



Saints and Icons

WEEK 2



"Thus the icon is also a theology, a theology in color, expressing the experience of God with lines and paints rather than with discursive language. The goal of the icon and that of written theology are the same – to lead others to the mystical experience of God. The icon artistically depicts the experience so that others may approach the mystery and be invited to share in it." - Anton Vrame, The Educating Icon

OPENING PRAYERS:

In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee!

Prayer to Holy Spirit

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Trisagion Prayer

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Before Study

Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart that I may hear thy word and understand it and so fulfill thy will. Amen.

LESSON / ACTIVITY: See pages below. For each topic, please note Parent roles, notes, and (child responses).

Prayers

Before and after each lesson, please say a short prayer in front of an icon according to your family's prayer rule or the following, taken from the red St. Tikhon's Prayer Book:

CLOSING PRAYERS:

"Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb: for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

Pray to God for me, O holy [name of your patron saint], pleasing to God, for with fervor I run to thee, swift helper and intercessor for my soul.

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by virtue of thy Cross preserve thy habitation.

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos: ever-blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of thy most pure Mother, of my holy guardian angel, of [name of your patron saint], of [saint(s) of the day], and of all the saints: save me, a sinner. Amen."

Day 1: BINGO with Icons

Parent Asks: “What do we call holy pictures?” (Icons) “Where are some places we see icons?” (Home, bedroom, dining room, doorways, church, iconostasis, car) “What do we see in icons?” (Jesus, miracles, saints, animals, halos, the Theotokos, etc.)

BINGO Directions:

Go around your house, or the Church, and mark which icons you can find!
Have children identify icons as thoroughly as they can. Young children may use the picture board on the next page if they're not reading yet.

[Click here](#) to play online or print your own. You can also use a BINGO board from the next pages or the activity bag.

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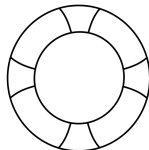
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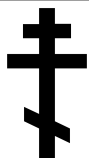
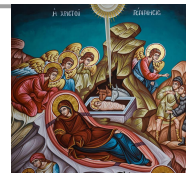
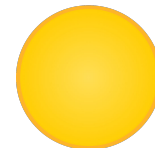
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IC XC
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Free



[Click Here and select "New Card" For a Different Version](#)

Bingo Card ID 020

Home Icons Bingo

CROSS	VESTMENTS	MONASTIC	HIERARCH	HOLY TRINITY
ANGEL	JESUS	IC XC	CROWN	STAR
HALO	ANNUNCIATION	PROPHET	NATIVITY	WARRIOR MARTYR
SHIELD	FEAST	GOSPEL	MIRACLE	CRUCIFIXION
WEAPON	APOSTLE	PATRON SAINT	PENTECOST	MP OV

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Bingo Card ID 030

Home Icons Bingo

CROWN	IC XC	ANIMALS	CROSS	HOLY TRINITY
PATRON SAINT	MONASTIC	BAPTISM OF CHRIST	SHIELD	PENTECOST
FEAST	STAR	MARTYR	HALO	HIERARCH
WEAPON	ASCENSION	THEOTOKOS	ANNUNCIATION	WEDDING AT CANA
GOSPEL	MIRACLE	MP OV	CRUCIFORM HALO	APOSTLE

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Day 2: Icons and Saints

In front of an Icon, Parent Asks: “What do we call holy pictures?” (Icons) “Where are some places we see icons?” (Home, church, iconostasis, car) “What do we see in icons?” (Jesus, miracles, saints--*stop when the child says “saints”*) “Who are the saints?” (Holy people who loved God and tried to do what God wanted them to do, saints are examples for us just like they lived by Jesus’s example, people who pray to God for us--like our patron saint)

Parent Explains: “Icons are more than just pictures, they are another Mystery of the Church! Like the Holy Scripture, they are a witness of the truth of God, a window into heaven, and a presence of God’s reality. Jesus Christ truly became man, so as a man He is truly the ‘icon of the invisible God.’ Icons are prayerfully made, ‘written’ of the people we love: the heroes of the faith who are remembered and whose earthly lives are considered instructive and worthy of imitation.”

