



**Saint Philaret, Metropolitan of New York, the New Confessor
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on October 28.**

Saint Philaret, born George Nicholaevich Voznesensky, was born in Kursk, Russia on March 22, 1903. His mother, Lydia Vasilievna, reposed when he was eighteen, and his father subsequently became a monk receiving the name Dimitry, was consecrated a bishop, and then was repatriated (from Manchuria) to the U.S.S.R., where he died in 1947.

Elevated to the rank of Archimandrite, and refusing Soviet citizenship, Archimandrite Philaret became acquainted with an issue of the Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate in which Lenin's name appeared in a list of the foremost benefactors of the human race. He expressed his indignation in a sermon which became widely known. His fearless denunciation of the godless Communists incited their determined rage, and they decided to burn Archimandrite Philaret alive, setting fire to his cell. But the Lord preserved His chosen one: although badly burned, he escaped from the fiery trap alive.

He protected his flock in every way possible, and, as he himself put it, “never defiled [his] lips or his prayer with prayer for the servants of Antichrist;” that is, he never commorated the Clergy of the Moscow Patriarchate in the services of the Church nor did he concelebrate with them.

Saint Philaret left Harbin in Manchuria for Brisbane, Australia in 1962. At the Council of Bishops in 1964, at which Metropolitan Anastassy retired, the new Bishop Philaret was elected First Hierarch, holding that position for twenty one years.

As first Hierarch, he was instrumental in the glorification of the following Saints: Ss. John of Kronstadt, Herman of Alaska, Xenia of Petersburg, Paisii Velichkovsky, the Royal Martyrs and all the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia.

As a faithful shepherd of the flock of Christ, he denounced the growing apostasy when, in 1969, he wrote an Open Letter to Archbishop Iakovos, pointing out the canonical violations involved in the Archbishop’s joint prayers with the heterodox. The Saint also wrote several Sorrowful Epistles to the Orthodox Hierarchy all over the world concerning concelebrations of the Church’s Mysteries with apostates and avowed atheists. Not one response did he receive from his fellow Hierarchs concerning these warnings about the clear and present danger of apostasy facing the Church of Christ.

On Sunday, October 14/27, 1983, the Feast of Saint Gregory Palamas, the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia issued the Anathema Against Ecumenism. This Anathema carries the signature of each of the Bishops in the Holy Synod.

The Holy Synod ordered that this Anathema be included in the *Synodicon of Orthodoxy* which is read each year on the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

On November 8/21, 1985, Saint Philaret reposed. His relics were temporarily buried in the sepulchre below the Dormition Church in the Cemetery of the Holy Trinity Monastery at Jordanville, New York.

Prior to the transfer of the Saint’s relics, on November 4/17, 1998, his coffin was opened. The wooden coffin was corrupted. The Saint’s body had dried but was incorrupt; the skin had taken on a bronze color. The vestments and the Gospel Book, including all its pages, were, except for the metal hinges on the book, which were corroded, completely preserved even though they had lain thirteen years in a very damp basement crypt. Later, the Saint was carried into the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity in a new coffin that was covered with the Saint’s original blue mantia which itself was incorrupt. After the Liturgy on November 8/21, 1998 the Saint was lowered into a new, deeper grave that had been excavated to a depth of nine feet in the northwestern crypt located under

the Cathedral's altar. The grave was not filled, instead, only a small amount of soil was poured on top of the coffin.

The coffin was closed; the faithful were not allowed to venerate the relics of the Saint. It was said that the coffin was not open at that time because the people had, thirteen years ago, already paid their respects at the Saint's funeral, and it would take some time to gather evidence of his miracles.

In 2009, eleven years after the transfer of his relics, it now appears that no plans have been made for the veneration of Saint Philaret's relics.

On Sunday, May 7/20, 2001 at the Church of the Holy Resurrection, Worcester, Massachusetts, the Holy Synod of the Holy Orthodox Church of North America glorified our Father among the Saints, Philaret, Metropolitan of New York, the New Confessor. Thus, St. Philaret's singular witness to 'the one faith,' 'once delivered to the Saints' (Eph. 4:5; Jude 3) has been enshrined in the Church.

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

NOW the God-bearing Fathers, the very mind of Christ, * have clearly spoken anew in the God-inspired Philaret, * who, though living in the world was never of the world; * like David, meek and once unknown, * he was raised up by the Lord to shepherd His holy people.* Now crowned on high with the Fathers, he intercedeth that our souls be saved.

*Kontakion. Fourth Tone
On this day Thou hast appeared*

NAMED for him renowned for alms * and boundless mercy, * thou didst show an equal love * in thy confession of the Faith, * rightly dividing the word of truth, * working salvation for many, O Philaret.

Megalynarion

ALL the life and doctrine of Holy Church, * all her fasts and feast-days, * her confession of saving truth, * her heroic spirit * of sacrifice and struggle, * hast thou declared for all time, * God-bearing Philaret.

