Akathist Hymn
Chanted before the Miraculous Iveron Icon of the All Holy Theotokos “Keeper of the Portal”

Acatistul Maicii Domnului Portărița
25 februarie și 26 octombrie
Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, who are present everywhere and fulfilling all things; Treasury of blessings and Source of life: come abide in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us (3 times).

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us of our sins. Master, forgive our transgressions. Holy One, look down on us, and heal our infirmities to the glory of Your name.

Lord, have mercy (3 times). Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed by your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Preotul: Binecuvântat este Dumnezeul nostru, totdeauna, acum și pururea și în vecii vecilor.

Poporul: Amin.

Mărire Ție, Dumnezeul nostru, mărire Ție.

Împărâte Ceresc, Mângăietorule, Duhul adevărului, Care pretutindenea ești și toate le plinești, Vistierul bunătăților și Dătătorule de viață, vino și Te sălășliuiește întru noi și ne curățește pe noi de toată întinăciunea și mântuiește, Bunule, sufletele noastre.

Sfinte Dumnezeule, Sfinte tare, Sfinte fără de moarte, miluiește-ne pe noi (de 3 ori).

Slavă Tatălui și Fiului și Sfântului Duh, acum și pururea și în vecii vecilor. Amin.


Doamne, miluiește (de trei ori). Slavă Tatălui și Fiului și Sfântului Duh, acum și pururea și în vecii vecilor. Amin.

Tatăl nostru Care ești în ceruri, sfântescă-se numele Tău, vie împărăția Ta, facă-se voia Ta, precum în cer, așa și pe pământ. Pâinea noastră cea de toate zilele dă-ne-o nouă astăzi. Și ne iartă nouă greșelile noastre, precum și noi iertăm greșitilor noștri. Și nu ne duce pe noi în ispășă, ci ne izbăvește de cel rău.

Preotul: Ca a Ta este împărăția și puterea și slava, a Tatălui și a Fiului și a Sfântului Duh, acum și pururea și în vecii vecilor.

Poporul: Amin.
Kontakion 1
Helper of the Christian race, chosen one of all generations, who has given us a wondrous sign through your precious icon and the fragrant myrrh which pours forth from it, to you we offer hymns of praise in compunction of heart. As one who holds sway over all creation, grant renewal of heart and life to those who cry out to you: Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Ikos 1
Even the angels hold in reverence your icon, O Lady, which has shown forth upon us in these latter days as an inexhaustible source of divine grace that all the faithful who fall down with love before you and bow reverently before this image may thus praise you:

Rejoice, Virgin, chosen before eternity by the Lord!
Rejoice, all-wisely hidden from the sight of man until your time was come!
Rejoice, daughter of Adam who was fashioned of dust!
Rejoice, restoration of Eve, our first mother!
Rejoice, who were born in our fallen nature!
Rejoice, who in virtue were exalted far above the nature of angels!
Rejoice, prefigured in the indistinct images of the prophets!
Rejoice, who gave birth to Him who replaced the worship in the Temple!
Rejoice, wondrously born from a barren woman!
Rejoice, who have imparted spiritual fruitfulness to the faithful!
Rejoice, all-glorious fulfillment of ancient hopes!
Rejoice, ultimate hope of those who live in these last times!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Condacul 1
Apărătoare Doamnă, Stăpâna noastră de Dumnezeu Născătoare, cântările cele de laudă aducem ție noi, robii tăi, ca cei ce cu venirea cinstitei icoanei tale ne-am igonisit arma tare, zid nebiruit și strajă nebiruită. Acoperă-ne și ne apără pe noi toți de vrâșmași ei văzuți și de cei nevăzuți și de toată vătămarea sufletească și trupească, ca să strigăm ție: Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!

Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!

Icosul 1
Îngerul cel mai întâi stătător trimis a fost să zică Născătoarei de Dumnezeu, când a căzut ei sorții slujirii apostolești în pământul Iviriei: De Ierusalim nu te îndepărta și nu te desparți, iar sortul ce ți-a căzut ție, se va arăta luminat în zilele cele mai de a poi, că te vei osteni în pământul întruc care Dumnezeu vă voi pentru tine, pentru aceea zicem:

Bucură-te, prin care lumii se va aduce mântuirea;
Bucură-te, prin care înșelăciunea idolească se va surpa;
Bucură-te, prin care puterea stăpânitorului întunericului se va ruși;
Bucură-te, prin care împărăția lui Hristos se va întări;
Bucură-te, chemarea la lumina Evanghelie a celor căzuți în întunericul slujirii idolești;
Bucură-te, slobozirea fiilor lui Dumnezeu, din robia diavolului;
Bucură-te, slujitoare a Fiului tău și Dumnezeu;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce cu ascultarea ta, neascultarea Evei ai vindecat;
Bucură-te, înălțimea faptelor bune;
Bucură-te, adâncimea smeritei cugetări;
Bucură-te, prin care credincioșii cunosc pe Făcătorul;
Bucură-te, prin care credincioșii se fac fi Taiului;
Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Kontakion 2
Seeing the myrrh that poured forth from your icon, the multitude who prayed before your holy image were filled with awe and joy, and from contrite hearts as a sacrifice of thanksgiving they offered you fervent tears, that through your intercession before your Son their cry of compunction might not be for naught: Halleluiah!

Ikos 2
Our feeble intellect is at a loss to describe this all-glorious miracle: how if the fragrant myrrh so copiously exuded by your icon were some day all collected together, it would weigh many times more than the icon itself. And, marveling at this mystery, with thanksgiving we glorify you thus:

Rejoice, inexhaustible wellspring of grace!
Rejoice, who in boundless purity served the Infinite One!
Rejoice, who contained Him Whom even the whole world cannot contain!
Rejoice, who showed forth as circumscribed Him Who is un-circumscribable!
Rejoice, who have brought to us Him Who dwells in the highest!
Rejoice, who have enabled men to ascend to the heavens!
Rejoice, humble handmaid of the Lord!
Rejoice, Mistress of the ranks of the angels!
Rejoice, who were brought up in the Holy of holies!
Rejoice, who never entertained a single haughty thought!
Rejoice, to whom the angel brought glad tidings!
Rejoice, who dwelt in this vale of tears!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!

