

The 9th Day of November

**The Holy Martyrs Onesíphorus and Porphyrius of Ephesus; and
our Venerable Mother Matrona of Constantinople.**

**Also, the Commemoration of our Venerable Mother Theoctista of
Lesbos, whose service we sing at Compline.**

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera:

3 stichera of the Martyrs, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “O most glorious wonder....”*

O greatly suffering martyr, /
Blessed Onesíphorus, /
Thou didst bear torments for confessing Christ God. /
First, enduring wounds made by the lawless in the court /
Then being condemned to the flames; /
Through this, earning thy crown of victory ///
Given thee by the hand of the Creator, O all-praised one.

O greatly suffering martyr Porphyrius! /
Thy blood hast colored thy robes in the purple of porphyry. /
Being thus arrayed in splendid apparel, O glorious one, /
Thou dost reign together with our One True God /
By the grace and power of the Spirit. ///
Beseech Him now that we all may be saved.

O most glorious martyrs ! /
You were slain in a sacred manner for the Life of all — /
Rejoicing, you were stretched out on a searing grill /
And dragged by horses around the arena. /
Thus, you achieved a blessed end /
And are rightly glorified. ///
O ever-blessèd ones, ceaselessly pray for us all.

**And 3 stichera of the Venerable Matrona, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one
valiant among the martyrs....”***

Thou didst quell the longings of thy flesh, O Matrona, /
Through thy pious and heroic abstinence. /
Thou didst follow in the steps of Christ /
Coming to live with thy fellow ascetics /
Quenching the flames of passion with showers of thy divine tears ///
Kindling in their place a most fervent desire for the Creator.

Becoming thyself a temple of the Spirit /
Thou didst erect for the pleasure of God, /
A sacred habitation in the souls of thy many disciples, /
Leading them to the benefits of fasting by example of thy spiritual purity, /
And bringing them saved, as a dowry, to the Master; ///
So, together with them, O Matrona, we faithfully honor thee.

Thy maiden disciples /
Loved the Bridegroom and Lord, /
And submitting to His teachings /
In spirit, they learned to disregard the weakness of the flesh /
And diligently, they learned to restrain the passions. /
So, together with thee, O Matrona, ///
They have entered, rejoicing, into the heavenly bridal chamber.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone,

O all-pure Lady /
Who contained the infinite God in thy womb, /
Who, in His love for mankind became man of thee /
Thus, deifying our nature which He received from thee, /
Despise me not, for I am in sorrow: /
But do thou quickly take pity on me ///
And deliver me from the many assaults of the enemy.

Or the Stavrotheotokion:

Seeing Thee nailed to the Cross, O Lord, /
The ewe-lamb, Thy Mother, cried out in amazement: /
‘What is this sight, O Most-desired Son? /
What has the ungrateful assembly done to Thee /
Having once delighted themselves in Thy many miracles? ///
But I glorify Thy ineffable condescension, O Master!’

Or Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection service.

The General Troparion of the Martyrs, in Tone 4:

Thy martyrs Onesíphorus and Porphyrius, O Lord, /
Through their sufferings received their incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God /
For having Thy strength, they laid low their enemies /
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///
Through their intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

MARTYRS ONESIPHORUS AND PORPHYRIOS;
VENERABLE MOTHER MATRONA; AND VENERABLE MOTHER THEOCTISTA.

Glory..., the Troparion of the Venerable Matrona, in Tone 8:

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, /
For thou didst take up thy cross and follow Christ /
By so doing thou didst teach us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away /
But to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal ///
Therefore, thy spirit, O venerable Matrona, rejoices with the angels.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, or Stavrotheotokion.

At Compline
The Canon of the Venerable Theoctista, in Tone 6

Ode 1

Irmos: When Israel passed on foot over the deep as if it were dry land, and beheld their pursuer Pharaoh drowning in the sea, they cried aloud: Let us sing to God a song of victory!

Refrain: Venerable Mother Theoctista, pray to God for us!

The manner of thy life was truly wondrous, O mother, and the immaterial angels were amazed as they beheld the new and extraordinary character of thy ascetic life.

From the days of thy childhood, thou didst spurn all worldly food and pleasure, loving to keep the fast, by which thou didst constrain all the impulses of thy body.

