

The Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Holy pictures, or Icons, have always graced our churches since the Apostolic age. During the seventh century, a Byzantine Emperor attempted to remove all Icons from our Churches believing that Icons should not be worshipped but only God. He actually succeeded in doing away with Icons, and for over 150 years Orthodox Christians were banned from using Icons in any manner, shape or form. The Christian Empress Theodora finally ordered the restoration of the Icons in the Churches and on March 11, 843 A.D. a great celebration was held in the Church of St. Sophia in Constantinople. There was a great meeting held during that period which defined the position of the Icon in Orthodox worship. The Icons are to be venerated, not worshipped. Only God is worshipped. The Icons are spiritual windows through which we see the Heavenly Saints. They are the symbol of our faith in Jesus Christ in accordance with our Orthodox Tradition. They show us how the Holy Spirit can live in human beings to make them holy. They also reveal the same truths about Christ as do the Gospel writings. This is why this Sunday of the restoration of the Icons in our Church is called "Sunday of Orthodoxy" It is truly a victory for Orthodoxy which has withstood for almost 2,000 years. The Sunday of Orthodoxy is celebrated all over the world and is one of the most important feast days of our Faith.



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·:RESTORATION OF THE ICONS·:



For 150 years there were no icons in the churches. Then in the year 843 the Christian Empress Theodora said that they should all be brought back in the Churches because they showed holiness. There was a big procession at the Church of St. Sophia where the icons were carried into the Church by many people. We have a procession like that in our Church every year on the Sunday of Orthodoxy.