



ST. HELEN'S ICON: Today at the 9:00 a.m. mass our new Icon of St. Helen, the patroness of our parish, will be blessed. The Icon is a gift of a group of our parishioners who do not wish to be named. The details of the Icon are as follows:

An Icon is a pictorial representation, a conventional religious image typically painted on a small wooden panel and used in the devotions of Eastern Christians. The Icon is equivalent to a statue in the Western church.

Size: 24" x 42" - Medium: Acrylic Paint and Dutch Gold Leaf on Wood

St. Helen was the mother of the Roman Emperor, Constantine who converted to Christianity when he saw a vision of a cross in the sky with the words "In this sign you shall win". St. Helen was born in 255 and died in 330AD.

In our Icon St Helen is portrayed with the Cross as she discovered the true Cross in Jerusalem. On the Cross are three nails, representing the nails she also found: two of which she gave to her son. He placed one as an emblem on his saddle and one on his helmet.

The cross also has the inscription (in abbreviated form) as St. Helen found it as well with the cross.

A banner was added to the cross which represents the vision of Christ to her son Constantine.

St. Helen was 80 years of age when she discovered the true cross, but she is depicted more in the glorified form representing her sanctity.

St. Helen is also depicted in the costume befitting a Byzantine Empress of her time. All details are taken from recorded patterns etc. of the Byzantine era, including the choice of colours. The triple pattern is used throughout to represent the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

St. Helen is holding a church in her left hand as she is known as a 'Builder of Churches'. The design of the church is Early Christian in the tradition of Byzantine churches as can still be seen in Ravenna, Italy (dating to the 4th C.) It is made of red brick and has a dome.

She is standing on a marble stand (designed in a combination of Byzantine Pattern and Marble inlay), to portray the exalted position which both she and the True Cross hold.

This Icon of our Patroness, St. Helen, was painted by Andre Prevost.

We wish to thank the group of persons who donated this Icon to the parish. It certainly fulfills a need in our parish to have a reminder of our Patroness.