

# “Interventions”



## Reverence Towards Icons and Other Sacred Objects



**The** sanctity of God is reflected in His people and in the objects that have been blessed by the Church for use in our spiritual journey.

Thus, the reverence we show such sacred objects and Icons is a manifestation of our relationship with God. “And ye shall be holy to Me; for I the Lord your God am holy” (Leviticus 20:26).

**The Icons of Christ, the Theotokos, the Saints, and the Christian Feast Days are not mere works of art, but instruments of the Grace of God, Which sustains the world.**

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**As** Orthodox Christians, we should have as a rule of life **not to argue or behave improperly in front of Icons of the Saints**; likewise, we should transmit to our children a **reverence towards holy Icons** from a very early age.

**We** do not simply call upon the Saints and ask for their heavenly intercessions; their **Icons also serve as reminders that Christ has called us to repentance and deification.**

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**A** sacred object should be treated with respect even if it has become worn or damaged. **Under no circumstances should an Icon ever be thrown away**, but rather brought to the Church to be burned in a special place along with other holy objects. **The same is true for blessed oil and water that we bring back to our homes; we never throw them out and we use them with great care.**



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**We should display proper reverence for the Icon of our Patron Saint**, since we develop a special bond with the Saint whose name we received at our **baptism**. Parents can establish the habit of blessing their children with the Icon of their Saints at the beginning of the school year, at the outset of a journey, or on their wedding day. Family members should take care to bring at least a few Icons to the hospital room or nursing home of their loved ones, so that their departure from this life will take place before the holy Icons that they always revered.

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