



MARIANNA

Sacred Beauty for a Cause is a fundraising initiative of Ivan Franko Homes created in partnership with iconographer Mariana Savaryn.

This initiative aims to support the new Centre for Aging and Longevity project.



Ivan Franko Homes is delighted to share A Year in Icons, a special series presented in partnership with Ukrainian-Canadian iconographer Marianna Savaryn.

The series follows our Sacred Beauty for a Cause event, where Marianna's collection of 35 original icons was presented to friends, supporters, and members of the community.

The event also featured a screening of the mini-documentary Written in Prayer, offering guests an opportunity to learn more about Marianna's artistic practice, the spiritual significance of iconography, and the vision behind bringing this collection to the new IFH Campus of Care.

As part of this initiative, Marianna is generously donating her icons to the permanent collection at the Campus of Care. Rooted in faith, prayer, tradition, and the enduring beauty of Christian iconography, these sacred works will offer inspiration, spiritual comfort, and cultural connection to residents, families, staff, and visitors for generations to come.

Many of the icons have already been generously sponsored, while opportunities remain to adopt an available icon and create a lasting legacy within the IFH community. Throughout the coming year, we will introduce each icon individually, exploring the figures it represents, the symbolism within its composition, and the stories connected to its place at Ivan Franko Homes.

We invite you to follow along as we celebrate the beauty of these extraordinary works and discover how art, faith, and community can become an enduring act of generosity. To learn more about available icons and sponsorship opportunities, please contact IFH.

SEPTEMBER 1 – 7 | WEEK 1

TRINITY

Hospitality of Abraham



THIS ICON HAS BEEN GENEROUSLY
SPONSORED BY
W.G and Larissa Ciupka

The Story Behind the Icon

This sacred icon portrays the three mysterious visitors welcomed by Abraham in Genesis 18, traditionally understood in Orthodox Christianity as the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Seated around a table, the three angelic figures incline gently toward one another, their serene expressions, graceful gestures, and flowing garments creating the impression of a quiet, eternal conversation. No figure dominates; instead, each appears to give and receive, forming a harmonious circle that speaks of unity, equality, communion, and self-giving love. The arrangement draws the viewer into the scene, while the open space at the table suggests an invitation to enter this circle of divine fellowship. What do we see when we look at an icon? At first, perhaps, three angels seated around a table. Three figures, quietly turned toward one another. But stay a little longer. There is no beginning and no end to their conversation.

Each seems to receive the other, and in that mysterious circle there is room for us. This is the Trinity — not an idea to be explained, but a mystery to be entered. This icon of the Trinity invites us to contemplate a love that is neither possessive nor closed, but always giving, always receiving, always making room. Perhaps that is why the table matters. There is an empty space. A place waiting for us.

At the centre of the table rests a cup, symbolizing the Eucharist, sacrifice, and God's boundless love for humanity. Behind the figures, the house represents God's dwelling and creation, the tree recalls the Tree of Life and the Cross, and the mountain rises as a symbol of prayer, contemplation, and spiritual ascent. The luminous gold background carries the scene beyond ordinary time, signifying heaven, eternity, and divine light. Every detail contributes to the icon's spiritual meaning, guiding the eye from the gentle meeting of the figures to the sacred symbols surrounding them. Through its balance, stillness, and quiet radiance, the icon becomes more than an image to admire—it becomes a threshold into prayer, inviting us to pause, reflect, and remain for a while in the presence of divine beauty and love.

SEVERAL ICONS REMAIN AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP
*Follow our weekly series to discover the collection and opportunities to
leave a lasting legacy of faith and beauty.*

SEPTEMBER 8 - 14 | WEEK 2

ZARVANYTSIA

Mother of God



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY
The Stasiw Family

The Story Behind the Icon

Last week we began our journey through *A Year in Icons* with an image from the theme of the angels. This week, we turn our attention to the Mother of God, whose presence in sacred art speaks so profoundly of tenderness, compassion, protection, and hope. Through her, we encounter a sacred figure who is not distant from human suffering, but deeply connected to the experiences of those who are weary, wounded, displaced, and searching for consolation. *The Mother of God of Zarvanytsia* is a miraculous icon, deeply revered within the Ukrainian Catholic traditions. She gazes outward with a tenderness that seems to hold the sorrow of centuries while remaining a source of quiet strength.

Her image carries the memory of invasion, destruction, persecution, and loss, yet it also speaks of enduring faith and renewal. Zarvanytsia is regarded as the spiritual heart of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and for centuries pilgrims have travelled there seeking healing, consolation, and strength. At Ivan Franko Homes, this icon resonates deeply as a reminder of Ukraine's enduring faith, culture, and heritage, especially during a time when the country is once again experiencing profound suffering. Marianna's connection to the region through a maternal grandmother adds a personal dimension to the work, while the Swarovski crystals, woven braid, and handcrafted frame—inspired by William Kurelek—reflect the importance of tradition, memory, and craftsmanship. Above all, the Mother of God remains a compassionate presence for the weary, wounded, and displaced.

Though the shrine has been destroyed and rebuilt, and faith has been driven underground and risen again, the Mother has remained constant. In her arms is Christ—the source of healing, hope, and life—and through this icon, we are reminded to honour our roots, support one another, and carry hope forward together.

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SEPTEMBER 15 - 21 | WEEK 3

ST. LUKE



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY
Bernard and Marianna Masnyk

The Story Behind the Icon

This week, we continue our journey through A Year in Icons by turning our attention to the first saint in the collection: Saint Luke. Remembered as an evangelist, a companion of Saint Paul, and a physician, Luke was deeply attentive to the whole human person—body, mind, and spirit. His Gospel is filled with tender encounters with people who are seen, welcomed, healed, and restored. The forgotten are remembered, the suffering are not overlooked, and those longing for healing are met with compassion. He writes with particular tenderness toward the poor and with profound respect for women. Tradition also remembers Saint Luke as the first iconographer. It is said that he lived during the time of the Mother of God and that she posed for him as he painted her image.

This sacred encounter is associated with the icon known as the Hodegetria, a Greek word meaning “She Who Shows the Way.” In this image, the Mother of God presents Christ as the source of life and gently directs our hearts toward Him. Perhaps this is why the icon of Saint Luke feels so compelling. He was not only a physician who cared for the human body, but also an artist who recognized the sacred beauty present within the visible world. Through his hands, the act of painting became a form of witness—an invitation to see more deeply and to encounter the holy within the human face.

An icon is not simply an image to be observed. It is a window through which we are invited into relationship with the person depicted. In the icon of Saint Luke, we encounter a man whose life was shaped by healing, compassion, and attentive love. His Gospel reminds us that no suffering is invisible and no person is forgotten.

It is fitting that the saint remembered as a physician would also become associated with the healing presence of sacred images. Through his words and through the tradition of iconography, Saint Luke continues to guide us toward a vision of beauty that does not deny human suffering, but meets it with tenderness, dignity, and hope.

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