

Becoming What We Behold

THE SACRED ICONS OF SAINT NICHOLAS



Icon of Christ as Pantocrator, The Almighty
Iconographer Themistoklis Petrou

ICONOGRAPHY PHASE III - DOME
SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Becoming What We Behold

Iconography Phase III – Dome

The icon of **Christ as Pantocrator, the Almighty**, will be in the highest, most imposing part of the Church, the dome of the nave.

“Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me’.” (Luke Ch 24, v 44). Below the Icon of Christ as Pantocrator, will be **twelve (12) icons of Holy Prophets**. The icons will be in “half-figure”.

Development of Phase III – Dome Iconography

Installations of iconography in both the west and in the dome require extensive scaffolding which will occupy nearly the entire nave. Consequently, all Services will be held in the social hall during the weeks of iconography installation.

Studies for the third phase of iconography by the Iconography Implementation Committee concluded that iconography in the dome needs to be combined with Phase II – West iconography for reasons of timing and cost savings. Savings from combining the two iconography projects are reflected in the cost estimates for Phase II – West and for Phase III – Dome. The savings result from items such as: avoiding duplication of scaffolding required for both projects; removal of pews from the same area; and, duplication of iconographers’ expenses. If iconography in the dome were to be a separate project, an added cost of about \$50,000 would be incurred. The Parish Council has approved Phase III – Dome Iconography to proceed.

Studies were also made to assure there would be strong plaster support for icons of Holy Prophets on the acoustic plaster material (Pyrok) and that acoustics would remain satisfactory in the dome. Also studied was removal of the fluorescent lighting (detrimental to iconography) to be replaced with long lasting dimmable LED fixtures, which can only be installed using scaffolding for the iconography.

With an early start in January 2017, installation of both Phase II – West and Phase III – Dome iconography is scheduled to be completed before Holy Week 2017. We look forward to Mr. Themis Petrou and his assistants’ arrival in January 2017. The work will be very similar to that experienced in the eastern part of the Church, where iconographers worked many hours and a large scaffolding structure was built, mostly over the Solea. The difference for the west and for the dome is that more extensive scaffolding will occupy most of the nave, as well as scaffolding in the choir loft.

Sponsorship of Iconography in the Dome

Sponsorship of the Icon of Christ as Pantocrator is open to all parishioners and friends, to contribute an amount as you may choose, with recognition for all sponsors.

Sponsors may contribute to one or more icons of a Holy Prophet from the examples of icons included in this publication. Since there will be twelve (12) icons of Holy Prophets in the dome, one in each of the twelve (12) acoustic sections, selection of Holy Prophet icons will be based on the first twelve (12) completed sponsorships received at the Church.

The requested sponsorship for icons of Holy Prophets is \$5,000.00 each. Partial contributions may be offered, with recognition for all. Contributions for iconography should be offered as non-exclusive.

A separate **Sponsor Offer Form** is included with this publication and it is also available at the Church office or from the Church web-site or at the Iconography information table in the Social Hall.

Reference sources for examples of icons included in this publication: The Septuagint version of the Old Testament; The Orthodox Study Bible, “NKJV”; and, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

ICONOGRAPHY PROGRAM FOR PHASE III – DOME

ICON OF CHRIST AS PANTOCRATOR, THE ALMIGHTY

ΙC ΧC ΠΑΝΤΟΚΡΑΤΩΡ

In the highest, most imposing part of the Church, the dome of the nave, we see the icon of Christ as Pantocrator, the Almighty. Christ blesses with His right hand and holds the Book of the Gospels in His left hand.



Iconographer – Themis Petrou

Gospel: Mark Ch 14, v 61 – 62 *Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."*

Epistle: Ephesians Ch 1, v 19 – 23 *And what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all.*

Revelation (Apocalypse) Ch 1, v 8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the End," says the Lord, "Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty."

Icons of Holy Prophets



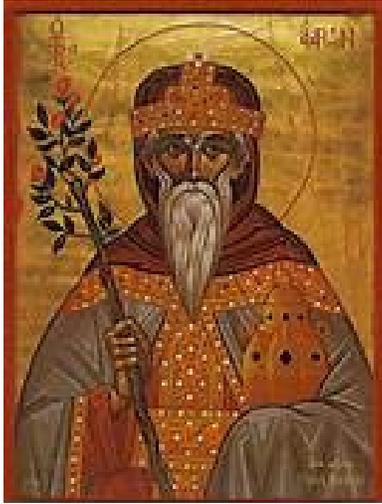
Holy Prophet God-Seer Moses **Προφήτης Μωσής ο Θεόπτης**

September 4

Holy Prophet Moses whose name means "One who draws forth," or "Is drawn from", that is, from the water. He was the pinnacle of the lovers of wisdom, the supremely wise lawgiver, the most ancient historian of all. He was of the tribe of Levi, the son of Amram and Jochebed (Numbers Ch 26, v 59). He was born in Egypt about 1,700 years before Christ. Moses was ordained by God to lead Israel and bring them out of the land of Egypt. He led Israel through the Red Sea as if on dry land (1st Ode of the Canon) and he governed the people for forty years. He wrought many signs and wonders, received the Ten Commandments from the Lord on Mount Sinai, and wrote the first five books of the Old Testament, which are called the Pentateuch. When Moses reached the land of Moab, he ascended Mount Nebo, and there, by divine command, he reposed having lived for some 120 years. (2nd Ode of the Canon).