Conacul 2
Văzând Sfânta Fecioară minunată voie a lui Dumnezeu, pentru Sine, ca or o roabă a Domnului pururi s-a supus să fac voia lui, strigând: Aliluia!

Icosul 2
Întelegerea cea neînțeleasa a graiului îngerului, Domnul făcând -o înțeleasă ție, Preacurate, a îndreptat mergerea ta către muntele Athosului, unde s-a grăit de tine celor ce se nevoiesc întru neamul duhovnicesc. Deci noi cu bucurie strigam către tine:

Bucură-te, Ceea ce ai sfinit Athosul cu venirea ta;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce ai surpat idolii;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce ai sădit acolo credința cea adevărată;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce ai izgonit de acolo pe cei necredincioși;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce ți-ai ales gradina ție Muntele acesta;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce locului acestuia darul tău l-a făgăduit;
Bucură-te, dătătoarea bunăților pământești tuturor credincioșilor ce locuiesc pe el;
Bucură-te, chezăsoiul și mântuiriile celei veșnice;
Bucură-te, mijlocitoare caldă celor ce locuiesc în grădina ta;
Bucură-te, înfricoșarea tuturor vrășmășilor;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce ai făgăduit mila Fiului tău locului acestuia, până la sfârșitul veacurilor;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce ai prevestit cu darul Lui nu se va depărta de la Sfântul Munte;
Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!

Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!
Kontakion 3
The power of the Most High has not waned even to this day, though the ranks of the faithful are greatly diminished and are few; but, always sheltered by your protection, we hope to turn the righteous wrath of your Son to mercy, crying out to Him: Halleluiah!

Ikos 3
Possessed of the riches of your ineffable mercy, which through your icon has been freely given us, we sinners are filled with fear, for we remain incorrigible. Yet, ever relying on your mercy, O Lady, we cry out to you with tears: Let not the sight of your miracles be counted for our judgment and condemnation, but let it be that with purified heart in the end we may chant to you:

Rejoice, ewe-lamb who gave birth to the gentle Lamb!
Rejoice, who have revealed the Lion of Judah to the world!
Rejoice, who contained the incorporeal God in your womb!
Rejoice, who clothed Him in human flesh!
Rejoice, who became a mother while remaining virgin!
Rejoice, who have shown us your only Son as being of two natures!
Rejoice, receptacle of the Father’s blessing!
Rejoice, coffer full to overflowing with the Holy Spirit!
Rejoice, who were not tempted by soul-corrupting pleasures!
Rejoice, who knew not a mother’s pangs in giving birth!
Rejoice, heir of human nature which is inclined toward sin!
Rejoice, who never yielded to sin!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.
Kontakion 4
Breathing a storm of Christ-murder, as God permitted because of our sins; many new iconoclasts and defilers of holy things audaciously appeared in Orthodox Christian lands, and they overthrew our ancestral altars, slew the Lord’s ordained clergy and corrupted their children with the falsehood of atheism. Only a few remained faithful in those homelands and there are also those now in new lands. O Lady, you did not forsake them, but through the wondrous appearance of your icon consoled those who with tears cry out to God: Halleluiah!

Ikos 4
Hearing of the all-glorious miracles that pour forth from your icon and overcome with astonishment, that world which renounced Christ falls silent, for it is unable to deny this wonder; but, we the faithful, having received salvation through you, thus cry out to you in unceasing hymns:

Rejoice, sovereignty of Orthodox kings!
Rejoice, victorious commander of Christ-loving armies!
Rejoice, constant shaming of unbelievers!
Rejoice, who have scattered those who wage war on your people!
Rejoice, who protected the cities of the Orthodox against enemy assault!
Rejoice, who have guided your people to repentance and prayer!
Rejoice, who have shown yourself in glory to the elect who pray to you!
Rejoice, who through them have declared God’s will concerning the salvation of all the faithful!
Rejoice, who have averted the wrath of God from us!
Rejoice, who have not allowed us to perish utterly in sins!
Rejoice, regent of vacant Orthodox thrones on earth!
Rejoice, Queen who ever reigns with your Son in heaven!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Condacul 4
Izvor de gânduri de nedumerire având întru sine, cinstită văduvă, cea din Niceea, s-a tulburat văzând Sfânta și prea lăudata icoana a Maicii lui Dumnezeu, impusă cu sulita ostașului celui stricător de icoane, dintr-un care îndată a curs sânge și ea de frică fiind cuprinsă, ca să nu fie batjocorita Sfânta Icoană, cu rugăciuni și lacrimi vârsând-o mergând spre apus, cu veselie a strigat: Aliluia!

Icosul 4
Văzând călugării Sfântului Munte, flacără ce se arată pe mare ca un stâlp de foc, a cărui înălțime ajungea până la cer și strălucea ca un soare, și venind noaptea la malul mării au văzut Sfânta Icoană a Maicii lui Dumnezeu purtându-se pe mare cu putere dumnezeiască și au strigat celei pline de dar:

Bucura-te, Rug nears ce te-ai văzut de puitorul de lege;
Bucura-te, stâlp de foc care povătuieste pe cei din întuneric;
Bucura-te, scara care ajungi până la cer, pe care s-a pogorât Dumnezeu;
Bucura-te, pod care treci la cer pe cei de pe pământ;
Bucura-te, raza zilei celei de taină;
Bucura-te, Ceea ce ai născut lumina cea neapusa;
Bucura-te, Ceea ce n-ai învățat pe nimeni în ce chip a fost;
Bucura-te, Ceea ce ești îmbrăcată în soare, care strălucăști cu darul și cu slavă în toată lumea;
Bucura-te, stea care arăți soarele;
Bucura-te, fulger care luminezi sufletele și strălucăști gândurile celor credincioși;
Bucura-te, strălucire care luminezi pe cei din întuneric;
Bucura-te, ca din tine a răsărit strălucirea cea cu multă lumină;
Bucura-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Kontakion V
Like a divinely guided star, O Lady, you shine upon the Diaspora faithful who suffered twofold exile: banished from paradise through the disobedience of Adam, and driven from Orthodox lands, your earthly portion expelled by God’s Providence for the sins of their fathers. Thus, that so deprived, as it were, of an earthly city, we may with our whole soul seek the city of heaven, where we someday hope to chant: Halleluiah!

