



EXTHEISCONI

CORNER

THE BEAUTIFUL

CORNER

ICON

- An **icon corner** is the family's place of worship, also called the **home altar**.
- The concept of the church of the home is an ancient Byzantine tradition, beginning in the first century. At this time there were no separate churches, so Christians would gather in private homes to worship.

CORNER

Icon essential in Byzantine home:

- Not just quaint, decoration for walls
- Not religious art
 - Different word for religious art: “obraz”
- “**windows to heaven**”
- Instruments through which
- Contact with God is made
- necessary in the home shrine
- which is the basis of the life of worship of our Home Church.



Christ: the “Dawn from on high”

Luke 1:78–79

- **East** is the direction of prayer in Byzantine rite
- Icon corner put in east corner
 - north- or south-east corner of a room, or on an east-facing wall of the house,
- *Jews pray facing east,*
 - mark East with a *mizrah*





Cross & Icons: (in the Icon Corner)

- A cross
- Icon of Christ (on right side)
- Icon of the Theotokos (on left side)
- Icon of the family's patron saint
- Icons of **saints of family members**
- and significant church events



Body of Christ & Communion of Saints

- the many icons of the icon corner remind us of the *great Cloud of Witnesses* who make intercession before us at the Throne of Almighty God.
- remind we are never alone as members of the ***Body of Christ***, that even death cannot separate us, not now, not ever.



Books (in the Icon Corner)

- The **Bible**
 - We reverence the Word of God and we read from it as from a Wellspring of Grace.
 - placed in a position of honour
 - the **Gospels**,
 - 1 of the few articles allowed on the Holy Table.
 - **Psaltery**
- **Prayer book**
- **Other Service books**



Seasonal Items: (in the Icon Corner)

- Prosphora loaf blessed
 - for the Reposed
 - or a special intention
- Holy water from the Theophany
- pussy willows or Palms from the Flower Sunday(Palm) service
- Flowers from special services:
 - Dormition, Great Friday, etc.
- Pascha egg



Liturgical items for Prayer:

- **Light:**
- Candle or Oil Lamp
- always lit for worship
- Represent Christ & Christ in us
 - They could be light at the singing of the Lamp Lighting Psalms or Gladsome Light (Vespers)
- **Censer** with incense & charcoal





Etc.....

- Crowns from wedding Marriage
- Prayer Ropes & other devotionals
- Prosthora Seal for communion bread
- (photos of reposed ancestors)



Decoration:

- Ukrainians place embroidered cloths over their icons as a way to indicate a special honour
- Eg: rushnyks from wedding
 - used by the Priest to bind their hands together as a symbol of marriage and other upon which they kneel



Seat of Honour By the Icon Corner

- may also have a chair placed beside the icon corner.
- This is the place of honour where the eldest of the family sits or else someone who is celebrating a Nameday.
- symbolically, the most important spot in the home.



Greeting Christ First:

- When we come into the home,
- Greet Christ 1st by a Reverence
- we try not to greet anyone before we have made a Reverence toward the Icons of the Icon Corner
- Christ is our ultimate Host & 1st person of the home

"The Corner of Beauty"

- The icon corner *dedicates* the entire household & everyone living in it *to the service and glory of God*.
- Our Home Church reminds us that, as Christians, our **1st priority** is to live to God's Glory
- Through our pious use of this spiritual treasure, we are ourselves, little by little, *made Icons and Temples of the Holy Spirit!*