ICONOGRAPHY PROGRAM FOR PHASE III – DOME: THE HOLY PROPHETS

Sponsors may contribute to an icon of a Holy Prophet, choosing from the icons below.



Holy Prophet Aaron the High Priest **Προφήτης Ααρών ο Αρχιερεύς**

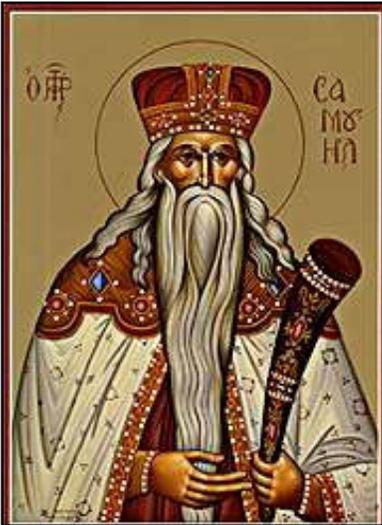
September 4

Kontakion *With the divine and righteous Moses and Aaron, the Prophets' choir today rejoiceth with gladness, seeing their prophecy fulfilled now in our midst; for Thy Cross, O Christ our God, whereby Thou hast redeemed us, shineth in the sight of all as the end and fulfillment of that which they foretold in ancient times. By their entreaties, have mercy upon us all.*

The Holy High Priest Aaron's name means "Enlightened". He was the elder brother of the Holy Prophet Moses. He was appointed by God to serve as the spokesman of Moses, who had a speech impediment. Afterwards, in the wilderness, he was called to the ministry of the high priesthood. The flowering rod in Aaron's right hand prophesizes the coming of Christ from the Most Holy Theotokos. (Numbers Ch 17, v 8).

Holy Prophet Samuel Προφήτης Σαμουήλ

August 20

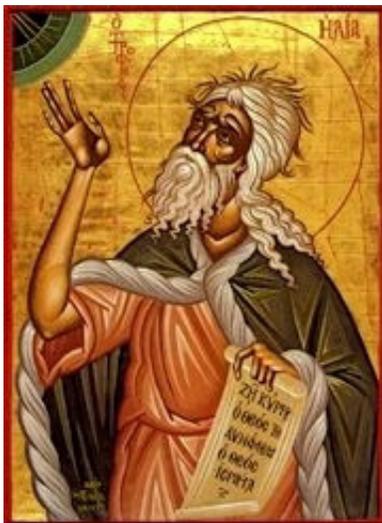


Kontakion *Thy hallowed mother dedicated thee unto the Lord even before she had conceived thee; and when thou wast born thou didst serve Him from thine infancy like an Angel. And, O Prophet of the Most High, for thy fervent faith, thou wast granted to foretell things that should come to pass. Hence, we cry to thee: Rejoice, O venerable Samuel.*

Holy Prophet Samuel's name means "Asked for from God". He was a Prophet of God from childhood. (3rd Ode of the Canon, the Song of Hannah; I Samuel Ch 2, v 1-10). Prophet Samuel was the last judge of the Israelite people, and anointed the first two Kings of Israel. Samuel was chosen to be the protector of the people and he judged them with holiness and righteousness, becoming an example of all goodness, and their compassionate intercessor before God. He is ascribed to the authorship of the Books of Judges, of Ruth, and of First Books of Kings. (I Samuel and II Samuel).

Holy and Glorious Prophet Elias (Elijah) Προφήτης Ηλίας

July 20



Apolytikion *The incarnate Angel, the Cornerstone of the Prophets, the second Forerunner of the Coming of Christ, the glorious Elias (Elijah), who from above, sent down to Elisha the grace to dispel sickness and cleanse lepers, abounds therefore in healing for those who honour him.*

The Holy Prophet Elias (Elijah) was of priestly lineage, a man of solitary and ascetical character. His name means "The Lord is my God". Prophet Elias beheld God on Mount Horeb. ". . .But the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a voice of a gentle breeze", thereby foretelling the coming of Christ as a merciful Saviour. (III Kings Ch 19, v 11-12). Elias divided the Jordan, and he and his disciple Elisha, passed through as on dry land; and while speaking with him, Prophet Elias was suddenly taken away by a fiery chariot.

ICONOGRAPHY PROGRAM FOR PHASE III – DOME: THE HOLY PROPHETS

Sponsors may contribute to an icon of a Holy Prophet, choosing from the icons below.

