

The Iconographic Program of Saint Sophia Cathedral

An Offering by the Koines Family
To the Clergy, Congregation, and Guests
of Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral
1978, 1999, 2018

Saint Sophia Cathedral

Mystery and Invitation



“Come and see.” (John 1:46)

† BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE CALLED BOTH JEWS AND GREEKS WE PREACH CHRIST THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD †

Hagia Sophia

The Holy Wisdom of God

1 Corinthians 1:23-24

The End of Iconoclasm

Affirmation of Orthodox Faith, Synod of Constantinople, March 11, 843 AD

As the Prophets beheld, —as the Apostles have taught, —as the Church has received; —as the Teachers have dogmatized; —as the Universe has agreed; —as Grace has shown forth, —as Truth has revealed; —as Falsehood has been dissolved; —as Wisdom has been presented; as Christ has awarded!

Thus, we declare! —thus we assert —thus we preach Christ our true God: In words, in writings, In thoughts, In sacrifices, In churches, **In holy icons**, —thus we honor His Saints: worshipping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord —and honoring His Saints as true servants of the same Lord of all —and accordingly offering them veneration.

This is the Faith of the Apostles, —this is the Faith of the Fathers, —this is the Faith of the Orthodox, —this is the Faith which has established the Ecumene.

Hagia Sophia: Heaven or Earth?

Envoys to Prince Vladimir of Kiev, 987 AD

“We knew not whether we were in heaven or earth, for surely there IS not such splendor or beauty upon earth. We cannot describe it to you; only this we know, that ...

God dwells there among men ...

In 988 A.D., Vladimir converted his people to Orthodoxy.

What is an Icon?

- ❖ A “holy portrait”
- ❖ Revered, not worshipped
- ❖ A symbol of Christ
- ❖ A window into Heaven

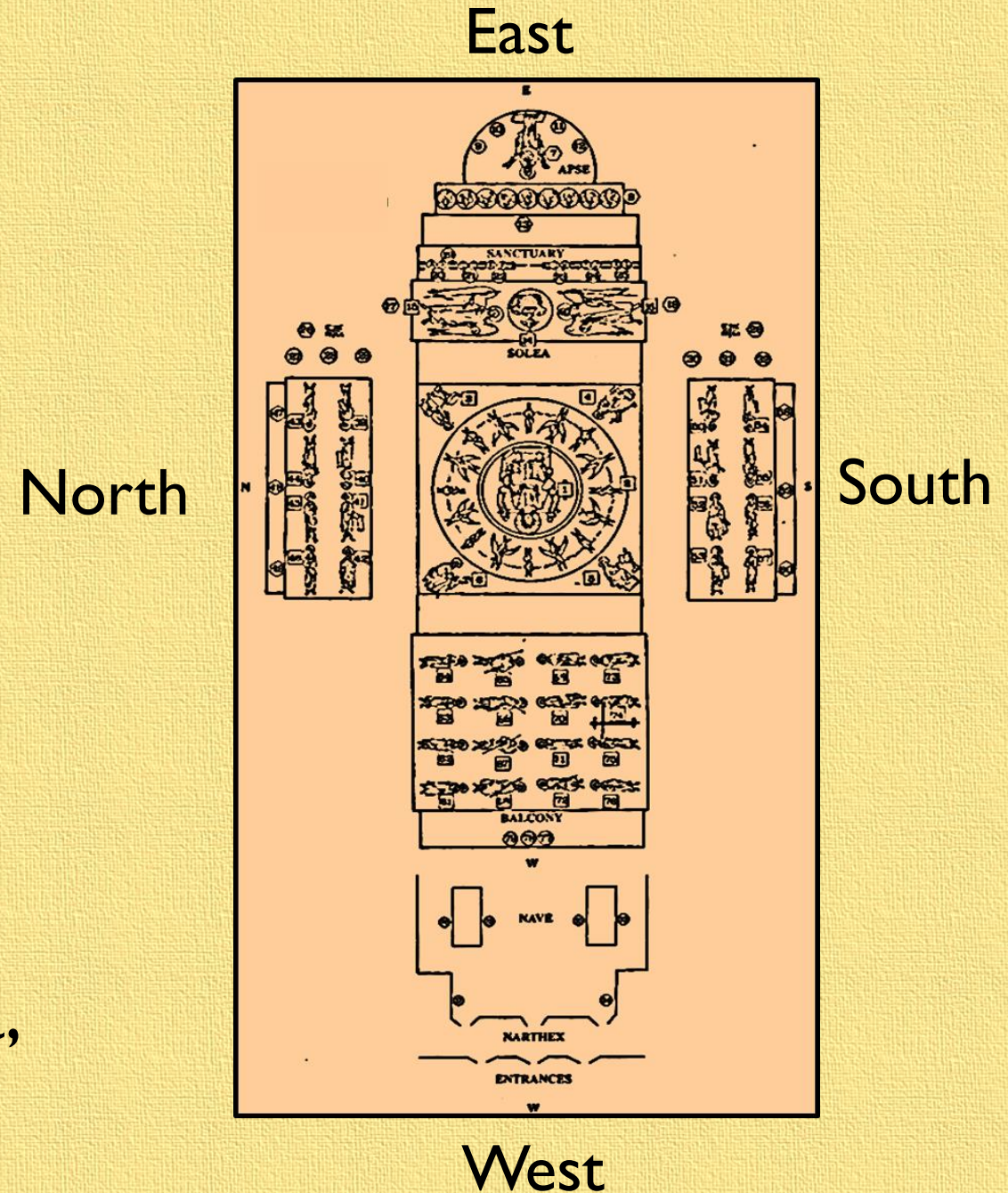
Humankind reflecting Christ Who is God.