Parent Asks: “What else do we see in icons?” (symbols) “Who are saints? Which saint is in this icon? How do we know? How did this saint show us we can become closer to God? What objects do you see the saint holding? What is a symbol?”

Parent Explains: “A symbol is an object that means something more. For example, the 13 stripes in the United States flag are nice to see, but they’re also a symbol for the 13 original colonies. Icons have special symbols that tell a story or remind us what that person did in their life to become a saint. In icons, a dove is sometimes a symbol for the Holy Spirit, which is otherwise invisible. The Orthodox saints have certain symbols in their icons to help tell their unique stories. The stories are endless, but it helps to talk about and learn from them if we group them by certain actions. This week we are looking for symbols in icons to better understand what we see.”

Day 3: Symbols, Martyrs and Monastics

~5 mins

In front of one or many icons, Parent Asks: “What do we see in icons?” (Jesus, miracles, saints, symbols) “Who are saints? Which saint is in this icon? How do we know? How did this saint show us we can be closer to God? What objects do you see the saint holding? What is a symbol?”

Parent Discusses: “Icons have special symbols that tell a story or show what that person did in their life to become a saint. Today we will look at saints who have the symbol of a cross in their icons.

Some saints are ‘martyrs;’ they were martyred, killed, for Jesus because people tried to force them to deny that Jesus is Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Icons of martyrs often show objects like a red head covering, a cross, and an open hand facing out. What do you think these symbolize?” (red symbolizes blood or being killed, the cross symbolizes sacrificing their own life to follow God--like Jesus’s sacrifice on the cross, the hand ‘denounces’ or refuses to obey someone who wants them to turn away from God)

“Warrior martyrs were killed for God too, but during their lives they also fought enemies or led armies. What symbols do you think they will have?” (cross, red cape, sword, shield, horse)

“There’s one more type of saint who holds a cross in the icon. That’s a monastic saint. What is a monastic?” (monk, nun, someone who leaves the regular world live in isolation like a hermit in the desert--or to work in a Christ-centered community called a monastery--who spends every day praying to God) “Icons of monastics show their devotion to prayer and to God, by what they hold and what they wear. Name some things you think you might see.” (prayer rope, a cross, a monastic habit) Can you name a Martyr, a Warrior Martyr, and a Monastic?” (*any correct answer works! Some examples:* Saint Stephen the first martyr, the Holy Great Martyr George--soldiers in the Roman army, Saint Herman of Alaska or Saint Anthony the Great) “We ask monastic saints to pray to God for us and to help pray. We ask martyr saints to pray to God for us when we are struggling to stay close to God, when we’re asked to deny Jesus, or when it’s really hard to follow Him.”

Day 4: Icons of Saints: Prophets, Apostles, and Hierarchs

Parent Asks: “Yesterday we talked about symbols in icons, what were they?” (clothing, crosses, weapons, prayer ropes, the objects saints hold) “We also talked about martyrs and monastics. Can you name another type of saint?” (apostles, prophets, and priests or bishops) “Who were the apostles?” (names of 12, people who followed Jesus)

Parent Explains: “An apostle is a disciple or follower of Jesus. They heard the Word of God and lived by it. They also taught other people about Jesus. In icons, they are shown with the Gospel or a closed scroll--this symbolizes them sharing the knowledge of the coming of God’s Kingdom, the Good News, with others.”

“A prophet is someone tells of the future. The Prophet Daniel told of Christ’s coming into the world by interpreting a dream in great detail. God tells prophets what is going to happen, so the prophets in icons hold an open scroll, the symbol of having divine knowledge or wisdom from God.”