Holy Prophet Elisha Προφήτης Ελισσαίος

June 14



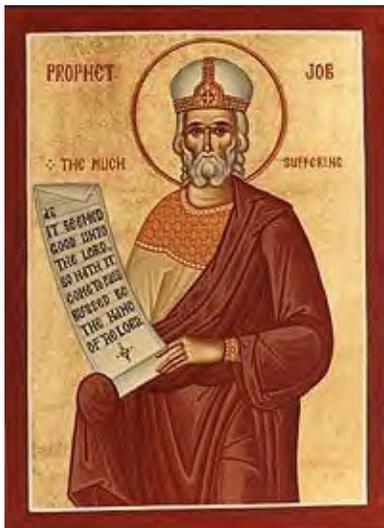
Kontakion *A prophet of God did you become, when worthily you had been vouchsafed a double portion of God's grace as Elias' true companion, O Elisha, divinely-blest; and with him, you unceasingly entreat Christ God in behalf of us all.*

Holy Prophet Elisha's name means "God is Saviour" or "Whose salvation is God". At God's command, Prophet Elias anointed him to be Prophet in his stead. He followed Elias and served him until the latter was taken up as it were into Heaven. When Elisha received his teacher's mantle and the grace of his prophetic spirit twofold, he demonstrated whose disciple he was through the miracles he wrought and through all that is related of him in the Fourth Book of Kings. After his death, God glorified him; when some Israelites cast a dead man on the grave of the Prophet, the dead man came to life and stood on his feet, when he touched the Prophet Elisha's bones. (IV Kings Ch 13, v 20-21).

Holy and Righteous Prophet Job the Sufferer

Δίκαιος Ιώβ ο Προφήτης

May 6

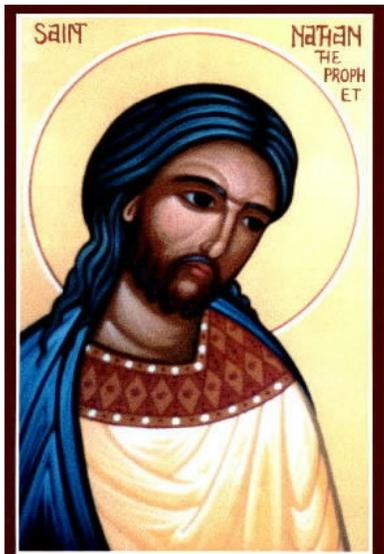


Kontakion *You were shown forth as blameless, true, God-fearing, just, and sanctified, O you much-suffering Prophet, all-glorious servant of God, most righteous Job; by your valiant endurance and your patience you gave instruction to the world. For this cause we all honour and praise your all-holy memory.*

Job the faithful servant of God, is a pre-figurement of Christ. His name means "Bearer of burden". He was most perfect in all virtue and patience, true, blameless, just, devout, and abstained from every evil thing. He was very wealthy and blessed by God in all things. But by divine permission, that he might be tried, he was suddenly deprived of his children, wealth, glory, and was covered with grievous sores. Job prophesied on the Coming of the Saviour and the Universal Resurrection: "I know my redeemer lives, and that He shall stand at the latter day of the earth. ." (Job Ch 19, v 25-27). He endured courageously and hearing the voice of God, he cried: "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear: but now my eye sees You." (Job Ch 42, v 5). Then, by divine blessing, he was restored again to prosperity even more bountiful than the first.

Holy Prophet Nathan Προφήτης Νάθαν

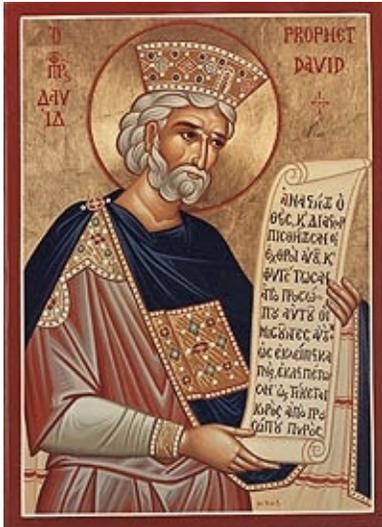
October 24



Holy Prophet Nathan's name means "Sent by God". He lived in the time of King David as described in the books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles (especially in 2 Samuel Ch 7, v 2-17, Ch 12, v 1-25). He announced to King David the covenant God was making with him (2 Samuel Ch 7). He came to rebuke the King for his transgressions with Bathsheba while she was the wife of Uriah the Hittite, and whose death King David had arranged by ordering that Uriah be placed at the front of a battle line. (2 Samuel Ch 11, v 11). King David repents deeply in Psalm 50: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassion blot out my transgression. . ." According to Chronicles, Prophet Nathan wrote histories of the reigns of both King David (1 Chronicles Ch 29, v 29) and King Solomon (2 Chronicles Ch 9, v 29). When Solomon succeeded King David, Prophet Nathan presided at the anointing of King Solomon.

