

Sunday, October 15th



- What are icons?
- What do icons help us do?
- Do you have any icons in your house? Which ones? Where are they?

Praying Together:

Father, thank you for sending us Your Son, Jesus, as our Saviour. Help us remember all you do for us as we pray before icons, reminding us that we are made in Your image and likeness.

Amen.

Parents' Cheat Sheet - Car Qs

Oct. 15/17, Commemorating the 7th Ecumenical Council (19th Sunday after Pentecost)

1. What are icons?

- 1. Icons are holy pictures of people and events that happened in the history of the church. They are stylized in their representation so as not to be confused as realistic renderings of Christ who is God. You can find them in church, at home, in schools, and anywhere where worship takes place. Iconographers go through an extensive process of prayer when they "write" icons using specific materials. To learn more about how to write an icon, check out the Fall Program Guide for info on upcoming classes.
- 2. Icons have not always been accepted within the church. During the Iconoclast period (700-850 AD), many icons were destroyed after being declared heretical. Thanks to the 7th Ecumenical Council, however, the leaders of the church came to the conclusion that icons did indeed have a place within worship. Though we commemorate the 7th Ecumenical Council today, we celebrate the Feast of Orthodoxy¹ on the 1st Sunday of Lent. Everyone is encouraged to bring icons to bless on this day. To learn more about Iconoclasm and the 7th Ecumenical Council check out http://archeparchy.ca/news_details.php?news_id=126 for a summary of the proceedings. For more detailed information, check out http://www.ccel.org and search "Seventh Ecumenical Council."
- 3. God's best icon, however, is "a human being made in God's own image."² Through baptism we as believers have "put on Christ," which means that Christ lives within us. That also means that we are living icons to those around us, reminders that God is always present and with us.

2. What do icons help us do?

1. Icons help us pray and remember that God is always with us. They also remind us that God took on flesh and has redeemed our humanity through his death and Resurrection. "He who venerates the icon, venerated in it the reality for which it stands."³

3. Do you have any icons in your house? Which ones? Where are they?

1. Eastern Christians are encouraged to have a designated icon corner in their house, a place where the family can worship together. Check out the Pastoral Centre for more information on setting up an icon corner in your home.

¹ http://archeparchy.ca/news_details.php?news_id=126

² Found in a black and clear duotang at the Pastoral Office in the "Icon" section.

³ http://findingthetruefaith.com/the-sunday-of-the-triumph-of-orthodoxy/