

ICONS ARE WINDOWS INTO HEAVEN

The Byzantine church tradition has developed an important symbolism regarding the church edifice: the narthex is the preparation for the entrance into heaven, the nave of the church, with the dome above it, represents heaven itself, and the sanctuary, the "Holy of Holies," with the altar in its center, represents the "holy dwelling place" of God and God's throne.



THE HOLY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY
The Virgin Mary is the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son and Word of God, having conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. She is often called by the Greek words, "Panagia" (meaning the "All-Holy," indicating her closeness to God in her obedience) and "Theotokos" (meaning "God-bearer" or "Birth-giver to God.")



THE HOLY TRINITY

In the Orthodox Church, the Holy Spirit is adored on Pentecost Sunday. The icon of the Holy Trinity is the icon of Pentecost. In his famous icon, Andrei Rublev was inspired by the meeting of Abraham and Sarah with the three angels. (Genesis 18: 1-15)



JESUS CHRIST PANTOCRATOR

The word Pantocrator is of Greek origin meaning "ruler of all." He holds the book of the Gospels in his left hand and blesses with his right hand. The icon portrays Christ as the Righteous Judge and the Lover of Mankind. The Gospel is the book by which we are judged, and the blessing proclaims God's loving kindness toward us, showing us that he is giving us his forgiveness.

Iconography by: Irene Pérez-Omer



HOLY GREAT SOVEREIGNS CONSTANTINE & HELEN, EQUAL TO THE APOSTLES



ST. SOPHIA & HER THREE DAUGHTERS: FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

Iconography by: Leonidas Diamantopoulos



DORMITION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY, THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY



ST. ANASTASIA THE MARTYR OF ROME



ST. SERAPHIM OF SAROV



ST. ALEXIOS THE MAN OF GOD



ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

HYMN FOR TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

When, O Christ our God, Thou wast transfigured on the mountain
Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy disciples in proportion as they could bear it.
Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners.

By the intercessions of the Theotokos,
O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.