Text and Hymns: © 2001, 2002 Holy Transfiguration Monastery Boston, Massachusetts 02445

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Saint Philaret the New Confessor
Metropolitan of New York

SELECTED HYMNS
FROM
THE MENAION
VESPERS

For Lord, I have cried, we allow for six verses and chant the following Stichera:

Fourth Tone. As one valiant

COME, ye sheep of the flock of Christ, * let us honour with songs of joy * righteous Philaret, our good shepherd in the Lord, * who in a dark and deceitful day hath shone with the light of truth, * guiding all with ears to hear * to the pastures of right faith * and the fold on high, where he now hath his dwelling with the Saints and hath been crowned by the Chief Shepherd * for all his struggles for piety.

TO the foes of the Orthodox, * to false brethren and worldly minds, * thy divine pronouncements were rocks of all offence, * but to the faithful, as bound'ry stones that showed where the Fathers stand * marking off the Church of Christ * from the trackless and treacherous wastes of heresy. * And the full incorruption of thy body is the seal and sign from Heaven * that thy confession was incorrupt.

SHINING forth in America * as a lamp on a lofty stand, * thou didst make the whole world resplendent with thy rays, * consoling those in freedom and those hidden from godless foes, * as the conscience of the Church * and the champion of the Faith, * joining truth and love, * who with love didst declare eternal truth and didst courageously defend it * with patience, meekness, and godliness.

NOT a singular heresy, * not one of error of mind alone, * but the whole assembly of heresies conjoined * didst thou take up arms to fight against, like Samson the Philistines, * which with single-handed might * thou didst valiantly overcome, Father Philaret. * Now not one crown adorneth thee, but Christ hath made thee glorious with many * as the reward of thy many toils.

For the Aposticha, the following Stichera:

First Tone. O all-lauded Martyrs

PREFERRING the exile here on earth * to estrangement from the Kingdom of the Heavens, thou didst freely endure the bitter yoke * of thy lengthy sojourn * in a far and foreign land, * esteeming thy brethren not flesh and blood, but them that held the Faith * of the Cath'lic, Apostolic Church, * whose confession thou didst keep intact and pure.

Verse: My mouth shall speak wisdom and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

REFUTING that foulest lie of all, * that the Lord hath not revealed the truth with all perfect clarity to all the race of man * through His Incarnation * and His Apostolic Church, * O blessed Philaret, with epistles, sermons, and with thy whole life * thou didst show that God hath not concealed * saving knowledge * of Himself at any time.

Verse: Thy priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with righteousness and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

THE grave hath not swallowed up thy voice, * nor hath death obscured the light of thy confession, which even now uniteth into one * men of many nations in one Orthodox belief, * who now being assembled to honour thee cry out with faith and love: * O God-bearing Father Philaret, * our good shepherd, keep us in the grace of God.

Glory. *Plagal of Fourth Tone*

WE GIVE THEE THANKS, O All-holy Trinity, Who hast raised up the holy hierarch Philaret as a Father of Fathers to contend against the heresy of heresies, adorning him with the spirit of prayer and meekness to convict the haughty of mind. Maximus the Confessor rejoiceth in him who withstood the unworthy successors of the ancient Patriarchates, and Mark of Ephesus embraceth the new singled-handed contender for the Faith; and we who have been made manifest in the truth by him cry out: O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Both now. *Theotokion*

THE KING OF THE HEAVENS, out of love for man, hath appeared on earth and lived among men. For He that hath taken flesh of the pure Virgin, and come forth from her with what He hath received, is one Son, twofold in nature but not in hypostasis. Wherefore, proclaiming Him as truly perfect God and

perfect man, Christ our God. Do thou beseech Him, O Mother who knewest not wedlock, to have mercy on our souls.

MATINS

For the Sessional Hymn after the Third Ode:

First Tone. The soldiers standing guard

UNWEARING in toils for thy Saviour, * and sounding forth the truth in thy love for thy neighbour, * thou didst brightly blaze the Faith once delivered unto the Saints, * as a man of prayer and an undaunted confessor, * bowing Heaven down to earth with fervent entreaty, * O God-bearing Philaret.

Kontakion. Fourth Tone

On this day Thou hast appeared

NAMED for him renowned for alms * and boundless mercy, * thou didst show an equal love * in thy confession of the Faith, * rightly dividing the word of truth, * working salvation for many, O Philaret.

Exapostilarion. Second Tone. Hearken, ye women

THE CHRISTIANS of the Catacombs, * and those abroad at liberty, * both looked to thee as their shepherd, * trusting thy spotless confession; for thou withstoodest equally * the heresy of heresies * and godless wolves in shepherd's clothes, * as a contender for truth's sake, * O Philaret, boast of hierarchs.

Theotokion

HER that excelleth the Cherubim * and Seraphim in holiness * hast thou defended with fervour * as God's immaculate Mother: * as thou dost stand with her on high * with all the Saints in majesty, * O Holy Hierarch Philaret, * remember us who extol thee * with faith and longing, O Father.



Are you aware of this URL: <http://www.monasterypress.com/mphilaret.html> ?
Please follow it down to the link entitled "his blessed repose." That will take you to the color photographs (which can be enlarged) of Saint Philaret's incorrupt relics.



† THE HOLY ORTHODOX CHURCH
† THE SOLE ARK OF SALVATION