About the Program

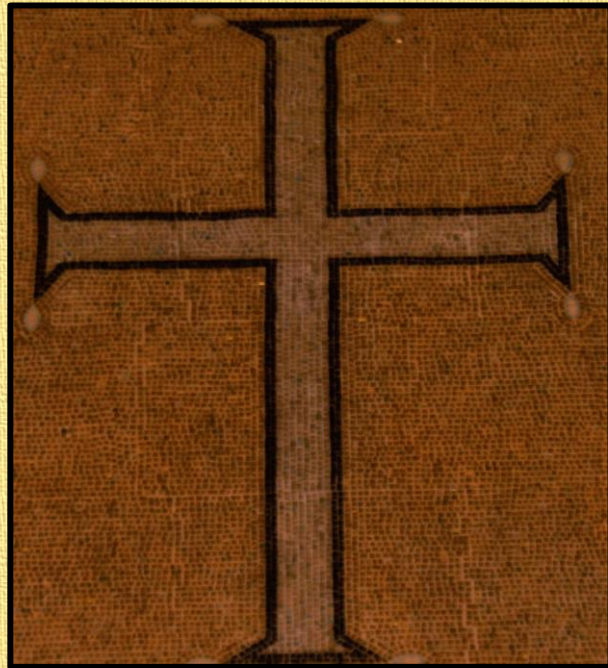
Sacred Space and Time

- ❖ Miniature of the universe
- ❖ Representation of the Holy Land
- ❖ Image of the liturgical festival cycle

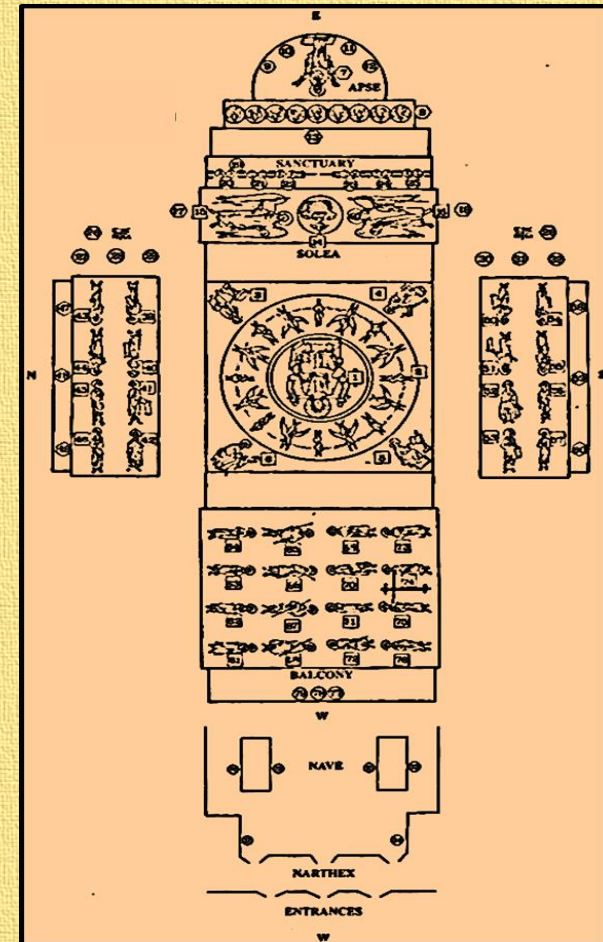
The program teaches Church dogma, history and liturgy.



Architecture: A Cross-in-Square Design



North



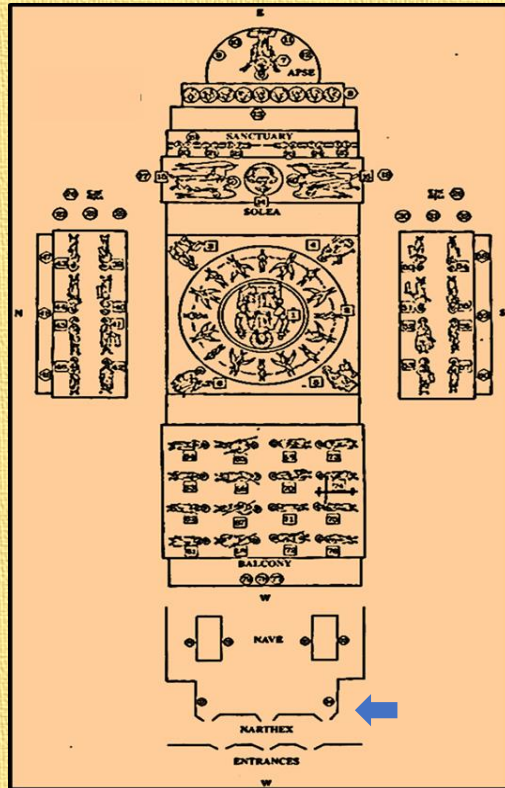
East

South

West

The Narthex

A Transition from the Outside World



Narthex, Nave, Sanctuary – a Procession toward God

The Narthex

Future Plans

Event Icons

- Birth of the Theotokos
- Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple
- Annunciation
- Visitation
- Nativity of Christ
- Meeting of our Lord in the Temple
- The Flight Into Egypt
- Dormition of the Theotokos

Saint Icons

- St. Sergios of the Holy City
- St. Anatolios
- St. Germanos
- St. Theophanes

To be dedicated to the Theotokos

The Nave

Christ's Earthly Kingdom

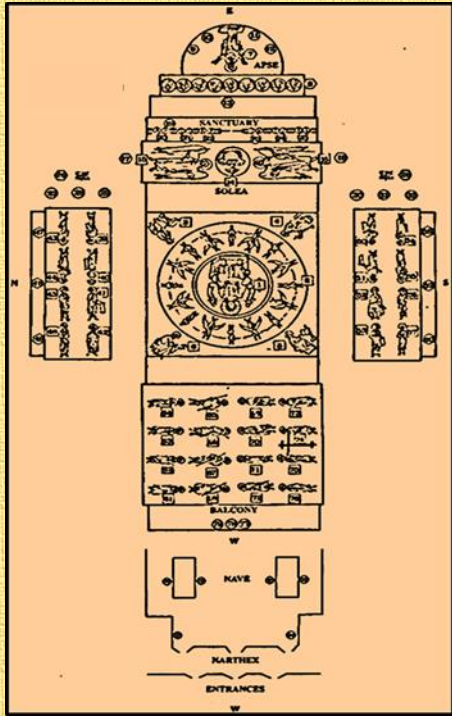
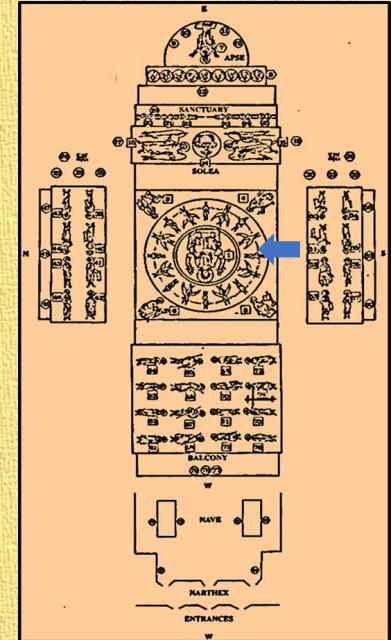


Photo courtesy of Bill Petros

The Dome: Heaven Above

“I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Around him stood the seraphim... And one called to another and said: Holy, holy, holy, Lord of hosts...”