ICONOGRAPHY PROGRAM FOR PHASE III – DOME: THE HOLY PROPHETS

Sponsors may contribute to an icon of a Holy Prophet, choosing from the icons below.



Holy Prophet King David Προφήτης Δαβίδ

December 26

Holy Prophet King David's name means "Beloved". Many of the Psalms are attributed to King David.

King David's prophecies from the Psalter:

Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos: *Hearken, O daughter, and incline your ear; and forget your own people and your father's house.* (Psalm 44, 9)

Nativity of Jesus Christ: *He shall come down like rain upon a fleece, and like rain-drops that fall upon the earth.* (Psalm 71, 6)

The Ascension of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: *And He mounted upon cherubim and flew, He flew upon the wings of the winds.* (Psalm 17, 10) *God is gone up in jubilation, the Lord with the voice of a trumpet.* (Psalm 46, 5)

Holy Prophet King Solomon Προφήτης Σολομών

December 26



Holy Prophet King Solomon's name means "Peaceful". The books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs are attributed to King Solomon.

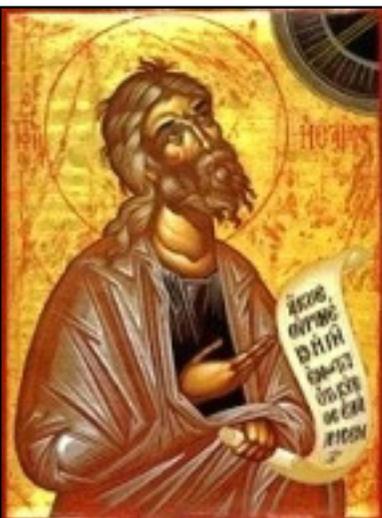
King Solomon's prophecy on the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos: *Many daughters have obtained wealth, many have wrought valiantly; but you have exceeded, you have surpassed all.* (Proverbs 31, 29)

Acts of the Apostles (from Stephen's speech to the Sanhedrin): *"Unto the days of David; who found favor before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob. But Solomon built Him a house. Although the Most High dwells not in temples made with hands; as said the Prophet Isaiah. 'Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool: what house will you build Me? Says the Lord: or, what is to the place of My rest? Has not My hand made all these things?'"* (Acts Ch. 7, v 45–50).

Proverbs of Solomon Ch 9, v 1 *"Wisdom has built a house for herself, and set up seven pillars".* Explanation from *The Orthodox Study Bible*: "Wisdom is Christ, and he built His house. This house is first the Most Holy Theotokos, secondly the Church." According to Saint Justin, the seven pillars represent the seven-fold operation of the Holy Spirit. (Reference Isaiah Ch 11, v 2-3).

Holy Prophet Isaiah Προφήτης Ησαΐας

May 9



Kontakion *Having received the gift of prophecy, O Prophet-Martyr Isaiah, herald of God, you did make clear to all under the sun the Incarnation of God by crying with a great voice: Behold the Virgin shall conceive in her womb.*

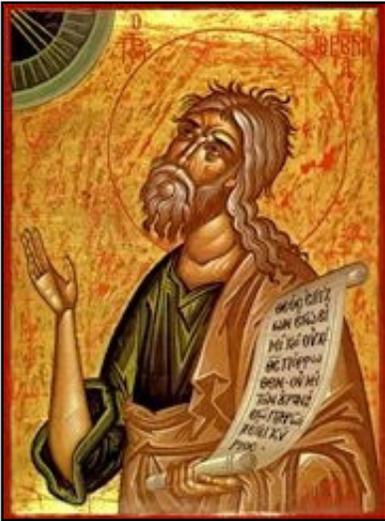
Holy Prophet Isaiah's name means "God is Salvation". He was the son of Amos, descended from a royal tribe. About 681 B C, when Prophet Isaiah censured Manasses' impiety and lawlessness, he was sawn asunder with a wooden saw, and thus received a martyr's end. He is called the most eloquent because of the beauty and loftiness of his words. Prophet Isaiah prophesized on the Light of Christ. (5th Ode of the Canon). He foretold that a Virgin would conceive in the womb (Ch 7, v 14); that not an ambassador, nor an angel, but the Lord Himself would save fallen man (Ch 63, v 9); that the Messiah would suffer, bearing our sins (Ch 53).

ICONOGRAPHY PROGRAM FOR PHASE III – DOME: THE HOLY PROPHETS

Sponsors may contribute to an icon of a Holy Prophet, choosing from the icons below.

