

PASTOR'S CORNER (Fr. Jon Buffington)

What is an Icon?

An Icon begins and ends with prayer. It is a long process of becoming with the one portrayed, a conversation in words, ideas, colors and meditation. Neither the artist nor the icon is passive in the process. Each makes their own voice heard even while following the traditions of centuries of the creative process. The iconographer writes/paints the image while trying to let the image guide and instruct him or her in its making.

Always, however, each session begins with a prayer to be open to the will and guidance of the One who calls him or her to this sacred craft.

What is an icon? What it is *not* is a piece of religious art, although art is certainly involved. It is first a declaration that the pre-existent Word willingly took on our entire human nature, body and soul complete, in order to perfect the work of God's promised salvation. And (in the words of St. John of Damascus) since Christ has "become visible for our sakes by partaking of flesh and blood ... you may draw his image and show it to anyone willing to gaze upon it." Every icon is connected to the Incarnation. Every icon is therefore also connected to the Liturgy as every prayer is directed to the Lord, and an icon is a prayer in form and color.

Further, in Paul's Letter to the Colossians, he connects the work of the God Man to that of the Divine Wisdom in creation and reconciliation. "*The image of the invisible...*", "*the first-born of all creation...*" through whom all creation came to be. In the incarnation, this image of God made flesh is now available for us to see and touch and receive into our bodies and souls. We lost the "likeness" of God in the Fall to sin, but the "image", our soul, is still with us albeit endangered by evil and selfishness. Christ came to repair that loss and bring us back into the complete life of God once again. This new Adam invites his friends into a new relationship with the Father. The Icon is the way to physically engage this new relationship through the saints. As they engage the Word in Paradise, so they work through their icon images to draw us into that conversation they share with Christ in eternity.

Fr. John Buffington

Ordinary Time

Day	Date	Time	Observance	Mass Intention
VIGIL	Sept 16	5:00 pm	Vigil of the Sunday Mass	Joanna Kong +
SUNDAY	Sept 17	9:00 am	The Most Holy Eucharist of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ	Marylou Geer +
		11:30 am	The Most Holy Eucharist of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ	Missa pro populo
Monday	Sept 18		No service	
Tuesday	Sept 19	8:30 am	St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr	John and Joan Delaney +
Wednesday	Sept 20	8:30 am	Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest and Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions, Martyrs	Stan Vandehey +
Thursday	Sept 21	10:00 am	St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist	Emma Graves
Friday	Sept 22	8:30 am	Memorial Mass	Richard Lerwick +
Saturday	Sept 23	8:30 am	St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest	Joanna Kong +
			<u>Readings for the Sunday Mass:</u> Isaiah 55.6-9; Psalm 145; Phil 1.20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20.1-16a	
VIGIL		5:00 pm	Vigil of the Sunday Mass	Joanna Kong +
	Sept 24	10:00 am	The Most Holy Eucharist of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Picnic follows!!	Missa pro populo