Isaiah 6:1-3

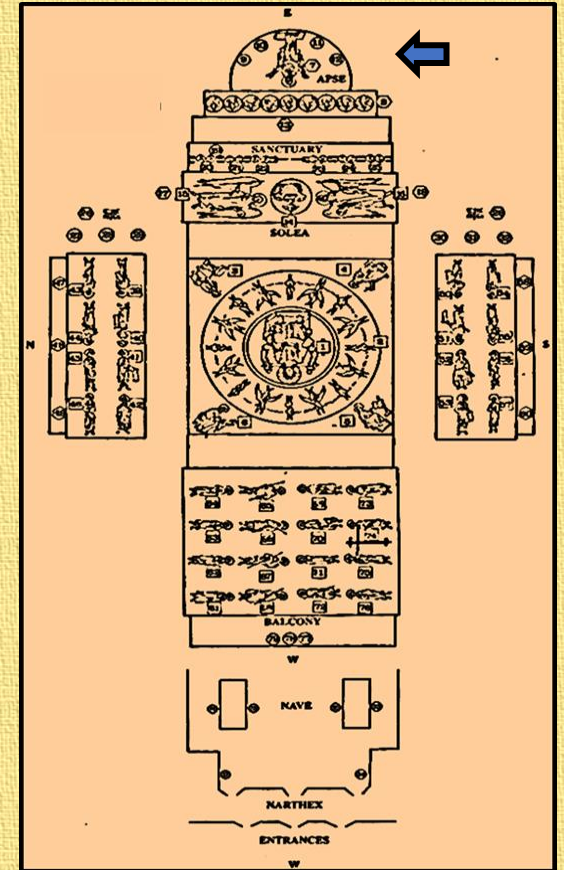
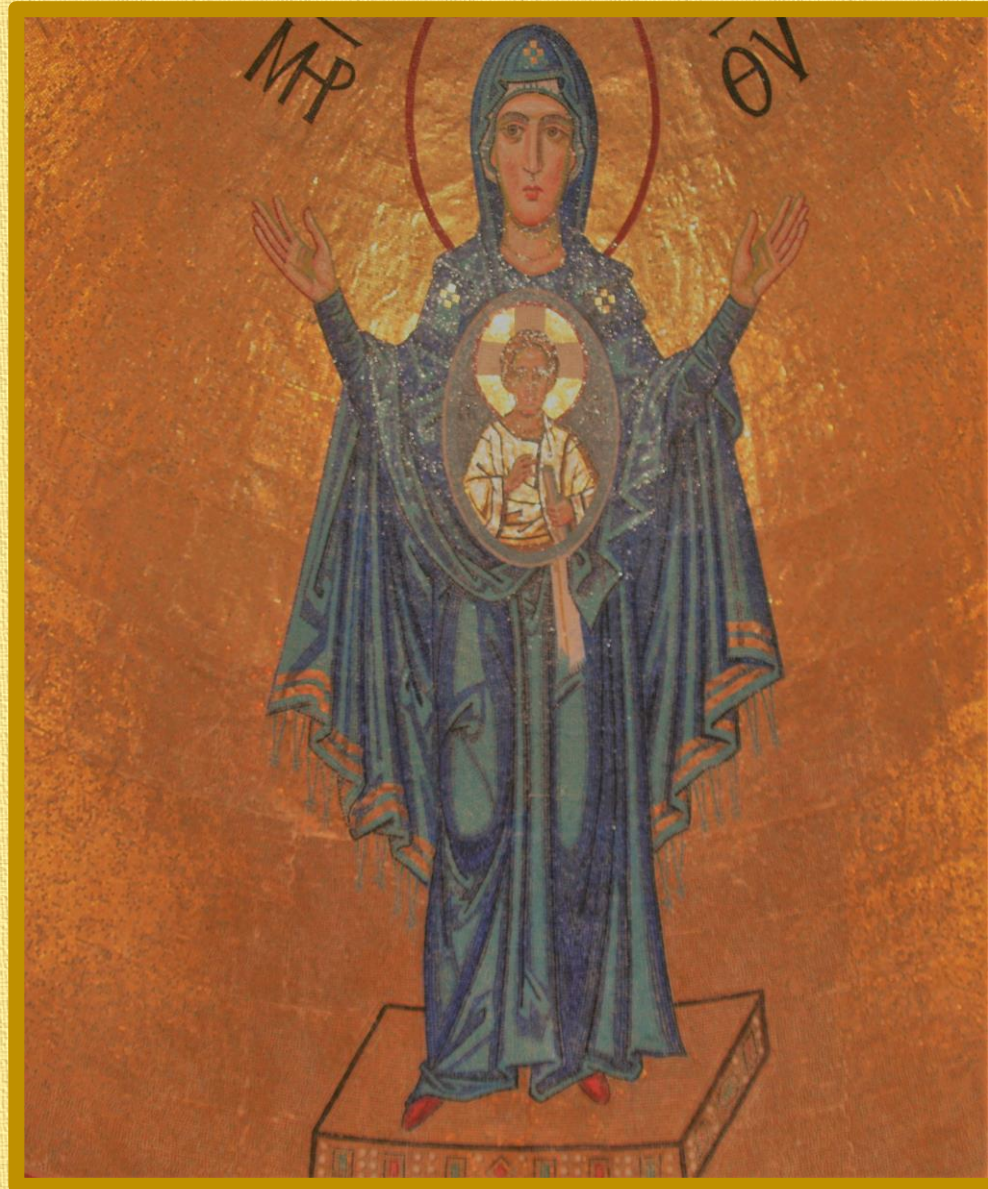


Christ the Pantocrator

The Apse: The Platytera, or Broader than the Heavens

*“... He made Thy womb His
throne, and formed it to be
broader than the heavens...”*

Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil

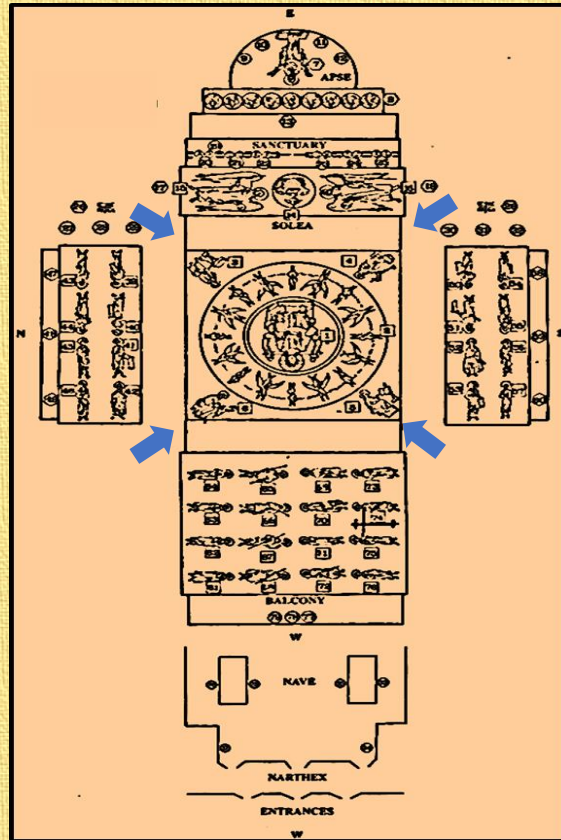


Middle Zone of the Pendentives and Transept Vaults: Between Heaven and Earth

- ❖ Old Testament Prophets, Greater Saints, and the Evangelists
- ❖ The hands of God
- ❖ Smooth the road to salvation
- ❖ Positioned as intermediaries between humankind and God

