

## ST. NINA, ENLIGHTENER OF GEORGIA

Nina of Cappadocia was the daughter of a Roman army chief; her mother was the sister of Patriarch Juvenal of Jerusalem. When she was 12, her parents sold all their possessions and moved to Jerusalem. Her father became a monk and left to labor in the wilderness of the Jordan. Patriarch Juvenal ordained her mother a deaconess. Nina was raised in the Christian faith by an old woman, Sara Niaphor, who told her the stories of Christ's life, and how Christ's Robe arrived in Georgia, a country of pagans.

Nina prayed to the Theotokos for a blessing to travel to Georgia and to be made worthy to venerate the Sacred Robe she had woven for her Son. The Theotokos appeared to Nina in a dream, directing her to go to Georgia and preach the Gospel. She presented Nina with a cross of grapevines, saying "Receive this cross as a shield against visible and invisible enemies!" When Nina awoke, she was holding the cross.

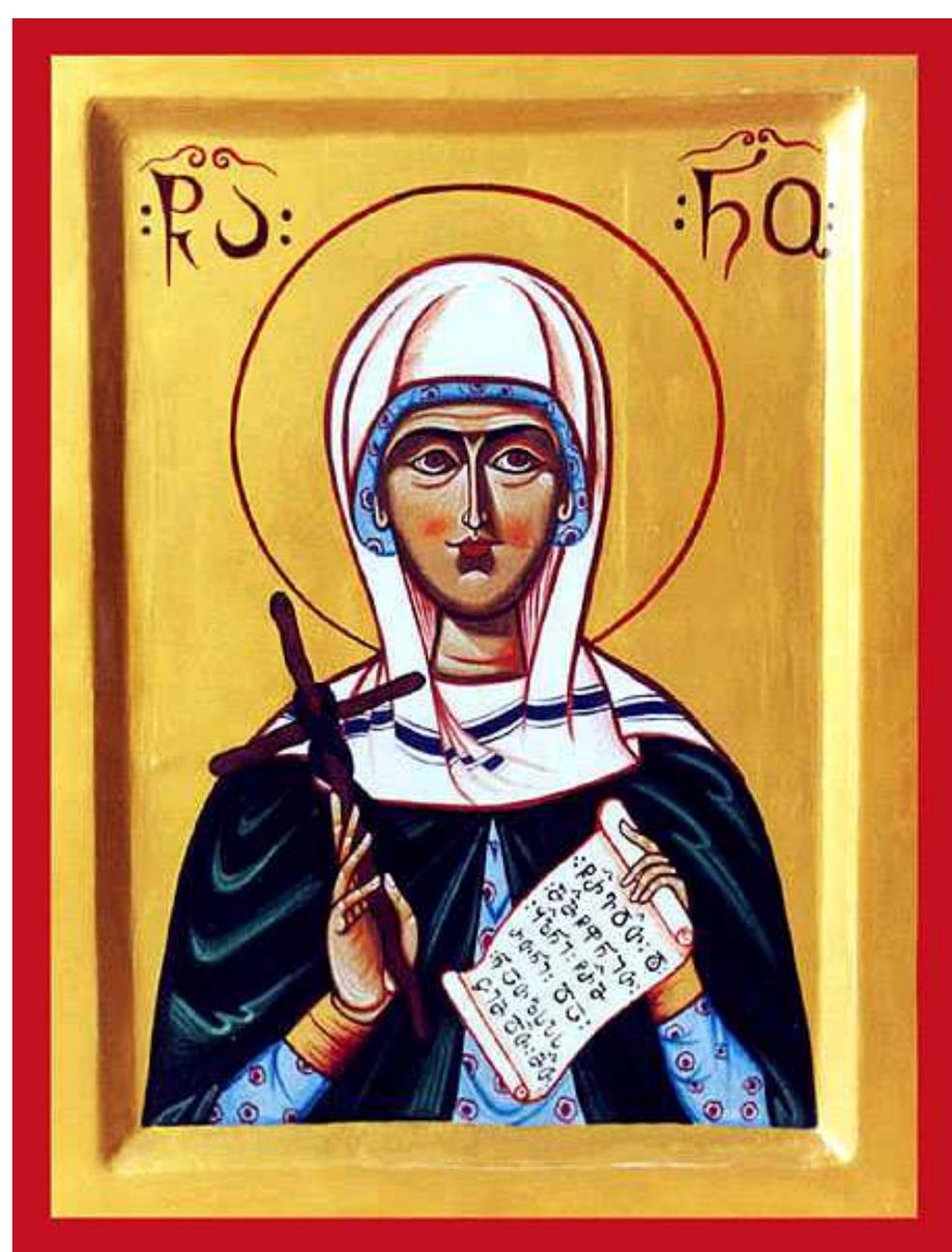
She told her uncle of the vision. Patriarch Juvenal led her to the Royal Doors, laid his hands on her, and prayed: "O Lord, God of Eternity, I beseech Thee...grant that, according to Thy will, she may go to preach and proclaim Thy Holy Resurrection. O Christ God, be Thou to her a guide, a refuge, and a spiritual father. As Thou didst enlighten the Apostles...enlighten her with the wisdom to proclaim Thy glad tidings."

