Foreword

A Menaion is a liturgical book which contains the changeable parts of Byzantine divine services for a given month. The volume in your hands is the seventh of a series of twelve books for use in Byzantine Catholic parishes. Each day is provided with the following material:

1. Synaxarion (brief life of the saints remembered)
2. Troparia and Kontakia
3. Prokeimena and Alleluiaria

On major feasts, the proper antiphons (when there are any) and the Magnification and Irmos (appointed to take the place of It is truly proper) are also included.

Texts which are contained in the Faithful’s Book published by the Byzantine Catholic Church are reproduced with their musical settings from that book. Those texts were translated by the Inter-Eparchial Liturgical Commission, and then set to plainchant by the Inter-Eparchial Music Commission.

Many of the Troparia contained in this volume of the Menaion are, in fact, common texts (i.e., they are used on more than one feast). These texts, too, come from the work of the IELC/IEMC, as are all the Prokeimena and Alleluiaria and Communion Hymns.

The texts of the Troparia and Kontakia that are not from the above-mentioned source are almost always taken from the Order of Matins published by the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, and we acknowledge these texts with gratitude.

This volume is intended to be used annually. Because of this, cantors must use the Typikon of the Metropolitan Church to discern how materials from the Menaion are to be combined with the Sunday Ochtoechos. The Typikon will also explain how Prokeimena and Alleluiaria are to be combined.

May this series of volumes be a blessing for all who attend daily celebrations of the Divine Liturgy, as well as for those who, unable to be at church each day, still wish to pray with the Church and honor the Lord and his saints.

August 28, 2005
Our venerable father Moses the Ethiopian and
Our holy father Augustine, bishop of Hippo
You bound your soul to love of Christ by purity of heart,
and you spurned perishable things as a disciple of the Word.
You brought your senses under control by fasting,
and then you shamed the enemy by enduring martyrdom.
Because of this, Christ gave you a double crown, O glorious Eudoxia;
therefore beg him to save our souls, O venerable martyr.

Troparion of Eudoxia - Tone 8

Troparion of David - Tone 1
and converted the pagans, who sought to destroy you O father David,

Christ God then blessed you to receive the episcopate at the place

of his Resurrection. Intercede for us, that our lives be blessed and our

souls be saved.

Kontakion of Eudoxia - Tone 4

You fought a good fight by your suffering, and you sanctify us after your

death by miracles. We come with joy to your heavenly Church to celebrate.

We beg you to deliver us from spiritual afflictions and to grace us

with your miracles, Venerable Eudoxia.
The living waters of godly discipline encompassed you, and the saving waters of faith flowed through your teaching O hierarch and waterman David. Symbolizing the baptism of Wales in your life, you are worthy of all our praise, wherefore we keep festival in your honor, and we glorify your eternal memory, O Teacher and Enlightener of the Welsh people.

The Commons of a Woman Martyr are found on page 54. The Commons of a Hierarch are found on page 47.

2 The holy martyr Theodotus, bishop of Cyrene, who suffered under the emperor Diocletian. (302)

Troparion - Tone 4

You shared in the apostles’ way of life and succeeded to their throne,
divinely inspired bishop. You found access to contemplation in the active life. Therefore, you rightly taught the word of truth and struggled for the faith to the shedding of your blood. O priest-martyr Theodotus, pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 3

You dried up the sea of false belief and smashed the guile of the vicious idolaters by the true faith. Having become a heavily holocaust, you feed the whole world on miracles. O sanctifying father Theodotus, beg Christ our God to have mercy on us.

The Commons of a Priest-Martyr are found on page 51.
3 The holy martyr Eutropius and his companions, Cleonicus and Basiliscus, at Amasea in Pontus, martyrs in the persecution of Maximius the emperor under the governor Asclepiodatus. (308)

Troparion. - Tone 3

Your holy martyrs, O Lord our God, in their struggles, received incorruptible crowns from you. With your strength, they brought down the tyrants and broke the cowardly valor of demons. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 1

This triinity of martyrs confessed the Holy Trinity before many nations. Undergoing their suffering of martyrdom, they have been presented to the angels. Today we are honoring them, celebrating their sacred and life-saving memory.

The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.
4 Our venerable father Gerasimus of the Jordan, anchorite. At the time of the emperor Zeno, he was brought back to the orthodox faith by St. Euthymius. He engaged in great works of penance, offering to all who practiced the monastic life under him a way of living the most irreproachable discipline. (475)

**Troparion - Tone 8**

Living a life angelic in fasting and powerful in prayer. a life

unwavering in faith, unceasing in vigil, and temperate in all things, you astonished the angels and vanquished the legions of devils, O father Gerasimus. You gladden the hearts of the faithful, O blessed saint. The beasts were obedient to you for all of this.