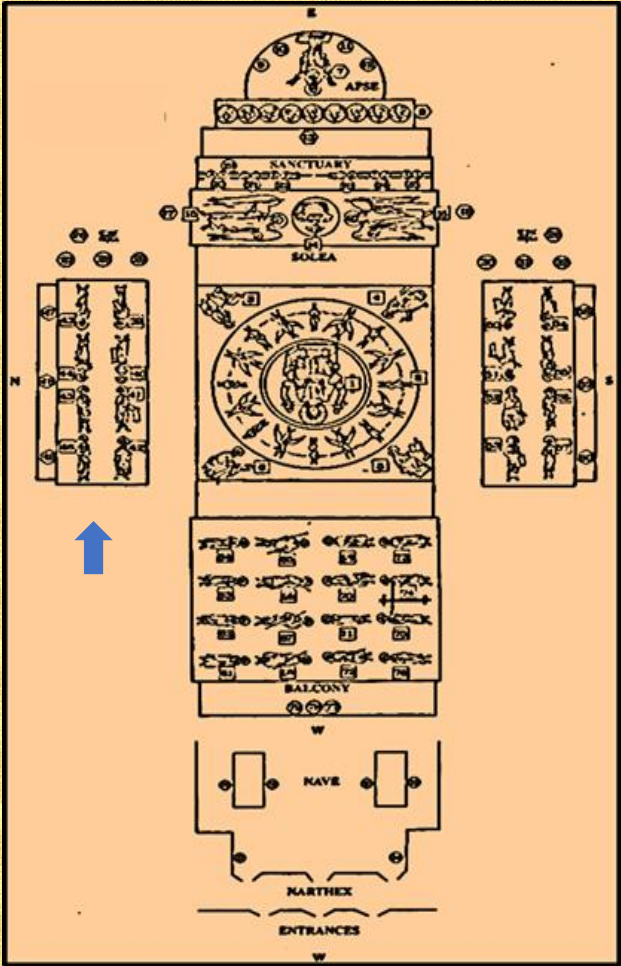
Saints direct Humankind toward God.