The Sower of the good seed found good soil in the childlike innocence of thy soul, and He planted there the seed of life, and as a harvest, gathered fruit a hundredfold.

Theotokion: **L**oving thee, O pure Lady Theotokos and mediatrix of the faithful, with all her soul, Theoctistia, while still a child, became a beautiful receptacle of all the virtues.

Ode 3

Irmos: There is none as holy as Thou, O Lord my God, who hast exalted the power of Thy faithful, O Blessèd One, and hast established us upon the rock of thy confession.

Living a life well-pleasing to God, thy holiness became known to the evil one and he sent countless evils upon thee and assailed thy native land of Lesbos with an army of Saracens.

Escaping like a bird out of the snare of thine enemies on the island of Paros, thou didst take thy monastic tonsure there and served as the custodian of the temple of the Ever-virgin Mother of God.

Theotokion: **P**lacing all her hope in thee, O Virgin Mother and Maiden, Theoctistia acquired thee as her nourisher and protector, and a mighty aid amid travails.

Ode 4

Irmos: Christ is my strength, my God and my Lord, the sacred Church sings in a manner befitting God, with a pure mind, keeping festival unto the Lord.

Secretly departing to the inner islands, thou didst escape thy visible enemies again, but the invisible enemy launched a more intense attack against thee.

Who can recount all the battles in which thou didst engage the prince of darkness, whose arrows were like fire and whose words were full of lies?

O, the divine grace which preserved thee! How, alone, and young in years, thou didst put to shame the evil hordes of the enemy and vanquished them by thy resolute feminine nature!

Theotokion: Our mother among the saints, Theoctistia, living in her young body had a most perfect understanding, and set all her hope in Thy Mother, O God, and reached an honorable and goodly age.

Ode 5

Irmos: With Thy divine light, O Good One, illumine, I ask Thee, the souls of those who in love keep vigil that they may know Thee, O Word of God as the true God Who recalls them from the darkness of sin.

Elevating thy mind to God, thou didst overcome all the needs of the body and all the cravings of desire, and neither hunger nor thirst, neither the cold nor the scorching heat of day, were able to detract or vanquish thee, O glorious one.

Beholding the holy manner of life, the enemy raged against thee and filled with hatred, he assailed and tempted thee with all manner of snares; yet he could not trip thee, O innocent Theoctista.

Treating the temptations of the evil one with contempt as though they were the arrows of children, thou didst finish thine ascetic race and put to shame his vain arrogance and pride.

Theotokion: As thou art blessed among all women, O Lady Theotokos, God set thee apart for Himself, and placed invincible power within thee, by which thou dost destroy the power of all those who oppress us.

Ode 6

Irmos: Beholding the sea of life surging high with the storm of temptations, I have fled to Thy tranquil haven and cry out unto Thee: Raise up my life from corruption, O greatly Merciful One!

Living in extreme poverty, thou didst ascend to the heights, and though still living here on earth in the flesh, thou didst live the life of a bodiless angels, beholding the desired and unseen things of heaven.

MARTYRS ONESIPHORUS AND PORPHYRIOS;
VENERABLE MOTHER MATRONA; AND VENERABLE MOTHER THEOCTISTA.

Through the Holy Spirit didst thou foresee the approaching time of thine end, and by the good pleasure of God, a huntsman came upon thee, who, as a witness, was able to relay to all the awesome and inspiring manner of thy life.

When the huntsman saw thee in the church, possessing an appearance transcending that of flesh and blood, O venerable one, he marveled aloud saying that he had beheld a phantom, for so great was the change that was wrought in thee.

Theotokion: **O** most pure Lady Theotokos, reject me not who am full of foul impurities and transgressions, but be merciful to me, and accept me as I bring to thee the supplications and the entreaties of thy servant, Theoctista.

Sessional Hymn to Ven. Theoctista, in Tone 1: To the melody: “Thy Tomb, O Savior...”