Since you have achieved a place of honor before the Lord, pray for the salvation of our souls.

**Kontakion - Tone 4**

Inflamed with an exalted ideal, you preferred Jordan severity to
world-ly de-lights. Un-til the day you died, the wild an-i-mals lis-tened to you;

and they died of sorrow up-on your grave, O fa-ther. Tru-ly they praised you

be-fore God. Pray to him, O father Gerasimus, and keep us in your ho-ly mem-o-ry.

The Commons of a Venerable are found on page 48.

5 The holy martyr Conon, who was a gardener during the reign of the emperor Decian. He was ordered to run in front of a chariot after having his feet pierced with nails. He sank down to his knees and surrendered his spirit in prayer. (251)

Troparion - Tone 4

With our hymns, let us praise Conon as a hard worker and a great mar-tyr.

He is a blessed sufferer who received authori-ty o-ver dev-ils, so let us
cry out to him: Beg Christ to save our souls.
Having lived an angelic life on earth in your purity, you were admitted to their company in heaven. You brought your parents to a knowledge of Christ and shed your blood to profess the one God in the Trinity. Pray unceasingly for all of us, O martyr Conon.

The Commons of a Martyr are found on page 49.

6 The holy forty-two martyrs of Ammorium in Syria. Captured in Phrygia and taken to the Euphrates River, they seized the palm of martyrdom by their surpassing spiritual struggle. (848)

Your holy martyrs, O Lord our God, in their struggles, received incorruptible crowns from you. With your strength, they brought down the tyrants and broke the cowardly valor of demons. Through their prayers, O Christ our
God, save our souls.

We bring crowns of glory to these newly appearing stars who manifested their faith by suffering for Christ. As real pillars and helpers of Christ’s reign, they pray to him in behalf of all of us.

The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.

7 The holy martyrs and bishops of Cherson: Basil, Eugene, Agathadorus, Elpidius, Aetherius, Capito, and Ephrem, who preached in the Crimea and gave their lives for the Faith. (4th century)

The day of splendor of those brilliant bishops of Cherson has come today.
We are singing for the feast of those shepherds who died for the sheep of Christ.

O princes of shepherds and martyred priests, beg Christ to put us with the sheep at his right hand so that we may sing out to you:

Rejoice, O priestly fathers who poured out your blood for Christ.

The Commons of Several Priest-Martyrs are found on page 52.

8 Our venerable father and confessor Theophylact of Nicomedia in Bythinia, who was exiled for the sake of the cult of the holy icons and died at Strobilis in Caria. (845)

Troparion of Theophylact - Tone 6

You tried to live a hidden life, O praiseworthy father, but Christ made you a lamp upon the light of thought. He handed you the tablets of spiritual knowledge. Enlighten us by them, O holy Theophylact.
You became a lamp for the whole world, O father, and by preaching that the Word had the nature common to the Father and the Spirit, you enlightened the Council of heavenly fathers.

You became a defender of the Trinity. As you stand before them, pray unceasingly for all of us.

The Commons of a Confessor are found on page 56.

9 The forty holy martyrs of Sebaste in Armenia. They were comrades, not in blood, but in faith and obedience to the will of their heavenly Father. At the time of the emperor Licinius, after binding and savage tortures, they were ordered to pass the night naked at the coldest time of winter in a swamp in the open air. They consummated their martyrdom by the breaking of their legs at crucifixion. (320)

The holy martyr Urpasianus of Nicomedia. The emperor Maximian Gallerius (305-311) cruelly persecuted Christians serving in his army and at his court. Thus the dignitary Urpasian threw down his cloak and sash at the feet of the ruler and said: "Henceforth I am a warrior of the Heavenly King, the Lord Jesus Christ. Take back the insignia given me." Maximian gave orders to tie Urpasian to a tree and whip him with ox thongs. Later on they bound the saint to the lattice top of an iron grate, and beneath they built a fire. Saint Urpasian with incessant prayer endured the intolerable suffering. The glorious martyr was burned alive, and his ashes thrown into the sea. His tormentors were astonished that they had been unable to break his spirit. (c.295)
Troparion of the Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste - Tone 1

O forty soldiers of Christ and honorable martyrs, you went through fire and water, O mighty warriors, and have come to live with the angels.