Ikos V
The ends of the earth beheld the magnitude of miracles God poured forth from your icon, O Lady, and marveled at your great loving-kindness. Those among them, understanding that there is but one true God, your Son Who is worshiped with the Father and the Spirit, have thus cried out to you:

Rejoice, tablet of truth engraved by God!
Rejoice, generous gift of grace!
Rejoice, confirmation of the Orthodox Church!
Rejoice, kindly teaching of the ignorant!
Rejoice, blessed by all generations!
Rejoice, who through your Son have gathered together those who were scattered!
Rejoice, fulfillment of the expectation of Israel of old!
Rejoice, who have been shown to be a Mother to the new Israelites!
Rejoice, who put to shame unbelievers of Jesus the Messiah!
Rejoice, who have assembled a new people of God out of all nations!
Rejoice, bestower of transcendent good things!
Rejoice, storehouse of inexhaustible treasures!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Bucură-te, Portarita bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!

Condacul 5
Icoana ta cea cu Dumnezeiasca mergere vrând să o dai lăcașului Mănăstirii Ivriri, zis-ai dumnezeiasca Maica Arhimandritului Gavriil: “mergi cu ceata călugărilor la malul mării și te pogoară în luciu ei și primește Icoana mea”. Deci, el întraripat cu credința și cu dragoste a mers pe apă ca pe uscat și au luat icoana în brațele sale și dobândind acea vistieri s-au bucurat zicând: Aliluia!

Icosul 5
Vazut-au călugării din Mănăstirea Ivrului de multe ori Icoana Maicii lui Dumnezeu din Biserica scoasă cu putere nevăzută stând deasupra porții, pe zidul curții, și spaimântându-se au zis unele ca acestea:

Bucură-te, Ceea ce bine ai voit a ne da Sfânta Icoana ta;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce ne-ai făgăduit-o acoperământ a fi nouă;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce ai arătat dragostea ta către lăcașul nostru;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce ai arătat purtarea ta de grijă pentru el;
Bucură-te, ajutorul nostru în țară străină;
Bucură-te, bunăvoința lui Dumnezeu către noi;
Bucură-te, îndrăznirea noastră către Dumnezeu;
Bucură-te, izbăvitoarea lacrimilor noastre;
Bucură-te, apărarea noastră a celor sărmani;
Bucură-te, îngrădirea noastră;
Bucură-te, Portarița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

**Kontakion 6**
You chose as the proclaimer of your miracles and the guardian of your icon in the Orthodox Diaspora not a bishop, nor a prince, nor yet a guide of monastics, but a man simple in the faith; that thus, no-one in the flesh might boast before God whose only boast would be that he knows the Lord and cries out to Him in the Orthodox manner: Halleluiah!

**Ikos 6**
You have shone the light of the Orthodox Faith upon the ends of the earth; for, according to your word, your Son has exalted the humble exiles, and through them has filled those in every nation who thirst for the good things of the Spirit, that together all may cry out to you:

Rejoice, who of old blessed the apostles with your icon!
Rejoice, who have imbued your icons with grace from your Son!
Rejoice, who have received veneration before your icons!
Rejoice, who have instructed us to direct it to the prototype thereof!
Rejoice, invisible companion of all who proclaim the glad tiding!
Rejoice, wondrous strengthening of their human words!
Rejoice, who set at naught the rage of Copronymus!
Rejoice, who have cast down the impiety of reformers!
Rejoice, who of old shed blood from your wounded icon!
Rejoice, who have poured forth myrrh from the copy thereof, which was venerated with honor!
Rejoice, terror of those motivated by malice!
Rejoice, strengthening of the saints who are led by the Holy Spirit!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!
Kontakion 7
When all the powers of the abyss of hell desired the utter destruction of the Orthodox Faith, you, O Mistress, showed wondrous help to the remnant of the faithful; and even to those who are lost in the darkness of unbelief, you extend your mercy, that, seeing with their own eyes miracles more beautiful than those of old, their hearts might be softened; and, driving away the glooms of unbelief, they might cry out to your Son: Halleluiah!

Ikos 7
New stars shone forth in the spiritual skies of Orthodox lands; the whole multitude of those who have suffered, martyred by the evil ones who fought against Christ; and when new hymns were sung in their praise on earth, your icon also began to pour forth myrrh, signifying the Lord’s approval of the glorification by the whole Church of His faithful favorites, those who stand without ceasing amid never-waning light and intercede on behalf of us who cry out to you:

Rejoice, foreseen of old by the Prophet Isaiah!
Rejoice, lauded by him even until his cruel death at the hands of apostates!
Rejoice, deliverance from unexpected perils!
Rejoice, strength amid the tribulations that the Lord permits to befall us!
Rejoice, who by your mercy bring people to repentance!
Rejoice, who treat the wounds of our sins with the medicine of sorrows!
Rejoice, who rescue us from sudden death!
Rejoice, who bless Christians to endure tortures and death for Christ!
Rejoice, most splendid boast of the martyrs!
Rejoice, fortitude of victorious sufferers!
Rejoice, who crown with crosses those who love you!
Rejoice, who glorify those who hymn you!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Condicul 7
Vrând rău credinciosul Amira să strică lačașul Mănăstirii Ivirului și obștea de călăgări ce era adunată acolo să o risipească, degrabă au cunoscut apărarea lačașului de către Maică lui Dumnezeu, văzând corabile sale în adâncimea mării încăcate și pe ostații pierduți prin valurile mării. Deci înfricoșându-se ei și venind cu smerenie au dat la mănăstire aur și argint, cerând iertare. Iar călăgării văzând acestea au cântat lui Dumnezeu: Aliuia!