Holy Prophet Jeremiah Προφήτης Ιερεμίας

May 1

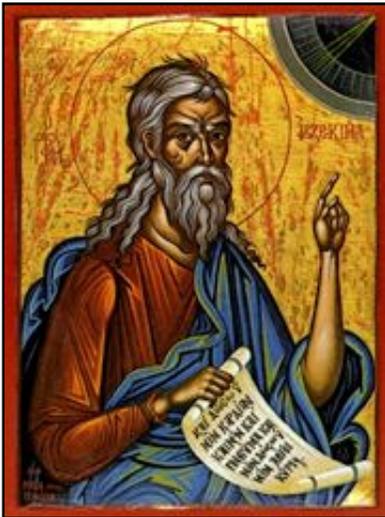


Kontakion *O blessed Jeremiah, being chosen of God from your mother's womb, in your compassion, you sorely did mourn for the falling away of Israel. And in Egypt, O Prophet, you were murdered by stoning for your most just rebukes to them that understood not to cry with you: Alleluia.*

Holy Prophet of God, Jeremiah's name means "God is exalted". He was sanctified from his mother's womb, "Before I formed you in the belly, I knew you; and before thou came forth from the womb, I sanctified you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations". (Jeremiah Ch 1, v 5). He prophesied during the last captivity of the people in the reign of Sedekias, King of Judah. He wept and lamented inconsolably over the desolation of Jerusalem and the enslavement of his people. Fearing the vengeance of the Chaldeans, they fled into Egypt. There he prophesied concerning Egypt and other nations, and he was stoned to death in Taphnas by his own people about the year 583 B C. Jeremiah's prophecies are in two books, the Book of Jeremiah and Lamentations.

Holy Prophet Ezekiel Προφήτης Ιεζεκιήλ

July 23



Kontakion *O divine Ezekiel, as God's true Prophet, you foretold unto all the Incarnation of the Lord, the Lamb of God, the Artificer, the Son of God, the Eternal made manifest.*

Holy Prophet Ezekiel's name means "God is strong" or "Helper". He was taken captive and brought to Babylon during the reign of Jechonias. In the fifth year of this captivity, he began to prophesy. He prophesied for about twenty-eight years and was killed by the tribe of Gad because he reproached them for their idolatry. The Book of Ezekiel is richly filled with mystical imagery and prophetic visions and allegories; in the "gate that was shut", through which the Lord alone entered, he foretold of the Word's Incarnation from the Virgin (Ch 4, v 1-3). In his vision ". . . The Lord brought me forth by the Spirit, and set me in the midst of the plain and it was full of human bones . . ." who came to life again (Ch 37, v 1-14), thus he prophesied the Universal Resurrection.

Holy Prophet Daniel Προφήτης Δανιήλ

December 17



Holy Prophet Daniel's name means "God is Judge".

Vision of Prophet Daniel Ch 7, v 9-10, 13-14, 22 *"As I looked, thrones were placed and One that was Ancient of Days took His seat; His raiment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool; His throne was fiery flames, its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came forth from before Him; a thousand thousands served Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came One like a Son of Man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed".*

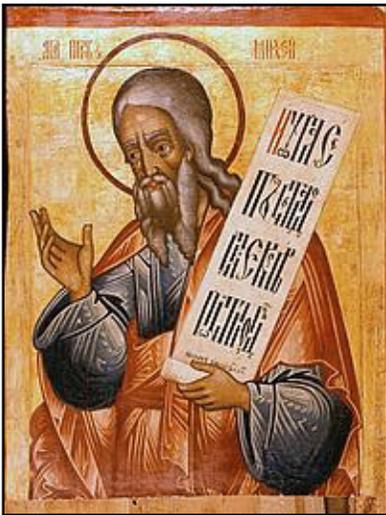
The Book of Daniel includes hymns for *The Three Youths* and *Praises to God*. (7th and 8th Odes of the Canon)

ICONOGRAPHY PROGRAM FOR PHASE III – DOME: THE HOLY PROPHETS

Sponsors may contribute to an icon of a Holy Prophet, choosing from the icons below.

Holy Prophet Hosea Προφήτης Ωσηέ

October 17



Kontakion *Initiated by divine illumination, you were deemed worthy of the lofty gift of prophecy and foretold of the promise of Grace, O Prophet. O Hosea, since you dwell in God's glory now, do you rescue from all manner of adversity us who cry to you: Rejoice, you vessel of grace divine.*

Holy Prophet Hosea's name means "Salvation".

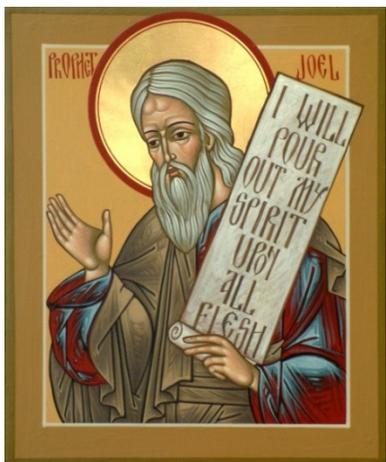
Hosea Ch 6, v 7 "For I will have mercy rather than sacrifice, and the knowledge of God rather than whole-burnt offerings." Christ speaks to the prophecy when he says: "But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Matthew Ch 9, v 13).

