



ICONOGRAPHY

ADULT SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT FALL OF 2020

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN MAITLAND, FL



+THE WEDDING IN CANA

CELEBRATED: 2ND MONDAY AFTER PASCHA

JOHN 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.”

His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, “Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.” And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!”

This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

ELEMENTS OF THE ICON

Indoors- Signified with the laying of a shroud over the top of the scene. Iconographers with leave out a structural roof in exchange for this to show that nothing is hidden from God.

Christ- Presiding over the wedding feast, but in a non-central location to the scene. He is surrounded by the Theotokos (who is using her “motherly favor” to insist He help the guests {John 2:2}) and an unnamed Disciple (Most likely St. Andrew)

Six Stone Waterpots and servants- The Stone water pots being filled with water (John 2:7) “to the brim” (John 2:7) by one servant and another servant serving the wine that has been made from them. (John 2:8)

Bride, Groom, Master of the Feast, and Attendants: Marveling at the wine! (John 2:9) Notably, the Bride and Groom figured in the center of the scene and the Master of the Feast sitting at the end of the table. (John 2:9-10)

*Note: The figures who do not know where the wine came from are turned away from Christ or marveling at the wine; while those who know the Source (The Theotokos, The Disciple, The Servants, and the Master of the Feast) are facing Christ. (John 2:9)



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+THE CALLING OF THE DISCIPLES

LUKE 5:1-11

1So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, 2and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. 3Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

4When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

5But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." 6And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. 7So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

9For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; 10and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." 11So when they had brought their boats to land, they [a]forsook all and followed Him.

ELEMENTS OF THE ICON

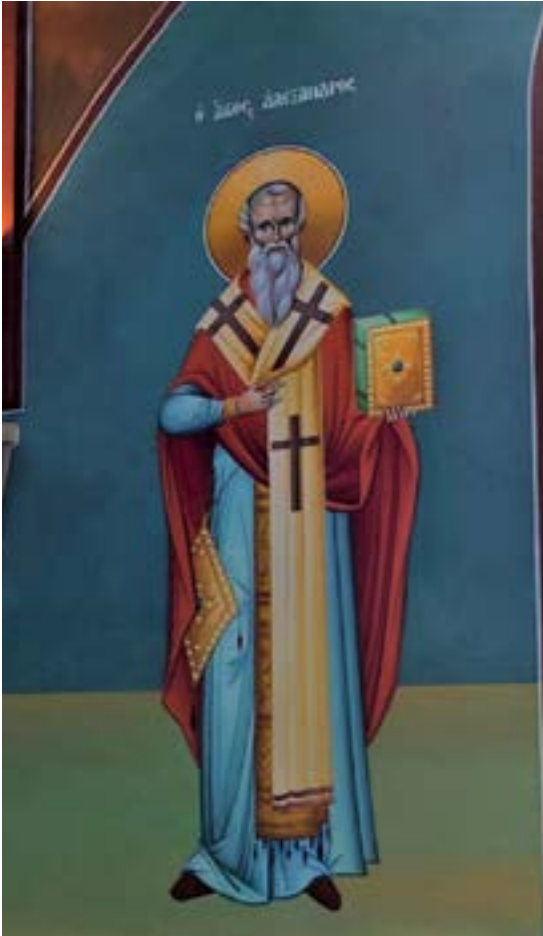
The Lake of Gennesaret- Calm for the most part except where the boats are struggling to pull in the catch of fish. (Luke 5:7) Iconography can be subtle at times illustrating the theological and scriptural while foregoing the earthly or mundane.

Christ- Blessing the catch from the boat (Luke 5:3-4)

St. Peter- Originally called Simon, is shown sitting at Christ's knees crying "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" The only figure to be turned facing Christ is also the only figure in the passage who acknowledges Christ as "Master" (Luke 5:5) and "Lord." (Luke 5:8)

St. Andrew- The brother of St. Peter who is called "The First Called" (John 1:40) handling the nets from the first boat carrying Christ where he and his brother were fishing from.

The Partners in the Other Boat: Zebedee and his two sons St. James and St. John the Evangelist: Attending to the great number of fish and the sinking boat (5:7)



†ST. ALEXANDER, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

COMMEMORATED ON AUGUST 30TH

Saints Alexander, John and Paul, Patriarchs of Constantinople, lived at different times, but each of them happened to clash with the activities of heretics who sought to distort the teachings of the Church. Saint Alexander (325-340) was a vicar bishop during the time of Saint Metrophanes (June 4), the first Patriarch of Constantinople.

Because of the patriarch's extreme age, Alexander substituted for him at the First Ecumenical Synod at Nicea (325). Upon his death, Saint Metrophanes left instructions in his will to elect his vicar to the throne of Constantinople. During these times His Holiness Patriarch Alexander had to contend with the Arians and with pagans. Once, in a dispute with a pagan philosopher the saint said to him, "In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ I command you to be quiet!" and the pagan suddenly became mute. When he gestured with signs to acknowledge his errors and affirm the correctness of the Christian teaching, then his speech returned to him and he believed in Christ together with many other pagan philosophers. The faithful rejoiced at this, glorifying God Who had given such power to His saint.

