

Iconography

Adult Spiritual Enrichment

September 13, 2020

CLASS 1

DOME

1. Pantocrator
2. Old Testament Prophets
3. Old Testament Righteous Ones

PANTOCRATOR

What Does it Mean?

- Pantocrator (gr) = “Ruler of all”; “Almighty”
- Expression of His absolute power and dominion
- Being “Ruler of all” is an attribute common to all 3 persons of the Holy Trinity; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

What Do We See?

- We see God the Son, looking down upon us with contemplation.
 - Acronyms: IC = Jesus (Ιησούς); XC = Christ (Χριστός)
 - O = The; Pantokrátor (Παντοκράτορ) = Ruler of All
- He is blessing us with his right hand (Lover of Mankind).
- Holding the closed Gospel in his left hand (Righteous Judge—the book by which we will be judged)
- *“The Lord looked attentively from heaven; He saw all the sons of men. From His prepared dwelling place, He looked upon all who dwell on the earth, He who alone fashioned their hearts, He who understands all their works.” Psalm 33:13-15*
- *“The Lord stooped down from heaven to look upon the sons of men, To see if there are any who understood or sought God.” Psalm 13:2*

Do We Find This Word in Holy Scripture? YES! Many times! And in our Symbol of Faith.

- “Pantocrator” appears innumerable times throughout the Greek Old Testament (the Septuagint).
- “Pantocrator” appears 10 times in the New Testament, especially in the book of Revelation. (1:8, 4:8, 11:17, 15:3, 16:7, 16:14, 19:6, 19:15, 21:22)
 - *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,’ says the Lord, ‘Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty (Pantocrator).” Revelation 1:8*
 - *“And they do not reset day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty (Pantocrator), Who was and is and is to come!’” Revelation 4:8*
- *“I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty (Pantocrator).” 2 Corinthians 6:18*

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We say “Pantocrator” in our Symbol of Faith.

- The Nicene Creed begins: “I believe in one God, the Father Almighty (Pantocrator) maker of heaven and earth ...”

Notice the Positioning:

- Highest part of the Church, as if arising out of the East.
 - *“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to west, so also will be the coming of the Son of Man be.”* Matthew 24:2 (read OSB notes p. 1316)
 - *“O Jerusalem, look eastward, and see the joy that is coming to you from God.”* Baruch 4:26
- Fun Fact: Oldest known Pantocrator is the icon written in the 6th Century and preserved at St. Catherine’s monastery in the Sinai dessert. It survived the iconoclastic era where icons were destroyed. (726-815).

CHRIST’S HALO

- Christ’s Halo is unique: Ὁ ὢΝ “He Who Is” (Omicron, Omega, Nu)
- *“Then God said to Moses, ‘I AM the Existing One.’* Exodus 3:14
- *“Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abram was, I AM.’”* John 8:58

INSCRIPTION AROUND THE PANTOCRATOR

- *“Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me.”* Isaiah 43:10
 - ἔμπροσθέν μου οὐκ ἐγένετο ἄλλος θεὸς καὶ μετ’ ἐμὲ οὐκ ἔσται
- *“I am God, and besides me there is no one who saves.”* Isaiah 44:11
 - ἐγὼ ὁ θεὸς καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλος ἐμοῦ σὺζῶν

HALOS

- Halos signify sanctity and radiating glory.
- *“Now when Moses came down from Mt. Sinai...he did not know that the skin of his face was glorified while God talked with him. So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses and the glorified appearance of his skin and face, they were afraid to come near him...”* Exodus 34:29-31
- *“The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then, the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”* Matthew 13:41-43
- *“...and they had had crowns of gold on their heads.”* Revelation 4:4
- *“...and on the cloud sat one, like the Son of Man, having on His head a gold crown.”* Revelation 14:14

