

## ICONS IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Orthodox Church firmly believes that Christ united heaven and earth through His life, death and resurrection. It also believes that the Holy Spirit continues to this day to animate the life of the Church, as the Body of Christ, in all its aspects. Sometimes, too, the Kingdom of God visibly inserts itself into human history. We can read of many examples in the Scriptures but this also happened in the early Church and in later centuries.

One such way is through the depiction of icons. About 1200 years ago, the Orthodox Church concluded that its sacred art is an expression of the humanity of Christ. For those who believe in Him, it can help them reach His divine nature. These images also often express the Orthodox Church's strong belief that, even though still here on earth, we are part of the Communion of Saints in the Kingdom



*The Icon of Saint Anna, the mother of Mary,*

of God.

In recent decades, the Church has realized that icons have become a vehicle through which the light of the Godhead has manifested itself, particularly of the image of the Virgin Mary with the child Jesus. Thus, a number of them have begun to weep with fragrant perfume. These sacred expressions have become so frequent

that the Orthodox Church has stopped attempting to verify them scientifically!

The most dramatic in recent times is a copy of the Iveron Icon in Hawaii. A few years ago, a young married subdeacon discovered some oil oozing from his book case. He wondered what he must have spilt but instead, discovered it was dripping from a framed print of an icon and it has not stopped weeping. Thus, at its Paschal Service on April 28, 2019, they had to put a bucket under it to contain the oil! See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqCe1KhjMi8>.

It is not the only one, however. The one that will visit our Church on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, is of the Virgin Mary's mother, Anna and began weeping in Philadelphia in 2011. After some time, it stopped weeping but its fragrance remains. It now resides at St. Tikhon's Monastery in Waymart, PA. Please go to: <https://www.sttikhonsmonastery.org/stanna>

Troparion to the  
Dormition of St. Anna:

O divinely wise Anna, in your womb you did bear the pure Mother of God, who gave birth to Life. Wherefore, rejoicing in glory, you have now been translated to the mansions of heaven, the abode of those who rejoice. O ever-blessed one, beseech, for us, the cleansing of transgressions for those who honor you with love.

You are Invited to a  
Special Event at our Church  
for a

**Prayer Service**

with an

**Anointing**

at

Holy Assumption Orthodox  
Church

on the occasion of

The Visitation

of the

**The Blessed Healing Icon**

of

**Saint Anna**

from

St. Tikhon's Monastery

on

Sunday, Oct. 13th. @ 4:00 PM.

Refreshments will follow in the  
Parish Hall downstairs afterwards



Assumption of the  
Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Archpriest Terence Baz, Rector