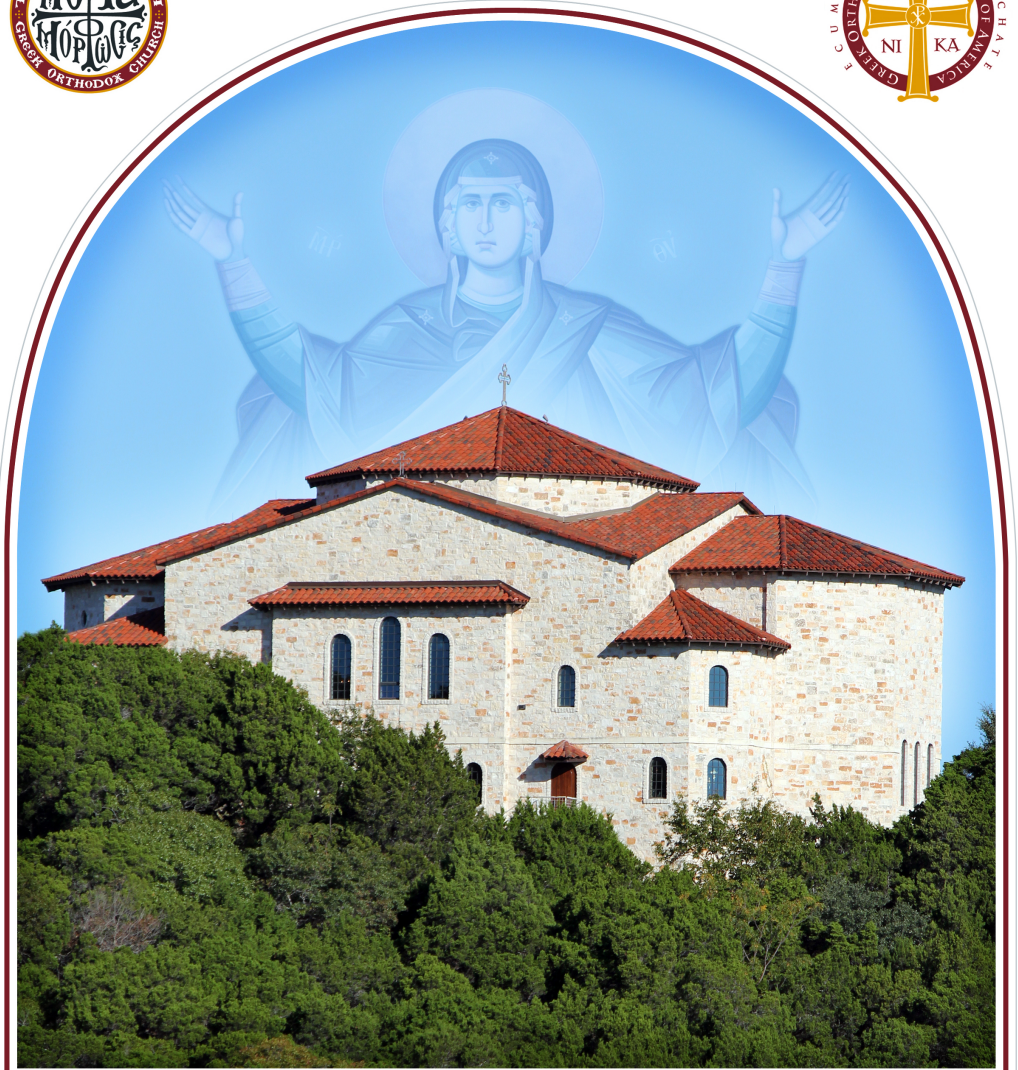


Iconography by: Irene Pérez-Omer

The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on August 6. The feast commemorates the Transfiguration or Metamorphosis of Christ on Mount Tabor, when our Lord appeared in His divine glory before the Apostles Peter, James, and John.

The event of the Transfiguration is recorded in three of the four Gospels: Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36.

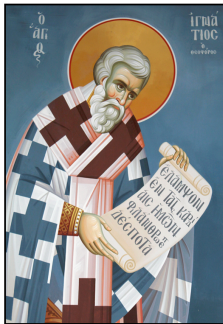
TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ICONOGRAPHY



414 ST. STEPHENS SCHOOL ROAD, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746



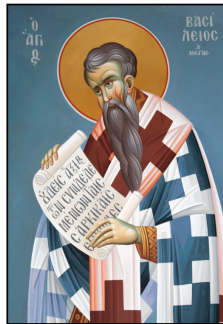
DEC. 25: THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST JAN. 6: THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY CRUCIFIXION OF OUR LORD HOLY PASCHA: THE RESURRECTION



ST. IGNATIUS THE GOD-BEARER



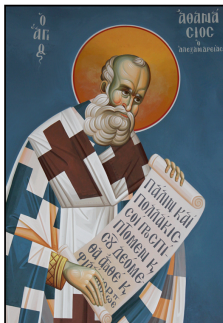
ST. DIONYSIUS OF ZAKYNTHOS



ST. BASIL THE GREAT



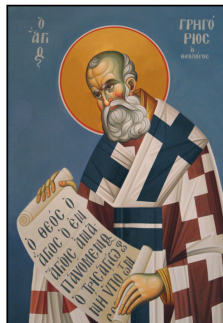
ST. INNOCENT OF ALASKA



ST. ATHANASIUS OF ALEXANDRIA



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM



ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN



ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER

Iconography by: Leonidas Diamantopoulos



Iconography by: Diamantis Cassis (Icon screen) & Leonidas Diamantopoulos (Platytera)