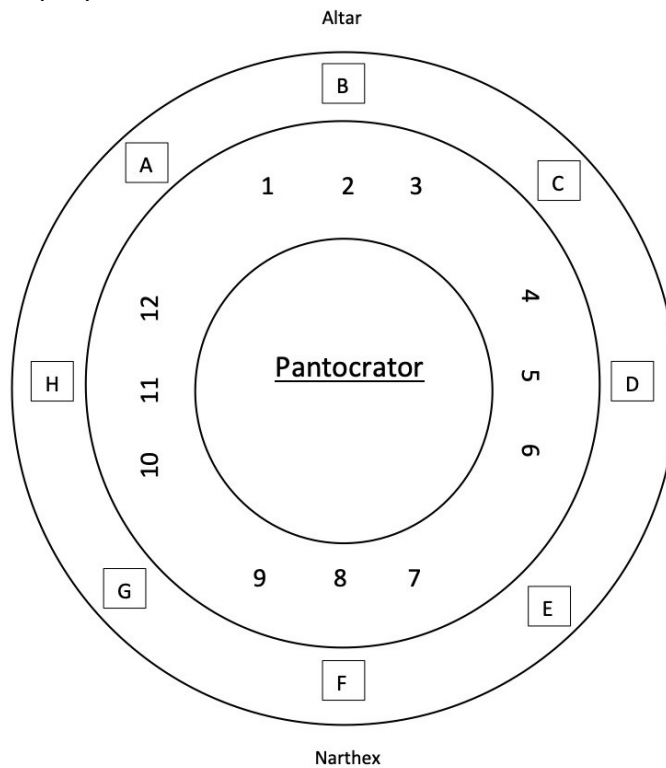
ANGELS

If space allows, the choir of angels.

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THE PROPHETS

- The Old Testament Prophets surround Christ. They are the ones who prophesied the coming of the Messiah, the virginal birth, and that the Savior of mankind would come from the people of Israel.
- The Nicene Creed states "...the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life...who spoke through the prophets."



Old Testament Prophets

(Shown in Full Figure in the Dome)

- 1 – Elias (Elijah)
- 2—David
- 3—Isaiah
- 4—Ezekiel
- 5—Moses
- 6— Abbacum (Habakkuk)
- 7—Jonah
- 8—Solomon
- 9—Jeremiah
- 10—Zacharias (Zachariah)
- 11—Daniel
- 12—Amos

Old Testament Prophets

(Shown within the Dome border trim, faces only)

- A—Isaac
- B—Samuel
- C—Simeon
- D—Joachim
- E—Joseph
- F—Aaron
- G—Jesse
- H—Jacob

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Old Testament Prophets

1—Elias, Prophet (Elijah, “the Lord is my God”) (July 20) Elias’ father saw angels feeding baby Elias flames, foreshadowing Elias’ God-given fiery power. He frequently withdrew to the wilderness for contemplation. He confronted Israelite Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel. He did not die but was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot. He appeared with Moses at Christ’s Transfiguration.

2—David, King and Prophet (“beloved”) (Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, celebrated 2nd Sunday before the Nativity; ancestors of Christ according to the flesh) (1st Sunday after the Nativity) — 2nd King of Israel (after Saul; he was Saul’s harpist). Victorious in military matters. He had the affair with Bathsheba. He wrote many of the “Psalms”. Our most famous Psalm of repentance; Psalm 50 (51),

3—Isaiah, Prophet (“God saves”) (May 9) He was made worthy to see the Lord on the throne in heaven, surrounded by the seraphim continuously singing, “*Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Sabaoth*” Isaiah 6:3. Another of Isaiah’s prophecies: “*Therefore the Lord will give you a sign: behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and you will call His name Immanuel.*” Isaiah 7:14. Authored the “Book of Isaiah”.

4—Ezekiel, Prophet (“God strengthens”) (July 21) Son of a priest. Contemporary of Prophet Jeremiah. Prophesied for 27 years in captivity in Babylon. He had fearful visions, the destruction of Jerusalem, visions of the Lord, tribulations of the Israelites for not remaining faithful. He was mistreated and tortured by the unbelieving Jewish people, who eventually tied his limbs to horses and tore him apart. He authored the “Book of Ezekiel”.

