



OBJECT ID	2006.31.4
OBJECT NAME	Icon
MATERIAL	Glass; Paper; Wood
OBJECT ENTITIES	Gatbos, Athanaglos and Ekaterina Makris (owned by) Demetrakakes, Angela (is related to) Gatbos, Athanasios (is related to) Gatbos, Ekeaterina (is related to) Nicholas, Saint (is related to)
RELATED ITEMS	Icon, 2006.31.1.A Icon, 2006.31.1.B Icon, 2006.31.2 Icon, 2006.31.3 Icon, 2006.31.5 Icon, 2006.31.6 Icon, 2006.31.7.A Icon, 2006.31.7.B

ACCESS POINTS

bible
cross
framed icon
glass
gold
halo
hanging icon
hanging picture
home decoration
paint
religious icon
religious painting
Saint Nicholas
Saint Nick
Santa Klaus
Wall Hanging
Wood

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a framed icon of Saint Nicholas on an ecru matte with a gold frame covered by glass. The saint is pictured from the abdomen up so that draped in his long robes he takes up most of the picture. There is just room above the halo to have the words "Tioc" and "Nicholas" (translated) on either side. Saint Nicholas is wearing a pink robe with gold borders and blue interior sleeves. His collar is light blue with large gold crosses on it. A long golden chain with a cross pendant hangs around his neck so that it hits the same point as his collar and lies along the central axis of the picture. In his left hand, the saint carries a Tiffany Blue book with gold accents (most likely the bible though it isn't marked). His right hand is making a symbol of blessing with two fingers (pointer and middle) raised but slightly bent, and his pinkie and ring bent to touch his thumb. Saint Nick is depicted as an elderly man with a full beard and some wrinkles on his forehead. His head is adorned with a flat gold halo. It is painted with the same metallic finish as the crosses on his outfit and the accents on his book. A bright blue sky with fluffy white clouds serves to fill the background.

ORIGIN

This painting was donated by Angela Gatsos Demetrakakes in honor of her parents' memory. They had previously owned and used this item.

Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of Greece. He is the cultural ancestor of Santa Klaus because of his long tradition of charity and helping children. In Greek Orthodoxy, icons are used as representations of holy figures through which the spirit of the saint (in this case) can be worshiped. They are not, as in some religious traditions, a manifestation or a stand-in for a deity to be worshipped as if it was itself holy. An icon is a vehicle for worship not an object of worship. An icon such as this clearly shows its artistic lineage from the Byzantine tradition of representing saints although the bright pastel pinks and blues are recognizably Greek.

CITATION

Icon, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 05/05/26.