Dedicated to God from thy childhood /
As a shrine fit for the Creator, /
Thou didst take up His easy yoke with the earnest zeal of youth, /
And didst not take part in the turmoil of the world, /
Preserving all thy senses clean and blameless. /
Therefore, like one of the bodiless angels ///
Thou didst live a wondrous life on earth, O Theoctista.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)

O pure Lady, Virgin Theotokos, /
Intercessor and protector of the faithful, /
Deliver from calamity and sorrow, /
And from violence those who put their trust in thee, ///
And through thy supplications save our souls.

Or this Stavrotheotokion:

As she beheld her Lamb and Shepherd dead upon the Tree, /
The unblemished Ewe-lamb, cried aloud with a mother's sorrow: /
How can I endure Thy voluntary suffering, O my Son, /
And Thy surpassing condescension, O Most-gracious God?

Ode 7

Irmos: An angel made the furnace moist with dew for the godly children and the command of God consuming the Chaldeans made the tyrant cry out: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Quickly didst thou assuage the fear of the huntsman who had witnessed thy

transformation, O pure Theoctista, and explained to him that this was done in accordance with the providence of God, and together with him thou didst render thanksgiving and glory to God.

Having fasted in solitude for thirty-six years unable even to commune of the Savior's Holy Body and Blood, thou didst ask the huntsman who happened upon thee to reverently bring thee a portion the Holy Gifts.

Having returned bearing that which thou didst desire, with utmost reverence he placed it in thy hand; and receiving it, thou didst say unto God in gladness: "Now mercifully let me, Thy servant, depart, according to Thy word!"

Theotokion: **O** all-praised Lady, thou wast well-pleased to welcome thy servant into heaven, the place of ineffable goodness. By her supplications make us also partakers of the incorruptible blessings, O most pure Lady.

Ode 8

Irmos: *Out of the flames Thou didst drop dew on the godly ones, and with water didst kindle the sacrifice of the righteous one, for Thou doest all things as Thou wilt, O Christ; we exalt thee throughout all ages!*

Having partaken of the awesome Mysteries with faith, as thou didst desire, O venerable mother, thou didst leave dust unto dust, and with honor, the angels bore thy precious spirit to the Lord.

The faithful huntsman approached thee again to receive a final blessing from thee and found thee lying dead in thy mortal nature; and marveling, he reflected on the same fate that awaited him.

He, who was not always inclined to do good things, buried thee, but pondering in his thoughts, he boldly severed thy precious hand and took it as a relic, devoutly promising to honor thy holy memory, O blessed one.

Theotokion: **P**ossessing no other merits, I honor thy holy virtues, O blessed Lady; and I entreat thee as thou art merciful, have pity on me, and through thy supplications deliver me from my wicked ways.

Ode 9

Irmos: *It is not possible for men to see God upon whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze, but through thee, O All-pure One, was the Word incarnate revealed unto men, whom magnifying together with the heavenly hosts, we call thee blessed!*

Thou, O venerable Theoctista, prevented the ship carrying him who took thy hand from entering the harbor at Paros until he came to understand, and returned it, reuniting it with the rest of thy precious body.

When the dispossessed and the homeless came to know of the power of thy

MARTYRS ONESIPHORUS AND PORPHYRIOS;
VENERABLE MOTHER MATRONA; AND VENERABLE MOTHER THEOCTISTA.

miracles, O Theoctista, they hastened to venerate and embrace thy relics; yet they found that they had vanished, in a way known only to God.

Having suffered great pain and sorrow for the sake of Christ, O venerable one, thou dost now possess great boldness to entreat Him, and we pray thee to be mindful of those who honor thy divine memory, that we may receive the cleansing of our sins and the correction of our life.

Theotokion: In His desire to save mankind, the Lord chose thee to be His own Mother thus making thee to be the cause of every good thing for the faithful, but by our iniquities, we have embittered Him, O merciful Lady, and so we hope to obtain mercy through thee.

3 stichera of the Venerable Theoctista, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”*

Desiring to receive eternal blessings, /
Thou didst consider passing pleasures as a source of wickedness, /
And food the cause of all the passions. ///
And as a child thou didst join thyself to the ranks of monastics, O pure one.

Knowing the wiles of unclean spirits, /
Thou didst valiantly oppose them, /
Uprooting the desires of the passions /
And laying hold of the children of evil, as David says, ///
Thou didst dash them against the stone which is Christ the Lord.

