

# O Holy Birth-Giver of God, Save Us!

## Art Project

Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA  
Developed by Michael Kapeluck and Catherine Bucharew

### Mosaic Icon

#### Items Needed:

- Carbon Paper
- Wood Pieces at least 1 inch thick – (size determined by size of icon – It is advised not to go below 8 x 10 inches for the icon)
- Wood glue
- Fine tile grout for at least ¼ space between tiles
- Ceramic or glass tiles
- Color copies of the chosen Icons faces and hands
- Laminator and laminate sheets
- Rags
- Wood trim to match the width of your wood piece
- Wood stain

#### Items that may be needed:

- Ballpene hammer
- Bucket
- Water
- Grout trowel
- Grout scraper

#### Step 1 – Choosing your Icon

There are several things to consider when choosing the Icon for this project. They should include:

1. Size of the faces and hands in the icon
2. How complexity or ornatness of the source icon

The complexity or simplicity of the icon determines the degree of difficulty for this project. You may want to choose an icon with simple lines and larger details. This will make the entire project easier for the participating youth. Choosing an icon with fewer colors will help in reducing cost.

Once you have chosen your icon, you will need to scale it to the size needed for this project. You may want to enlarge or reduce the source icon. This may be done by scanning the icon into a computer program. If you are choosing to create icons larger than 8 x10 you may ask a local iconographer or artist to draw a simple line drawing of the correct size using the source icon as a reference. You would then only need to enlarge the faces and hands to fit the line drawing. Once you have enlarged or reduced to your needed size, make enough copies for the participants. Cut out the pieces and then laminate. You can either cut out the laminated parts or have the participants help in this step.

#### Step 2 – Finding Your Tiles –

This project may vary in cost depending upon your choice of tile medium. Glass tiles are much more expensive than ceramic tile. Certain types of ceramic tile are more expensive than others. You want to

ensure that the tiles you purchase or order are similar in thickness. This will make the overall appearance and grouting of the icon more uniform and easier to accomplish.

You may order small ceramic craft tiles at a reasonable price in bulk from S & S Worldwide Crafts. You may peruse their merchandise at [www.ssw.com](http://www.ssw.com). A good choice from this company are the Tiny Tiles 3/8". You may choose the color you want to order instead of receiving a mixed color bag.

Tiles may also be ordered or purchased at your local home improvement store. This in many ways may be more economical. Choose large floor tiles (1 sq. ft. in size). They can then be broken into smaller pieces to be used in your mosaic.

#### Step 4 – Getting Started –

Now that you have all of your supplies, you may begin the project. This is the longest step in the process. It is advisable to try the project yourself first to discover in which ways you can guide your group through the project. Ensure that all pre-preparation work is completed, including breaking your tiles if necessary.

- Begin by tracing the icon onto the wood with the line drawings and carbon paper.
- Glue the icon faces and hands into place.
- Have the participant begin like a puzzle and work the outer edges first.
- Larger Icons (bigger than 8 x 10) will take less and bigger tiles.
- Use the wood glue to adhere the tiles to the wood.
- Have the participants take their time.
- Once all pieces have been put into place, you may begin grouting the tile. Take your time with this step. You may want to enlist a volunteer who is knowledgeable about grouting to help.
- Wipe the grout from the icon – especially cleaning the face and hands.

#### Step 5 – Finishing the Project -

Have the participants stain the trim to their desired color. Older participants may wood glue on the trim themselves. Younger participants may need help or for you to do this step for them. If time permits, an adult, using a few tacking nails, may adhere the trim to the sides.

An additional step may include waterproofing or sealing the mosaic with varnish.