

## THE ICON:

THE THEOTOKOS AND CHILD - the central figures; she is depicted reclining upon a blanket, and He in a manger or fodder bin.

SAINT JOSEPH - The Guardian of Christ and His mother; tradition relates that Joseph was an elderly widower, thus having white hair and beard; he is depicted being tempted by Satan to doubt the virgin-birth.

SATAN - the figure in the lower center; he is depicted as an elderly hunchback tempting St. Joseph; whereas all else in the icon should be done in bright colors, Satan, the Prince of Darkness, is portrayed in dark, drab garments.

A SHEPHERD - the figure on the right; he is depicted facing the angels as they announce the glad tidings of the birth of the Messiah.

THE MAGI - the figures on the left; they are depicted following the star, which is in the top center, and carrying their gifts; tradition speaks of their being representative of all mankind ... one being young, one being middle-aged, and one being elderly.

THE ANGELS - the group on the left offers worship to Christ; the group on the right announces the glad tidings to a shepherd.

THE COW AND THE STAR - illustrate that all creation rejoices at the birth of the Messiah, the lowly and the great, the earthly and the heavenly.