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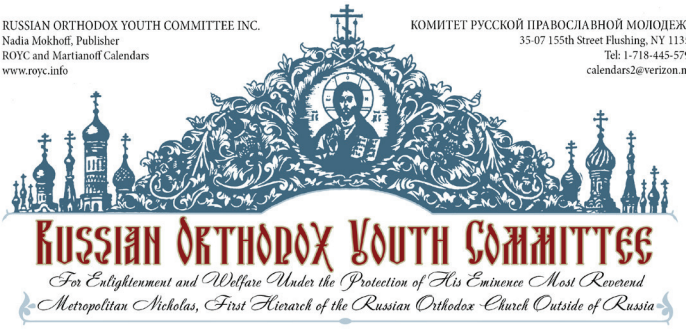

# Russian Orthodox Youth Committee

*For Enlightenment and Welfare Under the Protection of His Eminence Most Reverend Metropolitan Nicholas, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia*

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,
esteemed benefactors of the Russian Orthodox Youth Committee

This year our calendar is dedicated to the history of iconography in Rus' and the preservation of the traditions of the Russian iconographic school throughout the Russian Orthodox Diaspora.

Through Byzantium, monumental church frescoes and icons painted in tempera on wood appeared in Rus' following her reception of Holy Baptism. The icon—that is, the sacred image—was regarded by our forefathers as a true image of the heavenly world, granting the faithful the fullness of prayerful communion with the Prototype.

"You look upon the icon of the Saviour and see that He gazes upon you... He truly gazes upon you with eyes brighter than the sun, and He hears all the desires and sighs of your heart. An image is indeed an image: in its features and symbols it represents that which cannot be depicted or expressed, but can be apprehended only through faith," says the Holy and Righteous John of Kronstadt.

The 2027 Calendar contains brief information on the history of Russian iconography, together with numerous photographs and short biographies of some iconographers.

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