The Four Pendentives: The Four Evangelists



John the Theologian

North Transept Vault

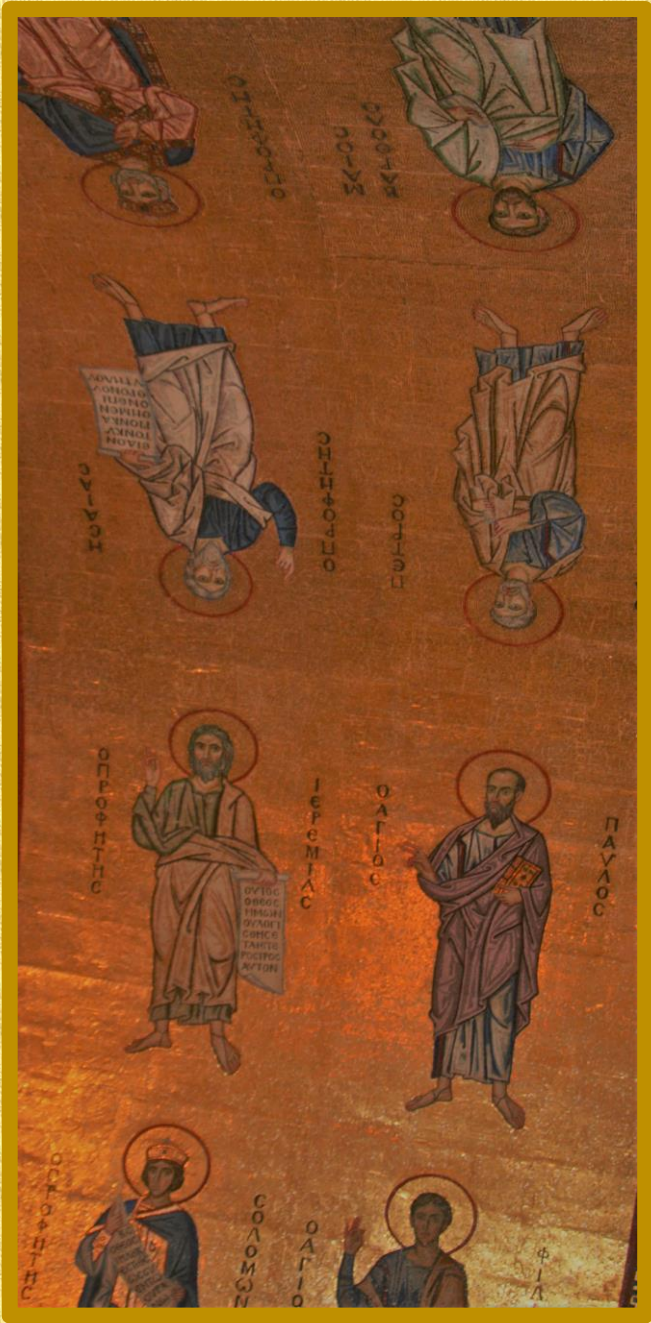


Prophet David

Prophet Isaiah

Prophet Jeremiah

Prophet Solomon



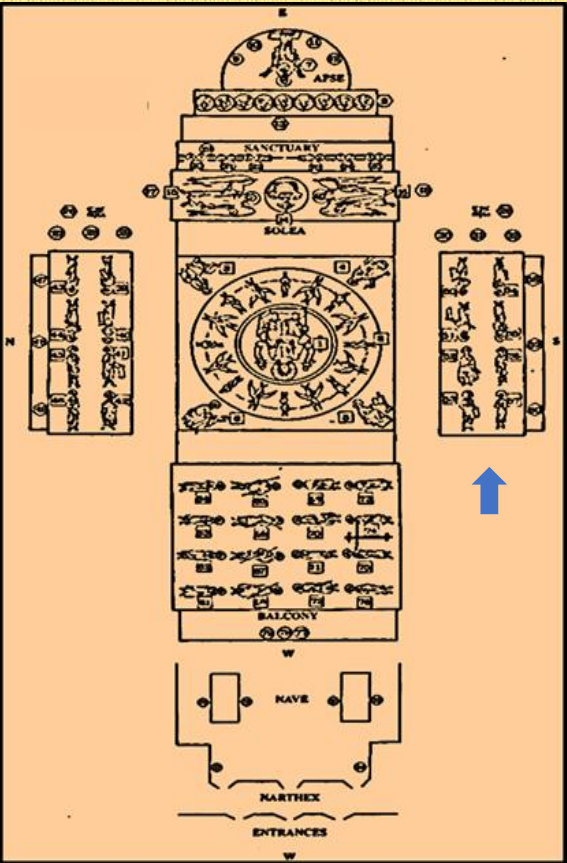
St. Bartholomew

St. Peter

St. Paul

St. Philip

South Transept Vault



St. Simon

St. Andrew

St. James

St. Thomas



Prophet Jonah

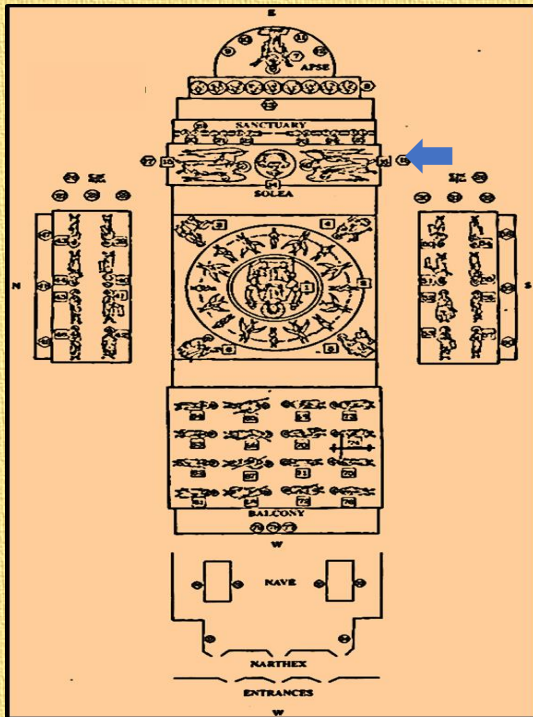
Prophet Ezekiel

Prophet Daniel

Prophet Habbakum

Bema Vault:

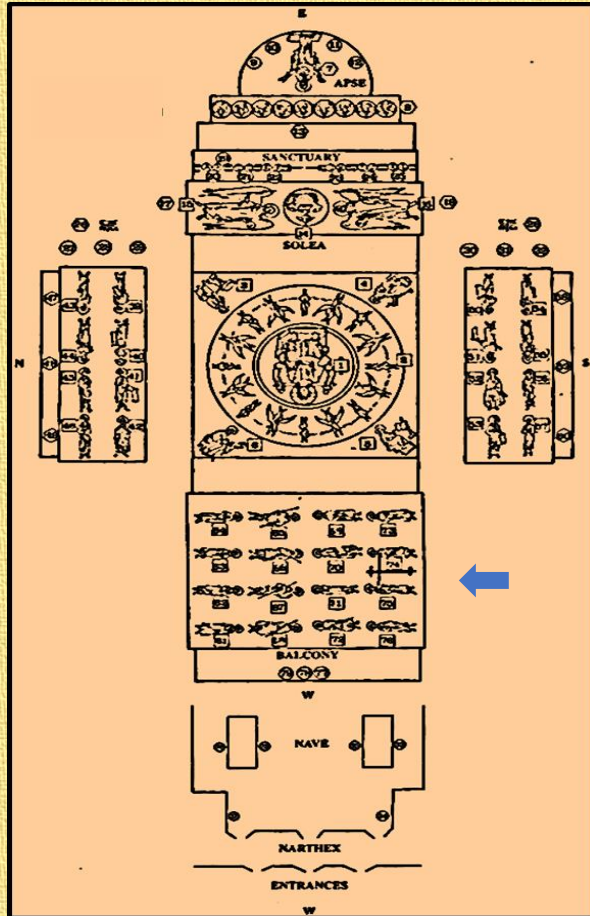
The Etimasia, or heavenly throne of Christ, prepared before all time



