

Saint Brigid of Ireland Spring Iconography Workshop



SYLLABUS

Term: Spring Semester 2023, 10 sessions starting the week of Feb. 13

Vacation Days:

Feb. 20-24, 2023 (Winter Break)

Apr. 10-17 (Holy Week, Bright Monday)

Target Grade Level: 7th-12th (10-12-year-olds also permitted with parent assistance. See below for details)

Schedule: 1x / week, 75 min.

Price: \$200.00

Course Sections

Section 1: T 3:30 p.m. ET

Section 2: F 12:30 p.m. ET

Instructor: Randi Maria Sider-Rose, MDiv, Immanuel Icons Studio

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In this Iconography Workshop, students will complete an icon in the traditional medium of egg tempera, gaining a foundation in the spirituality and artistic practices needed to continue in iconography, if desired. Saint Brigid (also spelled “Bridgette”) is the mother saint of Ireland and, with Saint Patrick and Saint Columba, one of the three national

saints of the Emerald Isle. The daughter of a Christian slave, Brigid grew up to found many convents, including that of Kildare, leading to her alternate title “Saint Brigid of Kildare.” There are many wonderful stories and traditions around Saint Brigid, including making a “Saint Brigid’s Cross” and “Saint Brigid Oaten Bread,” and these will be optional add-on projects for the class.

Each lesson will start with prayer, followed by a brief discussion and a warm-up technique exercise. The bulk of the class will be spent painting the icon- sometimes called *writing* the icon to stress the kinship with theology. Students will learn to “temper” the dry pigments with egg and apply the paint in each of the many stages of building up an iconographic face. Since iconography is a living tradition, students will learn about the dynamic relationship between using historic models and understanding for themselves the aesthetic and theological principles of iconography. To this end, students must gain an understanding of composition, the iconographic “style” as it manifests in facial features, etc., and how to “draw on the right side of the brain.” All of these tasks will be broken down into small, structured steps and are manageable for people of almost all ages and abilities.

Enrollment Restrictions

- All children younger than 7th grade (or 10–12 years old) must be accompanied by a parent or adult who will help the child set-up for class and attend every session with that child. Parents and adults who are partnered with a child aged 10–12 will not be charged for the course.
- If multiple students in one household are registered to take the class, they should be prepared to purchase supplies and materials sufficient for each registered

student. (The pigments can be shared.) Note that each person should have his or her own computer so the teacher can watch and give feedback as the student works.

- Parents or other adults who wish to be a student themselves, including having a webcam pointed at their work and receiving feedback for their assignments, are invited to join the Adult workshop or Adult section of the Apprenticeship.

Student and Parent Expectations

- This class requires students to have an external webcam and to purchase various art materials. (Please see the Course Materials.)
- No prior artistic experience is expected or required, but fine motor skills and an ability to follow directions and keep their supplies and assignments organized are important.
- The Workshops are not graded and are more relaxed than the Apprenticeship, but a small amount of homework (30-45 minutes) will be required to continue the painting begun in class or other straight-forward assignments.
- Because we will need all 10 sessions for painting, a set of 3 short instructional videos will be sent in advance over e-mail that will guide you through pre-mixing some pigment colors, making homemade transfer paper, and making egg emulsion. This must be completed before the first day of class.
- Parents of school-aged students will be needed to help with the extensive preparation for the workshop including ordering supplies, gathering household supplies, and helping with the afore-mentioned videos, especially mixing dry pigments.
- Before each live class session, students must set up their workspace with all their materials, including the ones from home (water jar, paper towels, etc.).



Randi Maria Sider-Rose began painting icons

over 20 years ago when she was able to travel to learn from different iconography teachers across the country. Since then, she has married Michael Sider-Rose and completed an MDiv at the University of Chicago Divinity School. As well as taking commissions from churches and individuals, Mrs. Sider-Rose loves to walk with students on the journey of learning to see better and more intentionally, using this “prayer of the hands” to grow in holiness, with God’s grace. Homeschooling her 4 children in an urban fixer-upper strewn with books, art projects, and Legos helps keep the whole operation real.

Mrs. Sider-Rose and her family attend Saint Moses the Black Orthodox Mission Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she has been blessed by His Grace Bishop Thomas to serve in the ministry of iconography.

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For more information about Mrs. Sider-Rose’s process, please visit her website at www.immanuelicons.org.