

Church Beautification

Icon Project ~ Phase II ~



**Holy Trinity
Orthodox Church**
Willimantic, Connecticut

In 2007, Holy Trinity Church embarked on Phase I of an Icon Project. The result was a new iconostasis with eight hand-written icons, and hand-carved Royal Doors. The icons were written in the classic Byzantine style by +Mr George Goutsev, a master iconographer, from Sofia, Bulgaria. +Mr Goutsev also contributed icons of the Nativity of our Lord and St Xenia of Petersburg, Russia, to Holy Trinity. Sadly, Mr Goutsev suffered a stroke in 2010, and he fell asleep in the Lord on May 25, 2011. Recently, we have learned that +Mr Goutsev's work is being continued by his first wife and classmate, Cveta Marinova, who paints in the same Byzantine style. Cveta's iconography will provide balance, symmetry, and beauty to our church.

There has been informal discussion the past several years on how and when to move into Phase II of the Icon Project. Having full length icons on the church's west & east walls always remained a part of the discussion.

The catalyst for moving forward gained momentum after the interior walls of our entire church were repaired and painted in September, 2016, by Peter Papagorgiou, a man of Greek Orthodox descent. It was agreed to explore beautifying our interior side walls with new full length icons, rather than return our previous assorted icons in various shapes, sizes, and styles.

Phase II:

There will be five icons on each of the side walls. Each icon will measure approximately 28" x 67", and be painted on high quality canvas. Once the icons arrive, they will be mounted directly onto the walls by a professional wall paper hanger. The cost per icon is \$1,650. There will be additional costs of \$200 for materials, shipping (\$300 total), and installation (TBD). It would take approximately eighteen months to complete the ten compositions. Terms are 50% deposit to begin work on each icon; the balance at time of shipping.

The initial four icons will be of these Church Fathers:

Saint Ignatius of Antioch

Student of Apostle & Evangelist John the Theologian; 3rd Bishop of Antioch. Wrote much on ecclesiology, sacraments and role of bishops. Martyred in 108.

Saint Irenaeus of Lyons

Irenaeus' writings were formative in the development of Christian theology. As one of the first great theologians, Irenaeus emphasized the traditional elements in the Church, especially the episcopate, Scripture, & Holy Tradition.

Saint Athanasius of Alexandria

His episcopacy lasted 45 years (328 - 373), of which over 17 were spent in five exiles ordered by four different Roman emperors. Athanasius was a Christian theologian, Church Father, & the chief defender of Trinitarian theology against Arianism.

Saint Justin Martyr of Rome

A Christian apologist, Justin is regarded as the foremost interpreter of the theory of the Logos in the 2nd century. Justin is considered a saint by the Orthodox, Roman Catholic & Anglican Churches. He defended the morality of the Christian life.

The remaining icons (three on each side wall) will be six of the eight well-known Orthodox female saints listed below. For consideration:

Saint Helen of Constantinople

Co-founder of the Cross of our Lord.

Saint Thekla of Antioch

Preached Gospel of Lord; Follower of Saint Paul.

Saint Nina of Georgia

Georgia is considered one of oldest Orthodox lands.

Saint Catherine of Alexandria

Martyred at age 18. Noted scholar and intellectual.

Saint Barbara of Syria

Early church martyr; Still enjoys great popularity.

Saint Genevieve of Paris

Highly venerated in Paris. Many Parisians turned to Genevieve for comfort after 11.13.2015 bombings.

Saint Paraskeva

Highly venerated in Balkans.

Saint Photini

Samaritan Woman at the Well.