



## The Hagiosoritissa

*Hagiosoritissa* is the Greek word for a Marian genre icon of Mary without the child. In Latin it is “*Mary Advocata*.” As intercessor, Mary’s outstretched hands represent her supplication, offering prayers, interceding on our behalf and all of mankind to her Son, the Heavenly Judge, on whose right she is seated in the position of honor.

Mary is rarely shown without Jesus. Even in this icon where she appears to be alone, this image is always to the right of Christ and St. John the Baptist mirrors her posture from the other side of Christ, as they both pray on behalf of humanity to Jesus, who is seated in the center as the Heavenly Judge, Ruler of All (Pantocrator).

<u>Symbols/Attributes</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Hands outstretched	Intercessory prayer posture (particularly in a Deisis)
Burgundy maphorion	This color is reserved specifically for the garment of the Theotokos, the Mother of God.
3 Stars	The three stars on her garment indicate her virginity before, during and after Christ’s birth.
Covered head	As a married woman, she wears a blue cap to keep her hair contained, as only single women wore their hair loose. The burgundy maphorion covers the veil.
MP ΘΥ	The inscription is an abbreviation for <b>Μήτηρ Θεού</b> (Meter Theou) which means Mother of God, a title bestowed on Mary at the First Council of Ephesus in 431.

Students in our Level 2 Iconography Course painted icons of Mary as their second icon. Everyone begins with the same image, pigments and instruction. Yet, what unfolds is an expression of our unique gifts and fruits of our individual prayers.

*“All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportioned to each one individually as he wills.”*

**1 Corinthians 12: 11**