Join them in praying to Christ for those who praise you.

Glory to him who strengthened you! Glory to him who crowned you!

Glory to him who heals us through you!

Kontakion - Tone 6

You left the crowds of this world and joined the Master in heaven, O forty martyrs. Passing through fire and water,

you reaped glory and honor in heaven, O blessed saints.

The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.
Your holy martyrs, O Lord our God, in their struggles, received incorruptible crowns from you. With your strength, they brought down the tyrants and broke the cowardly valor of demons. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

By enduring violence you slew the proud enemy as you and your companions felt the pains of the sword. We celebrate your memory, holy Codraetus, and we sing: All you unconquerable martyrs, remember us to the Lord.

The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.
11 Our holy father Sophronius, patriarch of Jerusalem. He had John Moschus as a teacher and friend, with whom he visited monastic sites. He was elected patriarch of the see after Modestus. When the Holy City fell into the hands of the Saracens, he defended with vigor the faith and the safety of the people. (644)

Troparion - Tone 8

Guide to Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness,

luminary for the world, inspired

adornment of bishops, O wise Sophronius, harp of the Spirit, you enlightened all by your teachings; intercede

with Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 8

You advanced by heavily fervor and spread the true dogma by your lips. You ruled your Church well and reformed the monks within it. You clearly preached words of instruction for us, and so we sing to you, O blessed patriarch:
12 Our venerable father and confessor Theophane of the Sygrian Mountain in Bithynia in the monastery of Ager Magnus. He was called the Chronographer. Having been a very wealthy man, he became a poor monk. He was held in prison for two years by the emperor Leo the Armenian on account of his defense of the cult of holy icons. From there he was deported to Samothrace, where, consumed by his tribulations, he yielded up his spirit. (817)

Our holy father Gregory, pope of Rome. After having entered the monastic life, he performed the duty of ambassador to Constantinople. Then on the third of September, he was chosen for the Roman See. He dealt well with earthly matters and, as a servant of the servants of God, he attended to holy things. He showed that he was a true pastor in directing affairs, in fully assisting the needy, in fostering the monastic life, and everywhere strengthening or extending the faith. He also wrote excellently on many things concerning moral and pastoral matters. (604)

Our venerable father Simeon the New Theologian was born in Galatia in Paphlagonia and educated in Constantinople, where he entered the imperial service. He left all for Christ and entered a monastery. He became hegumen of the monastery of St. Mamas, and finally became a hermit. He is accounted the greatest theologian since St. Gregory the Theologian. (1022)

The Commons of a Hierarch are found on page 47.

Re-joice, luminous glory of the faithful.

Troparion of Theophane - Tone 1

A-dorn-ing your life with purity and disciplin-ing your bod - y,

you slew the goats of the devil, O fa - ther The-o - phane.

You were car - ried to e-ter-nal life in the Lord. As you stand
before him, now pray for all of us.

Troparion of Gregory - Tone 4

You received divine grace from heaven, O blessed Gregory, and strength from his divine power. You sought to follow the way of the Gospel, and your journey's end brought you Christ's reward. O blessed saint, beg him to save us.

Troparion of Symeon - Tone 8

Your abundant tears made the wilderness bloom, and your sufferings made your labors fruitful a hundred-fold; you became a shining torch over the world. Venerable
Father Symeon, pray to Christ our God that he may save our souls.

Kontakion of Theophane - Tone 2

When you received the heavenly message, you quickly turned away from the confusion of life. When you retired into solitude, you received the power of miracles and the grace of prophecy.

Afterwards you gave up a wife and wealth, Venerable father.

Kontakion of Gregory - Tone 4

You became very much like the shepherds of Christ. You led flocks of monks into the heavenly sheepfold. There you taught your flock the law of Christ,
O blessed father Gregory; and now you sing in the heavenly abode,

and you rejoice happy in their company.

Kontakion of Symeon - Tone 4

The Church of Christ is rejoicing today, celebrating in splendor your memory! You have adorned it with your teachings and prayers, and have guided the children of faith to the heavenly mansions, and have shone with ineffable light from Christ God, our Lord, O Sumeon, our venerable father.

The Commons of a Confessor are found on page 56.

13 The translation of the relics of our holy father Nicephor, patriarch of Constantinople. Nicephor died in exile on the island of Prochonis in the year 827. After the death of the last iconoclast emperor, the relics of the holy father were brought back to Constantinople, first to the church of Hagia Sophia and then finally to the Church of the Holy Apostles in the year 846.

