



Our Lady of Tenderness

The Our Lady of Tenderness is of the Eleusa genre (meaning mercy) and demonstrates the profoundness of love's dual nature—both human and divine, both present joy and future sorrow (bright sadness), both personal relationship and divine reality.

Through a mother's tender embrace, the icon reveals the heart of Christian faith: God's willingness to become vulnerable for His love of humanity.

The underlying S-shaped geometry brings the two images into divine intimacy. The “Tenderness” icons can have a variety of compositional variations, but the essential elements include physical contact and emotional intimacy to remind us of God’s humanity and divinity.

This icon transforms vulnerability into strength.

Kathy McDonnell, Iconographer

