



### Saint Paraskeva

St. Paraskeva was born to Christian parents in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century under the rule of a pagan emperor. She traveled around the countryside, preaching the Gospel, and converting many people to Christianity.

Saint Paraskeva is often shown with angels placing a crown on her head. In her left hand she holds a cross, a sign of her martyrdom. In her right hand she holds a scroll inscribed, "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth."



### Prince Vladimir

Prince Vladimir was a devout pagan in his early life until he developed cultural and commercial ties with the Byzantine Empire of the west. Learning more about the religion and visiting the region, Vladimir was baptized into the Orthodox Church and brought Orthodoxy to Russia around 988.



### Mary Magdelene

Mary Madgelene was a devoted follower of Christ and because of this is believed by many scholars to have a similar role to the Apostles. In many icons she is depicted carrying a bottle of oil, as she was one of the women who prepared Christ's body for his burial. Mary Madgelene was also said to have witnessed the empty tomb after Christ's resurrection.



### Mother of God

This image of the Mother of God and child is a classic “tenderness” type of icon. It is called tenderness because the heads of Mary and the Christ child incline closely together in a tender cheek to cheek embrace. There are over 450 types of Mother of God icons. The crown seen here symbolizes the Mother of God as the Queen of Heaven.



### Saint Nicholas

St. Nicholas lived in 4<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the most popular saints in Russia. Nicholas became bishop of Myra in the Byzantine Empire's Lycia, in modern Turkey. Because of his good deeds, St. Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, and children, among others, and is also the patron saint of Russia. St. Nicholas is typically represented with a high forehead (indicating knowledge); wearing bishop's robes; and typically carrying a book, a sword, or a model of a town.



### Archangel Gabriel

Archangel Gabriel is associated with numerous events in the Bible, most famously for informing Mary that she would become the mother of Christ. He typically wears blue or white garments, and holds either a lily, a trumpet, a shining lantern, a branch, or a spear in his right hand and often a mirror with a X (the first letter of Christ in Greek)—in his left hand.

