Our Iconography Project

We venerate Your immaculate icon,  
O good Lord, and entreat You to forgive our 
offences, O Christ our God.
When Prince Vladimir the Great (Saint Vladimir of Kiev) was seeking a religion for his people, the pagan Kievan Rus, he sent envois to study and report on the different religions and Christian denominations of all his neighbor countries.

When the envois returned from their visit to Constantinople and described the worship at the Great Church of Christ, Hagia Sophia, they said, according to tradition, *We no longer knew whether we were in heaven or on earth.*

*We no longer knew whether we were in heaven or on earth.* The visitor of any church, when stepping inside, feels something different, palpations within his heart. Feels transported into a new world, one that affirms in the most forceful way that the beauty of God's creation is a manifestation of His glory and His love for mankind. The iconography that traditionally adorns the interior of an Orthodox church is the most significant component in this affirmation.

In the history of the Church, icons, also, played and continue to play an educative role; that was most certainly true in the past when people were, mostly, illiterate; the stories described in the Gospels were offered to the people as an image that catches the imagination and memory of everyone.

And thus, iconography became not just a decorative art to glorify God but most importantly, a teaching tool, projecting the story, its context and its *ethos*.

Based on parishioner request, we began looking into iconographers to paint the bare white walls of our church. After
careful consideration Petros Bilioumbasis was chosen to carry out the work in our church. We reviewed work from various iconographers but came to the conclusion that Petros Bilioumbasis was the best choice for St. George, based on examples of his work, his availability, and recommendations from parishes he has previously worked with.

Petros Bilioumbasis studied iconography at the Holy Mountain, Athos and his style is very close to the one already existing in our church.

With this booklet we present to you a sketch idea, of canvas murals, of how, approximately, our church will look upon completion.

The project is divided into four phases:

1. Completion of western Wall
2. Completion of both side aisles
3. Completion of main aisle
4. Completion of Narthex
We humbly ask that you join us in contributing towards the completion of our iconography project. Any, and all donations will be gratefully accepted.

Please consider memorial gifts for the departed, or gifts to honor special occasions such as a birth, baptism, marriage, anniversary or other important events in the life of a loved one.

We thank you for any donation, however you choose to contribute to the further beautification of our worship space.

After months of prayerful and studious consideration and research, we arrived at a decision regarding the events and saints to be depicted.

There will be four levels of iconography.

- The top two levels of the main aisle will be focused on Christ-centered events.
- The lower level, above the columns, will depict a litany of Saints towards Christ and the Theotokos.
- On the left and right side and the arches will depict a litany of Saints.
- The Western wall will depict the Dormition and Assumption of the Most Holy Theotokos on the top level and Christ with the children and Theotokos, as Source of Life in Paradise, on the lower level.

The iconographer is preparing the icons in his studio in Greece and will come here to install them. The pictures in this booklet show some of the icons "in progress" at Mr. Biliumbasis' studio.
Thank you to our donors

We are deeply grateful for the donations we received to make this project possible. We are blessed to have so many members of our parish—individuals, families, and through our many organizations—participate in this effort, thereby returning to our Church the blessings and gifts we have received from the Lord.

We thank you for your support of this project and for all that you do for Saint George!

We ask that donations towards this project not reduce your regular stewardship and offerings, as the normal parish operating expenses will remain the same throughout this project.

The donations toward an icon (Saint or from the Feasts) shall be for its entirety either from an individual a family or from a group of individuals or families that they would like to share the cost.
In addition to the individual Saint or Feast icons a general fund, where anyone can contribute any donation amount, has been established to cover the cost of any other required iconography or icons that might not be donated by individuals. Anticipated costs based upon estimates from the iconographer, are shown below:

**PHASE 1, WESTERN WALL**

- The Dormition and the Assumption of the Most Holy Theotokos at the entire upper level of the wall (above the doors) = $30,000
- Christ with children, entire lower right level (as we enter the church) = $15,000 (Donated)
- Theotokos, as Source of Life in Paradise. in the lower left level (as we enter the church) = $15,000 (Donated)
PHASE 2, SIDE AISLES & SIDE AISLES WESTERN WALL

An index of Saints is listed below; if you don’t see the name of a Saint whose icon you would like to donate, please don’t hesitate to ask us, if we can include him. In some cases, it will be possible, in others it will not (for example: if we already have another icon of that saint in the church).