Escaping the hands of the soldiers by the intervention of God, /
Thou didst go into the wilderness in search of Christ, /
And passing over the sea of the passions of this life /
Thou didst come to the desired haven of the Most High, ///
Whom thou dost now behold.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone: *(and melody)*

Rejoice, O rich and fertile mountain!
Rejoice, O holy throne of God!
Rejoice, O divine dominion and Queen!
Rejoice, O bush unburnt by fire!
Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos!
Rejoice, O bridal-chamber of Christ! /
Rejoice, O ladder by which we ascend to heaven /

Rejoice, O holy temple of God! /
Rejoice, O jar of manna and holy vessel ///
Rejoice, O Theotokos, thou joy of the world!

Or this Stavrotheotokion:

When she beheld the Lamb lifted up upon the Cross, /
The most pure Virgin cried out lamenting: /
O my Sweet Child /
What is this new and all-glorious wonder? /
How is it that Thou Who holdest all things in the hollow of Thy hand, ///
Art nailed to the Tree in the flesh?

Matins

One Canon from the Octoechos, and two Canons of the Saints

The Canon

Ode 1

The Canon of the Holy Martyrs, in Tone 4,

*having the Acrostic: "Thou dost reward with benefits those who praise thee,"
the composition of Joseph.*

*Irmos: I raise a hymn of praise to Thee, O Lord my God, for Thou didst lead Thy people forth
from the bondage of Egypt and didst drown the chariots of Pharaoh and all his host.*

Refrain: Holy martyrs, pray to God for us!

The festive day celebrating thine honorable memorial hath dawned, O blessed Onesiphorus, bringing divine gifts to all who praise thee, and so we entreat thee to remember us all!

Boldly thou didst scorn the tyrant's mindless command, and, rejoicing, thou didst go to thy suffering, O divinely inspired one.

Strengthened by the powers of heaven, O Onesiphorus, thou didst hasten toward thy cruel torments, thus overcoming all the strength of the enemy.

Theotokion: Having given birth to Life immortal Christ, our Creator and Redeemer, O Virgin who knewest not wedlock, thou didst abolish the tyranny of death.

The Canon of the Venerable Matrona, in Tone 8,

*having the Acrostic: "Rightly do I praise the glorious Matrona,"
also, the composition of Joseph.*

*Irmos: Let us sing a song of victory unto the Lord who drowned all the power of Pharaoh in the
sea, for gloriously hath He been glorified!*

MARTYRS ONESIPHORUS AND PORPHYRIOS;
VENERABLE MOTHER MATRONA; AND VENERABLE MOTHER THEOCTISTA.

Refrain: Venerable Mother Matrona, pray to God for us!

As thou art surrounded by the company of the angels and art deified by communion with God, by thy prayers save those who honor thee.

Aflame with divine desire, thou didst extinguish the burning of soul-destroying pleasures with the blessed shower of abstinence.

Glory...

Thou wast truly an honored vessel of the Master, having cleansed thy heart of carnal passions through fasting, O venerable Matrona.

Now and ever...

Theotokion: **O** divinely joyous Lady, entreat Him who was pleased to be ineffably born of thee, that He may bring peace to the world and salvation to our souls.

Ode 3
The Canon of the Martyrs

Irmos: *The bow of the mighty is become weak and the weak have girded themselves with power; therefore, my heart is established in the Lord.*

Confessing the Word to be equal with the Father and the Spirit, Thy martyrs courageously withstood the terrible waves of torments in the arena.

Having set thy feet firmly upon the rock of confession and faith, O martyr Onesiphorus, thou didst withstand the ferocious storm of pain that assailed thee.

Striving with all thy mind towards thy desire, Christ, O blessed martyr, thou didst ignore the agony of thy torture, O all-blessed one.

Theotokion: **L**ook down upon me and save me, O most pure Lady, for, in a manner beyond all telling, thou hast given flesh to God the Word, who doth order all things by His divine command.

The Canon of the Venerable Matrona

Irmos: *Thou art the strength of those who flee to Thee, O Lord; Thou art the Light to those that sit in darkness; and my Spirit praises Thee.*

With the staff of divine faith didst thou cleave apart the sea of the passions, creating through it a straight passage for thy soul.