Icosul 7
Multe și nenumărate minuni ai arătat, Maică lui Dumnezeu, plinind în mănăstire lipsa de vin, de faină și de untdelemn, pe cei îndrăcuți vindecând, șchiopilor dăruind umblare, orbilor vedere și toată neputința vindecând, ca văzând aceste minuni să-ți cântăm ție:

Bucură-te, Apărătoare Doamnă, care biruiești pe vrășmași;
Bucură-te, cea grabnica spre ajutor celor ce te chemă pe tine;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce nu treci cu vederea rugăciunea noastră;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce de la făgăduința nu te întorci;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce întristarea într-o bucurie o prelucră;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce lipsă din mănăstire tu o acoperi cu îndestulare;
Bucură-te, a orbilor vedere;
Bucură-te, a șchiopilor umblare;
Bucură-te, a tuturor scarbitilor mângâieți;
Bucură-te, că nu încetezi a ne purta de grijă și a ne mântui pe noi;
Bucură-te, a dintr-o atâtea rele ne izbâvești pe noi;
Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Kontakion 8
Secret apostates, who said that divine grace cannot exist in the Church in Diaspora, failed to comprehend the strange and unfathomable providence of the Lord concerning His faithful servants thereof. But pouring forth miraculously flowing myrrh from your icon, O Lady, you straightway put this blasphemy utterly to shame, and gladdened your faithful who for you cry aloud: Halleluiah!

Iкос 8
Those whose only boast is in the outward magnificence of the Church, and who consider that amity with the mighty of this world will ensure the well-being of the Church of Christ, dwell wholly on things below; but we make all haste to your heavenly aid, O Lady, crying out to you:

Rejoice, who by your wisdom have shown wise men to be fools! Rejoice, who have not put to shame our steadfast hope in you! Rejoice, repulsing of the assaults of the wicked! Rejoice, goodly crowning of simplicity of heart! Rejoice, who gave birth to the Architect of all things! Rejoice, who have rent asunder cleverly woven lies of men! Rejoice, who remain unknown to those who love the world! Rejoice, who have granted mystic vision to those who trust in you! Rejoice, who have cast down from their thrones the mighty of this age! Rejoice, who have all-gloriously exalted the humble! Rejoice, Mother of the Light and the Truth! Rejoice, dispelling of all falsehood and darkness! Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!

Condacul 8
Auzind Patriarhul Nicon de lăcașul Mănăstirii Ivirului cel minunat, acoperit de Icoana Maicii Domnului, a dorit ca și țara lui să aibă împărtășire de darul ei. Pentru această zidind locaș în cinstea acestei preaslavite Icoane, cu osândie a cerut închipuirea Sfântei Icoane cea făcătoare de minuni a Maicii lui Dumnezeu, ca prin acoperământul ei, acoperiți fiind, să cânte lui Dumnezeu: Aliuia!

Icosul 8
Cu totul întru cei de sus fiind și de cei de jos despărțindu-te, bine ai voit, Maică lui Dumnezeu, să dăruiesti aceeași binecuvântare a Athosului și peste lăcașul Mănăstirii Pecersca, al robului tău Antonie, prin asemănarea cinstului tău chip cu care ai binecuvântat Athosul. Pentru aceea strigam ție:

Bucură-te, acoperământul cel mai iat decât norul; Bucură-te, îngândirea și întărirea drept credincioșilor; Bucură-te, stălp nemișcat al Bisericii dreptmâritoare; Bucură-te, înfruntarea eresurilor și a dezinărilor; Bucură-te, Ceea ce mulțimea credincioșilor îi luminezi cu strălucitoarele raze ale Icoanei celei făcătoare de minuni; Bucură-te, Ceea ce izvorăști de la ea darurile vindecărilor și ale minunilor tale; Bucură-te, îngrozirea vrășmașilor; Bucură-te, veselie arhiereilor și a preoților; Bucură-te, povățuitoarea călugărilor și mântuirea a tot neamul creștinesc; Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Kontakion 9
May all human nature be moved to praise your Son, O Lady, and hymn the multitude of your compassions; and comforted by you, let them not seek consolation elsewhere, but let them chant with unceasing voices: Halleluiah!

Ikos 9
Vain-minded orators and false prophets have appeared in these latter days, uttering words of delusion in your name, and telling of revelations given them by unclean spirits, claiming that they themselves beheld you. Yet all who understand the depth of your true miracles place no credence in these foolish utterings, but cry out to you without ceasing:

Rejoice, meek Queen of all; Rejoice, who have in nowise magnified yourself! Rejoice, who are called blessed by all generations! Rejoice, who never compel anyone to do you homage! Rejoice, who kept silent amid the council of the apostles!

Rejoice, who by your silence edified them more than with words! Rejoice, Mother of God, the true Wisdom! Rejoice, who ever reign with your Son and your God! Rejoice, who did not dare to claim divine nature for yourself! Rejoice, who more than all others have been vouchsafed deification through grace! Rejoice, O ultimate Mediatress at the judgment of your Son! Rejoice, who have rescued many from perdition by the thought of that tribunal! Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!

Condacul 9
Toată osărdia având-o adunarea pustnicilor Mănăstirii Ivirul pentru zugrăvierea Preacinstului chip al milostivei Portărițe, săvârșind cântări de rugăciune și cu apă de la minunată Icoana spălând scândură pe care voia să zugrâvească cinstul ei chip, au sfântit pe cuviosul lamvlih, care nevoindu-se cu toată obștea părinților, în post și rugăciuni, au zugrăvit închipuirea Icoanei Maicii lui Dumnezeu, pentru care noi pururi strigăm: Aliluia!