In Rome, Nina met and baptized the princess Rhipsimia. Emperor Diocletian, a persecutor of Christians, wanted to marry Rhipsimia, but Nina, Rhipsimia, and 50 other virgins escaped to Armenia. Diocletian sent word to the king. Rhipsimia and the others were tortured to death, but Nina escaped.

When she finally arrived in Georgia, Nina was greeted by Mtskhetan shepherds near Lake Paravani, and she received a blessing from God to preach to the pagans of this region. She watched with great sadness as the people trembled before idols and prayed that God would be merciful and help the people to know Him alone. A violent wind blew and hail fell from the sky, shattering the pagan statues.

Wherever St. Nina went, those who heard her preach converted to Christianity in great numbers. She even healed the terminally ill Queen Nana after the queen declared Christ to be the True God. King Mirian, a pagan was not pleased with St. Nina's impression on the Georgian nation. He resolved to kill all Christians. But a darkness descended upon him when he was alone. He prayed in vain to his pagan gods, and then miraculously he turned to Christ, asking for illumination and vowing to build a temple. The sun shone radiantly then, and King Miriam told St. Nina of his decision. Georgia was established as a nation solidly rooted in the Christian Faith.

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SAINT NINA, EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES

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# THE TRINITARIAN

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Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 11 - VOLUME LXI

TONE 7

JANUARY 14, 2024

## THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### *Leavetaking of the Theophany*

*The Holy Fathers slain at Sinai and Raithus: Isaiah, Sabbas, Moses, and his disciple Moses, Jeremiah, Paul, Adam, Sergisu, Domus, Proclus, Hypatius, Isaac, Macarius, Mark, Benjamin, Eusebius, Elias, and others;*

*St. Nina, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Enlightener of the Georgians;*

*St. Joseph Analytinus of Raithu; Ven. Theodulus, son of Ven. Nilus of Sinai;*

*Ven. Stephen, Abbot of Chenolaklos Monastery near Chaldedon*

Passing unharmed through a multitude of storms, and receiving the gift of miracles, you drowned your bodiless Enemies in the streams of your tears, O Divinely-wise Monastic Martyrs. Now having received the gift of miracles, pray unceasingly for all of us.

Kontakion, Tone II

Come, all of you, let us sing praises today to the one chosen by Christ, the equal of the Apostles, the preacher of God's Word, the wise bearer of good tidings, who brought the people of Karth to the path of life and truth. She is the disciple of the Mother of God, our zealous intercessor and unsleeping guardian, the all-praised Nina.