Having attained the pure and blameless life of a solitary monastic, O honored Matrona, thou wast revealed to be the adornment of ascetics.

Thou didst strip thyself of mortality and its destructive passions, and by the example

of thy pious life didst thou strip naked the enemy.

Theotokion: **The** Creator united Himself to our flesh within thy womb, O most pure Lady; and, abiding there, He became a man that He might give mankind all that which is good.

The Kontakion of the Venerable Matrona, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “When Thou didst descend to death...”*

For the sake of thy love for the Lord /
Thou didst despise a life of ease, O Matrona. /
Thou didst illumine thy spirit with fasting /
And through thy prayers cast down the arrogance of the demons ///
Mightily destroying the enemy.

Ikos: **O** my God, grant me a stream of words, make my mind a wellspring of understanding, and bless my tongue, that I may worthily praise Thy lamb Matrona whom Thou hast crowned with Thy goodness; else, how would I be able to offer even a meager gift to her who is so abundantly rich in both words and deeds? O, grant me the power to extol her courage as she vanquished the wild beasts of the passions.

Sessional Hymn to the Holy Martyrs, in Tone 1: *To the melody: “Thy tomb, O Savior...”*

Aflame with divine desire, O blessed ones, /
You were not even touched by the flames of the fire,
And after burning up the deceptions of the evil one /
You were torn apart by horses. /
Thus, O passion-bearing martyrs, ye received a memorable end and great glory.

Glory..., Sessional Hymn to Venerable Matrona, in Tone 8: *To the melody: “When the Archangel understood the mysterious command...”*

O mother Matrona, elect of God, /
Thou didst safely pass through the tempest of life, /
Being guided to the safe harbor of life, where thou dost now praise thy Redeemer /
Praying ceaselessly on our behalf, /
That Christ may grant us grace and mercy; ///
And that thy flock may be preserved from every peril and danger.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone: *(and melody)*

By thy maternal supplications, /
O thou who hast given birth to the immutable God, /

MARTYRS ONESIPHORUS AND PORPHYRIOS;
VENERABLE MOTHER MATRONA; AND VENERABLE MOTHER THEOCTISTA.

Make steadfast my feeble heart /
Which is ever-weakened because of my sin, /
And by the slothful attacks of the deceiver; /
That I may glorify thee with thanksgiving, O good one. /
And have mercy on thy flock, /
Which thou hast acquired, O immaculate Mary, Theotokos.

Or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

Ever protected by the Cross of thy Son and God, /
We vanquish the assaults of the demons, /
As we praise thee, O true Theotokos; /
And together with all generations we bless thee, /
As thou didst foretell, O pure Lady. /
Therefore, by thy supplications grant us the forgiveness of our sins.

Ode 4
The Canon of the Holy Martyrs

***Irmos:** Out of love didst Thou ascend the Cross, O Compassionate One, and the nations submitted themselves, and Thou art my strength and my praise, O Lover of mankind.*

Glowing with the radiance of thy sufferings, O blessed martyr Onesíphorus, thou didst move the blessed Porphyrius to suffer with thee.

As they rejoiced and burned with the zeal of the Spirit, the tormentors bound together the warriors of Christ and laid them down upon a red-hot grid.

Rejoicing with all their heart, the passion-bearers offered themselves to the Master of all as a pure and perfect whole-burnt sacrifice; and for this we call them blessed.

O richly bless't martyr Porphyrius, deceitful words were unable to sway thee who wast completely devoted to the Master.

Theotokion: **O** immaculate maiden, thou hast given birth to God the Word made flesh, whose good pleasure it was to become like unto us His merciful loving-kindness.

The Canon of the Venerable Matrona

***Irmos:** I have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation, O Lord; I have considered Thy works and glorify Thy Godhead.*

Thou didst water thy heart with the drops of thy tears, O Matrona, and didst cultivate, by the grace of God, the grain which bore, a hundredfold, the fruit of thy virtues.

Setting the steps of thy thought towards Christ, O glorious one, thou didst remain unmoved by the temptations of the demons.

Having wisely left all the tumult of this life behind, O Matrona, with love didst thou take up the yoke of Christ and followed in His steps.

Theotokion: **G**od poured Himself into thy womb without departing from the heavens, O most pure Lady, and the infinite God became finite and took away all the sins of the world.

