

Back to Basics with the *Law of God* Part 2: Iconography & “The Prayers”



A Straightforward Teaching of Orthodox Christianity based upon
the Slobodskoy *Law of God* Study Book

Priest Justin Patterson / Fall 2018

What is the Law of God?

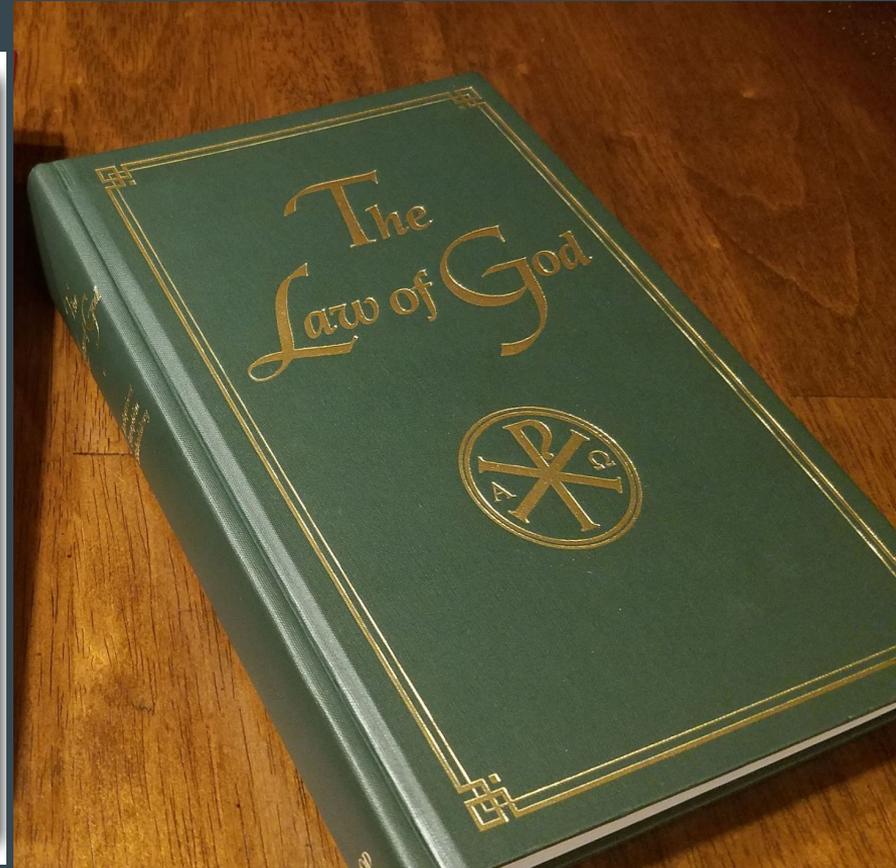
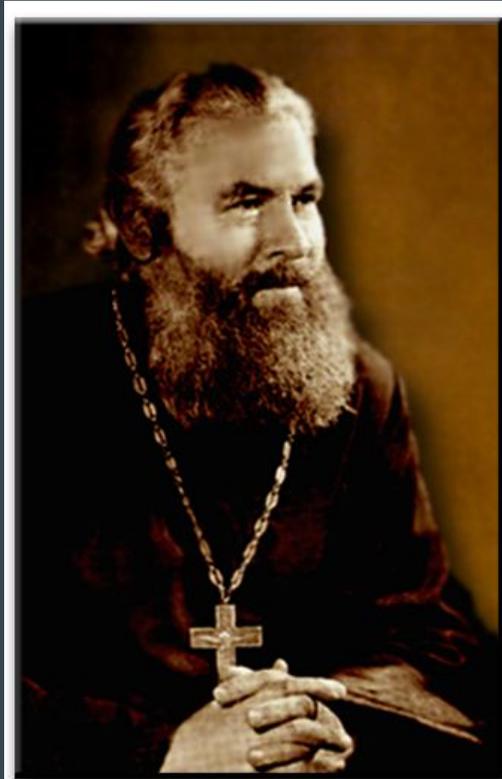
The Law of God

“For Study at Home
and at School”

Compiled by
Archpriest Seraphim
Slobodskoy 1912-71

Holy Trinity Press in
Jordanville

1966; English 1993



But What is the Law of God?

Law of God (Закон Божий)

= Russian Sunday School!

So this book is simply one priest's attempt to put together a "basic" yet traditional Russian Orthodox teaching manual--geared for older children!



So what will be doing in our Law of God journey?