Hosea Ch 13, v 14 "I will deliver them out of the power of Hades, and I will deliver them from death: where is thy penalty, O death? O Hades, where is thy sting?" Saint Paul speaks to the prophecy: "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" (I Corinthians Ch 15, v 55).

Also, spoken by Saint John Chrysostom in his Paschal Sermon.

Holy Prophet Joel Προφήτης Ιωήλ

October 19



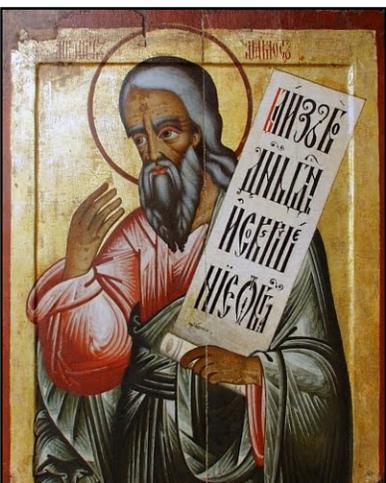
Kontakion *Since you had seen the glory of God in the spirit, you truly did fore know His divine dispensation; for as you did say, God's Spirit is poured forth upon all flesh that believes in Him, Who appeared to the earthborn in a servant's form and made you wondrous forever, O Joel, seer of God*

Holy Prophet Joel's name means "The Lord is God". He foretold the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and is quoted by the Apostle Peter. (Acts Ch 2, v 17-21).

Joel Ch 2, v 28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh".

Holy Prophet Amos Προφήτης Αμώς

June 16



Apolytikion *As we celebrate the memory of Thy Prophet Amos, O Lord, through him we beseech Thee to save our souls.*

Holy Prophet Amos's name means "Bearer of burdens".

Amos Ch 9, v 11-12 "In that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and will rebuild the ruins of it, and will set up the parts thereof that have been broken down, and will build it up as in the ancient days: that the remnant of men, and all the Gentiles upon whom My name is called, may earnestly seek Me, saith the Lord Who does all these things."

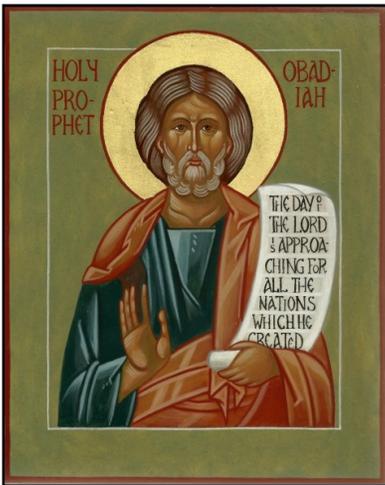
Apostle Peter and Apostle James speak to the prophecy at the Apostles' Council in Jerusalem (Acts Ch 15, v 6-21).

ICONOGRAPHY PROGRAM FOR PHASE III – DOME: THE HOLY PROPHETS

Sponsors may contribute to an icon of a Holy Prophet, choosing from the icons below.

Holy Prophet Obadiah Προφήτης Οβδιού

November 19



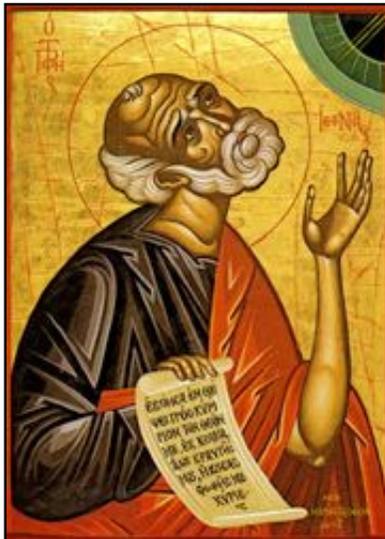
Kontakion *As a divinely-chosen Prophet, you foretold things far off, that on Mount Zion salvation should come to pass, for Heaven's mysteries shone on you; as you dwelt in Heaven with the Prophets, rejoicing in Christ whom you foretold, entreat Him, O Obadiah, to save us, who honour you with love.*

Holy Prophet Obadiah's name means "Servant of God". His book of one chapter was written about 587 B C, at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, who were assisted by the people of Edom.