The heretic Arius was punished through the prayer of Saint Alexander. Arius had apparently agreed to enter into communion with the Orthodox. When the Emperor asked him if he believed as the Fathers of Nicea taught, he placed his hand upon his breast

(where he had cunningly concealed beneath his clothes a document with his own false creed written upon it) and said, "This is what I believe!" Saint Constantine (May 21), unaware of the deceitful wickedness of Arius, set a day for receiving him into the Church. All night long Saint Alexander prayed, imploring the Lord not to permit this heretic to be received into communion with the Church.

In the morning, Arius set out triumphantly for the church, surrounded by imperial counselors and soldiers, but divine judgment overtook him. Stopping to take care of a physical necessity, his bowels burst forth and he perished in his own blood and filth, as did Judas (Acts 1:18).

His Holiness Patriarch Alexander, having toiled much, died in the year 340 at the age of 98. Saint Gregory the Theologian (January 25) mentioned him afterwards in an encomium to the people of Constantinople.

The Service to Saint Alexander was printed in Venice in 1771. According to some ancient manuscripts, Saint Alexander ought to be commemorated on June 2. Today he is remembered together with the holy Patriarchs John the Faster (September 2) and Paul the New (eighth century).

ELEMENTS OF THE ICON

Dressed in Byzantine Hierarchical Vestments, that are used to this day, he is presenting us with the Gospel to indicate his preaching of the Gospel of Christ and upholding the True Faith of Orthodoxy.



+ST. AGLAÏA

COMMEMORATED ON DECEMBER 19TH

Aglaïa was a prosperous woman who lived in the region around Rome in the time of Diocletian and had Boniface as a slave. Bonifatius was her steward, very good-looking in appearance, generous to the poor and kind-hearted, but with a liking for drink and debauchery. They soon fell in love and had a clandestine relationship, since the difference in their social station would not permit any thought of marriage.

But they both became believing Christians and therefore had regrets about their relationship. As they were seeking a solution, they heard that persecutions were being carried out in the East against Christians. So they decided that Boniface should go there, find relics of martyrs and bring them home, so that the blessing of the relics would exonerate them from the guilt they felt.

Aglaïa provided companions, money and supplies and preparations were made for the journey. But when he was ready to leave, the good-hearted Boniface turned to his mistress and asked if she would accept his own bones as holy relics and honour them. She thought this was one of his usual jokes and paid no more heed as she sent him on his way.

After a long and tiring journey, the fellowship arrived at Tarsus in Cilicia, where they had been told that a great persecution was being carried out against the Christians. After they had found an inn and were preparing to rest, Boniface said he was going out for a walk in the town, to see what was going

on.

So he went out and asked where the Christians were being martyred. "In the stadium", came the reply and he went there straight away. What he found was a real place of martyrdom, with a host of Christians being tortured and taken off to martyrdom by the soldiers. When he ran to kiss and honour the martyrs who were about to die, he presented himself before the chief of the persecutors and declared that he, too, was a Christian and wished to be martyred. The officers sent him away, but he insisted to such an extent that he annoyed them and, in the end, they arrested him. After subjecting him to many harsh trials, they then decapitated him.

Time went by and Boniface' companions at the inn awaited his return. In the beginning, they thought he was out having a good time in some tavern or brothel. But when he still was not back much later, they decided to go out and search for him. When they asked people and described him in detail, they found out that he had gone to the stadium. And once they got there, it was not long before they learned the truth.

They grieved bitterly and found both his head and his body. Having bribed the soldiers guarding the inanimate corpses of the martyrs, they took Boniface' body and set out on the return journey. Back in their homeland, they gave Boniface' relics to his mistress. She at once remembered the last words of her beloved, mourned him and then built a beautiful church on the spot where they buried him. She herself spent the rest of her life in this church, doing only good works. When she, too, departed this life, they buried her next to Bonifatius. Both of them later were responsible for great miracles.

ELEMENTS OF THE ICON

Carrying a cross, a symbol of her martyrdom, she is dressed in monastic garbs indicating her life as a nun.



+GREATMARTYR AND HEALER ST. PANTELEIMON

COMMEMORATED ON JULY 27TH

This Saint, who had Nicomedia as his homeland, was the son of Eustorgius and Eubula. His father was an idolater, but his mother was a Christian from her ancestors. It was through her that he was instructed in piety, and still later, he was catechized in the Faith of Christ by Saint Hermolaus (see July 26) and baptized by him. Being proficient in the physician's vocation, he practiced it in a philanthropic manner, healing every illness more by the grace of Christ than by medicines. Thus, although his parents had named him Pantoleon ("in all things a lion"), because of the compassion he showed for the souls and bodies of all, he was worthily renamed Panteleimon, meaning "all-merciful."

On one occasion, when he restored the sight of a certain blind man by calling on the Divine Name, he enlightened also the eyes of this man's soul to the knowledge of the truth. This also became the cause for the martyrdom of him who had been blind, since when he was asked by whom and in what manner his eyes had been opened, in imitation of that blind man of the Gospel he confessed with boldness both who the physician was and the manner of his healing. For this he was put to death immediately. Panteleimon was arrested also, and having endured many wounds, he was finally beheaded in the year 305, during the reign of Maximian.

Saint Panteleimon is one of the Holy Unmercenaries, and is held in special honor among them, even as Saint George is among the Martyrs. While a "mercenary" is someone who kills people for a fee, an "Unmercenary" is a title given to the Saints who took no payment for their medicinal and healing services, and didn't turn away even the poorest person in need.

ELEMENTS OF THE ICON

Dressed as a nobleman, he is holding a small box of medicinal herbs which he can feed a patient with a spoon which he holds in his other hand.