Going Back to the Basics (like these kiddos!) exploring:

- Who is God? What are His Attributes? What are Prayer & Basic Piety? What about the Church Building?
- Key Old Testament Stories
- Key New Testament Accounts
- Christian Faith and Life
- Divine Worship in the Orthodox Church



Last Week: “Part One, Basic Concepts”



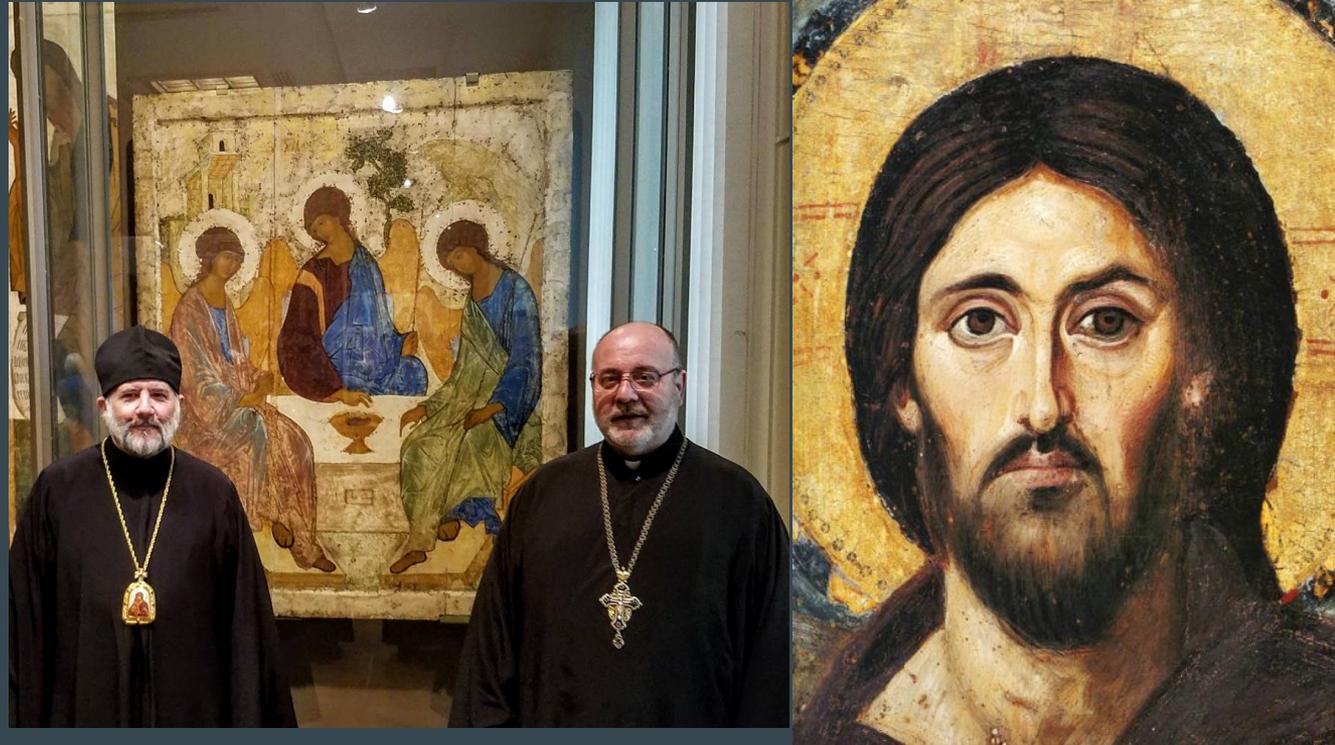
This included:

- Creation by God *ex nihilo*
- Basic Concepts of God (including divine revelation as being key)
- An introduction to the Holy Trinity
- The attributes of God
- Exploring what sin is
- The sign of the Cross
- The church building (temple)
- We also began introducing prayer...

Tonight: Forms in Iconography & Continue w/ “The Prayers”

We will begin with exploring iconographic forms and then review-integrate the prayer material from last week into the new material on “the prayers” that we will explore this week.

So that’s our plan!



Part 1: Chapter 13 on Icons and Iconography

[*excerpts from pp. 37-38*]

Practical notes:

- Icons are usually blessed
- Practical basis for iconography of Christ based on tradition of Abgar