Troparion - Tone 8

You reaped your reward from your patience, unceasing pray'r,
love of the poor, and constant comfort of the needy. O blessed and merciful Nicephor, beseech Christ to save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 1

The choir of patriarchs honors your memory with chants and hymns of praise, O Nicephor; transferring your relics, it inherits your spirit.

Therefore, the Church glorifies Christ the King, who alone loves humanity.

The Commons of a Hierarch are found on page 47.
Our venerable father Benedict. Born in Nursia in Umbria and educated in Rome, he began a hermit’s life in the Subiaco region. He gathered many disciples around himself, and then went to Monte Casino. There he founded his celebrated monastery and composed his “Rule for Monks.” This rule spread so widely that he has deserved to be called the patriarch of monks in the West. It is said that he died on the twenty-first day of March. (550)

Troparion - Tone 8

In you, O father, the divine image was strictly preserved; taking up your cross, you followed Christ. You taught us by example how to spurn the flesh, for it passes away, and how to care for the soul, which is immortal. Therefore, O venerable Benedict, your soul rejoices with the angels.

Kontakion - Tone 8

You were enriched by God's grace and sealed your calling with works. Pleasing to Christ God in pray'r and fasting, you have shown yourself filled

20
by the Spirit’s gifts, O Ben-e dict, cham-pion a- gainst the en-e mies,

heal-er of the sick and swift help for our souls.

The Commons of a Venerable are found on page 48.

15 The holy martyr Agapius and his companions. The holy martyrs Timolaus, Dionysius, Pausis, Romulus, Alexander, and another Alexander at Caesarea in Palestine, who were led with bound hands to Urbanus the prefect in the persecution of Diocletian the emperor and confessed that they were Christians. A few days later, with their companions Agapius and another Dionysius, they were beheaded and earned the crowns of eternal life. (303)

Troparion - Tone 4

Your ho-ly mar-tyrs, O Lord our God, in their strug-gles, received incor-

rup-ti-ble crowns from you. With your strength, they brought down the tyr-

ants and broke the cowardly val-or of de-mons. Through their prayers, O Christ our

God, save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 8

These sev-en martyrs endured much for the Trin-i-ty, and by grace they destroyed
By their spirit they have been joined to the holy ones. By their prayer, O Lord, be generous to us.

The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.

16 The holy martyrs Sabinus and Papas in Hermopolis in Egypt, martyrs, who suffered many things and finally died after being thrown into a river in the persecution of Diocletian. (287)

Troparion - Tone 4

Your holy martyrs, O Lord our God, in their struggles, received incorruptible crowns from you. With your strength, they brought down the tyrants and broke the cowardly valor of demons. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 2

O God-bearing Sabinus, strong sprout of heaven, divine flower and
fruit-ful branch, fill with joy those who vener-ate your mem-o-ry

and pray un-ceas-ing-ly for all of us.

The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.

17 Our venerable father Alexis, Man of God. Today we remember the man of God celebrated under the name of Alexius, at Rome in the church on the Aventine Hill, who, as tradition relates, left his rich home that he might become poor and beg alms incognito.(411)
The holy father Patrick, enlightener of Ireland. As a youth, he was brought as a captive from Britain to Ireland. Then, having received his freedom, he wished to be numbered among the clergy and returned to Ireland. Having been made a bishop, he zealously announced the Gospel to the people and steadfastly governed the Church, until he fell asleep in the Lord at the city of Down, in Ulster in Ireland. (461)

Troparion of Alexis - Tone 4

Rich in pov-er-ty and clean of heart by vir-tue, you ad-orned

your life by partak-ing in the Pas-sion. With a clean conscience you took up

fast-ing and per-se-vered in pray'r like an an-gel.

You glowed like the sun on the world, O most bless-ed A-lex-is.
Today, Armagh rejoices with Antrim and Mayo, and all Ireland praises the illustrious apostle Patrick. On all he met, he made a deep and lasting impression, for the grace of God overflowed his noble and tender nature. With Christ the Lord as his breast-plate and the Spirit's lamp in his hand, he went forth to make the Irish the children of the Font, baptizing them into Christ, the lover of us all.

Troparion of Patrick - Tone 1

Kontakion of Alexis - Tone 2

You made your parents' home that of a stranger, and you lived in its shelter as a beggar. When you passed from this life you were crowned in glory, and your reputation has become magnificent on earth.
Rejoice, O Alexis, man of God and joy of the angels.

