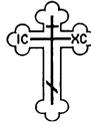


# ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

360 Van Zile Road  
Brick, New Jersey 08724



Very Rev. Gary Joseph Breton, Rector

Thursday, August 4, 2011  
Forefeast of the Transfiguration

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I would like to provide an update to our Parish Iconography Project. We are well into Phase I of the project. Ten icons have been written by iconographer Ivan Roumiantsev and mounted on the church walls. They are:

**The Nativity of the Theotokos**  
**The Visitation of the Theotokos with St. Elizabeth**  
**The Marriage at Cana**  
**The Myrrhbearing Women at the Empty Tomb**  
**St. Constantine**  
**St. Helen**  
**St. Vladimir**  
**St. Olga**  
**Ss. Peter and Paul**  
**Ss. Cyril and Methodius**

The remaining Phase I icons are being painted/written directly onto the wall above the iconostasis. Before iconography work began there, this wall was covered with canvas and treated with primer. These two icons are expected to be completed by the end of this month. These icons are:

**The Ascension of Our Lord**  
**The Annunciation to the Theotokos**

Additionally, there is currently ornamental work being applied to the areas surrounding each of the installed icons. This work will serve to frame each icon and to tie together the icons with the rest of the church, including the iconostasis. This work is being done primarily by Anya Pokrovsky.

By the grace of God, *nine* of these Phase I icons have benefactors whose donations completely cover the requested donations for each icon. One icon (Ss. Peter and Paul) has benefactors whose donations exceed what was asked for it. Another icon (The Visitation of the Theotokos to St. Elizabeth) has had a donation to cover only one-seventh (\$1,000) of its \$7,000 cost. Two icons - St. Constantine (\$2,500) and Ss. Cyril and Methodius (\$2,000) - still have no benefactors at this point. Please contact me if you would like to make a donation to any of these three icons that still need partial or full funding.

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We have begun to plan for *Phase II* of the iconography project. Many people have already made donations to icons that make up this phase. Phase II icons that have commitments to be *fully funded* include:

**The Platytera icon of the Mother of God**  
**St. Nicholas**  
**St. Mary of Egypt**  
**St. Spyridon**  
**St. Sophia and her 3 daughters**  
**St. Catherine the Great**  
**St. Anastasia**  
**St. Christopher**  
**St. George the Victory-bearer**  
**St. John of San Francisco**

Phase II icons that have *no funding* so far include:

**Christ Enthroned (\$7,000)**  
**St. Innocent (\$2,500)**  
**St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow (\$2,500)**  
**St. Herman of Alaska (\$2,500)**

Also included in Phase II will be icons that will be placed in a horizontal row along both sides of the church. These *round 14" icons* will be icons of various saints. The current plan is to have twenty-eight of these icons - fourteen along each side of the church. Already, we have *full commitments (\$500 each)* to the following icons:

**St. Patrick of Ireland**  
**St. Sergius of Radonezh**  
**St. Tamara of Georgia**  
**St. Nectarios of Aegina**  
**St. Monica**  
**St. Seraphim of Sarov**  
**St. Hyacinth**  
**St. Pelagia**  
**St. Panteleimon**  
**St. Theodore of Tyre**  
**St. John of Kronstadt**  
**St. Larissa**  
**St. Marina**  
**St. George the Hieromartyr**  
**St. Dionysius**

Thirteen of these round icons still need to be “adopted.” There is some flexibility on which saints are included in the remaining group. If you would like to donate toward an icon of a patron saint of a family member or of a saint that is particularly dear to you, I would be happy to speak with you about your proposed choice. Some possible saints for this group include:

**St. Irene  
St. Cosmas  
St. Damian  
St. Anthony the Great  
St. Cyril of Alexandria  
St. Nicholai of Zhica  
St. Moses the Ethiopian**

The start date for Phase II will largely determined by funding. The sooner we receive donations to cover the costs of the icons, the sooner we can begin this next phase. Because of the generosity of those who began the iconography fund years ago and made contributions to it over the years, we have a limited amount of money to draw from in case we have less than full commitments to all icons of a given phase. Ideally though, every icon will have one or several sponsors. If you have been considering a pledge or an outright donation to one or several icons, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the possibilities.

Information on Phase III and future phases of the iconography project will be made available at a later date. Although it is exciting to project our thinking to the future, we have chosen to focus on one phase at a time as the project proceeds.

This iconography project has already bestowed many blessings on us as a parish community. It has also generated much excitement throughout the parish, our deanery, diocese, and throughout many parts of the Orthodox Church in America. The generosity that has poured forth from our parish in support of this project is truly inspirational. May God continue to bless us with open hearts and a giving spirit so that we may give further glory to Him in the adornment of His Church building here in Brick, New Jersey.

In Christ,

Father Gary

## **SUMMARY OF ICONS NEEDING FUNDING (as of 8/4/11)**

### PHASE I icons needing funding:

**St. Constantine (\$2,500)**

**Ss. Cyril and Methodius (\$2,000)**

**The Visitation to the Theotokos (\$6,000 remaining)**

### PHASE II icons needing funding:

**Christ Enthroned (\$7,000)**

**St. Innocent (\$2,500)**

**St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow (\$2,500)**

**St. Herman of Alaska (\$2,500)**

**13 Saints (\$500 each)**