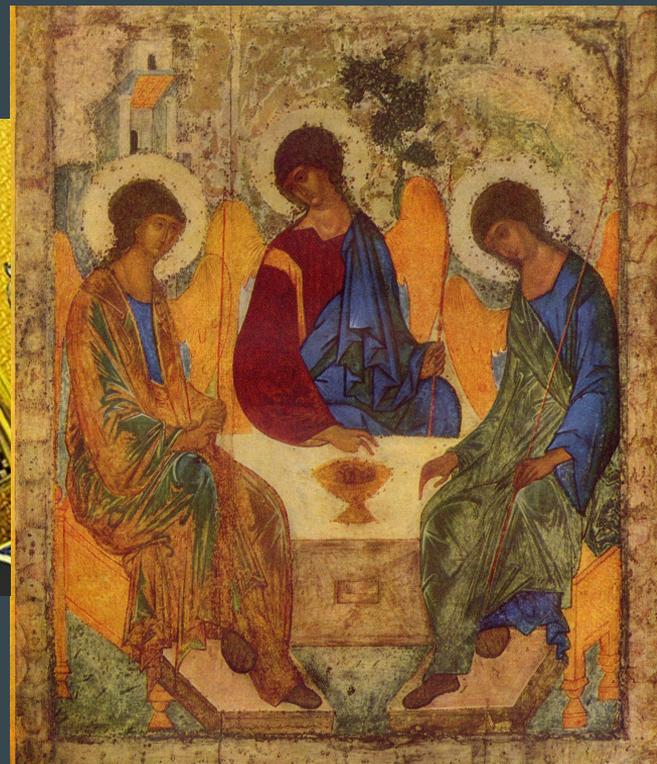


How is God Portrayed in Icons?

[*excerpts from pp 38*]

Different ways Divinity is depicted:

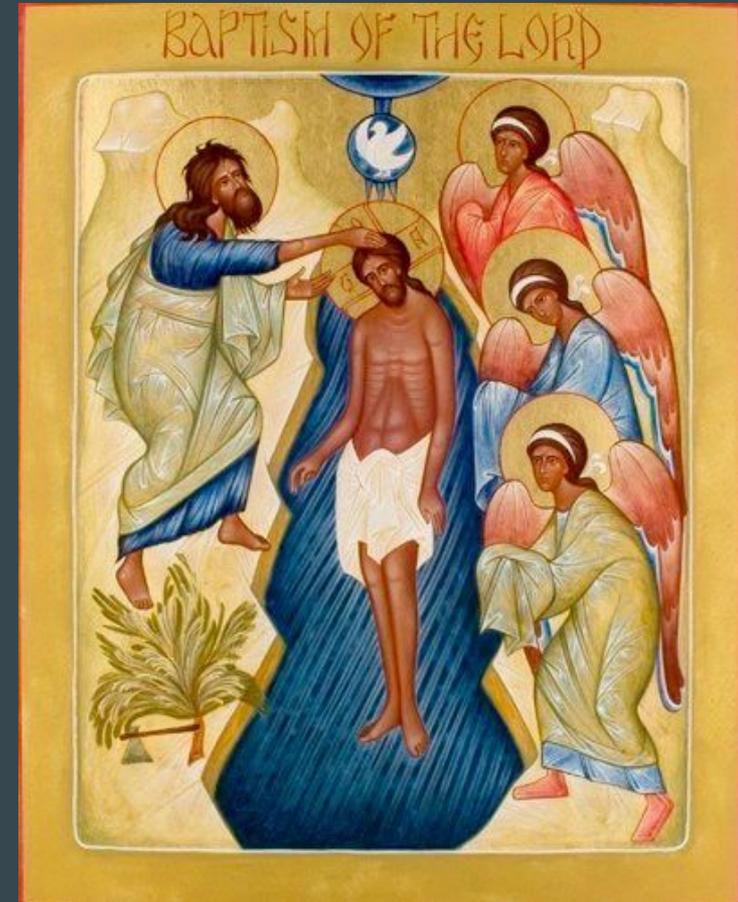
- Holy Trinity
- God the Son
- God the Holy Spirit



How is God portrayed in Icons?

[continue excerpts
from p. 38]

The “bird” is ok,
provided that the it is
not in the context of
the “Old Man, the Boy,
and the Bird.”



Others Besides God Depicted in Holy Icons?

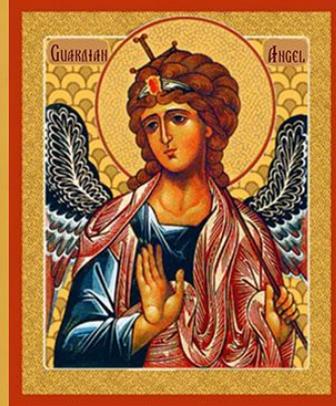
Who can be depicted?

Others Besides God Depicted in Holy Icons?

Who can be depicted?