THE PANAGIA PLATYTERA ICON RISES ABOVE THE ICONOSTASIS AND IS PLACED IN THE APSE ABOVE THE ALTAR

1. **THE CHRIST CHILD, EMMANUEL - OUR LORD AND SAVIOR**
"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." (Matt. 1:23; KJV)
2. **PLATYTERA TON OURANON - "SHE WHO IS WIDER THAN THE HEAVENS"**
The Mother of God, hovering between the heavens and the earth serves as "the heavenly ladder, whereby God has descended" and as "the Bridge leading those on earth to heaven" (Akathist Hymn). Poetically, by containing the Creator of the Universe in her womb, the Virgin Mary has become Platytera ton ouranon, which means: "More spacious than the heavens".
3. **THE HOLY ARCHANGEL GABRIEL**
Archangel Gabriel has been called the leader of the heavenly hosts; he is associated with his revelation to the Theotokos that she would bear Christ.
4. **THE HOLY ARCHANGEL MICHAEL**
Michael is one of the most celebrated of the Angels and bodiless powers; he is called the Archistrategos, or chief commander, of all the bodiless powers.
5. **THE HOLY, GLORIOUS, ALL-LAUDABLE APOSTLE PHILIP**
The Apostle Philip was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ.
6. **THE HOLY APOSTLE MATTHIAS**
St. Matthias was one of the Seventy and was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot as one of the Twelve.
7. **THE HOLY, GLORIOUS AND ALL-LAUDABLE APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW**
St. Bartholomew (also known as Nathaniel) was one of the Twelve Great Apostles and of the Seventy.
8. **THE HOLY, GLORIOUS, ALL-AUDABLE APOSTLE JAMES (SON OF ZEBEDEE)**
The Apostle James was the brother of the Apostle John and a fisherman.
9. **THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN**
St. John the Theologian was one of the original twelve Apostles, and wrote the Gospel bearing his name; three canonical letters; I John, II John, and III John; and the Book of Revelation.
10. **THE HOLY, GLORIOUS AND ALL-LAUDABLE APOSTLE PETER**
The Apostle Peter is the leader of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ.
11. **THE HOLY, GLORIOUS & ALL-LAUDABLE APOSTLE & EVANGELIST MATTHEW**
The Apostle and Evangelist Matthew is the author of the Gospel of Matthew and one of the Twelve Apostles. St. Matthew's symbol is an angel.
12. **THE HOLY APOSTLE JAMES - THE SON OF ALPHAEUS**
The Apostle James was one of the twelve and the brother of the holy Evangelist Matthew.
13. **THE HOLY, GLORIOUS AND ALL-LAUDABLE APOSTLE ANDREW**
The Apostle Andrew - the First-Called, was the first of the apostles of Jesus Christ and the brother of the Apostle Peter. He was originally a disciple of St. John the Baptist & Forerunner and he left John to follow Jesus Christ following his baptism bringing along his brother St. Peter.
14. **THE HOLY, GLORIOUS AND ALL-LAUDABLE APOSTLE THADDEUS**
St. Thaddeus was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ and his brother, along with St. James, by virtue of being the son of St. Joseph. He is also called Levi or Jude.
15. **THE HOLY, GLORIOUS & ALL-LAUDABLE APOSTLE SIMON THE ZEALOT**
The Apostle Simon was one of the Twelve Apostles, referenced in Matthew 10:2-4.
16. **THE HOLY, GLORIOUS AND ALL-LAUDABLE APOSTLE THOMAS**
The Apostle Thomas is included in the number of the holy Twelve Apostles of the Savior.
17. **THE HOLY, GLORIOUS AND GREAT-MARTYR DEMETRIUS OF THESSALONIKI**
St. Demetrius the Myrrh-streamer is one of the most popular Saints in the Orthodox world.
18. **NORTH DEACON'S DOOR**
This icon depicts Archangel Michael guarding the door and is liturgically the exit from the altar, often interpreted mystically as heaven.
19. **ST. NECTARIOS WONDERWORKER OF AEGINA**
St. Nectarios was recognized as a Saint by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 1961.
20. **TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**
The Transfiguration of Christ is celebrated on Aug. 6 (Icon of the temple's patronal feast)
21. **THEOTOKOS WITH THE LORD**
This indicates the beginning of the end time, the time of our salvation.
22. **THE ROYAL DOORS**
The Holy Doors are a diptych of the Annunciation. This entrance is reserved for the use of the bishop, and the priest when he is carrying either the Gospel book or the chalice containing the Holy Eucharist and is reserved liturgically for the use of Christ as master and Lord.
23. **JESUS CHRIST - PANTOCRATOR**
The Lord, as All-ruler, the just judge of all our works. This indicates the end of all time and the awesome day of judgment.
24. **THE GLORIOUS PROPHET & FORERUNNER JOHN THE BAPTIST**
He was an ascetic and great prophet, who baptized Christ and became one of the most revered Saints in the Orthodox Church.
25. **THE HOLY, GLORIOUS, ALL-LAUDABLE APOSTLE PAUL**
Paul was the "Apostle to the Gentiles", being converted while on the road to Damascus by Jesus.
26. **SOUTH DEACON'S DOOR**
This icon depicts Archangel Gabriel whose announcement to the Theotokos marks the beginning of the Incarnation, which is our entrance to the heavenly realm and the South door is the liturgical entrance to the altar, interpreted mystically as heaven.
27. **THE HOLY & GLORIOUS GREAT-MARTYR MARINA OF ANTIOCH**
St. Marina was killed for her faith under the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