Parent Asks: “What does a priest wear?” (vestments) “Have you noticed the priest’s hand when he gives a blessing? Does it look like the hand Jesus makes in His icons?” (Yes.) “Look at the shape of the right hand. In Greek, this is the abbreviation for IC XC, Jesus Christ. *Point to this in an icon of Jesus.* The priests give a blessing in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. A hierarch is a type of saint who was a great priest or bishop. They are shown with vestments, a Gospel, and their hand in the shape of a blessing gesture, IC XC. We venerate the icons of saints and ask them to pray to God for our education and guidance, so we can live with thanks for God in our hearts and love for others in our actions.”

Day 5: Saint Basil / the Three Holy Hierarchs

Parent Asks: “Who is our church named after?” (Saint Basil the Great) “Where are his icons in our church?” (St. Basil is on the iconostasis and the Three Holy Hierarchs are on the right side wall.) “What type of saint is a hierarch?” (A great priest or bishop) “Who are the Three Holy Hierarchs?” (St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, St. John Chrysostom)

Parent Explains: “The Holy Three Hierarchs and Teachers: Basil the Great; Gregory the Theologian; and John Chrysostom are celebrated on January 30th. They belong to the Great Fathers of the Church because they used their excellent education to explain the Holy Scriptures to the people, so everyone could live a life in Christ. They are the Patron Saints of all levels of education, of teachers, and of students. In Greece and Cyprus, the Greek Letters are also celebrated on their feast day. Look at the icon of the Three Holy Hierarchs, *in the activity bag*. The Icon itself shows the three hierarchs in unity. All vested as bishops, they can be identified by their facial features. Saint Basil has dark hair with a long, pointed beard; Saint John is recognizable by his high forehead and tuft of hair in the centre of his head; Saint Gregory is bearded with white hair.”

Parent Asks: What else do you know about Saint Basil the Great and Saint John Chrysostom or their prayers? (They wrote prayers that we pray during Divine Liturgy each Sunday)

On their feast day, we sing this Troparion:

Let us who love their words gather together

and honor with hymns the three great torch-bearers of the triune Godhead:

Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom.

These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine doctrines.

They are sweetly-flowing rivers of wisdom

filling all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge.

Ceaselessly they intercede for us before the Holy Trinity!



Days 6 & 7 Activities:

- Paper activities ideal for ages 4-8
- Tin Foil activities ideal for ages 9+

Younger Children

Days 6&7: Matching Saints with their Symbols

- ❖ Draw lines to match the type of saint with the symbol they hold.
- ❖ Play the guessing game with your siblings or parents.
- ❖ Use cut-out pieces to put the correct symbols with each type of saint.
- ❖ Use your Bingo Card to go around again and find all the symbols you see and different types of saints you can find in the the icons around your home or at church.
- ❖ Ask your parents to help you look up the story of your patron saint. Say a prayer to that saint.

CATEGORIES OF SAINTS



MAZE

Help each Saint find his/her objects.

Name: _____



WARRIOR MARTYR



PROPHET



MONASTIC



MARTYR



APOSTLE



HIERARCH



MATCH THE SAINTS WITH THEIR OBJECTS

Draw a line to connect each Saint with the objects that are appropriate for him/her.



Name: _____



WARRIOR MARTYR



PROPHET



MONASTIC



MARTYR



APOSTLE



HIERARCH





WARRIOR MARTYR



PROPHET



MONASTIC



MARTYR



APOSTLE



HIERARCH

Guess Who? Game:

- ★ Each player secretly chooses one saint.
- ★ Take turns guessing by asking questions like, “Is your saint holding a cross?”
- ★ Whoever guesses the other’s mystery saint first wins!

CUT & GLUE CRAFT

What is each Saint holding? Cut out the objects in the following pages and glue them on the hands of the appropriate Saint.



MONASTIC

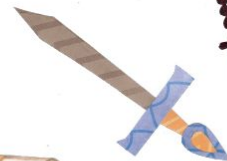


APOSTLE



CUT & GLUE CRAFT

What is each Saint holding? Cut out the objects and glue them on the hands of the appropriate Saint.