Kontakion of Patrick - Tone 4

The evil one is ever on the watch to carry off entire nations as his booty, viciously plundering their spirits, and leading the minds of their peoples to error. For this, you wisely spurned the world as a passing dream prone to destruction, holy Patrick, and preferred to be a merchant of the pearl of great price. Thus you led the Irish nation to worship Christ our God and became the father of a multitude of sons and daughters in the Lord. Beg him now to save our souls!

The Commons of a Venerable are found on page 48.
The Commons of a Hierarch are found on page 47.
18 Our holy father Cyril, archbishop of Jerusalem. He suffered many injustices from the Arians for the sake of the faith and was frequently driven from his see. He set forth by his preaching and instruction to the faithful the orthodox doctrine, the Scriptures, and the sacred Mysteries. (386)

Troparion - Tone 4

Your life has shown you to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of gentleness, and a teacher of moderation. You acquired greatness through humility and wealth through poverty. O father and archbishop Cyril, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 1

You enlightened your people by your words which came from divine inspiration. You honored the indivisible nature of the Trinity which embraces three Persons. We rejoice that you are an advocate of
God, and we celebrate your all-holy memory.

The Commons of a Hierarch are found on page 47.

19 The holy martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria, in the catacomb of Thraso on the Via Salaria Nova, whom Pope St. Damasus praised. (c.253)

**Troparion - Tone 4**

Your holy martyrs, O Lord our God, in their struggles, received incorruptible crowns from you. With your strength, they brought down the tyrants and broke the cowardly valor of demons. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

**Kontakion - Tone 3**

In your desire for the perfect Good, you pursued whatever good you saw.

By your golden words, Chrysanthus, you led the glorious Daria to Christ.

She endured many torments and shamed the enemy. We ask both of
you to re-mem-ber us who keep your mem-o-ry.

The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.

20 Our venerable fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery, killed by Saracens in 796. The monks refused to flee from the Muslim invasion, saying “We have fled from the world into this wilderness for the love of Christ; it would be shame to us now to flee from the wilderness for fear of men. If we are killed here, we shall be killed through love of Christ, for whose sake we have come here to live.”

Troparion - Tone 4

God of our fa-Thers, you always deal with us in your kind-ness. Take not your mer-cy a-way from us; but through their pray'rs guide our life in peace.

Kontakion - Tone 4

Hav-ing tru-ly spurned world-y and pass-ing pleas-u res, you preferred the des-ert life, O bless-ed saints. By turn-ing aside from beau-ty and com-fort, you fash-ioned heav-en-ly crowns for your-selves. You re-joice in the company of martyrs and as-cet-ics, and we also keep your mem-o-ry as we sing:
De - liv - er us, O fa - thers, from all af - flic - tions.

The Commons of Venerable Martyrs are found on page 53.

21 Our venerable father and confessor James, bishop of Catania, who died in the Iconoclastic persecutions. (8th century)

Troparion - Tone 8

Guide to Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness,

lumi - nary for the world, inspired

a - dornment of bishops, O wise James, harp

of the Spirit, you enlightened all by your teachings;

intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 4

By mortifying your body, O blessed James, you abandoned the
world and followed Christ. You were given the anointing of the priest hood
and have been admitted to angelic choirs. Now pray to Christ our God
for all of us who bless you.

The Commons of a Confessor are found on page 56.

22 The holy martyr Basilides, priest of Ancyra in Galatia, priest and martyr. When Constantius held the office of emperor, Basilides most courageously opposed the Arians. Soon after, under the emperor Julian, he implored God that none of the Christians leave the faith. For this reason he was captured and handed over to the governor of the province. Having suffered many tortures, he consummated his martyrdom. (363)

Troparion - Tone 4

You shared in the apostles' way of life and succeeded to their throne,
divinely inspired bishop. You found access to contemplation
in the active life. Therefore, you rightly taught the word of truth
and struggled for the faith to the shedding of your blood. O priest-martyr
Kontakion - Tone 8

You ran the course and kept the faith, O Basilides, Because of this you were crowned with glory in martyrdom and hailed as an immovable pillar of the Church.

You confessed the Son to be coeternal in the Trinity with the Father and the Spirit.

Now beg the Holy Trinity to save all of us who honor you.

The Commons of a Priest-Martyr are found on page 51.