1. JESUS CHRIST - THE PANTOCRATOR

The word Pantocrator is of Greek origin meaning "ruler of all". He holds the book of the Gospels in His left hand and blesses with His right hand. The icon portrays Christ as the Righteous Judge and the Lover of Mankind, both at the same time. The Gospel is the book by which we are judged, and the blessing proclaims God's loving kindness toward us, showing us that He is giving us His forgiveness.

2-13. THE THRONE OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT BEING PREPARED AND THE THRONE OF GRACE

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

14. BARUCH THE PROPHET

The Prophet Baruch was the son of Nerias, and the disciple of the Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 39:12; 43:4 LXX). His name means "blessed."

15. AGGAEUS (HAGGAI) THE PROPHET

The Prophet Aggaeus, whose name means "festive," was born in Babylon at the time of the captivity Of the Jews. He began to prophesy in Jerusalem after their return thereto, and to admonish the people to rebuild the Temple, in the days of Zerubbabel, the second year of the reign of Darius Hystaspes, King of Persia, about the year 520 before Christ. His prophecy, divided into two chapters, is ranked tenth among the minor Prophets.

16. NOAH THE PATRIARCH

Celebrated Patriarch, who with his family, was preserved by God by means of the ark.

17. PROPHET AND KING DAVID

The holy and righteous King David was the second king of all Israel, after Saul, (approximately 1000 B.C.) He wrote a great number of the Psalms, and one of the Forefathers of Christ. A complete account of the life of King David can be found in the Old Testament starting in 1 Samuel 16.

18. ZACHARIAS THE PROPHET

The Prophet Zacharias was the son of Barachias, and a contemporary of the Prophet Aggaeus. In the days of the Babylonian captivity, he prophesied, as it says, in the book of Ezra, "to the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem" (Ezra 5: 1); he aided Zerubbabel in the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. When the captives returned from Babylon, he came to dwell in Jerusalem in his old age. His name means "Yah is renowned."

19. ZEPHANIAS (SOPHRONIAS) THE PROPHET

This Prophet, who is ninth in order among the minor Prophets, was the son of Chusi, from the tribe of Levi, or according to some, the great-grandson of King Hezekias. He prophesied in the years of Josias, who reigned in the years 641-610 before Christ. His name means "Yah is darkness."

20. JONAS THE PROPHET

The Prophet Jonas, the son of Amathi, of the town of Geth-hopher, was of the tribe of Zabulon; he prophesied during the years 838-810 before Christ. His three-day sojourn in the sea-monster's belly is an image of our Saviour's three-day burial and His life-bringing Resurrection. His name means "dove."

21. PROPHET AND KING SOLOMON

Solomon, who ruled as King of Israel from 970 to 931 BC, is commemorated as a Saint, with the title of "Righteous Prophet and King".

22. ELIAS (ELIJAH) THE PROPHET

Elias of great fame was from Thisbe or Thesbe, a town of Galaad, beyond the Jordan. He was of priestly lineage, a man of a solitary and ascetical character, clothed in a mantle of sheep skin, and girded about his loins with a leather belt. His name is interpreted as "Yah is my God." His zeal for the glory of God was compared to fire, and his speech for teaching and rebuke was likened unto a burning lamp.

23. JEREMIAS THE PROPHET

This great Prophet of God, Jeremias, who loved his brethren and lamented for them greatly, who prayed much for the people and the Holy City, was the son of Helkias of the tribe of Levi, from the city of Anathoth in the land of Benjamin. He prophesied for thirty years. His name means "Yah is exalted."

