

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

Who can count the number of saints that adorn the Kingdom of God? No wonder the Church observes the SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS to honor all who have “fought the good fight unto the end and have kept the faith.” And it is significant that this observance comes on the Sunday after we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of Christ. The unusual icon of our bulletin captures the uniqueness of this feast. The composition comes from ancient times and it deserves close examination of its features.

The eye quickly focuses on the large circle, with Christ in robes, seated at the very Center. His right hand is outstretched in blessing, while the left holds the Gospel. In positions of intercession are, at the left, the Holy Virgin, and at right, St. John the Baptist. Below Christ is the throne of judgement, with a bible laid on it. Bowing in prayer there are Adam at the left and Eve at the right. Surrounding the scene are the ranks of the saints: Angels, Apostles, Martyrs, Hierarchs and Hermits. At the top are the sun, moon and stars, and outside the circle at the top are prophet kings.

A different scene is at the lower position of the icon. This is PARADISE, with its trees and flowers. Abraham and Jacob occupy the thrones there, surrounded by the righteous ones resting with them. Between them, clutching the cross, is the good thief, saved by his faith in Christ crucified. The scene speaks of the SECOND COMING and of the LAST JUDGEMENT.