

ICON CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

From Nick Papas, Our Iconographer

Christ is risen!

All of the icons I have done for Saint Philip's are varnished.
This being said, great care should always be given.

Firstly...never use anything with abrasives. (This should be self-evident.)

Cleaning should be done in order of the following levels of aggressiveness until the desired cleanliness is achieved...within limits.

The "limit" being that the icon is being damaged.

The biggest clue will be that **paint is coming off** onto a **soft rag**. (This is unlikely to happen but is nonetheless the thing to watch for.)

The most aggressive and hence trickiest scenario will be to clean lipstick/lip products from an icon.

I'll address this momentarily.

In order of least to most aggressive is the following:

Once again, each level look for signs of paint removal.

- 1) Simple Dusting... this should not be a problem for any of your icons.
- 2) Water dampened rag and wiping...this should not be a problem for any of your icons.
- 3) Mild-soap-in-water dampened rag and wiping... this should not be a problem for any of your icons.(I can safely recommend this level as a starting point with the caveat of always **proceeding with caution...looking for the unlikely paint** on your washcloths.)
- 4) Stronger cleaner for spot cleaning... this should not be a problem for any of your icons. BUT at this level extra caution must begin. It is a good time to test the cleaner on a border or less important area of the icon.
- 5) If there is still something that is **not becoming clean, at this level...contact me personally**...Facetime?

Feel free to call or Facetime me for further help!

A side note...wall icons are all adhered with a water-based adhesive. If water is used for cleaning and an edge comes loose this is easily remedied.

Another side note...oil, oil-based or oily products should NOT be used or put on the icons or used to clean the icons.

Peace,
Nick