Obadiah v 15-16 *"For the day of the Lord is near against all nations. For as you have done, it shall be done to you in the same manner. Your recompense shall return on your own head. For in the same way that you drank on My holy mountain, so too shall all the nations drink wine. They will drink and will be brought down, and it will be as if they never existed."*

Holy Prophet Jonah Προφήτης Ιωνάς

September 21



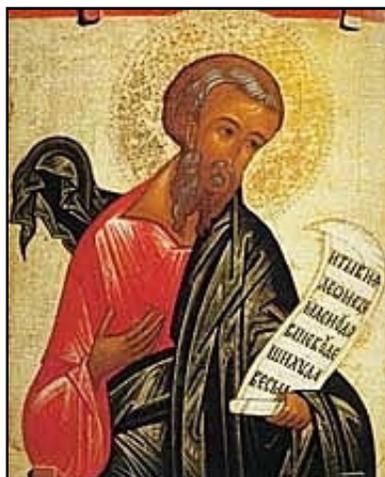
Kontakion *You did pass three days and nights within the sea-monster's entrails, showing forth the Lord's descent into the belly of Hades; for when He had freely suffered His saving Passion, He arose out of the sepulcher on the third day. Hence, we honour you, O Prophet, who was deemed worthy to be a figure of Christ.*

Holy Prophet Jonah's name means "Dove". He was commanded by God to go to Nineveh and to proclaim that its destruction was at hand because of the sins of its people. He disobeyed the divine command, and boarded a ship departing elsewhere. To calm the fearful sea-storm as a revelation of his own disobedience, Jonah asked the sailors to cast him into the sea. A great sea-monster appeared by divine providence, and swallowed him up. For three days and nights he was found in its belly and he prayed, saying the words, "I cried aloud in my affliction unto the Lord my God..." (Jonah Ch 2, v 3) (6th Ode of the Canon). His three-day sojourn in the sea-monster's belly is an image of our Saviour's three-day burial and His life-bringing Resurrection.

(Matthew Ch 12, v 39-40).

Holy Prophet Micah (Michaeas) Προφήτης Μιχαίας

August 14



Kontakion *With the Holy Spirit's beams were you enlightened, setting forth in prophecy the condescension of Christ God, O blest Micah (Michaeas); and by His grace we who revere you are saved from eternal death.*

Holy Prophet Micah (Michaeas) whose name means "Who is like God?" was a Morasthite from the land of Judah. He prophesied for more than fifty years. He prophesied in the days of Hoshea, the last King of the ten tribes of Israel. (IV Kings Ch 17, v 1-16; Ch 18, v 1).

Prophet Micah prophesied that the Christ would be born in Bethlehem:

Micah Ch 5, v 2 *"And you, Bethlehem, house of Ephrata, are few in number to be reckoned among the thousands of Judah; yet out of you shall One come forth to Me, to be a ruler of Israel; and His goings forth were from the beginning, even from eternity."*

ICONOGRAPHY PROGRAM FOR PHASE III – DOME: THE HOLY PROPHETS

Sponsors may contribute to an icon of a Holy Prophet, choosing from the icons below.

Holy Prophet Nahum Προφήτης Ναούμ

December 1



Kontakion *Your pure heart, illumined by the Holy Spirit, was a sacred vessel of resplendent prophecy, for you did see things far off as close at hand. Hence we revere you, blessed Nahum most glorious.*

Holy Prophet Nahum's name means "Consolation".

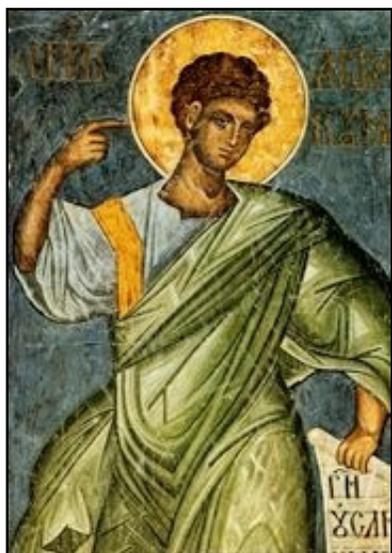
Prophet Nahum Ch 1, v 15 *"Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that brings glad tidings, and publishes peace!"*

Romans Ch 10, v 15-17 *"And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things'."*

The glad tidings are the Gospel of peace, preached by the Holy Apostles.

Holy Prophet Habakkuk Προφήτης Αββακούμ

December 2



Orthros – The Katavasiai (Fourth Ode)

The Prophet Habakkuk, comprehending the unfathomable divine will, that You the most High became incarnate of a virgin, cried out, "Glory to Your Might, O Lord."

Holy Prophet Habakkuk's name means "Loving embrace".

Habakkuk Ch 2, v 4 *"If He should draw back, my soul has no pleasure in Him; but the just shall live My faith."*

Romans Ch 1, v 16-17 *For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation . . . For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith' "*

Paschal Service – Katavasiai (4th Ode of the Canon): *"May the inspired Prophet Habakkuk keep with us the divine watch, and show forth the radiant Angel, who with vibrant voice declared; today salvation comes to the world, Christ has risen as Almighty."*

Holy Prophet Zephaniah Προφήτης Σοφονίας

December 3



Kontakion *You were shown to be illumined by the Divine Spirit, O Prophet Zephaniah, proclaiming God's manifestation, and you did preach: Rejoice greatly, O daughters of Zion and of Jerusalem; behold, your King comes, bringing salvation.*

Holy Prophet Zephaniah's name means "Visionary of Mysteries".