Right Wall:

1. St. Ephrem the Syrian (busto) = $1,500
2. St. John of Damascus, above the side door (busto) = $1,500
3. St. Kassiani the Hymnographer = $3,500
4. St. Stylianos = $3,500
5. St. Fotini = $3,500
6. St. Eustace (Ευστάθιος) = $3,500
7. St. Marina = $3,500
8. St. Minas = $3,500
9. St. Theodore = $3,500
10. SS. Sophia & Elpis, Pisti & Agape = $5,000
11. St. Savas the Sanctified = $3,500
12. St. Cosmas = $3,500
13. St. Damien = $3,500
14. St. Irene (Arches) = $3,500
15. St. Anastasia (Arches) = $3,500
16. St. Alexandra (Arches) = $3,500
17. St. Any Saint (Arches) = $3,500
18. St. Any Saint (Arches) = $3,500
19. St. Any Saint (Arches) = $3,500
20. St. Iakovos Tsalikis (Arches) = $3,500
21. St. Amfilohios Makris (Arches) = $3,500
22. St. Euphemia (Solea) = $3,500
23. St. Barbara (Solea) = $3,500
24. St. Panteleimon (Solea) = $3,500
25. Panagia Soumela (depicted with her monastery-back wall) = $5,000

Left Wall:

1. St. Juliette (busto) = $1,500
2. St. Nikon Metanoite, above the side door (busto) = $1,500
3. St. Paraskevi = $3,500
4. St. Demetrios the Great-Martyr = $3,500
5. St. Eleutherios = $3,500
6. St. Catherine = $3,500
7. St. Haralambos = $3,500
8. St. Christina = $3,500
9. St. Kyriaki = $3,500
10. SS. Constantine & Helen = $3,500
11. St. Mary Magdalene = $3,500
12. Adam & Eve = $3,500
13. St. Agatha (Arches) = $3,500
14. St. Calliope (Arches) = $3,500
15. St. Any Saint (Arches) = $3,500
16. St. Any Saint (Arches) = $3,500
17. St. Dionysios of Zakynthos (Arches) = $3,500
18. St. Anthony (Arches) = $3,500
19. St. Porfyrios (Arches) = $3,500
20. St. Paisios (Arches) = $3,500
21. St. Augustine (Solea)
22. St. Maximos the Confessor (Solea) = $3,500
23. St. Germanus of Constantinople (Solea) = $3,500
24. St. Symeon the New Theologian (Solea) = $3,500
25. St. Nicholas (depicted with his miracles-back wall) = $5,000
SIDE AISLES WESTERN WALL: THE LAST JUDGEMENT = $12,000
RIGHT (NORTH) WALL TOP LEVEL (starting from Altar):

- Nativity = $16,000
- Presentation into the Temple (Ὑπαπαντή) = $16,000
- Baptism = $16,000
- Transfiguration (Μεταμόρφωσις) = $16,000
- Raising of Lazarus = $16,000
- Entrance into Jerusalem = $12,000
LEFT (SOUTH) WALL TOP LEVEL (starting from Narthex):

- Nipter (Νιπτήρας) = $12,000
- Mystical Supper (Μυστικός Δείπνος) = $16,000
- Crucifixion = $16,000
- Resurrection (Descent into Hades-η εις Αδου Κάθοδος) = $16,000
- Resurrection, Myrrh-bearers = $16,000
- Pentecost = $16,000

GROUPS OF SAINTS, Lower Upper Level

- (R) Adoration of the Magi = $15,000
- (L) Christ enthroned with SS. George (kneeling, offering the Church), St. John the Merciful & Herman of Alaska = $15,000
Prophets O.T. (R)
- Prophets Isaiah, Elias & Ezekiel = $2,500 each

Prophets O.T. (L)
- Prophets Moses, Aaron & Daniel = $2,500 each

Martyr Saints (R)
- St. Polycarp = $2,500
- St. Cecilia the Martyr = $2,500
- St. Procopius = $2,500

Martyr Saints (L)
- St. Ignatius of Antioch = $2,500
- St. Thekla the Protomartyr = $2,500
• St. Alban, Protomartyr of Britain = $2,500

 Hierarchs & Evangelists (R)
• St. Gregory of Nyssa = $2,500
• St. Blaise (Βλάσιος), Bishop of Sebaste = $2,500
• St. Gregory the Great (Dialogist) = $2,500

 Hierarchs & Evangelists (L)
• St. Cyril & St. Methodius = $2,500 each
• St. Martin of Tour = $2,500

 Ascetic & Evangelists Saints (R)
• St. Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland = $2,500
• St. Columba of Iona, Enlightener of Scotland = $2,500
• St. Moses the Black = $2,500
Ascetic & Evangelists Saints (L)

- St. Brigid of Kildare = $2,500
- St. Silouan the Athonite = $2,500
- St. Seraphim of Sarov = $2,500

(R)

- St. Boniface, the Apostle of the Germans = $2,500
- St. Olga of Kiev = $2,500

(L)

- St. Macrina, ‘the great teacher’ = $2,500
- St. Olympias the deaconess = $2,500

**PHASE 4, NARTHEX**

A decision about the iconography in the Narthex will be determined at a later time.

We sincerely hope that every member and friend of Saint George will be inspired to contribute. Parishioners, we kindly ask, please do not replace your regular stewardship and offerings to support this undertaking.

Projected completion is scheduled for early 2021 (no time to delay!).

Checks can be mailed to Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, 238 West Rocks Road, Norwalk, CT 06851.

Thank you for your generosity and for being a part of living history!
Please Note: The sketches in this booklet are presented, only, to give an idea of the final look and in no case represent the final product, either in quality or structure.

ALL INQUIRES TO BE ADDRESSED TO
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