23 The holy venerable martyr Nicon and his students martyred with him fled the persecutions in Palestine to a refuge in Sicily, where they were put to death under the emperor Decius. (250)

Our holy mother Rafqa. Born in a small village in the mountains of Lebanon in 1832, she entered the Maronite Antonian order at the Monastery of Saint Simon. In 1885, she asked of the Lord Jesus that she might share in a special way in the sufferings of his crucifixion. She soon became blind and crippled, but continued to work and to pray, eating only leftovers and wearing cast-off clothing. In all of this, she remained humble, and was a profound mystic. (1914)

Our venerable father Methodius Dominic Trcka. Born in 1886 in Bohemia, he entered the Redemptorists in 1902 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1910. After World War I, he asked to work among the Greek Catholic faithful, and was sent to L’viv to work with Bl. Nicholas Charneckyj. In 1921, he was sent to Slovakia, and oversaw the foundation of a Greek Catholic community of Redemptorists in Michalovce. In 1945, a Greek-Catholic vice-province was set up in Michalovce, and Trcka was appointed superior. In 1950, the Communists arrested him, tried him, and condemned him to twelve years’ imprisonment. He was treated with great cruelty and died in prison. (1959)
Your holy martyrs, O Lord our God, in their struggles, received incorruptible crowns from you. With your strength, they brought down the tyrants and broke the cowardly valor of demons. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

By your holy life you assembled a choir from those who had lived humbly and had followed you before the throne of God on high. Your radiance spans the heavens like the very sun, and by the rays of your pains you disperse darkness and wash out deceit by the torrent of your blood.

The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.
24 Prefestive day of the Annunciation
Our venerable father Zachary. He was born in Egypt, and his father left his family to become a monk and took Zachary with him. God gave him great gifts of grace; he was a great light among the monks in the desert, and went to his peace in the Lord at an early age.
Our holy father Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia. Born and educated in Selucia, he encountered the Apostle Paul, who encouraged him and made him bishop of the city. Artemon guided the flock of Christ with love and zeal, and entered into rest at a great old age. (1st century)

Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4

Today is the prelude of joy for all the world and hymns are sung in anticipation. For, behold, Gabriel appears bringing good news to the Virgin and exclaims to her: Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

Kontakion - Tone 4

By the descent of the all-holy Spirit, at the sound of the Archangel’s voice,

O Theotokos, you conceived the One who shares the Father’s essence and his throne,
and is A-dam's res- to-ra-tion.

The Commons of a Venerable are found on page 48.

25 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER-VIRGIN
MARY when, in the city of Nazareth, the angel of the Lord announced to Mary,
"Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called the Son of the Most
High." Mary said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your
word." And thus the fullness of time was accomplished, and he who before time was the
only-begotten Son of God was made flesh for our sake and for our salvation, by the Holy
Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became human.

If the Annunciation falls on a Lenten weekday, the Divine Liturgy of Our Holy Father
John Chrysostom is celebrated with Vespers on March 25, in the evening.

First Sticheron – Tone 4 Samohlasen:

In the sixth month the Arch-an-gel was sent to a pure Vir-gin.

He greet-ed her: Re-joice! He an-nounced that the Redeemer would come forth
from her. She re ceived his greet-ing with faith and con-cieved you, the God from
be -fore all a-ges, for it was your inexpressible good pleasure to be -come man
for the sal -va - tion of our souls.

34
The Theotokos heard a voice she did not know. The Archangel spoke to her the words of good news. She received the greeting with faith and conceived you, the God from before all ages. Therefore, we also rejoice and cry out to you, O unapproachable God who were incarnate of her:

Grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Third Sticheron – Tone 4 Samohlasen:

Behold our restoration is now revealed. God beyond words is united with humanity. The error is erased by the Archangel’s voice, for the virgin receives the joy. What is earthly has become heaven;

the world is freed from the ancient curse. Let creation rejoice and give voice
to hymns: O Lord, our Creator and Redeemer, glory to you!

The Archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven to the Virgin to announce the good news of her conception. Coming to Nazareth he was amazed as he reflected on the mystery:

How can the One Who Is incomprehensible in the highest be born of a virgin? Heaven is his throne, the earth is his footstool, and in a woman's womb he is contained. The six-winged seraphim and the many-eyed cherubim cannot look upon him; yet, with a single word, he has been pleased to take on flesh. He remains the Word of God. Why do I stand still and
not say to the Maid - en: Re - joice, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you;

Re - joice, pure Vir - gin; re - joice, Un - wed - ded Bride; re - joice, Moth - er of Life;
bless - ed is the fruit of your womb.

Entrance Hymn - Tone 4 Troparion (Psalm 95:2):

Day af - ter day an-nounce the good news of our God's sal - va - tion.

