

I SPY IN MY LITTLE "I"CON

THE PROTECTION OF THEOTOKOS



This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century. On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop's Throne, she continued her prayer. After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible.

Who has the Halos?
What are their names?

Can you identify St Andrew (5)
and his disciple Epiphanius (6)?

Do you see John the Baptist (2) and his wild hair?

Do you see the choirs of saints on both sides
of the icon, floating in the air (3)? They can be
any of the saints and may be different in other
versions of this icon.

Do you see the cloth being held over the mother
of God (1)? In some icons she holds the cloth
and others she is underneath it. The larger cloth
above the buildings indicates that this event
happened inside.

Who is in the middle at the bottom of the
icon? St. Romanos (4). His feast day is on the
same day as the Miracle of the Vision of the
Mother of God, protecting Constantinople, and
he wrote many hymns to the Mother of God.

Who is left to identify in the icon? St. Emperor
Leo the wise, and the Patriarch of Constantinople
(7), who lived at the time of Romanos.



Protection of Theotokos,
Hieromonk Vladimir

-Written by Kim Bombak

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