

IT IS BENEFICIAL TO PRAY TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

Imagine that there is someone who has been charged for various crimes and is about to stand trial for his offenses. If such a person retains an experienced defense attorney skilled in rhetoric to represent him, there is hope that the case will either be dismissed or that a non-guilty verdict will be reached. If the attorney also happens to be a dear friend or close relative of the judge assigned to the trial, then it is almost certain that the judge will not come down hard on the defendant, but, rather, will exercise clemency and even pardon him.

Similarly, when someone has transgressed the laws of the Heavenly King Jesus Christ and wishes to be forgiven, one should ideally find a representative who is closely acquainted with the Righteous Judge; a representative who will be able to effectively advocate on their behalf, appease the Judge, and secure a full pardon. All the Saints who endured various sorrows and sufferings in this life for the love of Christ, of course, possess great boldness before Him as His faithful servants. However, His most-merciful Mother, who reigns over the entire creation, possesses greater boldness than anyone else, and is capable of interceding more powerfully than any other saint.

Whoever, therefore, has lived in sin and marred the image and likeness of God, which was initially bestowed to us, should befriend this unrivaled attorney and invincible representative known as the Mother of God—for when she makes a request to her Son, the Righteous Judge cannot but fulfill her petition and grant forgiveness. This is plainly evident with Jesus' miracle at the wedding of Cana, where even though initially Christ did not want to turn the water into wine, ultimately He performed the miracle on account of His Mother's request.

A certain way of receiving the blessings issuing from the intercessions of the Mother of God is to pray to her with love and humility—especially by reading the hymns, canons, and salutations, which the holy fathers of our Church composed and they themselves used when praying to Her. This is confirmed by countless people who, despite their sinfulness, received mercy and salvation from Christ on account of reverently praying to His Most-Holy Mother.