

**A PRAYER TO ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**O Holy Father John Chrysostom, you served the Church with dignity and piety throughout your life. You fearlessly preached the Gospel of Christ from your Ecumenical Throne in Constantinople, as grace shone forth from your “*golden mouth*” like beacons of light, enlightening the entire universe. Living in an era of opulence, you shunned the wealth of the world and showed us that true riches can be found in sincerely, humbly, and obediently following an ascetic life of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Truly you ‘practiced what you preached,’ feeding the hungry and caring for the sick with your own financial means as you deprived yourself of physical comforts. O venerable John Chrysostom, you provided us with the liturgical structure of worshipping the One True God by giving us the Divine Liturgy that still bears your name, causing us to realize the necessity of seeking frequent communion with our Creator. Through your own moral example, you taught us the importance of standing firm in our Orthodox Christian beliefs, no matter what trials and tribulations we may face. We implore you to intercede for us before God the Word. May we continue to find wisdom in the words of your teaching and in the messages of your sermons. May your final words – uttered at a time of great personal persecution as you traveled the road to your exile and ultimate death – be the words that guide and inspire us along each step of our own earthly journey: **GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!****