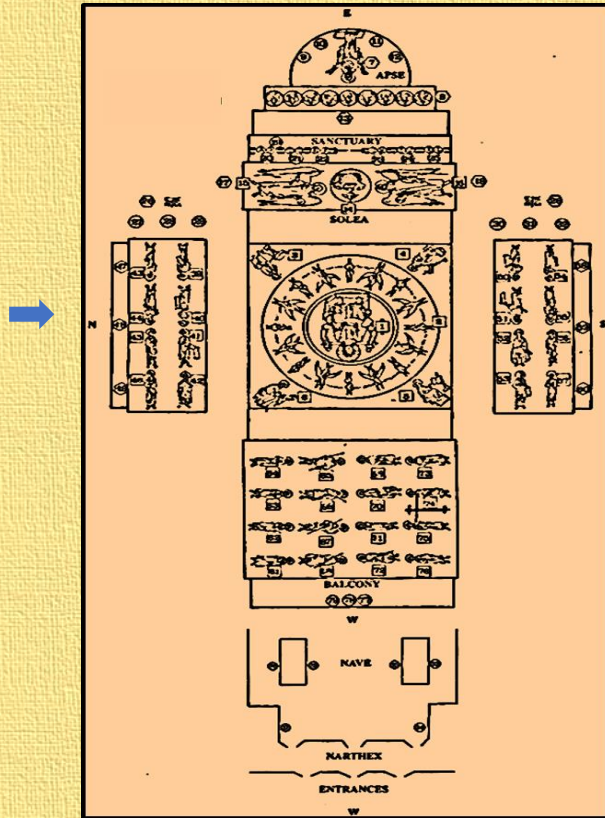
Archangels Raphael and Gabriel



Balcony Vault: 16 Militant Saints



North Wall Healer Saints

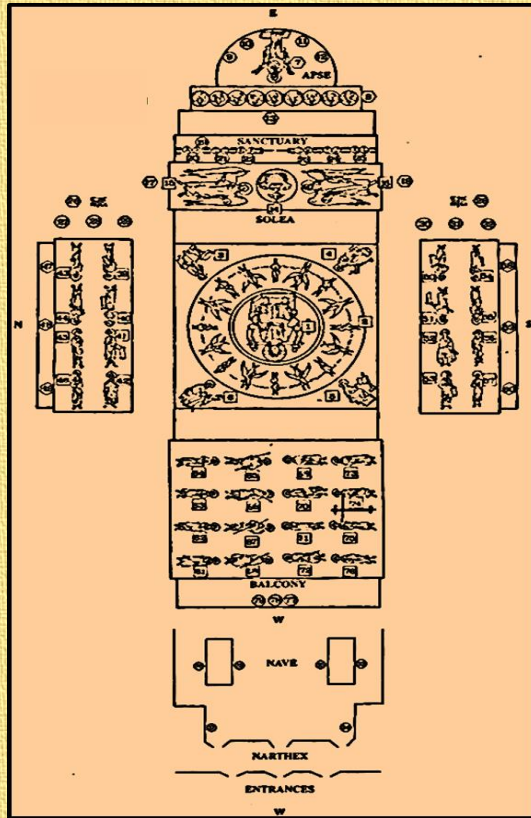


St. Eugenia

St. Nectarios

St. Anastasia

South Wall

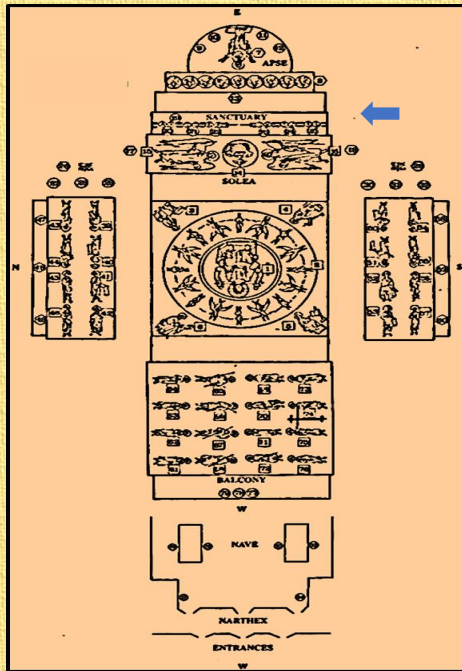


St. Marina

St. Nicholas

St. Irene

The Sanctuary: Christ's Heavenly Kingdom



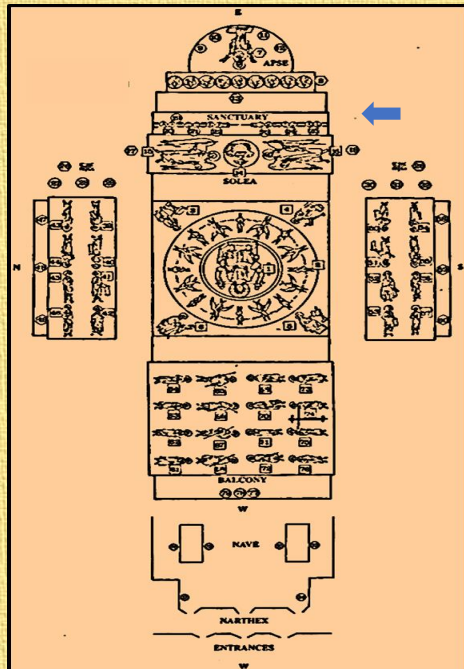
Four Church Fathers



St. Athanasius St. John Chrysostom St. Basil St. Gregory the Theologian

The Iconostasis

Between Heaven
and Earth



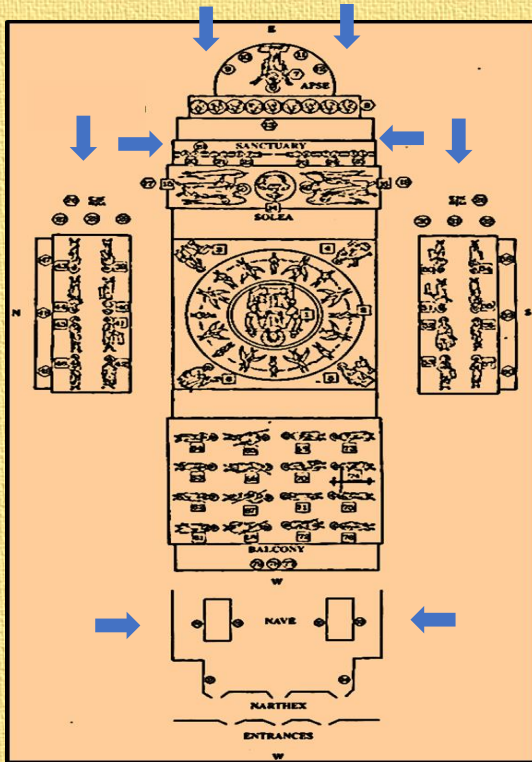
St. Thomas
St. James
St. Simon
St. Luke
St. Matthew
St. Peter

St. Paul
St. John
St. Mark
St. Andrew
St. Bartholomew
St. Philip



Archangel Michael	Christ, the Holy Wisdom of God	Theotokos and Christ Child	The Royal Gate	Jesus Christ	John the Baptist	Archangel Gabriel
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Small Altars: Events from the Life of Christ

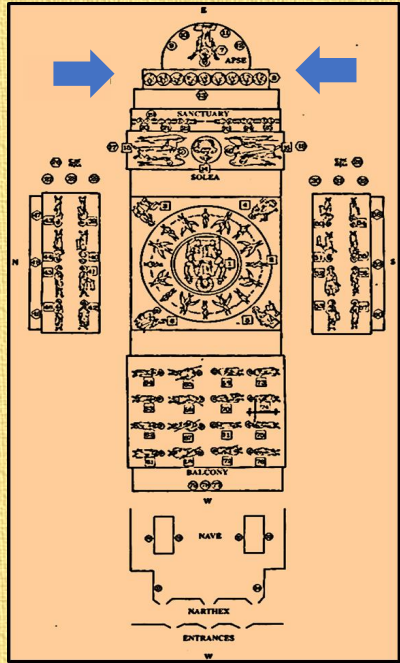


- ❖ The Nativity
- ❖ The Baptism of Christ
- ❖ The Transfiguration of Christ
- ❖ The Raising of Lazarus by Christ
- ❖ Christ's Final Entry into Jerusalem
- ❖ The Burial of Christ
- ❖ The Resurrection of Christ
- ❖ The Ascension of Christ

In this manner, the Cathedral represents the Holy Land.