Icosul 9
Pe ritorii cei mult vorbitori îi vedem, Născătoare de Dumnezeu, a fi ca niște peși fără de glas, că nu se pricep după vrednicie să laude toate minunile tale care le-ai arătat, neamului omensc, de la Sfânta Icoana ta. Căci încă pe cale fiind spre țara rusească, s-au făcut minuni, poruncind binecredinciosului Emanoil să dea prețul răscumpărării celor necredincioși care împiedicau mergerea Sfintei Icoane și îndoit după aceea întorcându-i lui. iar noi pentru această cu credința strigam așa:

Bucură-te, izvorul minunilor cel nedesertat; Bucură-te, ca totdeauna ești mijlocitoare către Dumnezeu; Bucură-te, scăparea celor din nevoi; Bucură-te, mângâierea celor scăriți; Bucură-te, vindecarea bolnavilor; Bucură-te, Maică milostivă a celor sărmani; Bucură-te, întoarcerea la calea adevărului a celor robiți; Bucură-te, chemarea păcătoșilor la pocăință; Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Kontakion 10
Wishing to save your miraculous icon from mockery by the ungodly, you once all-gloriously upheld it upon a wave of the sea as it floated over the deep in a pillar of light and gave it to the monks of Mount Athos; and even the copies made of it you have glorified with many miracles, that all may cry out to God in thanksgiving: Halleluiah!

Ikos 10
O Virgin, you are the bulwark of the Orthodox Faith and the true confirmation of piety, even though the way of the ungodly may prosper, and they who work iniquity abound. But you showed that the one way to salvation lies in standing immovable in right confession of Faith and singing to you:

Rejoice, who accomplish all things for the benefit of your servants!
Rejoice, who know well what is truly beneficial for our souls!
Rejoice, who hide your divine glory under the appearance of an icon!
Rejoice, who once appeared in person to your elect!
Rejoice, who quickly transformed their sacred trembling into joy!
Rejoice, who have shown kindness to those incapable of gazing calmly upon your glory!
Rejoice, who by miraculous myrrh bring us to the same holy trembling!
Rejoice, who by your gentle miracles have guided us to repentance!
Rejoice, who thereby have made us steadfast in the true Faith!
Rejoice, who do not accept from us idle wonder!
Rejoice, who await the complete conversion of our souls!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Kontakion 11
The Orthodox Diaspora offers you hymnody of praise; for not only your servants in Diaspora, but also those in the homelands have learned of the all-glorious miracles wrought through your myrrh-streaming icon and have preserved as priceless treasures the fragrant droplets thereof, inhaling their sweet savor for many years, and chanting to God: Halleluiah!

Ikos 11
To us who languish in the darkness of unfeeling and seek consolation in earthly things without finding it, you gave your icon as a light-bearing candle, O Lady, that awaking out of the darkness of sin, we may lift up our eyes and cry out to you:

Rejoice, who from your icons shed tears over us!
Rejoice, who gives us tears of repentance!
Rejoice, who heals us with the medicine of bitter sorrow!
Rejoice, who transformed our grief into joy!
Rejoice, who for our sins permitted the loss of our Orthodox lands!
Rejoice, who prepared the true heavenly homeland for all who grieve over this!
Rejoice, who by bonds of sorrow free us from the snares of sin!
Rejoice, who console the patient with the sign of your kind-heartedness!
Rejoice, who by a single drop of myrrh gladden many on earth!
Rejoice, who in heaven possess an unfathomable sea of noetic myrrh!
Rejoice, warming of our frigid prayers!
Rejoice, uplifting of our base minds to heaven!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!

Condacul 11
Se biruiește toată cântarea care vrea să tindă către mulțimea milelor tale celor multe, ca de-ți vom aduce cântări la număr tocmia ca nisipul mării, Stâpână noastră de Dumnezeu Născătoare, nimic nu plinim cum se cade, pentru această cantăm ție: Aliluia!

Icosul 11
Fâclie primitoare de lumină arătată celor ce sunt în mulțimea necazurilor, vedem pe Preasfânta icoana a Maicii lui Dumnezeu ca primind focul cel nematerialnic al darului, luminează pe toți cu razele minunilor, învățându-i a cânta așa celei prea binecuvântate:

Bucură-te, că ești grabnică ajutătoare;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce ne aperi pe noi de foc, de sabie și de năvălirea altor neamuri;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce ne izbăvești pe noi de foamete și de moarte năprasnică;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce ne păzești pe noi de toate relele cele aducătoare de moarte;
Bucură-te, ajutătoarea pe cale, pe uscat și pe ape, a celor necăjiți;
Bucură-te, vindecarea ducerilor celor sufletești și trupești;
Bucură-te, milostiva mângâietoare a celor scărizi și împovărați;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce pe cei deznădăjduiți îi întorci din groapa pierzării;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce nici pe mine nu mă lași fără ajutorul și apărarea ta;
Bucură-te, Portărița bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Kontakion 12
Filled to abundance with your grace and compassions, O Lady, we ask not for more of your gifts, but rather that we might receive all these gifts without condemnation and that we not be accused of arrogance and negligence at the hour of judgment, but may be vouchsafed like good and faithful servants to chant continually to the Lord: Halleluiah!

Ikos 12
Hymning your loving-kindness which transcends the heavens, O Theotokos, we praise you as our good helper in this age and our ineffable delight in the life which is to come; wherefore, we cry out to you:

Rejoice, who by your mercy humble every thought!
Rejoice, who terrify us not utterly with the fear of judgment!
Rejoice, bestower of tears that bring about joy!
Rejoice, suppressor of mindless hilarity!
Rejoice, dispelling of conceited thoughts!
Rejoice, who exalt those who embrace humility!
Rejoice, who impart repentance before death!
Rejoice, who bestow a Christian ending!
Rejoice, who protect the faithful from the demons of the air!
Rejoice, only hope of those whose souls have departed from their bodies!
Rejoice, Mediatress for those who ask remission of sins!
Rejoice, generous bestowal of heavenly rewards!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.
Kontakion 13
O, most hymned Mother who gave birth to the Word Who became incarnate of your precious blood, and have poured forth a greatly healing myrrh from your honored icon: Mercifully accept our present hymn, that having received your gifts on this earth with goodly diligence, we may not be deprived also of your heavenly good things, crying out to your Son for our sake: Halleluiah! (This Kontakion is recited three times)

Iкос 1
Even the angels hold in reverence your icon, O Lady, which has shown forth upon us in these latter days as an inexhaustible source of divine grace, that all the faithful who fall down with love before you and bow reverently before this image may thus praise you:

