

ICON WORKSHOP AT SAINT LEO ABBEY

An icon is a place of prayer. In its making, in its blessing, in its use. No art experience is necessary to begin an icon, only a willingness to prayerfully listen for, and trust, the Holy Spirit under the guidance of a teacher who understands and reveres this ancient Christian tradition and its variations.



Philip Zimmerman, a well-known iconographer who teaches across the U.S. and in Canada, will teach a week-long class at Saint Leo Abbey February 15-19, his sixth at the Abbey. Each participant will write the retablo **Alma de Maria (Soul of Mary)**, pictured above, in Byzantine style, layering color instead of blending. All materials and equipment needed to complete the icon are provided: gessoed wooden board, prototype (pattern), paints, brushes, gold leaf and varnish. A gentle teacher, Phil will each morning explain what is to be accomplished that day, then demonstrate how it is to be done. He is patient and quick to lend a hand when necessary.

The workshop will be held in the Feeney Room adjoining the Abbey Guest House. There is a small kitchen for snacks, coffee and tea. **Class time is Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to supertime (5:30 for Abbey guests).** Saturday morning will be devoted to varnishing and clean-up, and a celebratory lunch. Each workshop participant should leave the Abbey with a completed icon/retablo.

The fee for participants staying at the Abbey is \$660, which includes tuition, materials, six nights' lodging (Sunday through Friday) and all meals Monday through Saturday breakfast. Commuter fee is \$480 and includes tuition, materials and lunch Monday through Friday.

Workshop participants are welcome to celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours and Mass with the monks. The Abbey has a well-stocked Gift Shop, pleasant walking areas, and the University Library is nearby. For more information about the Abbey, visit their web site saintleoabbey.org. For more information about the workshop and costs or directions to the Abbey, email Virginia Crippen at iconsvc@tampabay.rr.com or call 352-567-6570.