WARRIOR MARTYR



MARTYR



HIERARCH



PROPHET



Activities from OrthodoxPebbles.com



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Older Children Days 6&7: Create Your Own

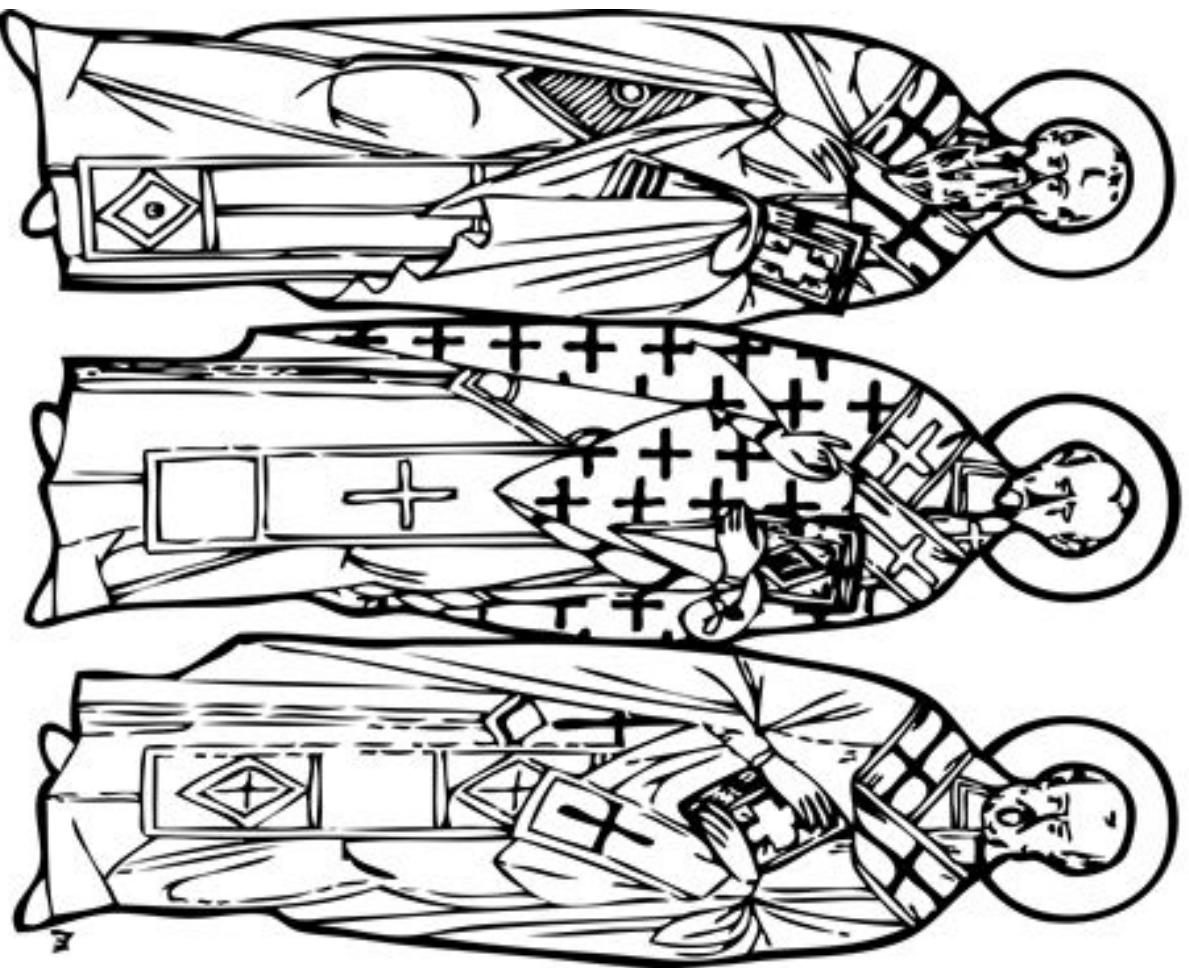
Parent Directs: Icon Foil Art Instructions:

