for had you not stood forth interceding for the land which you protect with your incorrupt relics, who would have delivered it from such numerous dangers, or who would ease the illnesses which have befallen it because of its many sins. Therefore, together with you, we sing to God: Alleluia!

ICOS 10

The walls of your parents' house had not the strength nor the means of keeping you from the great decision which you made in vowing to embrace the monastic life. Abandoning worldly enjoyments and pleasures, you exchanged your rich apparel with a beggar coming from the church, and left your parents who clearly voiced their displeasure at such a departure. Therefore, through humility you obtained exaltation, and hear from all:

Rejoice, rose untouched by arrogant worms.
Rejoice, lily transplanted to the garden above.
Rejoice, bed of innocence.
Rejoice, throne of rulers.
Rejoice, staff of leaders.
Rejoice, unwavering protectress.
Rejoice, unconquerable helper.
Rejoice, persecutor of those who tempt us.
Rejoice, upholder of those who show us mercy.
Rejoice, strengthener of those who serve us.
Rejoice, illuminator of those who comfort us.
Rejoice, co-worker of those who nourish us.
Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK 11

I am full of sin, O my patient Lord, and my soul fights earnestly as I think of the judgment. What shall I, a poor sinner, do when the unforeseen end suddenly comes upon me? I beg for mercy, O Lord; mercy, O my Christ, for I have not means of amendment. Do not overlook my petitions and repentance because of my sins. Receive this prayer as a pledge of my good intentions and fear of you, together with the intercessions of our mother Paraschiva, singing together with her: Alleluia!

ICOS 11

Many sinners before me obtained salvation through humility. How, then, can I not do the same? In you, I place my hope, O venerable mother, and I shall not be put to shame. Do not cast me off like the sinner who, ignorant of his unworthiness, was buried near you. Through a vision, you requested that his body be moved from near your relics. Therefore, I pray, receive my prayers, my tears and intercede, that I may be forgiven all my iniquities, and may cry to you:

Rejoice, exalted humility.
 Rejoice, chaste virgin.
 Rejoice, unending treasury.
 Rejoice, praise-worthy nun.
 Rejoice, salvation through humility.
 Rejoice, praise of the just.
 Rejoice, salvation of the wretched.
 Rejoice, guidance of the wayward.
 Rejoice, my gracious counsellor.
 Rejoice, gentle guide.
 Rejoice, joy of the soul.
 Rejoice, ready helper.
 Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK 12

Our comfort is indescribable as we behold you here with us as a God-sent grace. We were encompassed by illness and you healed us; grief-stricken, and you brought us gladness; in poverty, persecuted, and at war, and you helped us. Throughout all, you fulfilled the word of the Savior spoken in his gospel. Therefore, through humility you were found worthy of a place at the right of the throne of glory, and we sing to you: Rejoice! and to God the heavenly praise: Alleluia!

ICOS 12

Save us, O mother, from all illness, from plague, cholera, and from enemies. Save us, O mother, from locusts, beetles, and all harm. Save us, O mother, from fire, from hail, and from lightning. Save us, O mother, from eternal toil and, at the hour of sentencing, make us worthy, through your prayers, to obtain a place on the right hand on the judgment day, for our soul's salvation. Preserve us and nourish us in peace to our last breath, that we may sing to you:

Rejoice, spiritual harp.
 Rejoice, apostolic trumpet.
 Rejoice, brilliant torch.
 Rejoice, heavenly ray.
 Rejoice, hope of mankind.
 Rejoice, banisher of demons.
 Rejoice, healer of wounds.
 Rejoice, guardian against evil.
 Rejoice, bearer of goodness.
 Rejoice, enlightened protectress of Moldavia.
 Rejoice, deliverer of the leader Vasile and other merciful ones.
 Rejoice, supporter of me, a humble sinner.
 Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK 13

We worship God and venerate your holy relics, O venerable mother Paraschiva.
 We worship God and venerate your holy relics, O venerable mother Paraschiva.

We worship God and venerate your holy relics, O venerable mother Paraschiva.

With praise and songs, we proclaim all your wonders which we have received through God's grace for our salvation. Receive our prayers, O holy one, and ever hasten to help us that we may joyfully sing of your deeds and glorify God: Alleluia!

We worship God and venerate your holy relics, O venerable mother Paraschiva.

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ICOS I

With praises, the heavenly angels receive your virgin spirit from its earthly dwelling and joyfully crowned you as was due. For though you bore the body of a woman, and our weak human nature, you wisely knew how to overcome the power of the enemies. Therefore, we sing to you:

Rejoice, wise virgin.
 Rejoice, speech-endowed dove.
 Rejoice, angelic soul in a virgin body.
 Rejoice, worthy hermitess of the Lord.
 Rejoice, comforter of man.
 Rejoice, consolation in suffering.
 Rejoice, our strong hope.
 Rejoice, Christians' strength.
 Rejoice, calm and clear harbor.
 Rejoice, example of right piety.
 Rejoice, refuge of the hopeless.
 Rejoice, light of the ignorant.
 Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva.

KONDAK I

We unworthy sinners bring an offering of humility to our venerable mother, the merciful Paraschiva, and ask for her intercessions. We have been granted great grace from the fount of

the ever-flowing bounties of our Savior, and we sing:
Rejoice, O all-gracious Paraschiva!

Reader:

*Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.
In the name of the Lord, Father give the blessing.*

Priest or Reader:

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

Reader:

Amen.

Priest or Reader:

PRAYER

Lord our God, who have proclaimed and created all, do not turn your face from us sinners, thus allowing dreadful anger and frightful pain to befall us as a result of our innumerable sins unwittingly committed each day. We are wretched sinners, full of evil, but you are the fount of life and compassion. Do not leave me, O Lord! Do not overlook the prayers of us sinners, nor repay us according to our transgressions; but, as we are not worthy to earn mercy through our daily efforts, bestow it upon us, as you are long-suffering and merciful.

Lord, through the prayers of our venerable mother Paraschiva, grant us health and life free from all harms. Strengthen us with your sovereign Spirit. From the depths of our hearts we joyfully glorify your all-holy Name, to all ages. Amen.

TROPAR TO SAINT PARASCHIVA

Tone 2

Most graci - ous and bless - ed Moth - er Pa - ras - chi - va,
whose name we bear as our pa - tron saint, pro - tect us,
pray for us that like you, we, too, may serve God faith -
ful - ly on earth and glo - ri - fy him e - ter - nal - ly
with you in heav - en.