Ode 5 **The Canon of the Holy Martyrs**

Irmos: *Thou hast come, O Lord, as a light into the world: a holy light turning from the darkness of ignorance those who sing to Thee with faith.*

O ye holy martyrs and immoveable pillars of the Church of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit ye remained steadfast and unshaken amidst your sufferings and torture.

You shattered the abominable idols of the pagan gods and were shown to be models of piety and courage, O honorable great martyrs of the Lord.

Having forsaken the transient power on earth for the sake of thy faith, you were condemned to suffer but being girded by God with the skill of a true warrior, you rejoiced, O holy martyr Onesiphorus.,

Theotokion: **T**he Uncontainable God, contained Himself and made His abode within thy womb, O Virgin, and showed thee to be more spacious than the heavens. Therefore, we call bless thee, O Lady Theotokos.

The Canon of the Venerable Matrona

Irmos: *Rising early we cry to Thee, O Lord: Save us, for Thou art our God, and we know none other than Thee.*

Vesting thyself in the holy angelic habit, O mother Matrona, thou didst clothe the malevolent enemy in a vestment of shame.

Thou didst trade the passing things of earth for the eternal things of heaven, and thy impious husband for the immortal Bridegroom, thus bringing thy soul to God.

Offering all-night vigils to the Master, O holy mother Matrona, thou didst lull the pleasures of the flesh to sleep.

Theotokion: **T**hou hast given birth to the Master of both the living and the dead, O immaculate Lady. Slay thou the passions of my heart.

Ode 6

The Canon of the Holy Martyrs

Irmos: I have fallen into the depths of the sea, and the tempest of my many sins hath encompassed me; but, as Thou art God, lead my life up from the abyss, O greatly merciful one.

Thou didst endure the pain of thy wounds, O holy martyr Onesíphorus and having finished the contest as a victor, thou didst received great honors in heaven.

Bound to one another by love for God, you were bound together in the arena as you were being led to death; but being united to the Lord as mighty spiritual warriors, you were triumphantly separated from your bodies here on earth.

Tied behind horses and forcibly dragged around the arena, you were subjected to the cruelest of torments, but by the command of the eternal Judge, ye were deemed worthy of a blessed end, O right glorious martyrs of the Lord.

Theotokion: In a manner transcending the laws of nature, O Virgin, didst thou give birth to the Giver of the Law, who renewed our fallen nature. Entreat thou Him, that He save me who am crushed by the burden of my sins.

The Canon of the Venerable Matrona

Irmos: I pour forth my prayer to the Lord, and I lift up my sorrows before Him, how my soul is become full of evil and how my life draweth near to Hades, and like Jonah I pray: Deliver me, O God, from corruption.

Like a melodious bird sweetly lifting up its voice in the meadow of ascetic labor, thou didst attract an assembly of holy women, who like sparrows, sought to escape the net of the enemy with the aid of the Spirit, O mother Matrona.

Restraining the flesh through love of wisdom, reining in the passions, and adorning thy soul as a beautiful offering to Christ, thou became known to be wondrous and glorious in Spirit, O Matrona.

Thou didst live the life of an angel while on earth, ceaselessly praising Him who for our sake became incarnate of the holy Virgin in His goodness and who strengthened thy feminine nature against the wicked foe.

*Theotokion: O*ur human nature was enslaved to sin but thou didst deliver it from evil bondage, O Theotokos, giving birth to the Master of all, who hath shown us the way of entering into life, O immaculate Lady.

Kontakion of the Holy Martyrs, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “When Thou didst descend to death...”*

Having suffered greatly for the Lord, /

The two martyrs cast down the pride of the enemy. /
And being illumined by the grace of the uncreated Trinity /
The glorious Onesíphorus and Porphyrius ///
Ceaselessly pray on behalf of us all.

Ikos: Made strong by divine power, the warriors of Christ were able to destroy all the counsels and devices of the enemy; they suffered under the writ of the law and were torn apart by wild horses, and now they beseech God for us, that we receive the remission of our sins, freedom from the trials that are to come upon us, and deliverance from every evil. Therefore, we praise them, as great favorites of God, who pray unceasingly on behalf of us all.