Event Icons The Nativity

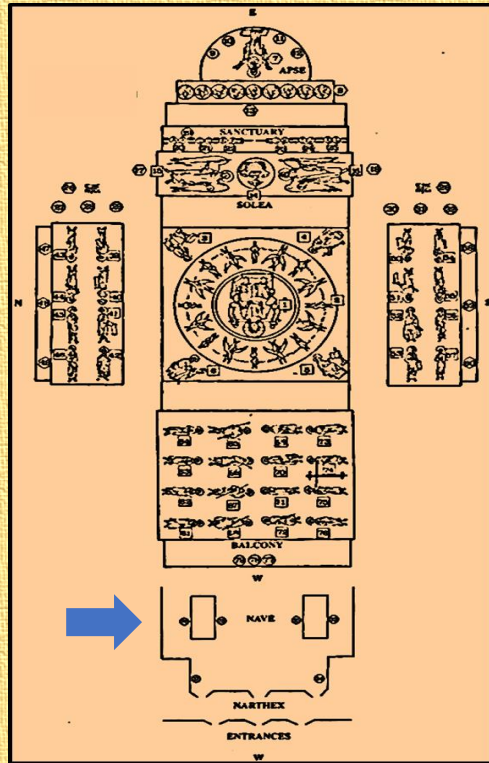
Within the
Sanctuary



The Burial of Christ

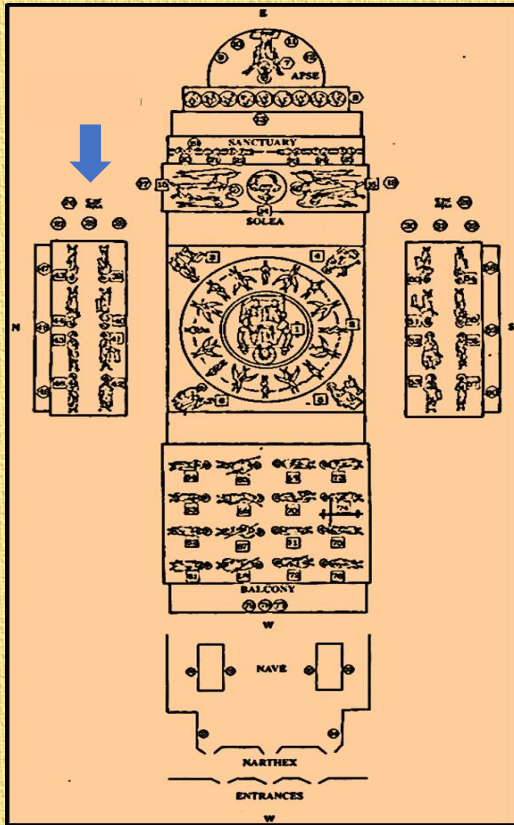


The Baptism of Christ: Theophany



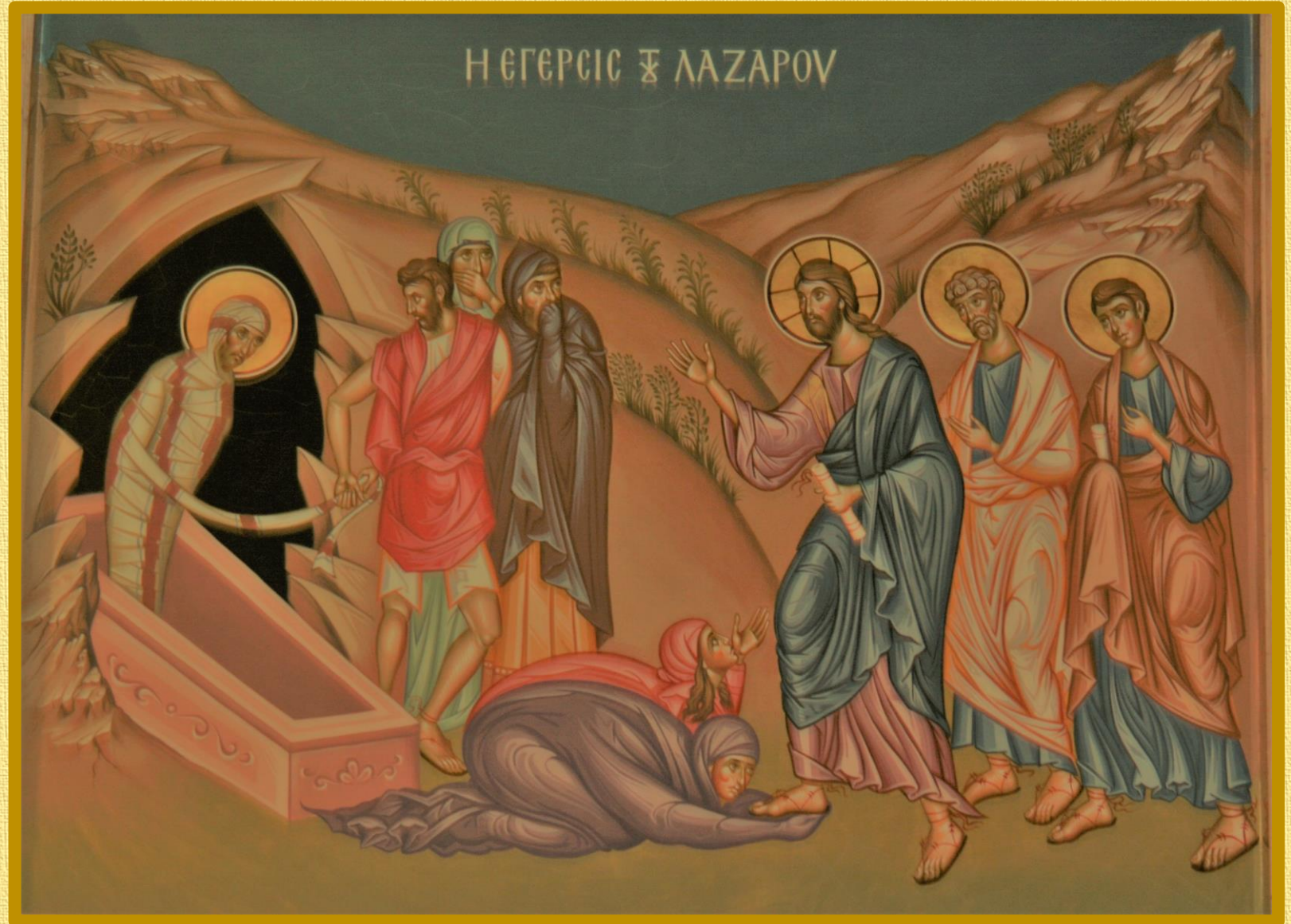
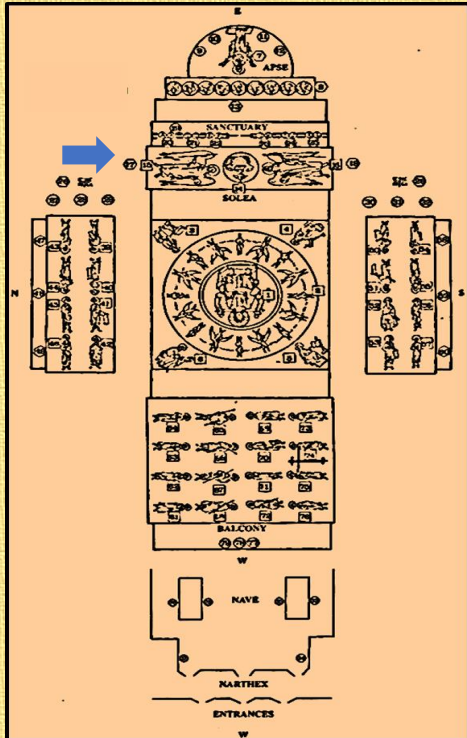
The Transfiguration: Uncreated Light

