

SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
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January 14, 2007

SUNDAY/JAN. 14th (Tone 6)
Leave-Taking of the Feast of Theophany
St. Nina-Equal-to-the-Apostles, Enlightener
of the Land of Georgia

9:10a.m. 3rd and 6th Hours
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour;
Church School (Young Class);
Teen Discussion

TUESDAY/JAN. 16th

7:00p.m. Memorial Service for Fr. George
Calciu

THURSDAY/JAN. 18th

6:30p.m. Memorial Service for Charles Fetchko
7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

SATURDAY/JAN. 20th

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession
2:30p.m. Church School (Middle Class)
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/JAN. 21st (Tone 7)

Zacchaeus Sunday; "Sanctity of Life Day"

9:10a.m. 3rd and 6th Hours
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour
2:30p.m. Winter Dance Party

Fast Days:

Wednesday, Jan. 17th (Fish, wine & oil permitted)
Friday, Jan. 19th

The Blessing of Homes

Is presently taking place thru Feb. 12th. If you wish your home to be blessed and it has not been scheduled to date, please make arrangements with Fr. James



Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Contemplate the Lord Jesus as King

- 1) As Ruler over nature, which He tames and places in service to Himself;
- 2) As Ruler over the demons, over disease and over death;
- 3) As Ruler over the Immortal Kingdom of angels and saints.

Contemplate the Lord Jesus as Servant

- 1) How he voluntarily descended among men to be a Servant to all;
- 2) How He never refused anyone a good service which was requested of Him;
- 3) How even today, as always, He invisibly and silently serves the whole world.

Contemplate the Lord Jesus as the Cornerstone

- 1) As the Cornerstone in building personal character;
- 2) As the Cornerstone in building the family and nation;
- 3) As the Cornerstone of every good intentioned social transformation and inspiration of mankind.



Parish Council Meeting

Jan. 18th, Thursday at 7:00p.m.

Annual Parish Meeting – Feb. 11th

At 12:00p.m. If necessary – due to weather – the meeting will be held on the following Sunday, Feb. 18th at 12:00p.m. All reports to be presented should be submitted to the rector no later than Jan. 31st.

Great Lent is Early in 2007

In planning winter vacations and other events, be mindful that the Great and Holy Lent begins on Feb. 19th. For all advanced planning, consult the Schedule of Services for the Year 2007 on the parish website.

Icon Print Box on Vestibule Stand

For the month of January only, a box may be found on the vestibule stand for icon prints from your calendars, Christmas cards and other sources. Icon prints should not be disposed of as general printed materials.

Choir Director Position Open

Our parish is presently engaged in a search for a choir director. Any suggestions of persons or other ideas about the choir may be addressed to either Fr. James or Deacon Paul.

A Welcome and Invitation

If you are regularly visiting our parish, you ought to consider becoming part of our parish family by registering as a parishioner with Fr. James. It is important for Orthodox Christians to be “rooted” and to have a spiritual father.

New Parish Council Members Sought

The Parish Council nominating committee – Fr. James, Robert Smith and Maureen Lokos – are searching for parishioners who may wish to serve on the parish council. Parishioners in good standing are eligible. Please speak up. Is called to serve and minister in the building up of the Body of Christ – the local church at the level of the parish.

Winter Dance Party – Sun., Jan. 21st

Join us for Fun & Good Fellowship! All Young People are invited, ages 18 and up. Time 2-4:30 at parish hall. DEJU VU D.J. Refreshments are free of charge. A great opportunity to meet each other and new friends. For information please speak with

Maria Torrisi 732-545-5642/Peter Parsells 908-872-5657.

The Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Nicholas Chabra (40th day – Jan. 29th)

Anna Wasitowski (40th day – Feb. 7th)

Jan. 15, 2000 Ekaterina Moroshan

Jan. 17, 1938 Fr. Elia Lilikovich

(parish rector 1925-1929)

Jan. 17, 1953 Radion Tzarkov

Jan. 17, 1975 Mary Kralovich

Jan. 18, 1927 Anastasia Petrushevich

Jan. 18, 1963 Helen Trehubets

Jan. 18, 1990 Constantine Putyrsk

Jan. 19, 1974 Vera Gromack

Jan. 19, 1999 Charles Basil Fetchko

Jan. 20, 1960 Nazar Pasechnik

Jan. 20, 1963 Charles Chabala

Jan. 21, 1971 Andrew Zorella

Offering Envelopes for Jan. & Feb. 2007

Have been mailed out. If you are not receiving envelopes in the mail, please speak with Fr. James or Robert Smith.

The Saturday Evening Service- 5:30p.m.

Is the “first” service of Sunday, as in accordance with the Bible, the day starts “at evening.” A vigil is held normally on each Saturday. Be mindful when reading the weekly bulletin “what” kind of service is held:

1) Vigil – which is Vespers and Matins. The Vespers being about 40 minutes and the Matins starting about 6:10p.m. and ending 7:30p.m. followed by Confessions.

2) Vespers and Compline. The Vespers being about 40 minutes and the Compline starting about 6:10p.m. and ending 6:40p.m. followed by Confessions.

About Being a Parish Council Member

The ministry of serving the local church – the parish – is a blessed and vital work. It is a ministry that requires work, theological understanding, humility, good will and learning.

The By-Laws of a particular parish describe the particular responsibilities of council members.

While the council member serves the local church, the vision and activity of the member goes beyond the parish entity.

The concern for *institutional maintenance* is but one concern. The *means* by which the Parish Church can more effectively *expand* and *extend* its teaching and preaching ministry are an important part of the parish council member's calling.

The Parish Council member is called to understand that he or she is a true *disciple* of Christ and *co-worker* with the Apostles. Those that serve on the Parish Council are responsible for the growth and extension of the Church, for transforming our “membership” through “discipleship,” for winning others to the Faith.

Parish Council ministry is much more than just care of the assets of the church, and payment of bills. Council members are called to be involved in stewardship, evangelization, growth, catechetics, missions and charity as direct extension of the mission of Christ.

The Parish Council Member seeks to maintain and enhance the parish's current levels of ministry while defining ways by which the parish might be expanded by embracing the lost, searching, the inactive, the unchurched, the lukewarm, the disenchanting, and the spiritually homeless within the community at large.

Parish Council Members teach by their example of stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. They preach the Gospel whenever they strive for a consensus which serves to bring others into the life of Christ and His Church. They reveal the Good Shepherd's concern for His flock when they seek that which is for the salvation of all, striving to do God's will, not their own.

Apart from an obvious gift for leadership,

Council Members must also possess other gifts – patience, faith, tolerance, humility, kindness, honor, trustworthiness – that are all-too-often overlooked. They must be persons of *vision*, capable of discerning *who and what God wants His Church to be*, for “where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18).

Above all, everything the Parish Council Member does must reveal love for God and neighbor, thereby evangelizing by his or her own example, for “by this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).



Easter Candy Sale

Is presently under way. Each household is receiving an order form. Extra order forms will be found on the vestibule stand. Pascha and Western Easter are the same date this year, April 8th. For more information please see Sandy Filippini.

Namesday Greetings

St. Mark/Jan. 19th: Mark Oliver; Many Blessed Years!

IOCC – International Orthodox Christian Charities

Is a Pan-Orthodox (Greek, Russian, Serbian, etc.) entity that provides charitable care in the USA and abroad, under the authority of SCOBA (The Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in America). The OCA is part of this group. The funds are neither held by nor controlled by any one ethnic jurisdiction. The reputation, work and administration of the IOCC is first-class.

Offerings for the Week of Jan. 14th

Olive Oil – in memory of Emilia; in memory of Joan; in memory of Michael; for the health of Laurentiu and Lailiana and in thanksgiving; in memory of Floarea, Gherghe, Elena, Petre, Alexandru, Sasinca and Maria.

