



Iconography Summer Camp August 1-5 2022

- Section 1, 3rd-7th grade, 11-12 AND 12:30-1:30 pm EST daily M-F
- Section 2, 7th-12th grade, 2-3 AND 3:30-4:30 pm EST daily M-F

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In Iconography Camp, students will work on both a glass icon- a tradition from Eastern Europe- and a traditional Byzantine icon. Whether on glass or wood, the students will use the traditional medium of “egg tempera,” which is dried mineral-derived pigments mixed with egg yolk. Since it is a “prayer of the hands,” students will also learn about the spiritual aspect of the images they are painting and the practice of iconography.

Glass iconography flourished in 19th century Transylvania (part of Romania). Sometimes glass iconography workshops formed within the family: one member grinding pigment, one designing the icons, and others mixing in the egg yolk and applying the colors. These icons were painted in backwards order-it is also called "Reverse Glass Iconography" and flipped over at the end-allowing the glass to serve as a protective layer. They were then placed on shiny silver or gold paper in lieu of real gold leaf. Though far from artistic training centers such as Constantinople, these icons express a vividness of spirituality that is also fully within the canonical tradition. For more information about glass icons, see the [Glass Icon Page](#) of Mrs. Sider-Rose's website

Our subject for the Byzantine icon on wood will be Jonah, a favorite topic of the very earliest Christians. Even from the Catacombs of Rome, where Christians held services and buried their dead in secret, many beautiful wall paintings and amazing statues of Jonah survive. The parallel between Jonah and Christ was significant to early Christians: Just as Christ was resurrected after three days in the tomb, Jonah seemed "dead" in the whale, only to be saved by God to bring His important message to Nineveh.

Student expectations

- The course supplies are more minimal than the Iconography Workshops or Apprenticeship at St. Raphael during the school year, and even younger or less artistically-trained students will thrive in this class, especially as they can choose to use sharpies and a black pencil instead of thin brushes for the lines.
- Older and more artistically-experienced students will also thrive as they will be able to bring a high level of artistry to these media.
- As traditional (non-toxic) dry pigments, glass, and many other supplies are involved, parental involvement will be needed in preparing for the first class, including pre-mixing some colors and gathering household supplies (paper towel, jar of water, egg). The youngest students (up through 12 years old) should have a parent close by during the entire class to help with mixing pigments and turning over the glass. (They do not have to be sitting with the child continuously, but should be available and close by.)