

# SACRED ART IN ACTION

Is Pleased To Announce The Writing

## “Early Christian Byzantine Icon”

### A Series of Six One Day Friday Classes

(Beginning Date: Friday 1/17/2020 Ending Date: Friday 2/21/2020)

Instructor and Iconographer: Tatiana Gubenko

In this workshop, you will “write” your own Icon in the Byzantine-Russian tradition. Instruction will incorporate the meaning, beauty, and language, of icons, as well as a lecture on the hierarchy of angels in the Early Christian Church.

Each icon is accomplished through the refinement of simple artistic nuance and attention to iconographic canon and principles. The multi-step process of the iconographic method, in which every step is concrete and definitive. (Artistic ability is helpful but not necessary.)

As in antiquity, only natural materials are used: wood panels gessoed with natural ground, genuine gold leaf applied by the bole (red clay) method, ground natural pigments, using egg tempera as its medium.

Participants will be writing **The Guardian Angel** icon.



Iconographer, Tatiana Gubenko, will be teaching this workshop. She is an affiliate instructor of the Prosopon School of Iconography. Tatiana studied iconography with Vladislav Andrejev. Born in Kiev, Ukraine, Tatiana has lived over half her life in Virginia with her husband and children. Please visit her website at: <https://www.beautifulcornericons.com/>.

All questions can be referred to: Tatiana Gubenko <[hmmefodii@gmail.com](mailto:hmmefodii@gmail.com)> ; or Mary Valentine <[sonomike@aol.com](mailto:sonomike@aol.com)>.

To register, complete the form on the following page or pick up a form at the Parish Center.  
If you have any questions, contact Mary at [sonomike@aol.com](mailto:sonomike@aol.com)

# REGISTRATION

Registration Deadline: December 31, 2019

**Tuition for a six-day workshop is \$600 per person.**

**Tuition includes: six-days of instruction across 6 weeks in 2020 (1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21), and all supplies and materials. Bring an extra small light for yourself.**

**Morning session: 10:00am - 12 noon; Afternoon session 1:00pm – 5:00pm**

## **Class Location:**

**St. Agnes Parish Center, 106 Duke Street, Shepherdstown, WV  
Phone: 304.876.6436 / email: [office@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:office@stagnesshepherdstown.org)**

**Class is limited to 10 participants**

----- Detach here and mail with deposit -----

## Icon Workshop Registration

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Best Contact Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop Deposit: \$100**

(Deposit will be returned if workshop is cancelled)

**Mail the deposit to the address below no later than the last week of December 2019 and specify "Icon Workshop" on the check:**

St. Agnes Catholic Church  
P.O. Box 1603  
106 S. Duke Street  
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

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## Icon Notes on Technique & Symbolism

Below is a preview and background information and resources for the writing of an icon. It is important that the process is followed as exactly as possible. Be as children learning something for the first time...open to new insights and careful to follow directions.

The icon is a window into another world. It reflects artistic knowledge and the development of the soul. In following the Icon Canon (discipline) one's spiritual development is revealed. The writing of an Icon is a spiritual discipline more akin to meditation.

The icon reveals two dimensions of one reality: the outer and the inner. Both came out of the divine liturgy; their aim is the holy. Nothing of self is to be revealed or expressed as in other forms of art.

Here there is not creativity in the sense of imagination or emotion. Every detail of an Icon (from the preparation of the wood materials and colors) has a liturgical meaning. As one improves in one's ability to write an Icon one improves in the spiritual life.

Iconography is the WAY to God. The holy Fathers taught not only how but why each step is necessary. Every stroke is for a purpose, like religion itself, nothing is without purpose. This is the oldest and hardest technique of writing an Icon because it is first and foremost a spiritual process.

According to sacred Scripture human beings are made in the Image of God. They are living Icons, a mirror reflection of God. When we write an Icon we reflect ourselves. Everything found on the Icon can be found in use.

There are two ways of looking at an Icon: It can be viewed as art or allegory and it can be viewed as a spiritual or religious practice. As far as art is concerned it is based on images. Using images, we reflect that which is spiritual. Allegory is an illustration of a particular truth or event that has happened. Symbols is not a story that you hear but what you actually see and immediately understand. There are no random elements in an Icon, everything, every color is placed there with purpose and meaning.

There are nine steps involved in writing an Icon. Each step opens some point or center within ourselves. All materials used in the creation of an icon are natural elements. Icons teach to distinguish what is true from what is false.

Jesus said that false prophets would come, the icon helps us to see the truth more clearly.