Rejoice, Virgin, chosen before eternity by the Lord!
Rejoice, all-wisely hidden from the sight of man until your time was come!
Rejoice, daughter of Adam who was fashioned of dust!
Rejoice, restoration of Eve, our first mother!
Rejoice, who were born in our fallen nature!
Rejoice, who in virtue were exalted far above the nature of angels!
Rejoice, prefigured in the indistinct images of the prophets!
Rejoice, who gave birth to Him who replaced the worship in the Temple!
Rejoice, wondrously born from a barren woman!
Rejoice, who have imparted spiritual fruitfulness to the faithful!
Rejoice, all-glorious fulfillment of ancient hopes!
Rejoice, ultimate hope of those who live in these last times!
Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Condacul 13
O, Maică prea lăudată, Preasfânta Doamnă, Fecioara Născătoare de Dumnezeu, caută spre noi, cei ce cu smerenie și cu lacrimi aducem aceste puține rugăciuni înaintea Preacuratei licoanei tale, și toată așteptarea și nădejdea spre tine o punem. Ibăvește-ne pe noi din toate nevoile și ispitele din viața aceasta, și ne scoate din muncă ce va să fie, că prin tine să fim mântuși și să cântăm lui Dumnezeu: Aliluia! (Acest condac se zice de trei ori).

Icosul 1
Îngerul cel mai întâi stătător trimis a fost să zică Născătoarei de Dumnezeu, când a căzut ei sortii slujirii apostolești în pământul ierarhiei: ”De Jerusalim nu te îndeapărta și nu te desparți, iar sortul ce ți-a căzut ție, se va arată luminat în zilele cele mai de apoi, că te vei osteni în pământul întru care Dumnezeu vă voi pentru tine, pentru aceea zicem:

Bucură-te, prin care lumii se va aduce mantuirea;
Bucură-te, prin care înșelăciunea idolească se va surpa;
Bucură-te, prin care puterea stăpânitorului întunericului se va ruși;
Bucură-te, prin care împărăția lui Hristos se va întări;
Bucură-te, chemarea la lumina Evanghelie a celor căzuți în întunericul slujirii idolești;
Bucură-te, slobozirea fiilor lui Dumnezeu, din robia diavolului;
Bucură-te, slujitoare a Fiului tău și Dumnezeu;
Bucură-te, Ceea ce cu ascultarea ta, neascultarea Evei ai vindecat;
Bucură-te, înălțimea faptelor bune;
Bucură-te, adâncimea smeritei cugetări;
Bucură-te, prin care credincioșii cunosc Făcătorul;
Bucură-te, prin care credincioșii se fac fiți Tatălui;
Bucură-te, Portărită bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!

Bucură-te, Portărită bună, care deschizi credincioșilor ușile Raiului!
Kontakion 1
Helper of the Christian race, chosen one of all generations, who has given us a wondrous sign through your precious icon and the fragrant myrrh which pours forth from it, to you we offer hymns of praise in compunction of heart. As one who holds sway over all creation, grant renewal of heart and life to those who cry out to you: Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Rejoice, O Blessed Gate-Keeper who opens the gates of Paradise to the righteous.

Troparion of the Holy Icon (Tone 7)
From your Holy Icon, O Lady Theotokos, blessed myrrh has flowed abundantly. You have thereby consoled those faithful to you in exile, and have enlightened unbelievers by your Son’s light. Therefore, O Lady, with tears, we bow down to you. Be merciful to us in the hour of judgment, lest having received your mercy, we be punished as those who have been contemptuous of it. But grant us through your prayers to bring forth spiritual fruit and save our souls.

Prayer before the Iveron Icon of the All Holy Theotokos
O all-holy Virgin Mother of Christ, Queen of heaven and earth: Attend to the painful aspiration of our souls, and with mercy look down from your holy height on us who with love worship before your all-pure image. For, lo! Engulfed by our sins and tempest-tossed by sorrows, gazing at your image, we offer you our humble entreaties, as one who lived with us. For we have no other help, no other intercessor, nor any consolation, except you, O Mother of all who sorrow and are heavy laden. Help us who are weak; assuage our sorrow; direct us who are lost to the right path; heal and save the hopeless; grant that we may spend the remaining time of our life in peace and tranquility; bestow upon us a Christian end, and at the dread tribunal of your Son,
show yourself to us as a merciful helper, that with all who have been pleasing to God, we may ever hymn, magnify and glorify you as the good helper of the Christian race. Amen.

**Second Prayer to All-holy Theotokos Recited before Her Myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon**

O most glorious Lady, Queen of heaven and earth, Virgin Theotokos! Falling down now before your precious icon, with compunctionate heart, we give voice to this, our meager entreaty; for we are unprofitable servants who deserve condemnation, yet we hope to find mercy through your almighty mediation before the Judge. We believe and trust, O Mistress, that your Son, Who desires not the death of sinners, will hearken to your mediation, and have now been informed of this by the wondrous sign of myrrh streaming from your holy icon, from whence you have poured forth healings in abundance upon all who with love and faith have recourse to you. Wherefore, we cry out to you with tears: Have pity on our wretchedness, forgive us our unfaithfulness, break the arrogance of our pride, dispel the numbness of our hardened hearts, regard the sighing of those beset by despondency, and make us chaste by expectation of future reward. And grant, O Lady, that our Church may stand unshakably in the Truth and goodly increase in love. Protect us from all the wiles of the demons and the vain beliefs of the heretics, and gather the scattered faithful together, that all who glorify you in Orthodox manner on earth may also be vouchsafed to glorify with song in the heavens the most worshipful name of the Holy Trinity and your merciful aid to us, to the ages of ages. Amen.

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The Myrrh-Streaming Icons of Hawaii

"By now all our parishioners living in Honolulu have heard about the blessing that has been bestowed on us sinners, unworthy though we may be, by the grace of the Almighty and the love and concern for us by the All Holy Theotokos. I have asked our Reader Nectarios, in whose home the two icons began streaming myrrh, to describe in his own words what has happened."