- The Mother of God
- Holy Angels
- Holy People (i.e., the saints)

[*excerpts from*
pp. 40-45]



Others Besides God Depicted in the Holy Icons

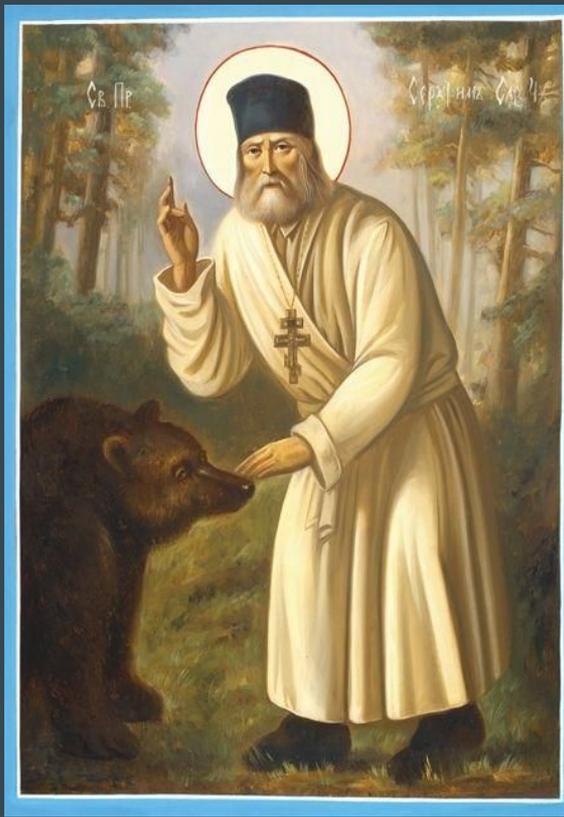
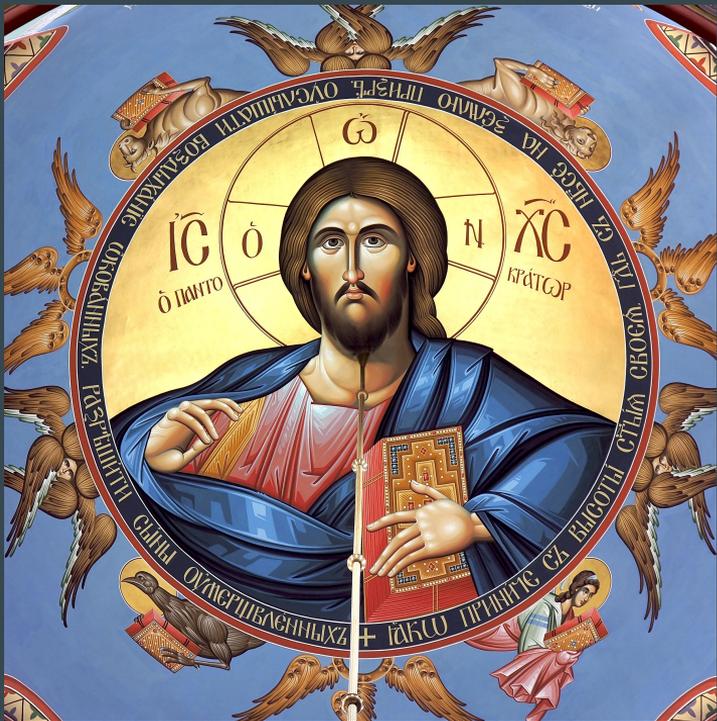
Various classes of saints [*excerpts from pp. 44-46*]:

1. St. John the Baptist [bodiless powers in Gr.]
2. Prophets
3. Apostles
4. Hierarchs
5. Martyrs
6. Monastics
7. Unmercenaries
8. Righteous
9. Holy forefathers