1. Choose a line drawing or picture of an icon to trace. (*Some are included, or use a favorite feast or miracle, <http://dce.oca.org/resources/line-drawings/page/1/>, or a patron saint to make it more personal*)
2. Take out tinfoil piece and cardboard. Put the paper on top and tape it in place to keep it from moving.
3. Trace the lines--press hard into the cardboard for thicker outlines. Lightly trace the other lines for texture and shading. A dull pencil works best!
4. Gently remove the paper and trace the outlines on tinfoil with a Sharpie marker--with your parent's permission! Display it in your room or near your school work station!

If you have time at the end, use your Bingo card to go around again and see what symbols you find and what types of saints you have in the the icons around your home. If you see a saint whose story you don't know, ask a parent to help you look it up. Or look up the story of your patron saint, if you're not familiar. After learning, guess what the objects you see symbolize!



THREE HIERARCHS

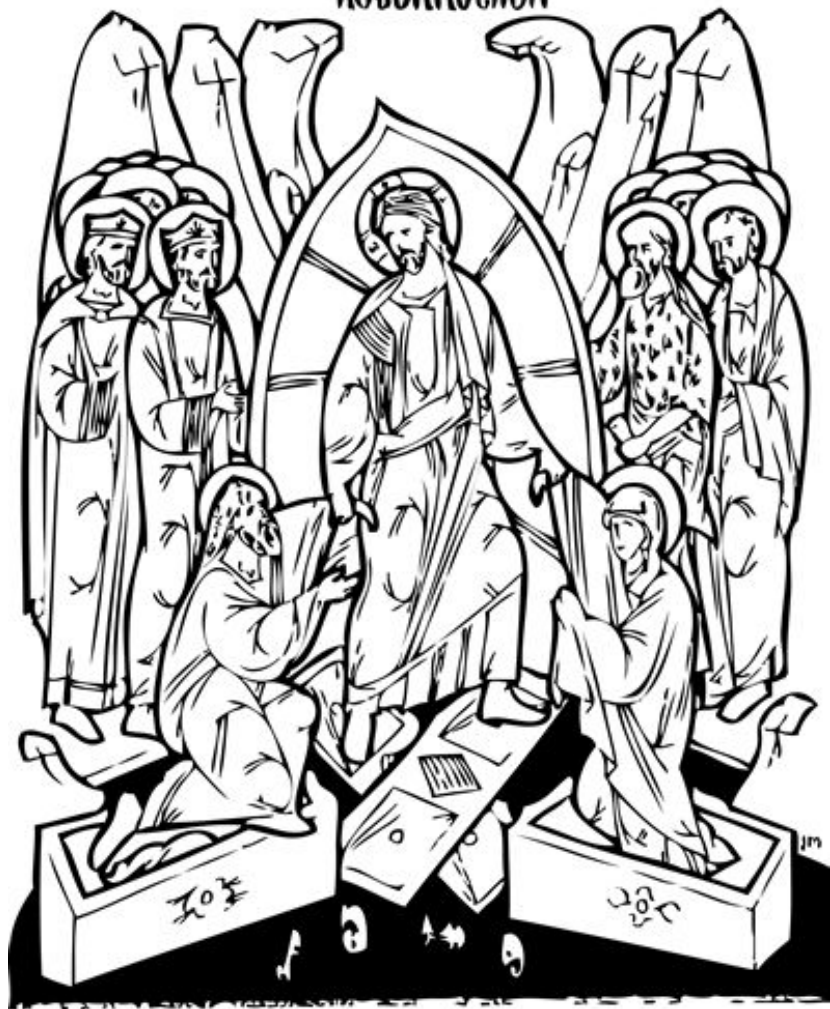




CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES



RESURRECTION



PHARISEE



PUBLICAN