Priest Anatole Lyovin

Dear beloved in Christ,

In humility and with extreme trepidation, I will attempt to relate to you what actually occurred before rumors spread, evolve, and eventually become untruths. Many have asked me to explain the events that have taken place in recent weeks regarding the two myrrh-streaming icons at the Holy Theotokos of Iveron Russian Orthodox Church in Honolulu, Hawaii. It has been hard to put into words the recent events that have taken over my life. I can't imagine how others would have reacted if they were in my shoes; God only knows. I pray God will guide me, and my family, to do and say things that are not contrary to His Will.

I will attempt to tell the story of how these humble icons came into my life and how they changed it. Everything I write here is true.

The icons in question are two:

1) One is a mounted-print made, I believe, at the Sofrino Church factory near Moscow. It is an exact copy of the Montreal Myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon of the Holy Theotokos; this was the icon cared for by Blessed Martyr Brother José Muñoz. It is a small icon, roughly 7 x 9 inches and approximately one inch thick. My parish priest, Fr. Anatole Lyovin, gifted it to me for my Name's Day [in 1997]. He said he purchased it at a church bookstore in Toronto when the parish in which he had grown up celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its founding. The icons from Sofrino have a distinctive style with a beautiful silk-screen riza (or oklad in Russian, Pokamiso in Greek) built into the icon. This is done so that those who cannot afford beautiful and very expensive icons can have something equally beautiful from Sofrino for less.

2) The second icon is a hand-painted icon in the shape of a Cross, with the image of Our Lord's crucifixion in the traditional Byzantine style of iconography. A Greek monk from the Holy Mountain Athos painted it. It is roughly 8 x 11 inches and approximately 1 1/2 inches thick. I purchased a set of two near identical Cross icons and gave one to my father as a gift; I kept the other.

Before I relate to you the full story of the icons, let me say how it all began ...

Over three months ago, sometime around May, June or July of 2007, my wife and I noticed a hint of the scent of roses in the area surrounding our icon corner in our home chapel. Something made us look at our Cross icon of Christ (located behind our family reliquary); we noticed a small bead of liquid around the image of the Christ, where the "soldier pierced His side with a lance". The liquid smelled very sweet, like myrrh. My experience with myrrh is quite limited, my only contact being a cotton ball soaked with myrrh from the Montreal Myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon and several cotton balls of myrrh from the Myrrh-streaming St. Nicholas Icon. We told no one of this and proceeded to "keep an eye" on the icon for any new developments or any possible continuation of the "streaming". The bead of myrrh eventually dried out and we eventually forgot about it.

Now on to the most recent developments in my story ...

During the last week of September, I began to notice an unbelievably strong smell of myrrh, at home, in my car, even at work. I couldn't explain it. Was it all in my head? I asked my wife, and she said she didn't smell anything. I spoke with several other people who visited our home, and they too said they didn't smell anything. (One of these people was our Serbian Orthodox kuma – she, too, couldn't smell anything.) I was convinced it was all in...
my imagination. This was on September 27th, the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.

Then in the first week of October, my wife and I were extremely ill and missed Vespers that night. We don't miss too many of the church's divine services, so we did take notice of the date, October 6th (Feast day of the Conception of St. John the Baptist). Around 10:30 p.m. that night, I was working in my office, which also doubles as our home chapel where our icon corner is located. My cat walked into the office and began to sniff around as if he smelled something. I did not smell anything. He proceeded to walk toward the area were our family reliquaries are kept. I thought this was strange, since he would never go near the reliquaries; amazingly something always stopped him, and he's a nosy cat. Yet this time he stood on his hind legs and sniffed around, I assume in order to figure out what the smell was. I still didn't smell anything. I proceeded to pick him up, and then I noticed the scent. It was so strong, even overwhelming. Never have I smelled anything like that in my life. I couldn't explain why I hadn't smelled it before. It was like a thousand roses had fallen into the room. I crossed myself and guarded myself with the Jesus Prayer. I put the cat down and proceeded to look at the icons. I admit I was afraid to look at the icons near the reliquaries. I finally came to the icon of the Cross and noticed that the bead of myrrh by the side-wound of Christ was still dry. For a split second, I regained some composure, even as the smell of roses was getting stronger. I then looked down, and my hand was wet -- it was myrrh. How did it get there? The icon was dry? Or was it? I then noticed that the left knee of the image of Our Lord was forming a bead of myrrh right before my eyes. I then called out to my wife. She came running, and when I asked her if she had spilled anything on the icons, she said no. She hadn't gone near them. I showed her the icon. She was in shock. I told her the smell is too strong. Help me look at the other icons. So she did. In my office I have two bookshelves; at the top of them are icons. We have many icons, maybe too many. I stood on my toes to reach for the icons at the top of my bookshelves. My wife did the same. Finally, I grabbed the icon of Iveron given to me by Fr. Anatole. It was completely wet. And then the smell got even stronger. Even my wife could smell it. For those of you who don't know my wife, her sense of smell is very limited; she is only capable of smelling citrus scents. We were afraid. We asked one another if we cleaned or anointed the icons recently, and both of us said 'no'. 'What is going on?' I asked. I put the icons back where they were; we took a few pictures with our digital camera. Then I said an Akathist to the Mother of God in honor of her Iveron Icon and went to bed, or at least tried to.

The next day, Sunday October 7th, after much debate, we left the icons at home and went to church. After the Liturgy, we spoke to our kuma, who instructed us to speak with the priest immediately. We told Fr. Anatole what had happened. He listened patiently and said, 'Bring the icons to church!' We then arranged with the priest to bring the icons to church the next Wednesday, October 10th. Up until that Wednesday, the icons continued to stream. I collected the myrrh on cotton and before them I said prayers for my sister who was ill and for several other people. [Fr Anatole's Note: The next day, his sister called her father to say that her doctor cannot explain it, but that her pancreas, which had completely stopped functioning, had returned to its normal state, and that her diabetes was under control.]

