



Panagia Panton Elpis (All Holy Help of All)

This icon has a Greek name and origin, but it is known in the East and West. *Panagia* means “All Holy” or “Most Holy” and “*Elpis*” means Hope of All. The unifying feature of this genre of icons is the pose of humility – arms crossed over the heart. Crossed arms mean acceptance of the will of God, grief and compassion, and contemplation (keeping things in her heart). In Russia, the icon is called the Umalenia, or Tender Mercy. In the West she is called the Mother of Extreme Humility.

The icon utilizes a circular underlying structure that symbolizes divine perfection. Her veil denotes her role as protectress of the people and intercessor for humanity and her image is tied to Marian apparitions.

As Hope of All, she is seen as a source of comfort, healing, and protection, especially in times of distress, illness, or danger. The icon conveys that no one is beyond the reach of her intercession—she is the hope even of the most hopeless.

Tony Montes, Iconographer

