

THE RIZA GAME

MORE WAYS TO PROTECT THE PROTECTRESS

Often when you see an icon, whether it's in church or in someone's home, you will see that someone has lit a votive candle in front of it as a sign of their devotion and heartfelt prayer. You, and many other people who are moved by the image may also venerate the icon with a kiss. Now candles can give off smoke, and kisses can be messy, so how can you protect such a precious piece of devotional art from wear and tear? You can cover it with a Riza! The word RIZA is Russian for robe, and is intended to cover the icon, all but hands and faces, like a robe or a smock to keep it clean from daily veneration. Usually a Riza is made from metal such as gold or silver, and can be adorned with gems and precious stones. These rizas, however are made of paper and are meant to show you that the Theotokos can be depicted in many different ways. She is the same person as you can see, because she has the same face, but her clothing, accessories, and the position of her hands tell us a bit about which aspect of her character is being depicted in the icon.



HERE IS THE BASE OF THE ICON, DEPICTING THE FACE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD. YOU CAN CUT OUT THE NEXT FEW RIZAS AND PLACE THEM OVER IT TO CREATE FOUR DIFFERENT DEPICTIONS OF HER.



◀ POKROV

THE PROTECTION (OR POKROV) ICON

Here we see her with her mantle in her hands, spreading it over those standing below the icon. Remember that she did this for the people of Constantinople!

PANAGIA ▶

THE PANAGIA ICON

In the Panagia style, also known as Our Lady of the Sign, the Mother of God is shown with her hands raised up to God in prayer while the baby Jesus is shown in a circle near her heart. This represents the time that the Christ Child was present within the womb of His mother before He was born! Panagia means "most holy".

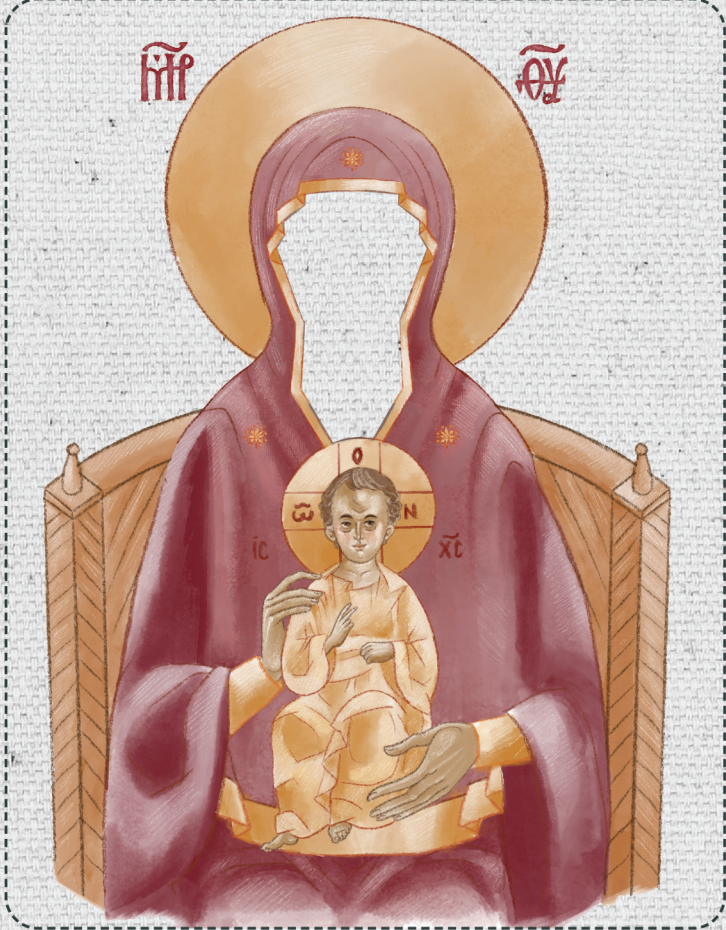


< CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE AND AROUND THE INNER VEIL OF THE DIFFERENT "RIZA" AND PLACE THEM ON TOP OF THE BASE.

< HOGODETRIA

THE HOGODETRIA ICON

In this depiction we see the Theotokos showing us the way by pointing to her Son, the Baby Jesus. Hogodetria means "to show the way" in Greek.



NIKOPeia ^

THE NIKOPOIA ICON

Nikopoia means "bringer of victory" and in this style she is depicted as a queen upon her royal throne with the Baby Jesus upon her lap.