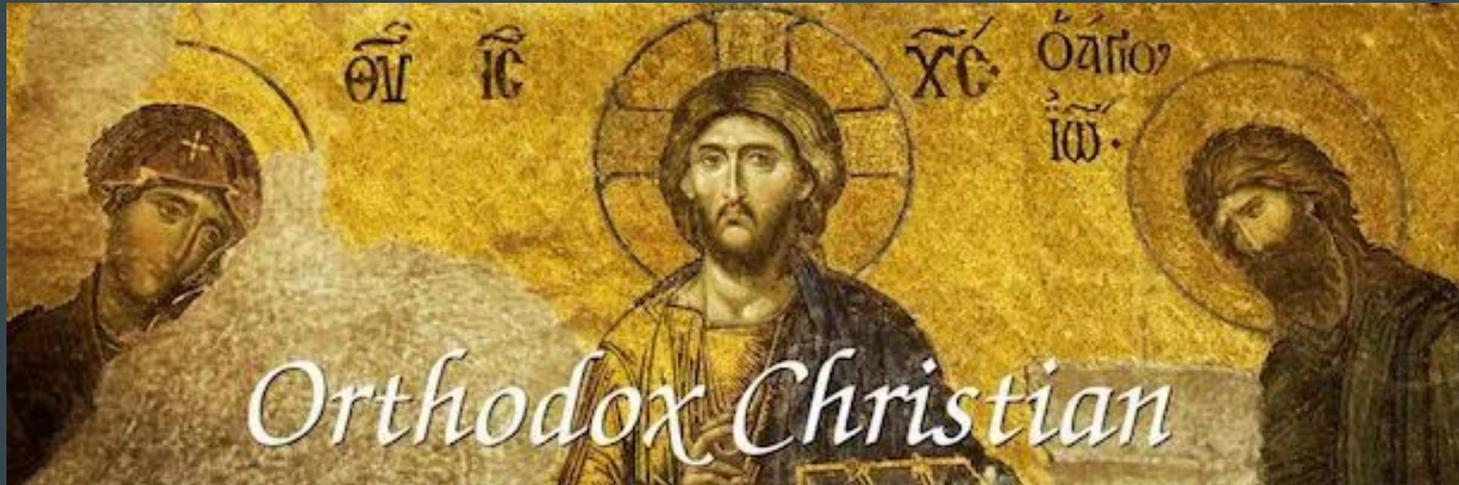
About Haloes (Nimbuses) on the Icons

[excerpts from p. 47]



Part 1, Chapter 14: Why We Call Ourselves “Orthodox”

[*excerpts p. 47*]



Part 2 is About “Prayers” (Specifically)

But before we look at specific “prayers,” let’s *review* the materials from last week about “prayer” more generally.

[excerpts from p. 19]



Last Week's Thoughts on Prayer Generally

+Importance of Sign of the Cross (carefulness!)

+Posture During Prayer (standing, bowing)

+3 broad categories of prayer:

1. Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving
2. Prayers of Petition
3. Penitential Prayers

+Disposition in Prayer (peace, focus, fasting, purity)



More on Where and How We Can Pray to God

“We can pray to God everywhere because God is everywhere: at home, at church, on every path.

The Christian must pray every day:

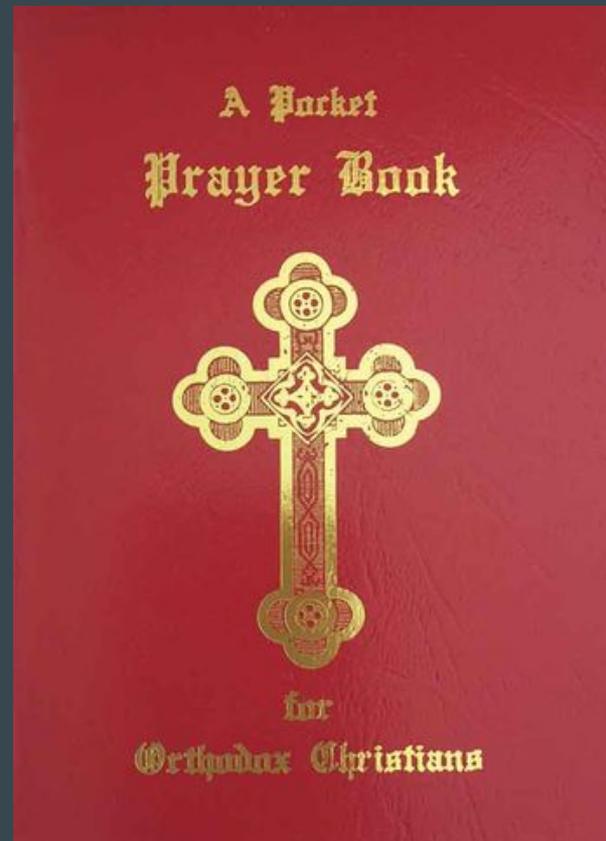
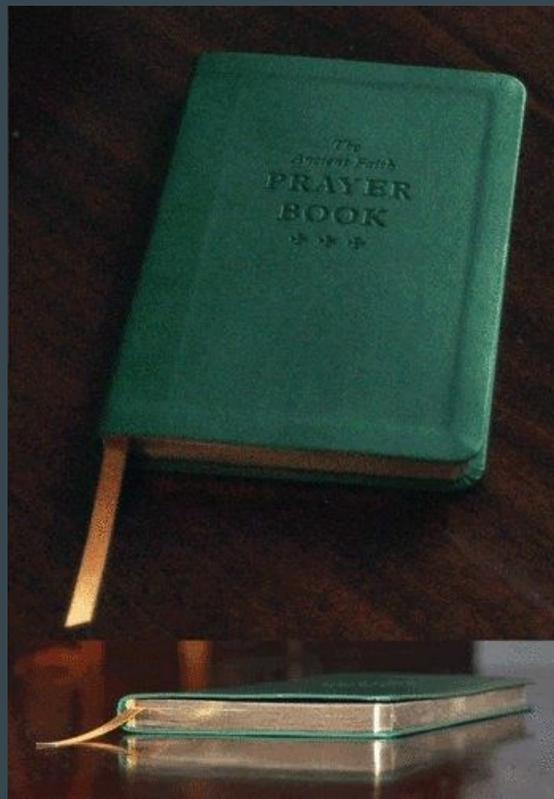
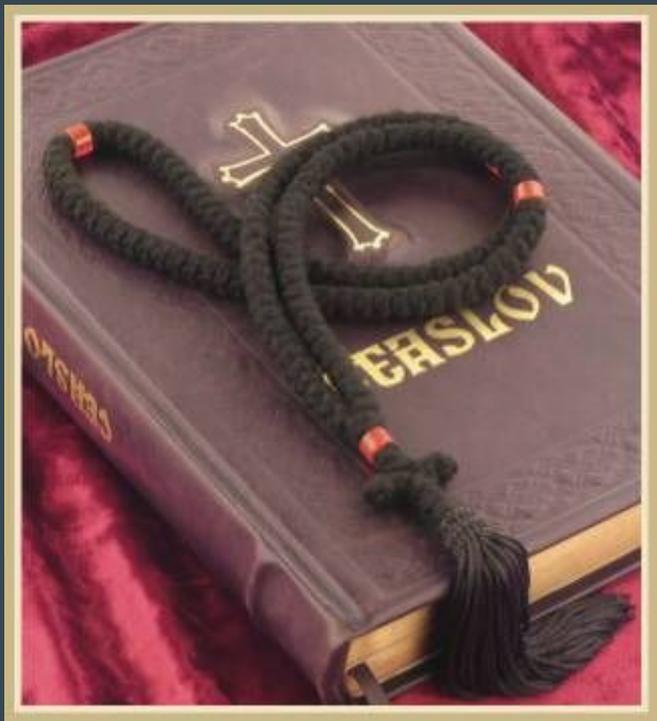
- Morning and evening
- Before and after eating
- Before and after every kind of work

