



ICONS

When we go into an orthodox church,
we see icons or holy pictures everywhere.

An icon is like a window that helps us look into heaven.
It shows us the holy people, or saints, who lived before us. Icons also show us the
miracles of Jesus and all that He did for us.

If someone who does not believe in God, asks you what you believe, take him into church
and show him the icons. This is like “show and tell” at school.

Icons show and tell what we believe.

We do not worship icons. We worship God. Icons help us to worship and honor God.

When we stand in church and see all the icons of Church and the saints, we feel that we are
not alone. We feel that we are part of God’s family. All the saints are our brothers and
sisters. We, too, are called to be saints- God’s holy people.

Because each one of us is made in the image of God, we, too, are icons. The word image
means icon (picture). We are living icons of Christ. Other people are also
living icons of God.

That is why we treat them with even more love and respect than we do the wooden icons.

An icon is not fully an icon until it is blessed by the bishop in church. Then it becomes a
place of prayer where we meet Christ and pray to Him.

If icons are windows to heaven, let us use them often to peek into heaven.

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[Let's take a walk through our Orthodox Church.](#) Anthony Coniaris page 16.