Kontakion, Tone II

TODAY'S EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 6:10-17

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 18:35-43

### HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, January 20

4:00 p.m. 40th Day Memorial Prayers for Olga Lobas

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

### WELCOME GUESTS!

We are very glad you have come to worship the Holy Trinity with us this morning! Please participate in the services at your comfort level. Our greeters will kindly assist you with whatever questions or needs you may have. During each Sunday service we offer Holy Communion. If you are a practicing Orthodox Christian and have come prepared to receive Christ's Body and Blood through fasting and prayer, please come forward to partake. All guests are invited to come forward at the end of the service to greet Fr. Christopher and receive the blessed bread. Please stay after the Divine Liturgy for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall so we can get to know you better!

Families with children: we encourage children of all ages to be present and participate as they are able during worship. We know sometimes kids need a break, so please take good advantage of our Rest and Refocus Room located on the south side of the lobby/narthex when coming in the main entrance. If you have pre-school and school age children, we invite you to send them to Church School directly after the Divine Liturgy throughout the academic year. May God bless you!

**Daily Scripture Readings** can be found in the St. Tikhon's Wall Calendar or at [www.oca.org/readings](http://www.oca.org/readings).

**COMING EVENTS**

**JANUARY:**

- 14, TODAY            11:00 a.m. Book Study—conclusion  
Second Sunday Food Sale
- 21, Sunday           11:00 a.m. Parish Council meeting  
6:00 p.m. Prayers for the Unborn at St. Paul Church; N. Royalton
- 25, Thursday        7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 27, Saturday        11:00 a.m. Baptism of Tyler Pask
- 28, Sunday           5:30 p.m. Celebration for Fr. Andrew Clements
- 29, Monday          Cooking for St. Herman’s House
- 31, Wednesday      Serving dinner at St. Herman’s House

**FOOD SALE:**

Stop by the tables in the Fellowship Hall today to purchase items from our Food Sale!

**BOOK STUDY:**

Fr. Chris will hold a Book Study class today at 11:00 a.m., of chapters 13-conclusion of Let Us Attend: A Journey Through the Orthodox Divine Liturgy.

**HOME BLESSINGS:**

2024 Theophany Home Blessings continue. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, as well as an online Sign-Up Genius link, which has been emailed.

**ENVELOPES:**

Offering envelopes for 2024 are available in the vestibule.

**TIME, TALENT, TREASURE:**

If you did not already receive a Time, Talent, Treasure form for 2024, these forms are also available on the table in the vestibule. Please fill one out and return to the designated box by January 28.

**PRAY FOR THE UNBORN:**

ZOE for Life offers a prayer service for the unborn children and a presentation by Fr. Costas Keares on Sunday, Jan. 21, 6:00 p.m., at St. Paul Church; 4548 Wallings Rd. in N. Royalton. See details on the bulletin board; the service and presentation will be live-streamed but registration is required by today in order to receive a Zoom link.

**TRINITARIAN COVERS:**

A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to donate covers (\$10) in 2024 to help offset our printing costs.

**IN SEARCH OF SEAMSTRESSES:**

Some of our altar servers robes are in need of minor mending. If you are able to assist in this project, please see Protodeacon Anthony.

**PRAYER LIST:**

If you have a request for prayers, contact Mimi Matheis at [mamatheis22@gmail.com](mailto:mamatheis22@gmail.com) or 440-886-6045. The list is typically published on Sunday afternoons. If you are interested in receiving the Prayer List electronically, please email Mimi to be added to the distribution list.

**NEEDED FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION:**

Please save your plastic grocery bags (all colors). Bring them to church and place them in the plastic bin marked “Plastic Bags for St. Mary of Egypt.” These bags will be used for food distribution to the needy.

**FR. ANDREW CLEMENTS:**

Fr. Andrew, pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Mentor, is celebrating 40 years of service in the Priesthood. He will be honored with a dinner on Sunday, Jan. 28, at 5:30 p.m.; Pine Ridge Country Club in Wickliffe. See details on the bulletin board. Reservations must be made by TODAY.

**BAPTISM:**

Tyler Pask, son of Kelly and Kevin Pask, will be baptized on Saturday, January 27, at 11:00 a.m.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

The refreshments today are hosted by Olga Pryzbys and Marilyn Cobbs in celebration of Olga’s birthday.

