

## Practical Tips for bringing more beauty into the Church:

1. Evaluate all new adornments in your church setting by applying the facets of Orthodox aesthetics (rhythm, contrast, emphasis, etc.) Is it sublime? Does it uplift? Is it made of high quality materials? Are its colors within the historic Orthodox Christian color palette? Are the proportions good? Where does it fit in the aesthetic hierarchical structure of your church? Does it allow for future generations to add their respective “layers”?
2. Read a few books on Orthodox Aesthetics (see list below).
3. Utilize a “less is more” approach when adorning a church. Buy fewer items, but make sure they are of better quality.
4. Work with respected church artisans and educate your parishioners that beauty does cost (especially in America where labor rates are much higher than other parts of the world).
5. Give permission for beauty: it’s OK to want things to be beautiful! If parishioners show an appreciation and aptitude for beauty, help educate them.
6. Create a Beautification/Ornamentation committee which must approve all purchases and donations of adornments as a way to keep poor-quality, displeasing items from the church (bad icons, cheap furniture, etc.). Take it one step further and set up an Endowment for this committee—this may take years to implement, but it will protect the beauty of the church for generations.
7. Use church adornments to create “zones of respect”—podea, prosknitaria, flowers, etc.
8. Make beauty a priority in your own life: it doesn’t have to be fancy, but give some time and attention to your living space. Teach your children that beauty is to be appreciated and sought after and that adornment of the church is a worthy endeavor.

## A short Bibliography:

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