

AN ICON OF SAINT JOSEPH THE HESYCHAST THAT WAS NOT BURNT

My name is Violetta. I live in Astoria, NY, but we also have a second home in Pennsylvania. Our second home has a wood burning stove, which we use in the winter. Sometime in January of 2022, we had gone there for the weekend, and I had brought various church items with me, which I wanted to dispose of by burning in the stove. These were primarily printed materials containing icons and religious articles. Amongst them was a religious periodical that someone had sent to me from Greece, and in this particular issue there was an article on Saint Joseph the Hesychast. So, I placed all these papers and magazines into the stove and lit them on fire. On subsequent visits to the house that same winter, we lit the stove again and burnt firewood in it. One day in March of 2022, my sister in law, Akrivi, went to the house, and during that visit she decided to clean out the ashes from the stove. As she was removing the ashes, she noticed that there were two pieces of paper that were still intact. She took them and separated them from the ashes, and to her great surprise, she saw that they were icons of Saint Joseph the Hesychast. When I saw them, I realized they were from the pages containing the article on Saint Joseph the Hesychast. There were two separate pieces with Saint Joseph's icon (one piece had his icon on both sides, the other piece on one side). The fire had burnt all the paper surrounding the icon, but did not at all touch or blacken the depiction of Saint Joseph. It is a miracle how these three very thin pieces of paper remained intact and were not reduced to ashes like everything else that was placed in the stove. Indeed, wondrous is God in His saints! I still have these paper icons, which did not crumble or fall apart when we handled them.