Ode 7

The Canon of the Holy Martyrs

Irmos: In Babylon of old, the children of Abraham trampled upon the flames of the furnace as they sang aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Manifesting the strength of thy noble soul, thou didst confess the incarnate God before thy tormentor, O Onesíphorus.

Seeking the eternal emancipation that is in God, thou didst share in thy master's suffering as a faithful and obedient servant; and now, thou dost join chorus with Him, O bless't martyr Porphyrius.

O all-praised martyrs, having extinguished the burning flame of godlessness with the drops of your holy blood, you cried aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

You suffered a blessèd death, O divinely radiant stars of the spiritual Sun, that you might receive the glorious blessings of immortality.

Theotokion: **T**hou hast given birth to the God the Word who became incarnate of thy blood, O Theotokos, and whose good pleasure it was to deify those on earth who sing: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

The Canon of the Venerable Matrona

Irmos: The Hebrew children in the furnace boldly trampled upon the flame, and they changed the fire into dew as they cried aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers.

As a beautiful turtledove, thou dost protect the bountiful fruit of chastity from the wasteland of the passions for God's sake, O blessèd mother, truly making God-like those being saved through thy prayers.

Having forsaken the world and all its riches, thou hast received a heavenly inheritance through thy hope in God. O most-honored mother Matrona, thou art the true adornment of solitary monastics.

MARTYRS ONESIPHORUS AND PORPHYRIOS;
VENERABLE MOTHER MATRONA; AND VENERABLE MOTHER THEOCTISTA.

Theotokion: **H**e who lifted the curse of Eve made His abode in thy immaculate womb, O holy Virgin, thus pouring a fountain of blessings upon those who cry aloud to thee: Blessèd is the Fruit of thy womb, O most pure Lady!

Ode 8

The Canon of the Holy Martyrs

Irmos: *He who was nailed to the Cross in the flesh, hath shown it to be a weapon for our salvation. O ye children, exalt Christ our God above all throughout the ages.*

By suffering the torment of being quartered, you tore to pieces the cruel and intransigent heart of the enemy, while remaining steadfast in both mind and spirit, O greatly renowned and victorious martyrs of the Lord.

O holy martyrs, the smoldering fire of ignorance was extinguished by the shedding of your blood which waters the hearts and souls of all the faithful with the restoration of faith and the knowledge of God.

Being guided by Christ the Helmsman, you passed through the waves of cruel torments and found the shelter of incorruption in the great harbor of God's heavenly kingdom.

Thy martyrs, O Lord, were clearly revealed to be embers burning with the fire of the Paraclete, as they burned up the deceit of the enemy and illumined the whole world.

Theotokion: **T**he Word of God found thee to be the chosen flower in the vale of life, and desiring thy beauty, He became incarnate of thee and thus perfumed the entire world.

The Canon of the Venerable Matrona

Irmos: *The children, by Thy grace, vanquished both the tyrant and the flames by observing Thy commandments most faithfully, and they cried out: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!*

Having adorned thy soul with the beauty of piety by the power of the divine Spirit, O mother Matrona, thou didst lead to God a choir of virgins who now sing aloud with thee: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all ages!

Through divine grace, the drops of thy sweat dried up the raging torrents of the passions and watered the hearts of those who come to thee with faith. Therefore, we honor thee throughout all ages.

Having put on the armor of faith and abstinence, thou wast not wounded by the arrows of lust and pleasure while living in the company of men; and he, who once had wounded Eve in the garden, was himself wounded by the spear of thy chastity, O blessèd mother Matrona.

Theotokion: **B**ehold, as once Isaiah didst foretell: a Virgin shall conceive in her womb Him who shall deliver from the belly of Hades those who piously cry aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all ages!

Ode 9

The Canon of the Holy Martyrs

Irmos: *Through weakness, Eve brought about the curse of disobedience, but thou, O Virgin Theotokos, hast budded forth blessing unto the world in the Fruit of thy pregnancy. Therefore, we all magnify thee.*

The holy martyrs, those diamond-like, adamant pillars of the Faith, were strengthened by the power of Christ, and were able to wage a victorious battle against the bodiless foe while yet wearing their flesh, and now they rejoice in the heavens with those who suffered before them.

