



Our Lady of Kazan

The icon of Our Lady of Kazan is one of the most beloved Marian images in the Russian tradition. It first appeared in Kazan in the 16th century after a miraculous discovery and quickly became a symbol of protection and intercession for the Russian people.

Mary is shown half-length, gently leaning her head toward the Christ Child. She looks outward meeting us, as if inviting us into the mystery of her Son. Christ, depicted as a young boy yet robed as a philosopher, raises His right hand in blessing to indicate that He is the one who blesses and teaches the world.

The expressions remain solemn, underscoring the sacred purpose of the image which is to show Mary's role as Protectress — interceding for her people and guiding them toward Christ.

The gold background represents divine light, while Mary's dark robe with stars at the forehead and shoulders signifies her purity and perpetual virginity. The icon is both a portrait of maternal love and a theological image of the Incarnation: God becoming man through the obedience of Mary.

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