

Saint Gavrielia
Spring 2026



Traditional (Egg Tempera)
Iconography Workshop
SYLLABUS

Term: Spring Semester 2026, 10 sessions starting the week of February 2, 2026 .

Schedule: 1x / week, 75 min.

Price: \$200.00

Course Sections

Section 1: F 9:30-10:45

Target Grade Level: 7th-12th (10-12-year-olds also permitted with parent assistance. See below for details.)



Instructor: Randi Maria Sider-Rose, MDiv, Immanuel Icons Studio
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Gerontissa Gavrielia (Mother Gabriela), also known as Saint Gabriela of the Ascetic of Love (b. October 15 1897, d. March 28, 1992) was a Greek Orthodox nun, known for her care of the poor and sick. She was a physiotherapist prior to taking up her religious calling at the age of 60. Gavrielia was canonized by the Holy synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople on October 3, 2023. She was so humble, she did not allow photographs of herself until later in life, when her followers were able to snatch a few! We will use these and - most importantly - her life work across the globe and the wisdom she expressed to her followers - to render her image as an icon for prayer.

In this 10-session Iconography Workshop, students will complete an icon in the traditional medium of egg tempera, gaining a foundation in the spirituality and artistic practices needed to continue in iconography, if desired. This class is taught just like the adult class and the apprenticeship - and I will teach you to write icons just like I (the instructor, Mrs. Sider-Rose) work professionally! Of course, I do my best to break it down to a step-by-step process.

Each lesson will start with prayer, often followed by a brief discussion or a warm-up technique exercise. The bulk of the class will be spent painting the icon - sometimes called *writing* the icon to stress the kinship with theology. Students will learn to “temper” the dry pigments with egg and apply the paint in each of the many stages of building up an iconographic face. Since iconography is a living tradition, students will learn about the dynamic relationship between using historic models and understanding for themselves the aesthetic and theological principles of iconography. To this end, students must gain an understanding of composition, the iconographic “style” as it manifests in facial features, etc., and how to “draw on the right side of the brain.”

Enrollment Restrictions

- All children younger than 7th grade (or 10–12 years old) must be accompanied by a parent or adult who will help the child set-up for class and attend every session with that child. Parents and adults who are partnered with a child aged 10–12 will not be charged for the course. (No students aged 9 or younger.)
- If multiple students in one household are registered to take the class, they should be prepared to purchase supplies and materials sufficient for each registered student. (The pigments can be shared.) Note that each person should have his or

her own computer so the teacher can watch and give feedback as the student works.

- Parents or other adults who wish to be a student themselves, including having a webcam pointed at their work and receiving feedback for their assignments, are invited to join one of the Adults-only iconography classes..

Student and Parent Expectations

- This class requires students to have an external webcam and to purchase various art materials. (Please see the Course Materials.)
- No prior artistic experience is expected or required, but fine motor skills and an ability to follow directions and keep their supplies and assignments organized are important.
- The Workshops are not graded and are more relaxed than the Apprenticeship, but a small amount of homework (30-45 minutes) may be assigned to continue the painting begun in class or other straight-forward assignments.
- Because we will need all 10 sessions for painting, short instructional video(s) will be provided that will guide you through some tasks, especially mixing some dry pigments. This must be completed before the first day of class.
- Parents of school-aged students will be needed to help with the extensive preparation for the workshop including ordering supplies, gathering household supplies, and helping with the afore-mentioned videos, especially mixing dry pigments.
- Before each live class session, students must set up their workspace with all their materials, including the ones from home (water jar, paper towels, etc.).



Randi Maria Sider-Rose began painting icons over 20 years ago when she was able to travel to learn from different iconography teachers across the country. Since then, she has married Michael Sider-Rose and completed an MDiv at the University of Chicago Divinity School. As well as taking commissions from churches and individuals, Mrs. Sider-Rose loves to walk with students on the journey of learning to see better and more intentionally, using this “prayer of the hands” to grow in holiness, with God’s grace.

Mrs. Sider-Rose and her family attend Saint Moses the Black Orthodox Mission Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she has been blessed by His Grace Bishop Thomas to serve in the ministry of iconography. In addition to teaching through St. Raphael Orthodox Online School, she teaches art and iconography at the Saint Constantine School of Pittsburgh.

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For more information about Mrs. Sider-Rose’s process, please visit her website at www.immanuelicons.org.