24. EZEKIEL THE PROPHET

The Prophet Ezekiel ("God is strong") was the son of Buzi and a priest by rank. He was taken captive and brought to Babylon during the reign of Jehonias. In the fifth year of this captivity, about 594 or 593 B.C., he began to prophesy. Having prophesied for about twenty-eight years, he was murdered, it is said, by the tribe of Gad, because he reproached them for their idolatry. among the greater Prophets.

25. MOSES THE PROPHET

The Prophet Moses-whose name means "one who draws forth," or "is drawn from," that is, from the water-was the pinnacle of the lovers of wisdom, the supremely wise lawgiver, the most ancient historian of all. He was of the tribe of Levi, the son of Amram and Jochabed (Num. 26:59). He was born in Egypt in the seventeenth century before Christ. He led Israel through the Red Sea as it were dry land and governed the people for forty years. He wrought many signs and wonders, and wrote the first five books of the Old Testament, which are called the Pentateuch.

26. JOEL THE PROPHET

The Prophet Joel, whose name means "Yah is God," was of the tribe of Reuben, the son of Bathuel, and lived from 810 to 750 B.C. (but some say in the 7th century B.C.). He foretold the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Joel 2:28, and quoted by the Apostle Peter in Acts 2:17), and the saving power of the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Joel 2:32).

27. HABAKKUK THE PROPHET

This Prophet, whose name means "loving embrace", may have been of the tribe of Symeon. He prophesied in the years of Joachim (Jechonias), before the Babylonian captivity of Israel, which took place 599 years before Christ.

28. DANIEL THE PROPHET

The Prophet Daniel appears in the Book of Daniel as a captive carried away to Babylon by order of Nebuchadnezzar after the fall of the kingdom of Israel during the sixth century before Christ. Daniel attained a high position in the court of Nebuchadnezzar, as God granted him great skill in the interpretation of dreams and of mysterious handwritings on walls. He was referred to as a Prophet by Christ Himself (Mark 13:14, Matthew 24:15.)

29. ESAIAS (ISAIAH) THE PROPHET

The Prophet Esaias, the son of Amos, was descended from a royal tribe. He prophesied in the days of Ozias, Joatham, Ahaz, and Hezekias, Kings of Judah. Of all the Prophets, he is called the most eloquent because of the beauty and loftiness of his words.

The Fifth Ode of the Psalter, "Out of the night my spirit waketh at dawn unto Thee, O God . . ." is taken from his book. It was this holy Prophet who foretold that a Virgin would conceive in the womb (7:14); that not an ambassador, nor an angel, but the Lord Himself would save fallen man (63:9); that the Messiah would suffer, bearing our sins (ch. 53). His name means "Yah is helper."

30. HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE

The holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle and Evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel of Luke, the companion of the Apostle Paul, and is numbered among the Seventy Apostles. He was a native of Syrian Antioch and a physician, and is the founder of iconography. His emblem is the calf, the third symbolical beast mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), which is a symbol of Christ's sacrificial and priestly office, as pointed out by St. Irenaeus.

31. THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN

The holy and glorious Apostle and Evangelist John was one of the original twelve Apostles, and wrote the Gospel bearing his name, 3 canonical letters and the Book of Revelation. St. John was the son of Salome the myrrh-bearer and Zebedee, and his brother was the Apostle James. He was the youngest of the twelve apostles, and especially close to the Lord. He was present for the Transfiguration of Christ with Peter and his brother James. He was exiled to the island of Patmos by Emperor Domitian and it was there that he received and wrote the Book of Revelation. His symbol is the eagle.

32. HOLY APOSTLE & EVANGELIST MATTHEW

The holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle and Evangelist Matthew is the author of the Gospel of Matthew and one of the Twelve Apostles. The apostle's symbol is an angel.

33. HOLY APOSTLE & EVANGELIST MARK

The holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle and Evangelist Mark is the author of the Gospel of Mark, the companion of the Apostle Paul, and is numbered among the Seventy Apostles. He is often referred to as John Mark, and is the founder of the Church of Alexandria, being regarded as its first patriarch. The apostle's symbol is a lion.

