

Blessing of the Icon of St. George



ABOUT ST. GEORGE:

Saint George (c. 275/281 – 23 April 303 AD), born in Lydda, Palestine, was a soldier in the Roman army and was later venerated as a Christian martyr. He is immortalized in the tale of Saint George and the Dragon. The earliest known depictions of the motif are from tenth- or eleventh-century Cappadocia and eleventh-century Georgia. Previously, in the iconography of Eastern Orthodoxy, George had been depicted as a soldier since at least the seventh century. The earliest known surviving narrative of the dragon episode is an eleventh-century Georgian text. His memorial is celebrated on 23 April, and he is regarded as one of the most prominent military saints.

ABOUT THE ICONOGRAPHER:

Charlotte Weppenaar is a Danish Iconographer who studied under the tutelage of Monk Gregorios of St. Paul's Monastery, New Skete on the Holy Mount Athos. She was trained in the byzantine style of icon painting. Byzantine icons are sacred paintings characterized by vivid colours and often gold coloured backgrounds. Unlike regular paintings, these icons are saturated in prayer and require an interior spirit of humility and patience. Charlotte had been praying and painting the icon of St. George and also praying daily for the Cathedral for the past year. The size of the icon is 36 x 47 cm, and has three layers of 24carat gold.