Prophet Zephaniah Ch 3, v 8, 14-15 *"Therefore wait upon Me", says the Lord, "until the day when I rise up for a witness" because My judgment shall be on the gatherings of the nations Rejoice, O daughter of Zion; cry aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem; rejoice and delight yourself with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The Lord has taken away your iniquities, He has ransomed you from the hand of your enemies: the Lord, the King of Israel, is in the midst of you: you shall not see evil anymore."*

This passage is read on Great and Holy Saturday.

ICONOGRAPHY PROGRAM FOR PHASE III – DOME: THE HOLY PROPHETS

Sponsors may contribute to an icon of a Holy Prophet, choosing from the icons below.

Holy Prophet Haggai (Aggaeus) Προφήτης Αγγαίος

December 16



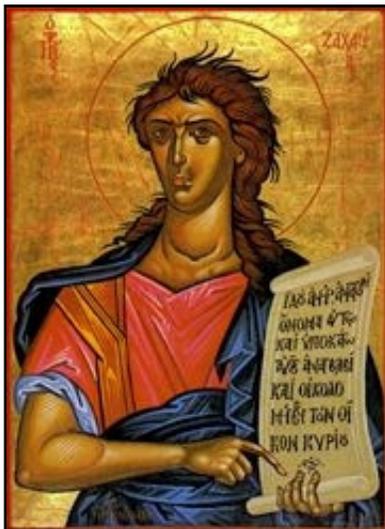
Kontakion *Illumined in mind with streams of light from Heaven's heights, you brightly did shine in prophecy throughout the world; and in manifesting types of Christ's dispensation, which was to come, you became illustrious, O Prophet Haggai, wise in things divine.*

Holy Prophet Haggai whose name means "Festal," was born in Babylon at the time of the captivity of the Jews. He began to prophesy in Jerusalem after their return thereto, and to admonish the people to rebuild the Temple.

Haggai Ch 1, v 7-8, 13 *"Thus says the Lord Almighty; 'Consider your ways. Go up to the mountains, and cut timber; build the house, and I will take pleasure in it, and be glorified', says the Lord. . . And Haggai the Lord's messenger spoke among the messengers of the Lord to the people, saying, 'I am with you, says the Lord' "*

Holy Prophet Zacharias (Zachariah) Προφήτης Ζαχαρίας

February 8



Kontakion *As a brightly-shining lamp that was illumined with the Spirit's fiery beams, O Zacharias most renowned, you did prefigure with clarity the Saviour's great and untold condescension toward us.*

Holy Prophet Zacharias' name means "God is renowned" or "Remembrance of God".

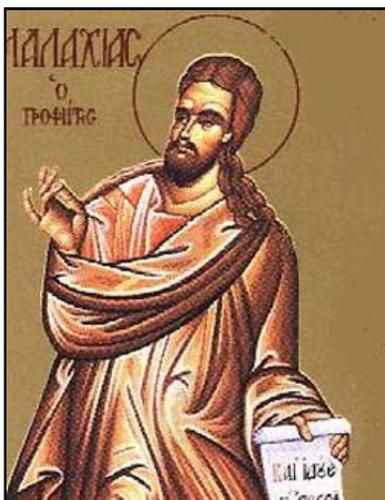
Zacharias Ch 9, v 9 *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; proclaim it aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, the King is coming to you, just, and a Saviour; He is meek and riding on a donkey, and a young foal".*

This is read at Vespers of Palm Sunday, the Feast of the Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem.

Zacharias Ch 14, v 6-7 *"And it shall come to pass in that day that there shall be no light, and there shall be for one day cold and frost, and that day shall be known to the Lord, and it shall not be day nor night" but towards evening it shall be light".* Prophecy of the Crucifixion of our Lord.

Holy Prophet Malachi Προφήτης Μαλαχίας

January 3



Kontakion *Since the gift of prophecy dwelt in you richly, you, O Prophet, clearly did foretell the coming of Christ God and the salvation of all the world, which is enlightened through grace by His shining forth.*

Holy Prophet Malachi's name means "Messenger of God" or "the Seal of Prophets". He was the last of all the Prophets of the Old Testament. He prophesied in the days of Nehemias, a wise man among the Jews, who also held a high and powerful position in the court of Artaxerxes, King of the Persians, who reigned from 465 to 424 B C.

Malachi foretold the coming of Christ:

Malachi Ch 4, v 2 *"But to you that fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise, and healing shall be in His wings: and ye shall go forth, and bound as young calves let loose from bonds".*

Becoming What We Behold

THE SACRED ICONS OF SAINT NICHOLAS



**The Ascension of Holy Prophet Elijah to Heaven on the Chariot
Iconography by Themistoklis Petrou**



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