

The page is decorated with various styles of stars and icons. There are small five-pointed stars scattered throughout, as well as larger, more detailed icons of stars with rays or petals extending from them. These decorations are placed around the text, with some along the left and right margins and others interspersed within the text area.

THE ICON OF OUR LADY OF KORSUN

A Family Tradition

The icon of Our Lady of Korsun seeks to remind families of the role of Mary in our faith and also the importance of quality religious art in faith formation. Mary's "Yes" to God at the Annunciation altered history. Her humble words at the Visitation, "All generations will call me blessed", recognized her unique role for those who believe in her Son. At the Cross, her quiet vigil inspires us to stand by and with the persecuted and suffering. She is a model of the faith. She has also, through apparitions and religious art, served to help the faithful recognize that God is with us. Throughout the centuries and around the world, Mary has called us to be faithful followers of Jesus and to live his message in our lives.

Through Religious art we are taught and reminded of our faith. How we decorate our house states something about us. The walls of our house should reveal our values and our beliefs. Our walls should help us stay true to our faith and remind us of our vision for life. Religious art is an important way to achieve this.

Icons have been common to Eastern Christianity from the beginning and are growing in popularity in the Roman Catholic Church. The Vatican has spoken positively of the use of icons. Icons provide a window into the sacred and can inspire us to be more holy.

According to legend, St. Luke painted the prototype of this icon. The Icon is named for the ancient Greek town of Korsun (Chersonesus).

The Greek letters in the upper corners of the icon are the abbreviations for "Mother of God." Those near Christ's shoulders are abbreviations for "Jesus Christ." The stars on Mary's forehead and shoulders refer to her being a temple of the Holy Trinity. The Church Slavonic inscription at the bottom of the icon reads,
"The Icon of the Most Holy Mother of God of Korsun."