**FLOWERS:**

The flowers today are offered by Carol Bohurjak.

“When you are in the temple, remember that you are in the living presence of the Lord God, that you stand before His face, His eyes and in the living presence of the Mother of God, the holy angels, the prophets, apostles, hierarchs, martyrs, the Church Fathers and all the saints.

Always have the remembrance and consciousness of this, and stand with devotion, taking part willingly and with all your heart in the Divine service.”

Fr. John of Kronstadt

## THE WAY OF CHRIST: LEARNING RIGHTEOUSNESS

*Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 9 understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, 10 the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. 1 Timothy 1:8–11.*

Matt 5:17– “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Rom 3:31 - Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Christianity doesn't abolish the Law of the Old Testament, the Torah, that whole system and way of life established by God for his people when they came out of Egypt into the land of Canaan. Though we read some places in the New Testament Paul is wrestling with how to interpret the Law and apply it to the growing Christian Church, we read Christ's statement in the Gospel of Matthew and Paul's statement to the Roman Christians and see clearly that the Law was not something that was just simply discarded. The importance then for us as Christians is *how* we understand and interpret the Law of God in the light and fulfillment of Christ.

Paul says to Timothy in the above passage that “the law is good, if one uses it lawfully.” If we understand that as Christians *we ourselves are the very temple of the Holy Spirit*, the dwelling place of God, and that it is not just in a tabernacle or temple built by man that God dwells, then we realize that we are called as Christians to an even greater cleansing in a deeper and truer sense than the outward forms prescribed in the Torah. Many of the sins Paul describes in these verses can be traced back to Leviticus 17-26, often called the “Holiness Code” calling the people to be set apart and distinct from their neighbors as a sign and witness to Him.

It behooves us therefore even more to live in accordance with “healthy teaching” (τῆ ὑγιαίνουσα διδασκαλία) (v10), by being righteous—not as a way to make ourselves worthy to receive God's blessings, but always in response to his blessings and love. This non-exhaustive list to most of us seems self-evident and healthy according to good humane standards of living. That's because we live in a Christianized world that has been informed by centuries of Christian teaching, even at a time when we sense that Christian standard declining in the West. However, in Paul's day, the good teachings of the Law and Christianity were not necessarily a popular opinion. Certainly some of the sins of Paul's list are disdained by just about every group of humans throughout the ages. Yet, sinful pagan practices among the Greeks and Romans and other peoples of the world were commonplace. Women's status as human persons was often very limited. Pagan temple prostitution and sexual practices in regard to offerings and worship were common. Men who lie down with men (ἄρσενοκοίταις) was part of the social structure among older and younger males in much of the Roman world. Slavery was common and took many forms, often denying people their personhood and leading to abuse.

The Law was given for the lawless, those who had not yet learned righteousness and healthy teaching. It served as a guardian (a pedagogue, a guide for children) for the people of Israel until Christ came and filled the Law to its fullness in himself (see Gal 3:21-29). And we as Christians have been united to Christ's filling to the full of the Law. Christ's bringing of the New Covenant brings a new way of living out God's Law, not abolished but fulfilled: for example, the Lord's Day becomes our Sabbath day of rest and reigning with God, baptism unites us to the Lord's fulfillment of circumcision in himself and makes us children of his family no longer needing to propagate circumcision and annul Christ's own circumcision and faithfulness, Christ's sacrifice is the sacrifice to end all sacrifices which we participate in through the liturgical offering of his body and blood which is a communion meal shared with our God. And really, our call to holiness is deeper and fuller, but we are empowered even greater by the Holy Spirit living inside us, something those in the time of the Old Covenant could only yearn for. Our way toward righteousness is of course “in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God.” No other way do we find true healing of our bodies, souls, and hearts. No other way do we learn to keep ourselves pure. No other way do we truly learn to care for the people of our world and see them made in the image of God. Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and he and his teaching are our glory if we remain united to Him and follow after his commandments.

*Fr. Christopher*