We couldn't wait until Wednesday. On Wednesday, October 10th, we brought the icons to church and placed them on two analogia (lecterns) in the center of the church. Fr. Anatole inspected them and wiped them down with cotton and proceeded to start the service of the Akathist Hymn of the Iveron Icon. After the service, the icons were wiped down again; they had streamed a little during the service. Fr. Anatole confirmed to us that it is 'definitely streaming myrrh', and that it is 'a very pure myrrh'. The smell of roses filled the air. I asked him what we were to do? He asked us to leave the icons in church for the time being. No one knew about the icons; they were safe at church.
The next Saturday, October 13th, just happened to be "clean the church day". We were preparing our church for the upcoming feasts: our parish feast day (November 24), Christmas, the Serbian bishop's visit, etc. So my wife, myself and another person were put in charge of cleaning. While we were cleaning the church, we couldn't take our eyes off the two myrrh-streaming icons, which slowly streamed while we were cleaning. The smell of roses was quite pungent. The icons seemed to exude a strong smell of roses. The Icon of the Mother of God seems to smell more like 'roses' than the other icon. The Cross has a spicier smell to it. I can't explain it. While we were cleaning the church, our kumovi came to see the icons. Not many folks could wait for Vespers that evening. Our Kuma later remarked to me that she's the 'doubting Thomas' and really couldn't believe it until she saw it for herself. Understandable. She didn't realize that the icons were actually streaming as we were cleaning. (They don't stream continuously.) She venerated the Cross and kissed the feet of Our Lord. She got a nice helping of myrrh in her mouth. Like the doubting Apostle Thomas who put his fingers in Christ's Hands and Side, she put her mouth right in the myrrh, where myrrh wasn't supposed to be! I couldn't help but laugh.

The next day, Sunday October 14th, was the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, and Fr. Anatole revealed the icons to the people. The icons streamed quite heavily; there was enough myrrh for everyone. They have continued streaming ever since. Many have come to see the icons: Russians, Greeks, Serbs, Roman Catholics, Protestants. All who approach the icons feel the Grace of God! There have been days when the icons have been completely dry, while on other days they are covered in myrrh. Yet, whether they stream or not, they continuously give off an extremely strong scent of roses. It is truly a great miracle! I sometimes wonder if it is a warning.

Now that I look back, it seems that 'revelation' has been the central theme of late. We revealed the fragrance to our kumovi on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. We found the icons giving myrrh and revealed them to our priest on the Feast of the Conception of St. John the Baptist. He was the one man who revealed Christ to the world. Our priest revealed the myrrh-streaming icons to the church on the Feast day of the Protection of the Mother of God. These cannot be coincidences!

Our parish is dedicated to the original Myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon, an icon that had never traveled to Hawaii. Br. José wanted to come here, but never made it. I must confess to you, sometimes I feel that our fellow Orthodox brethren on the mainland have forgotten our little parish, our little community. Living out here in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, we struggle to survive as an Orthodox parish. Struggle to pay the bills, struggle to make the rent. I sometimes wonder, when will we have a church of our own? Has the Lord forgotten us? Are we to struggle forever? Have we done something wrong? Have we angered You, O Lord? Whether or not our fellow clergy, our fellow Orthodox faithful have forgotten us, one thing is clear... The Most Holy Mother of God has not forgotten us. She has not abandoned us. She will not abandon us! Through these icons, I now have hope that there IS a light at the end of the tunnel. Whether or not we are blessed to have a church of our own, it really doesn't matter; God has shown us that He has not forgotten us! And that's all that is needed. God is telling us that He is real! Dare we ignore this revelation? Dare we turn our backs on this great miracle? Dare we forget Christ? May God forgive us if we do!

In Christ's Love,
Rdr. Nectary
(December 2007)
UPDATE: November 2012

Numerous miracles have been attributed to the Theotokos through this “humble little Icon”, accounts are only just being collected, and are indeed numerous. Physical and spiritual healings have included the healing of blindness and eye disease, cancer, demonic possession, paralysis, kidney disease, chronic pain, and debilitating viruses.

In June of 2008, the “Hawaiian” Myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon was officially recognized by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia as miraculous and worthy of our veneration, and was given the blessing to travel to the various churches and monasteries of Holy Orthodoxy. The original “owner” of the icon, Reader Nectarios, was charged by the Russian Orthodox Church to be Her guardian, and provide for the safety and care of this Wonderworking Icon of Christ’s Holy Church.

By the Grace of God, the Holy Cross has slowly ceased to continuously stream Myrrh as it once did, now doing so on certain occasions throughout the year, Pascha being the most recent. What is comforting to the faithful is the Holy Cross still continuously provides a beautiful and pungent fragrance, whether it streams or not. While the "Hawaiian" Iveron Icon of the Mother of God travels and brings the grace of God to various places, the Holy Cross always remains in Hawaii to provide for the protection and veneration of the faithful.

Since June of 2008, She has been to over 500 churches in North America of all (canonical) jurisdictions, and has been venerated by an estimated quarter of a million people throughout the United States. In many cities, the holy Icon is taken from one parish to another, being venerated by all the Orthodox clergy, and helping to establish and heal relationships amongst the Orthodox faithful, and also strengthening and fostering ties between the sister parishes. Requests have now been made for the Wonderworking Icon to be brought to Russia, Georgia, the Ukraine, Greece, Cyprus, South America, Europe, the Holy Land, Romania, Mount Athos, and Serbia.

Yet, wherever the holy Icon goes, the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Mother abound. People have commented that just being in the presence of this Icon, you feel such an abundance of love and joy. It is truly indescribable. We are so very blessed that God has shown His love toward us by allowing us a small forbearance of what the saints call, "the true odor of sanctity." The true meaning of the Icon's appearance is known only to God; time will reveal all things. Yet, what we do know is this, God loves us. And that is all that matters.

We also humbly ask for your kind patience when awaiting the holy myrrh. To date, thousands of requests have been received. Until very recently, these requests were all single-handedly packaged and sent out by Rdr. Nectarios himself. Not to mention his continuing travels throughout the world to bring the blessings of the Theotokos' holy and Myrrh-streaming Hawaiian Iveron Icon to all Orthodox faithful. So, please allow a little time for receiving the holy myrrh.