Troparion - Tone 4:

To - day is the sum-mit of our sal - va - tion, and what was hidden from before all
a - ges is re-vealed: the Son of God be - comes a vir - gin's son, and Ga - bri - el
an-noun-ces the good news of grace. There - fore, let us exclaim with him to the

The - o - to - kos: Re - joice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

37
Kontakion - Tone 8

O The-o-to-kos, val-iant de-fend-er, your serv-ants offer you hymns of victory in thanksgiving, for you have de-liv-ered us. But since you have in-vincible power, free us from all per-il, that we may exclaim to you: Rejoice,

O Un-wed-ed Bride.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 95:2,1):

Day af-ter day an-nounce the good news of our God's sal-va-tion.

Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Alleluia - Tone 1 (Psalm 71:6,17):

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Verse: He will descend like rain on the meadows, like raindrops on the earth.

Verse: May his name be blessed forever, more enduring than the sun.
Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”

Magnification:

O earth, announce the good news, the good news of great joy. You heavens, sing the glory, the glory of God.

Irmos:

Tone 6 Irmos, simple setting

Let no uninitiated hand touch the living Ark of God; but let faithful lips, singing without ceasing the words of the angel to the Theotokos, cry aloud in great joy: Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

Or this melody:

Irmos:

Tone 4 samopodoben

Let no uninitiated hand touch the living Ark of God; but let faithful lips, singing without ceasing
the words of the angel to the The-o-to-kos, cry aloud in great joy:

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 131:13):

The Lord has chosen Zion; he prefers her for his dwelling.

Refrain

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

26 Postfesteve day of the Annunciation

Synaxis of Gabriel the Archangel, who brought the Good News to Mary, the chosen one, and to the priest Zachary, the father of the prophet and forerunner John.

All as on March 25, with the addition of:

Troparion of the Synaxis of Gabriel - Tone 4

Leaders of the heav- en-ly ar- mies, al- though we are unworthy, we al- ways be- seech you to for- ti- fy us by your pray'rs and to shel- ter us beneath the wings of your sublime glo- ry. Watch over us who bow to you and cry out
De - liv - er us from dan - ger, for you are the com - mand - ers of the pow - ers on high.

O com - mand - er of an - gels, min - ister of holy glory and messen-ger of God him - self,
you have come from the most radiant, almighty, all - mys - teri - ous, and ex - alt - ed Trin - i - ty. Pray that we might be delivered from trials and sor - rows so that we might sing: Re - joice, for you pro - tect your ser - vants.

27 Our venerable mother Matrona of Thessalonica in Macedonia, martyr. She was a handmaid of a certain Jewish woman. When she secretly worshipped Christ, she was caught by her mistress and struck with many blows. She was finally beaten to the point of death with cudgels. While confessing Christ, she returned her spirit incorrupt to God. (c.350)

Your lamb Ma - tro - na, O Jesus, cries out in a loud voice: I love you,
my Bridegroom; I seek you with painful longing; I am crucified with you;
in your baptism, I am buried with you; I suffer for you that I may reign with you;
and I die for you that I may live with you. Receive me
as a spotless sacrifice immolated with love for you. By her pray'rs, O merciful

You worked with honor for the Master and steadfastly refused
to dishonor him. You endured imprisonment and wounds
and even gave your life for him. O martyr Matrona,
so wise in God, now pray for those who honor your memory.

The Commons for a Venerable Woman are found on page 55.
God of our fathers, you always deal with us in your kindness. Take not your mercy away from us; but through their pray'rs guide our life in peace.

Hav'ing glowed like the sun, your memory gives joy to the faithful. It disperses the darkness and casts out passion. Shelter and guard us from all the trials of life. We honor your precious memory, O honorable Hilary and blessed Stephen.

The Commons of a Venerable are found on page 48.
God of our fathers, you always deal with us in your kindness. Take not your mercy away from us; but through their pray'rs guide our life in peace.

Hav'ing become a splendor of truth, you have illumined the very ends of the earth. For this reason we bless you, O bless-ed priests and mar-tyrs.

O ven-ra-ble John, we have found your god-ly deeds to be a divine ladder leading us to heav-en for you were a model of vir-tue.
Therefore, beg Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 8

John, our teacher and father, the Lord has raised you to the heights of self-control, to be a true guiding star enlightening the ends of the earth.

The Commons of a Venerable are found on page 48.