5—Moses, Prophet, The God-Seer (“to pull out or draw out”)(Sept. 4) Great leader and law-giver of Israel. For 40 years in Egypt in the court of the pharaoh; 40 years as shepherd; 40 years he led his people. Parted the sea. Received the 10 Commandments. Appeared on Mt. Tabor during the Lord’s Transfiguration. Reposed at age 120. Author of first 5 Books of the Old Testament (Pentateuch/Torah—“Genesis”, “Exodus”, “Leviticus”, “Numbers”, “Deuteronomy”); and also authored of many Psalms (as did David).

6—Habakkuk, Prophet (Abbacum, “embrace”) (Dec. 2) From Judea, where Habakkuk was taking food to workers in a field, an angel miraculously transported Habakkuk to Babylon (a great distance away) where Daniel was in the lion’s den. “*O Daniel, Daniel, take dinner which God hath sent thee,*” Daniel 14:37. The angel then instantaneously returned Habakkuk to Judea. He died in old age and his relics were discovered during the reign of Theodosius the Great. Authored “Book of Habbakuk”.

7—Jonah, Prophet (“dove”) (Sept. 22) Jonah is the prophet who was eaten by a whale. The Book of Jonah is read in its entirety on Holy Saturday. Why? Jonah’s 3-days in the belly of the whale, prefigures Christ’s 3 days in the tomb, and Jonah’s deliverance from the belly of the whale, prefigures Christ’s Resurrection from the dead. Authored “Book of Jonah”.

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Old Testament Prophets

8—Solomon, King (related to the Hebrew word for “peace”) (commemorated 2nd Sunday before the Holy Nativity, Sunday of the Holy Forefathers). Succeeded his father, King David. He is known for his wisdom which we find in the “Book of Proverbs” (also known as the Proverbs of Solomon). He is also considered the author of the “Books of Ecclesiastes” and “Song of Songs”.

9—Jeremiah, Prophet (“the one whom God appoints or exalts”) (May 1st) Taught and prophesied in Jerusalem. Contemporary of Prophet Ezekiel. He preached repentance to the kings and nobles—barely escaped death at the hands of the nobles. He prophesied King Jehoiakim’s burial would be like that of an ass—was cast into prison. There were other prophesies about other kings, all came true. He preached the fall and plunder of Jerusalem. He preached against false prophets and priests. He prophesied a “new covenant” to be inscribed in every believer’s heart, fulfilled through Christ. He helped hide the Ark of the Covenant in a cave. To the Egyptians he prophesied the destruction of their idols and the arrival of the Virgin and Christ-child in Egypt. He was eventually stoned to death by his countrymen. Author of “3rd Kingdoms” and “4th Kingdoms”.

10—Zachariah, Prophet (“he whom God remembers”) (Feb. 8) His prophesies were messianic and apocalyptic. He foretold Christ’s coming in lowliness and humility; his betrayal for 30 pieces of silver; His priesthood and heritage; His crucifixion; His coming in glory, and more. He is the author of the “Book of Zechariah”.

11—Daniel, Prophet (“God is my judge”) (Dec. 17) Ezekiel and Jeremiah were his contemporaries. Daniel, as an infant, was taken into captivity in Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar who plundered and destroyed Jerusalem. From youth, completely devoted to God, he was given the gift of discernment. He was able to interpret a dream of the King’s and for this was made a prince in the King’s court. Twice he was thrown into the lion’s den, both times the Lord saved him. He beheld on a throne with heavenly hosts, he saw angels and discerned the future of certain people, kingdoms and the human race. And he prophesied the time of the coming of the Savior on earth. Authored the “Book of Daniel”.

12—Amos, Prophet (“burdened” or “bearer”) (June 15) He was a farmer, a herdsman and he warned of God’s wrath and preached repentance. He rebuked King Uzziah and his pagan priests for their idolatry. The chief pagan priest persecuted Amos. Amos prophesize the Assyrians could conquer Israel and that the chief priest’s wife would be defiled by the soldiers in front of him, because he had led his people into adultery with idols. It all came to pass. Authored the “Book of Amos”.