



**Our Father Among the Saints Tikhon the Confessor
Patriarch of Moscow
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on March 24.**

*Since the 25th is the Feast of the Annunciation,
The hymns for saint Tikhon are transferred to today.*

Born in 1865 in the region of Pskov, our Father Among the Saints Tikhon was tonsured a monk in 1891 and ordained to the priesthood in the same year. In 1897 he was consecrated Bishop of Lubin, and a year later appointed Bishop of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, with his see extending to all of North America from 1900 onwards. He did much to unite the Orthodox Christians of a great many ethnic backgrounds in North America, so that there was indeed one flock under one shepherd. In 1907 he was made Archbishop of Yaroslavl and Rostov, and in 1913, Archbishop of Lithuania.

In 1917, when he was Metropolitan of Moscow, he was elected to be the first Patriarch of Russia in over 200 years, in times that could not have been more difficult. After the Revolution of 1917, the persecution of the Russian Church by the atheist government grew more bold and more fierce with every year. By nature a meek and peace-loving man, Tikhon sought to determine, while giving only to God that which is God's, what could be given to Caesar to preserve peace and avoid the shedding of blood. When, however, it became evident that the atheists were intent on the complete destruction of the Church, the Patriarch gave his blessing to Michael Zhizhilenko, a physician of devout life and

courageous spirit, secretly to become a monk and, if any of Tikhon's successors were to betray the Church into the hands of her enemies, to become a bishop; which, after Saint Tikhon's death on the Feast of the Annunciation in 1925, he did. Having received the monastic name of Maximus, he was made bishop of Serpukhov, becoming the first catacomb bishop of the Russian Church after the infamous declaration of Metropolitan Sergius in 1927, which proclaimed the Church to be of one mind and heart with the atheist government. Although the exact circumstances of Saint Tikhon's death are not clear, in the opinion of Bishop Maximus of Serpukhov, who himself died a martyr's death in 1930, he was "unquestionably poisoned." At his departure, Saint Tikhon made the sign of the Cross thrice, pronouncing the words, "Glory be to Thee, O God!" Because of the many unspeakable sufferings he endured as Patriarch, he is honoured as a Confessor.

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*For Lord, I have cried, we chant the following Stichera:
Plagal of Fourth Tone. O Lord, though Thou didst stand*

LORD, when the ship of the divine Church was troubled * in sudden darkness and raging storms, * Thou gavest her Tikhon as helmsman to steer her bravely and skillfully * unto the havens above where all is in bright tranquility, where he now earnestly intercedeth * that we also may be brought to moor.

LORD, since thou sawest Moses' meekness in Tikhon, * the Rod of God gavest Thou to him * to lead Thy much-suffering people * through that Red sea of ungodliness; and as is meet, he became * the namesake of Thy faithful Church, which scorned the flesh-pots and fear of Pharaoh * and went boldly to the promised land.

LORD, Who hast joined Thy sacred Martyr's remembrance * unto the v'en'erable festival * of Thy dread and wondrous conception * from our pure Lady in holiness, * receive the pleadings and prayers * brought unto Thee in our behalf * by thy brave Martyr and Virgin Mother, * and deliver us from every harm.

*Dismissal Hymn of the Hierarch. Plagal of First Tone
Let us worship the Word*

TO the new world sent forth as a shepherd of the flock, * thou wast called back to the old, to take up the Cross as a staff * and from wolves and faithless shepherds to defend the Church; * and after thee, the sheep of Christ * knew no shepherd to be true who kept not thy good confession, * wherein, O Tikhon, preserve us unharmed throughout our earthly pilgrimage.

*Kontakion of the Hierarch. Fourth Tone
On this day thou hast appeared*

THE most holy Patriarch, * ven'erable Tikhon, * the Confessor of the Faith, * hath gained from Christ the crown of life; * for he did labour with godly zeal * and strove till death in defense of the Church of Christ.



In accordance with the tradition of a regional Church entering articles of particular importance to it..., the Synod of Russian Bishops Abroad formulated additional anathemas pronounced each year on Orthodoxy Sunday. The first of these, an anathema against the Bolsheviks, is based on the Epistle of Patriarch Tikhon of January 19, February 1, 1918, which Epistle was confirmed by the Great Pan-Russian Church Council of January 28/February 10, 1918:

To the persecutors of the Church of Christ, the impious apostates who have lifted up their hands against the anointed of God, who slay the sacred ministers, who trample holy things underfoot, who destroy the temples of God, who subject our brethren to inquisition and have defiled our homeland,

Anathema. (3)





† THE MOTHER OF GOD ENTHRONED
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