31 Our venerable father Hypatius, bishop of Gangra in Paphlagonia, bishop, who, pelted with stones by Novatianist heretics on a road, died a martyr. (326)

Troparion of Hypatius - Tone 8

In you, O father, the divine image was strictly preserved; taking up your cross, you followed Christ. You taught us by example how to spurn the flesh, for it passes away, and how to care for the soul, which is immortal. Therefore, O venerable
Hy - pa - tius, your soul re - joic - es with the an - gels.

Kontakion - Tone 1

You shine o - ver the earth, O holy father Hy - pa - tius, and you en-light-en those who come to you by mir-a-cles. Hav-ing poured out your blood, you be-came like Christ. Glo - ry to God who strength-ened you! Glo-ry to him who be-friend-ed you! Glo-ry to him who heals us through you!

The Commons of a Hierarch are found on page 47.
For a Hierarch (Bishop):

Prokeimenon - Tone 1 (Psalm 48:4,2):

Verse: My lips will speak words of wisdom; understanding will be the theme of my heart.

Alleluia - Tone 2 (Psalm 36:30,31):

Verse: The mouth of the just utters wisdom, and his tongue will pronounce judgment. The law of his God is in his heart; his steps shall be saved from stumbling.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

Verse: The just man will be remembered forever; evil news he will not fear; evil news he will not fear.
For a Venerable:

Prokeimenon - Tone 7 (Psalm 115:6,3):

Precious in the eyes, in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful, is the death of his faithful.

Verse: What can I return to the Lord for all he has given me?

Alleluia - Tone 6 (Psalm 111:1,2):

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
Verse: His posterity will be mighty upon the earth.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

The just man will be remembered forever; evil news he will not fear, evil news he will not fear. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
For a Martyr:

Prokeimenon - Tone 7 (Psalm 63:11,2)

Verse: Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to you.

Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 91:13,14):

Verse: The just man will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

Verse: Planted in the house of the Lord, he will flourish in the courts of our God.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

Verse: The just man will be remembered forever; evil news he will not fear, evil news he will not fear. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Al-le-lu-ia!
To all the saints in his land, the Lord has shown all the wonders of his will.

Verse: I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 33:18,20):

Verse: The just cried out and the Lord heard them, and rescued them from all their distress.
Verse: Many are the trials of the just, but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):

To all the saints in his land, the Lord has shown all the wonders of his will.

Verse: I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 33:18,20):

Verse: The just cried out and the Lord heard them, and rescued them from all their distress.
Verse: Many are the trials of the just, but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):
For a Priest-Martyr:

Prokeimenon - Tone 7 (Psalm 149:5,1):

Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song of praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Alleluia - Tone 2 (Psalm 131:9,13):

Verse: Your priests will be clothed with righteousness and your saints will rejoice.
Verse: The Lord has chosen Zion; he prefers her for his dwelling.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
For Several Priest-Martyrs:

**Prokeimenon - Tone 7** (Psalm 115:6,3):

Verse: Precious in the eyes, in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful, is the death of his faithful.

**Alleluia - Tone 2** (Psalm 131:9,13):

Verse: What can I return to the Lord for all he has given me?

Verse: Your priests will be clothed with righteousness and your saints will rejoice.

Verse: The Lord has chosen Zion; he prefers her for his dwelling.

**Communion Hymn** (Psalm 32:1):

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous ones; praise from the upright, the upright is fitting. Alleluia! Alleluia!
For Several Venerable Martyrs:

Prokeimenon - Tone 8 (Psalm 149:5,1):

Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song of praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Alleluia - Tone 6 (Psalm 111:1,2):

Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
Verse: His posterity will be mighty upon the earth.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):
For a Woman-Martyr:

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 67:36,27):

Verse: In the churches bless God; from Israel’s wellsprings bless the Lord.

Alleluia - Tone 1 (Psalm 39:2,3):

Verse: I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
Verse: He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the filthy clay.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, rejoice, you righteous ones; praise from the upright, the upright is fitting. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
For a Venerable Woman:

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 67:36,27):

Verse: In the churches bless God; from Israel’s wellsprings bless the Lord.

Alleluia - Tone 1 (Psalm 39:2,3):

Verse: I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
Verse: He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the filthy clay.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

Refrain
For a Confessor:

Prokeimenon - Tone 7 (Psalm 149:5,1):

Let the faithful rejoice in glory, rejoice in glory, shout for joy, and take their rest.

Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song of praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Alleluia - Tone 6 (Psalm 111:1,2):

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
Verse: His posterity will be mighty upon the earth.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):

Re-joice in the Lord, you right-eous ones; praise from the up-right is fit-ting.

praise from the up-right is fit-ting. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!