

Protection of the Mother of God

The church celebrates the feast of the Protection of the Mother of God on October 1. We celebrate the appearance of the Mother of God in Constantinople in the 10th century. The account of this appearance is found in the life of St. Andrew, known as the Fool for Christ.

During services in the Church of Blachernes, St. Andrew and his disciple, St. Epiphanius, saw the Mother of God approach the ambo. She was supported by St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, and accompanied by many saints. Here she knelt in prayer, her face bathed in tears.

After praying again at the altar, she took her veil and extended it over the people as a sign of her protection.

The icon shows the Mother of God standing before the church. Her arms outstretched in prayer are draped with a veil.

Though St. Andrew and St. Epiphanius witnessed this miraculous appearance, the Virgin is shown alone without any of the other figures associated with the original vision. This highlights the truth that the Mother of God is the "Never-failing Protectress" of all Christians, our ever-present advocate with the Creator. This icon tells us that we are not alone. We live in the presence of the Mother of God. She is our protectress.

TROPARION

Protected by your appearance, O Mother of God; we devout people solemnly celebrate. Gazing upon your most precious icon, we fervently say: "Protect us with your holy veil, and deliver us from all evil, imploring your Son, Christ our God, to save our souls."