Last week, we emphasized the two broad categories of prayer (2 wings)

- Prayer at home or private prayer
- Public prayer or prayer at church



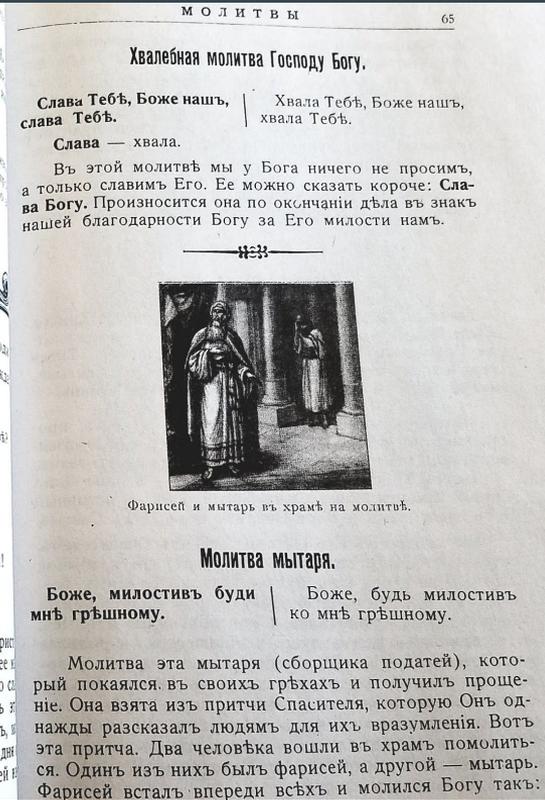
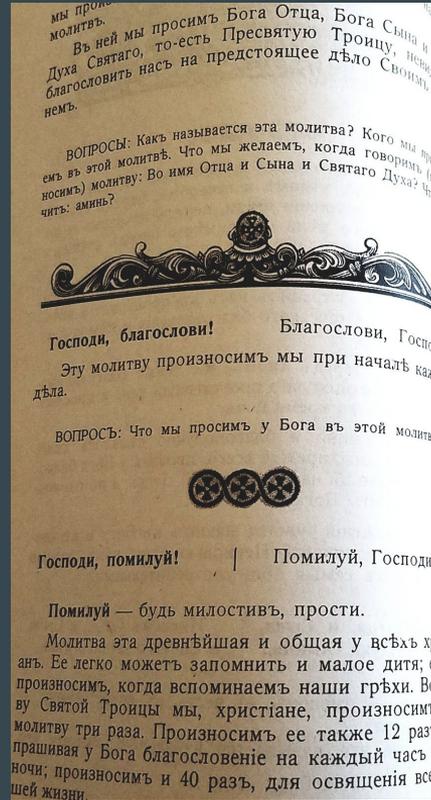
Now We Turn to “The Prayers” (Part 2)