With St. Gregory Palamas
and St. Simeon,
the New Theologian



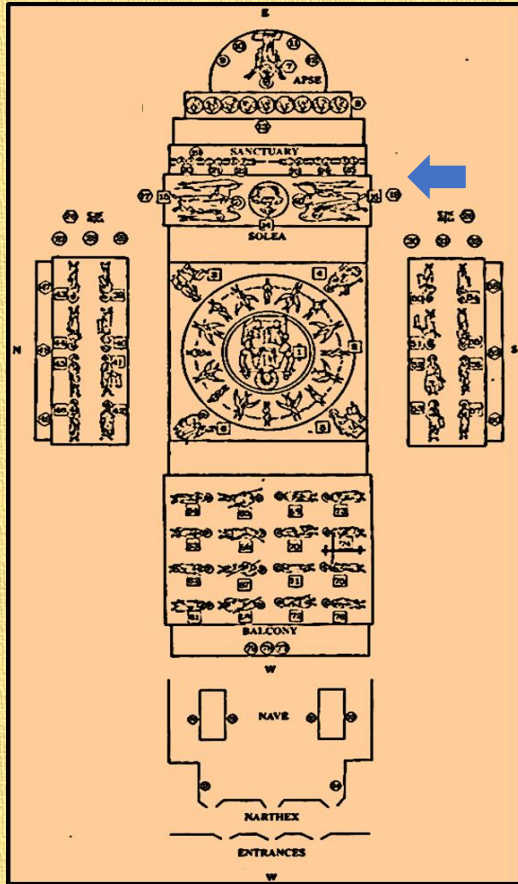
The Raising of Lazarus

A Summoning from the Grave



Christ's Entry Into Jerusalem

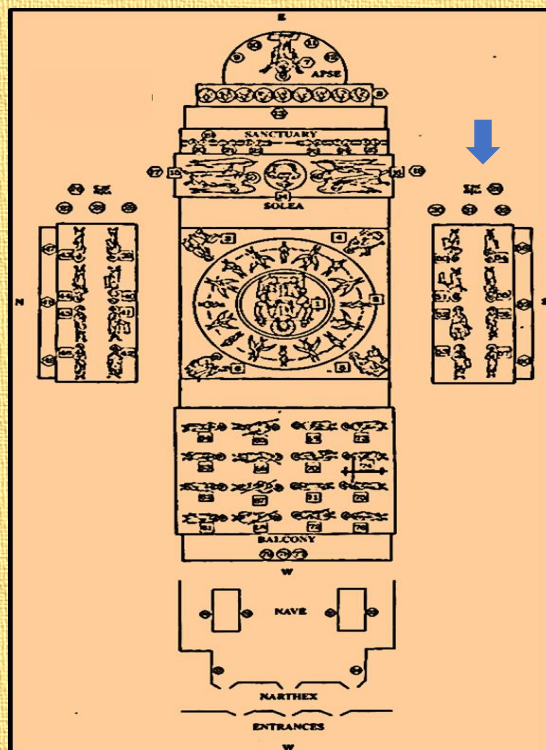
The Fulfillment of Prophecy



The Resurrection

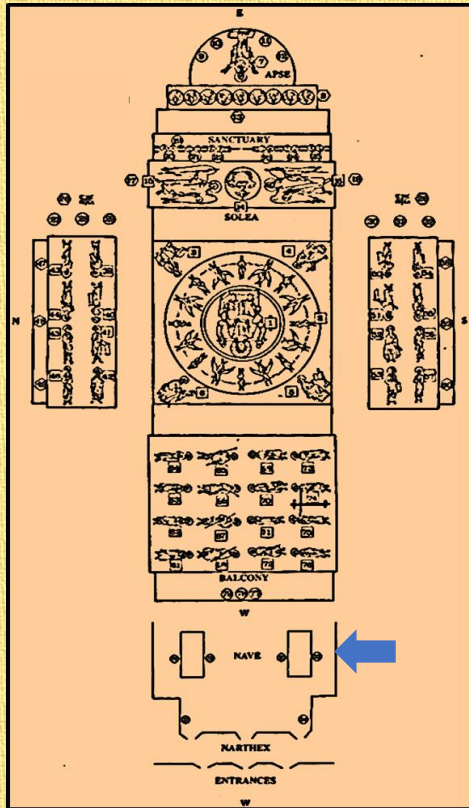
Descent into Hades

With St. Gregory of Nyssa
and St. Photios, Bishop of
Constantinople



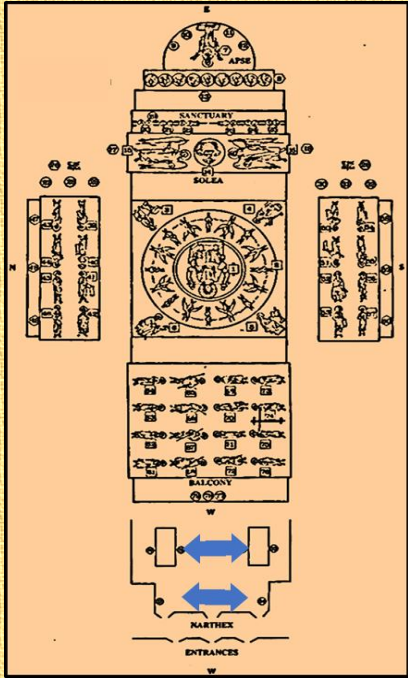
The Ascension

Blessing,
Knowledge,
Promise



Nave Entrance

Parents of the Theotokos and St. John the Baptist



St. Anne



St. Joachim



St. Elizabeth



St. Zacharias

Conclusion

A sacramental offering by
the Saint Sophia community
to God.