Like sacred chariots of the Word, you were bound behind unreasoning beasts, and thus you ascended to the calm refuge in heaven where you received your crowns of honor. Therefore, we bless you, O holy martyrs of the Lord.

The glorious city of Parium now holds your bodies, O divine martyrs, and is enriched by you, its helpers and physicians, who heal the infirmities of the souls and bodies of those who come to you with faith.

O divine and glorious martyrs, thou passion-bearer Porphyrius, and thou right victorious Onesiphorus: entreat the Most Holy Trinity, that peace and deliverance from evils may be granted to our souls.

Theotokion: **H**aving clothed Himself completely in our human nature, O immaculate Lady, the Master came forth from thy divine womb like a Bridegroom; and He, who sustaineth all creation by His command, is fed with your milk, O blessed Ever-virgin Mary.

The Canon of the Venerable Matrona

Irmos: *Every ear trembled with fear at hearing of the ineffable condescension of God: how the Most High of His own will came down even unto the flesh and was made man from a virgin womb. Therefore, we the faithful magnify the Most-pure Theotokos.*

As a dove, O glorious mother Matrona, thou hast flown aloft on golden wings of virtue, and dost now abide with the choirs of all the venerable saints, and the ranks of the righteous, in eternal gladness and ineffable joy.

Loving the Sun of righteousness, who, in the loving-kindness of His compassion, shone forth from a woman, O venerable mother, thou didst easily traverse the searing heat and the difficult path of fasting, burning the demons and withering the passions of the flesh.

Thy divine memorial hath shone forth upon us more brightly than the sun,

MARTYRS ONESIPHORUS AND PORPHYRIOS;
VENERABLE MOTHER MATRONA; AND VENERABLE MOTHER THEOCTISTA.

illuminating both our hearts and minds; therefore, be thou mindful of us who faithfully celebrate your holy memory, O glorious Matrona, as one who truly hast boldness before God.

Theotokion: **O** Maiden, who didst hold in thine arms Him who beareth all things by divine command; by thy prayers deliver me from the hands of the enemy, illumine my mind with thy light, and dispel the passions which persistently war against me.

Exapostilarion of the Holy Martyrs:

Let us honor the glorious martyrs Onesiphorus and Porphyrius, who shone brightly in their sufferings, enlightening all the ends of the world with the splendor of their martyrdom, and now, they pray for us who lovingly celebrate their holy memory.

Glory..., Exapostilarion of the Venerable Matrona:

Thou didst receive the monastic habit while dwelling amongst men, O venerable and glorious Matrona. O strange wonder! How didst thou hide from the tyrannical serpent, who persistently sought to find thee and spread bitterness against thee? By fasting, prayer and unceasing vigils thou didst crush his head.

Now and ever..., Theotokion:

Rejoice, O palace of the King! Rejoice, O mountain overshadowed by a cloud! Rejoice, O bush unburnt by fire! Rejoice, O throne of the glory of God! Rejoice, divine table and golden jar! Rejoice, most brightly-burning lamp! Rejoice, O Mary, Virgin Mother, thou cloud that carries God!

At Liturgy

The General Troparion of the Martyrs, in Tone 4:

Thy martyrs Onesiphorus and Porphyrius, O Lord, /
Through their sufferings received their incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God /
For having Thy strength, they laid low their enemies /
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///
Through their intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

The Troparion of the Venerable Matrona, in Tone 8:

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, /
For thou didst take up thy cross and follow Christ /
By so doing thou didst teach us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away /
But to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal ///
Therefore, thy spirit, O venerable Matrona, rejoices with the angels.

The Kontakion of the Venerable Matrona, in Tone 2:

For the sake of thy love for the Lord /
Thou didst despise a life of ease, O Matrona. /
Thou didst illumine thy spirit with fasting /
And through thy prayers cast down the arrogance of the demons ///
Mightily destroying the enemy.

The Kontakion of the Holy Martyrs, Tone 2:

Having suffered greatly for the Lord, /
The two martyrs cast down the pride of the enemy. /
And being illuminated by the grace of the uncreated Trinity /
The glorious Onesíphorus and Porphyrius ///
Ceaselessly pray on behalf of us all.

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