

## Rules for the Ikon Painter

1. Before starting work, make the sign of the Cross; Pray in silence, and pardon your enemies.
2. Work with care on every detail of your ikon, as if you were working in front of the Lord Himself.
3. During work, pray in order to strengthen yourself physically and spiritually; avoid above all useless words, and keep silence.
4. Pray in particular to the Saint whose face you are painting. Keep your mind from distractions, and the Saint will be close to you.
5. When you have to choose a color, stretch out your hands interiorly to the Lord and ask His counsel.
6. Do not be jealous of your neighbor's work; his success is your success, too.
7. When your ikon is finished, thank God that his Mercy granted you the grace to paint the Holy Images.
8. Have your ikon blessed by putting it on the altar. Be the first to pray before it, before giving it to others.