Short Prayers: “Arrow Prayers”

[excerpt from p. 51, and on to top of 54]

- “In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”
- “Bless, O Lord!”
- “Lord, have mercy!”
- “Glory to thee, our God, glory to the thee!”
- “God be merciful to me, a sinner.”
- “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me/us (a sinner.)”

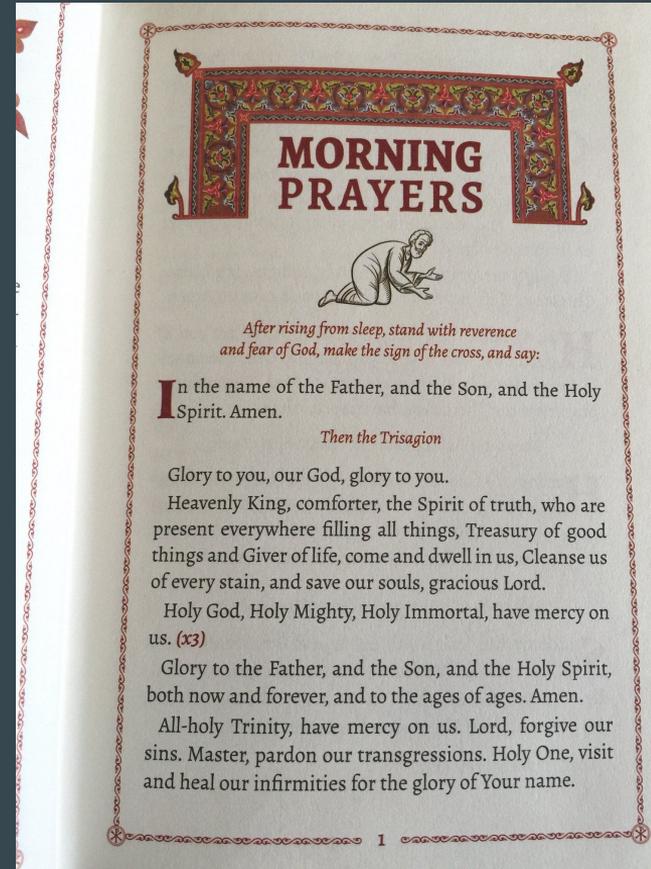


The Trisagion Prayers

How would you describe the Trisagion Prayers?

The Trisagion Prayers.... include...

- An alternate to “In the Name of...” “O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of the most pure Mother and of all the saints, have mercy on us. Amen.”
- “O Heavenly King, the Comforter...”
- “Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.”
- Small Doxology “Glory to the Father...”
- “O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy name’s sake.” + “Lord have mercy”
- The Lord’s Prayer... [next slide...]



The Lord's Prayer

Given by our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. It is broken up into 7 petitions.

[*excerpts pp. 58-60*]



Common Prayers to the Theotokos & Mother of God

- “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary Full of grace, the Lord is with you...”
- “It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos...”
- “Most Holy Theotokos, save us!”
- [Plus... “Beneath your compassion...” from 2nd century...] [pp.61-64]



Prayers to the Cross, our Guardian Angel, and Patron Saint

VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS
Troparion - Tone 1

Russian Imperial Court Chant
arr. from Lvov/Bakhmetev

The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (Soprano/Alto or Tenor/Bass) and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Your Cross, preserve Your habitation." The music is in a minor key and features a steady, rhythmic accompaniment.

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your
in - her - i - tance. Grant victories to the Or - tho - dox
Chris - tians over their ad - ver - sar - ies; and by
vir - tue of Your Cross, preserve Your habi - ta - tion.

“O Angel of God, my holy guardian given me by God from heaven to preserve me, I fervently pray thee: Enlighten me today and preserve me from every evil. Direct me in doing good. And guide me on the path of salvation. Amen.”

“Pray unto God for me, St. [N,] for a I fervently flee unto you, the speedy helper and intercessor for my soul.”

