

St Seraphim of Sarov, Humble before men, and Bold before God

Jan 2, 2013

Selections for the Matins Canon

On my namesday I read the Akathist and canon (from matins) to St Seraphim. I am struck by the canon, in that it continually, in a very intimate way, begs the saint to pray for us. We should have such intimacy before our patron, and expectation too! We should attend the vigil for our patron with thanksgiving and also with expectation that we will be helped, because the effective and fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Here is an idea! Come to church with expectation! Do not come out of some sense of duty, or because coming once in a while calms you down, but because you are a poor one in need, and God will willingly give of His riches to you, if you only ask! He also hears the prayers of his righteous one, if we only ask!

Here are some examples from the canon, of fervent and forthright petitions to Saint Seraphim, my heavenly patron.

O Lord, open mine unworthy lips and grant me an utterance of knowledge, that I may worthily hymn the memory of the blessed Seraphim, **who with the angels doth now pray to Thee** to deliver us from every grievous circumstance.

Thou wast a great intercessor before the Theotokos, O venerable one, and wast vouchsafed to behold her with the apostles. And now, **cease not to visit thy children with thy prayers.**

St Seraphim of Sarov (2 Jan & 19 Jul) Matins Canon1 , Ode 1

Standing before God and the holy angels in thy prayer, O venerable one, **pray thou for the whole world**, that the assaults of the enemy be overcome and that Orthodox Christians be granted victory over their adversaries.

St Seraphim of Sarov (2 Jan & 19 Jul) Matins Canon1 , Ode 3

By thy prayer, entreat God for us, O venerable Seraphim, and drive away the sinful darkness of our grief. Adorn with dispassion, faith and love all that honor thy glorious memory!

St Seraphim of Sarov (2 Jan & 19 Jul) Matins Canon1 , Ode 5

Offer up thy prayers, O venerable one, as an acceptable and unblemished sacrifice unto the all-holy Trinity, and forget not us who now keep thy memory. Beg mercy for them that hate, wrong and are angered against us, and deliver from every sorrow.

St Seraphim of Sarov (2 Jan & 19 Jul) Matins Canon2 , Ode 5

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