Types of icons

The Iconostasis

Five rows (from the top): the Forefathers (the Patriarchs); the Prophets; Feasts; the Deisis; local icons (used for veneration)

The Deisis (“intercession,” “supplication”): Christ, Mary, John the Baptist, the Archangels, Peter and Paul, the evangelists, Church fathers, Saints and martyrs

Christ

Christ *Acheiropoietos* (“made without hands”)
The natural “offprint” sent to Abgar, king of Edessa

The Pantocrator
The Lord of the Universe, positioned in the center of the principal dome

Christ from the Deisis
A version of the Pantocrator: appears in the full Deisis row of the iconostasis, or as a partial icon (Christ between Mary and John the Baptist)

Mother of God

The Mother of God “of the Sign” (a type of Orans)
With Jesus in a mandorla holding a scroll; in the iconostasis the central icon of the row of the Prophets

Mother of God from the Deisis

The Mother of God *Hodigitria* (“She who shows the way”)
The iconography goes back to St. Luke. The icons of Smolensk and Kazan are particularly popular. The icon shows the divinity of Christ.

The Mother of God enthroned
Most popular in the West in a sculpture form.
The Mother of God “of Loving-kindness” (Merciful, of Tenderness, Eleousa)
The “Vladimir” version introduced in the 12th c. is most popular in Russia. The icon shows the humanity of Christ.

The Protection of the Mother of God (Pokrov)

Feasts

The main icon: The Resurrection of Christ (= the Descent into Hell; moveable feast)

The feasts of the Mother of God

The Nativity of the Virgin Mary (Sept. 8)
The Presentation of Mary in the Temple (Nov. 21)
The Annunciation (March 25)
The Dormition of the Mother of God (= Assumption, Aug. 15)

The feasts of Christ

The Nativity of Christ (Dec. 25)
The presentation of Jesus in the Temple (= “Purification of the Holy Virgin,” “Candelmas,” Feb. 2)
The Theophany (= the Baptism of Jesus, Jan. 6)
The Transfiguration (Aug. 6)
Biblical text: Mark 9:2-9; Matthew 17:1-9; Luke 9:27-36; apostles Peter, James, John
The entry into Jerusalem (= Palm Sunday, moveable feast)
The Ascension (moveable feast)
The Pentecost (moveable feast) has two icons:

   The Trinity (= the hospitality of Abraham, Genesis 18)

   Descent of the Holy Spirit

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sept. 14)