Daily Prayers

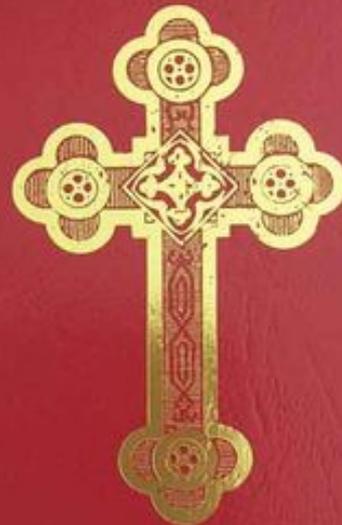
[*excerpts pp. 66; 70-71*]

- Prayer for the Living
- Prayer for the Repose
- Morning Prayer
- Evening Prayer

+++++Handouts+++++

- Before and After Eating
 - *pp. 69-70*

A Pocket Prayer Book



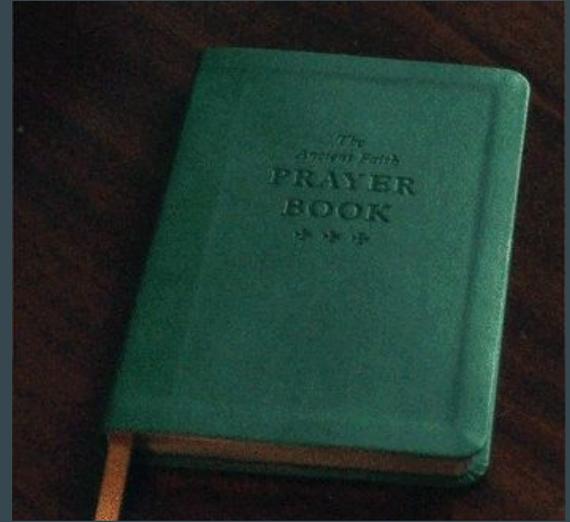
for
Orthodox Christians

Prayers of Need

- Before & After Lessons [pp. 67-68]

In *Ancient Faith Prayer Book*:

- Before spiritual reading, p. 119
- Before reading Gospel, p. 120
- On entering and leaving church, pp. 120-121
- Before a journey, p. 122
- Before and after work, p. 123
- Before using the internet, p. 124
- Needs Related to Health, pp. 125-128
- For a Single Person Seeking Spouse, p. 128
- For Married Couple, p. 129
- For Moving into New Home, p. 130
- For Conception, p. 130
- For an Expecting Woman, p. 131
- In a Difficult Labor, p. 132
- Needs Related to Children, pp. 133-135
- For a Soldier in Warfare, p. 136
- In Times of Need or Temptation, pp. 137-138



Various Akathists of Need

- THE Akathist to the Mother of God (St. Romanus the Melodist)
- Akathist for One Fallen Asleep
- Akathist to Martyr Varus (Outside Baptism!)
- Akathist for Help in Time of Trouble
- Akathist to the Mother of God “Inexhaustible Cup” (Addictions)
- Akathist to the Mother of God “Softener of Evil Hearts”
- Akathist to the Mother of God “Nurterer of Children”
- Akathist to the Mother of God “Pantanassa” (Healer of Cancer)
- Akathist to St. Panteleimon the Great-Martyr & Healer
- Akathist to St. Luke of Simferopol “Compassionate Healer”
- Akathist to St. Ksenia (Mental Health)
- Akathist “Glory to God for All Things” (Thanksgiving)
- Akathist to Jesus Christ “Light of Those in Darkness”
- Akathist to the Mother of God “Joy of All Who Sorrow”
- Akathist of Repentance for Those Children Have Perished Through Abortion
- Akathists to various saints for various needs
- Akathists related to various feast days...

“The Book of Needs,” including services for...

- All the Sacraments including Monastic Tonsure, Blessing of Waters, Christian Burial, and Consecration of a Temple
- Blessing vestments, icons, iconostases, crosses, liturgical vessels, etc...
- Special blessings on certain feasts (e.g., candles on Feb. 2, palms on Palm Sunday, eggs and meat at Pascha, fruit at Transfiguration, flowers at Dormition, etc...)
- Insomnia, demonic possession/oppression of person/place, increase of love, prisoners, etc...
- Various degrees of home blessing, flock and crop blessing, vehicle and boat blessing, etc...
- Various needs associated with death and remembrance
- Various calamities (e.g., drought, flood, inclement weather, pandemic, civil war, earthquake, tempest, famine)
- Various civil celebrations (e.g., New Year, national holidays, start of school year)
- Various needs (childbearing, travel, before beginning work, special request, thanksgiving)
- Various blessings (learning, new construction, digging well, bees, new ship, etc...)

Next Week:....

Next Week:



Next Week: Sacred History of the Old Testament (a)

Looking at the essential stories in the Old Testament that point to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's Coming in the Flesh!

