

EXAMPLE OF AN ICON CORNER (I-CON-A-STA-SI-ON)



Icon Corner (*I-con-a-sta-si-on*)

A fairly elaborate Orthodox Christian icon corner as would be found in a private home

The *I-con-a-sta-si-on* is a small worship space prepared in the homes of Eastern Orthodox or Greek-Catholic Christians.

An *I-con-a-sta-si-on* is normally oriented to face east. It is often located in a corner to eliminate worldly distractions and allow prayer to be more concentrated. Here is where the icons that the family owns should be located, normally including at least **icons of Christ**, the **Virgin Mary**, and the **Patron Saint(s)** of the family.

An **oil lamp** normally sits on or hangs in front of the icons. The careful trimming of the lamp to keep it burning at all times is interpreted as symbolic of the attentive daily care faithful Christians should take over their souls.



Relics of saints (if the family possesses any) and a **Gospel Book** and a **blessing cross** would be kept there, as well as **incense**, **holy water**, **palms** and **pussywillow** from Palm Sunday, **candles** from Pascha (Easter), and other sacred items, as well as a personal **Commemoration Book** (containing the names of family and loved ones, both living and departed, to be remembered in prayer).



Ideally, the *I-con-a-sta-si-on* is located so that it is visible when one first enters the house from the main entrance. Traditionally, when first entering the house, an Orthodox Christian would venerate the icons before greeting the members of the house.



Often, in addition to the *I-con-a-sta-si-on*, a family will hang a small "**Portal Icon**" (usually of the Virgin and Christ Child) by the door, which is venerated by family and guests on arrival and departure.