

## Iconography – March 2017



**Icon of Christ Pantocrator, the Almighty**  
**PhotoShop rendering by Themis Petrou**

Soon we may all honor profoundly and joyfully the Icon of Christ Pantocrator, the Almighty, with the icons of Holy Prophets.

A confirmed date of July 10, 2017 is now established to begin installation of all the icons in Phase II – West and in Phase III – Dome.

The first days following July 10 will be occupied in relocating to the social room where Church Services will be held from July 16 onwards for about four months. Iconographers will be arriving later in July to begin installing icons for the second and third phases.

The planned sequence of iconography installation is to start first with restoration of areas of peeled paint in the eastern part of the Church; secondly to install icons in the Nursery and western part; and, thirdly to install icons of Christ Pantocrator and the Holy Prophets in the dome.

Facilities for the Priests, Chanters and the Choir will be relocated to the social hall. There are many other activities involved, such as: removing pews and protecting floors before scaffolding can be erected in three stages in sequence; some building related preparation work is required before the iconographers can install icons; and after they finish, scaffolding will be removed and the Church will be prepared for Services to resume. A definitive schedule can now be prepared to help coordinate the work of several contractors together with the Iconographers and Church personnel.

**Ms. Celina Berenfeld, Conservator**, has submitted a draft report: The peeling only occurs in areas where the painting layers were painted directly onto the wall, that is, areas outside of icons on canvas. There are no damaged areas of icons written on canvas. The report includes results from laboratory testing of the samples taken to compare the areas that are in perfect condition against the areas where paint is peeling or flaking. Laboratory results demonstrate the adhesive used under paint and under canvas is soluble in water, hygroscopic and sensitive to changes in relative humidity. Microscopic examination and solubility testing of paint samples demonstrates the peeled paint is from the layer of glue and up, and that wall and old paint layers are solid and insoluble to water.

Ms. Berenfeldt has prepared an extensive document with large size photographs marked to identify areas needing attention and repair, as an aid for the iconographer.

Ms. Berenfeld's conclusions and recommendations include: The recommended remedy for areas with peeled paint is to remove paint layers in damaged areas, clean thoroughly and use an acrylic based primer and acrylic based paints. Premature paint peeling was caused by adhesive failing due to exposure of atmospheric humidity. Relative humidity and temperature in the Church should be under control for long term preservation of iconography. For future iconography, an acrylic based adhesive should be used to attach the canvas onto the wall.

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**Mr. Themis Petrou, Iconographer**, in continuing discussions reconfirms: He will repair iconography in the eastern part of the Church. All surfaces in the dome and in the western part of the Church will be prepared for iconography with a base canvas glued to these surfaces. And, that new iconography written on canvas in his studio will be glued to the base canvas, and areas between figures will be painted on the base canvas instead of directly on walls.

Climate control and ventilation in the Nave will be reviewed with new considerations: Improved ambient conditions in the Nave have resulted from running the HVAC units continuously. On the Church roof, at the base of the dome, are two exhaust fans. And, two data loggers are placed at the dome light cove level to provide for monitoring of temperature and relative humidity at this higher level.

Church building HVAC units operate independently as each is controlled from a thermostat set by hand. A coordinated controls system of these units will be considered; addition of such controls can be undertaken at any time, since the work does not relate to iconography implementation.



**Iconography in the Eastern part of the Church**

**Exhaust fan outlet viewed through a dome window**

**Photos from flying drones courtesy of Kurt and Jonah Radwanski**

All icons of Holy Prophets are sponsored. Remaining is completion of sponsorship for the Icon of Christ Pantocrator, the Almighty. Let us all work towards completing sponsorship for this icon. Remaining funding for Phase III – Dome Iconography is less than 20% of project goals. Sponsor Offer Forms are available at the Church office or on the Church web-site, or at the iconography information table in the Social Hall with updated displays.

It is most important to complete iconography in the Church building in order to proceed to the Service of Consecration of the Church. Completing iconography in the western part and in the dome are significant steps towards this sacred objective.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Challis on behalf of Iconography Preservation and Implementation Committees