Wine - in thanksgiving to God; for the health of Nicole Petro (birthday).

MARCH FOR LIFE AT NATION'S CAPITAL – JANUARY 22ND

OCA Communications – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, and other hierarchs and clergy once again will lead Orthodox Christians for Life at the annual March for Life in Washington, DC on Monday, January 22, 2007.

The annual event mourns the legalization of abortion in 1973 and affirms the sanctity of human life at all stages of development.

All Orthodox Christians are encouraged to attend. Marchers will gather under the large white banner with the icon of Christ and the children and the words "Orthodox Christians for Life" at the Mall near 7th Street at 11:30 a.m., regardless of the weather. Marchers are encouraged to bring appropriate icons, banners, or signs. The program activities start at noon, with the march to the steps of the US Supreme Court commencing at approximately 1:00 p.m. A brief service for the aborted unborn children will be held near the Supreme Court.

"This is an important event that witnesses the Orthodox Church's teaching on the sanctity of human life in the 'public square,'" said Deacon John Protopapas of Orthodox Christians for Life, a pan-Orthodox pro-life organization. "The Orthodox presence in this event has been highly visible since 1987."

Additional information may be obtained by visiting the Orthodox Christians for Life web site at www.oclife.org, by calling 631-271-4408, or by sending an e-mail to oclifehq@aol.com.



Help Our Parish Become Souper Bowl Champions!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 4, 2007, team up with our parish's youth to help the needy in our community and around the world.

Help our team in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" by bringing one dollar and a canned good with you to Liturgy. Please support this effort and help our parish become Souper Bowl Champions!



IOCC • P.O. Box 630225 • Baltimore, MD 21263-0225
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INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

TWO SUNDAYS: JAN. 28TH & FEB. 4TH

*** a can of food (or more) for the local food pantry**

*** a \$1.00 (or more) for our local pregnancy aid center**

*** a basket for them is in the church vestibule**



St Nino (Nina), Equal of the Apostles and Enlightener of Georgia Commemorated on January 14

Saint Nino, Enlightener of Georgia and Equal of the Apostles was born around the year 280 in the city of Kolastra in Cappadocia. Her father Zabulon was related to the holy Great Martyr George (April 23). He came from an illustrious family, and pious parents, and he was highly regarded by the emperor Maximian (284-305). Zabulon, a Christian, served in the military under the emperor, and he took part in the liberation of Christian captives from Gaul (modern France). St Nino's mother, Susanna, was a sister of the Patriarch of Jerusalem. [Translator's note: In 1996, the parents of St Nino were numbered among the Saints. The commemoration of Sts Zabulon and Susanna is May 20].

When she was twelve years old, St Nino went to Jerusalem with her parents, who had only this one daughter. By their mutual consent and with the blessing of the Patriarch, Zabulon devoted his life to the service of God at the Jordan, and Susanna was made a deaconess in the church of the Holy Resurrection. The upbringing of St Nino was entrusted to the pious Eldress, Nianphora. St Nino displayed diligence and obedience for two years. By the grace of God, she got into the firm habit of fulfilling the rule of prayer, and reading the Holy Scriptures.

Once, while tearfully reading the Gospel passages describing the Crucifixion of Christ the Savior, she wondered about the fate of the Chiton (Tunic) of the Lord (John 19:23-24). When St Nino asked where the Lord's Chiton (Tunic) had gone (October 1), the Eldress Nianphora declared that the Lord's incorrupt Chiton had been carried off by the Rabbi Eleazar of Mtskheta and taken back with him to a place named Iberia (Georgia), and called the appanage (i.e., the "allotted portion") of the Mother of God. During Her earthly life, the All-Pure Virgin had received Georgia as her allotted portion, but an angel of the Lord appeared to Her and foretold that Georgia would become Her earthly portion only after Her Repose. She was told that Mt. Athos (also called the portion of the Mother of God) would be given to Her by God.

The Elderess Nianphora told her that Georgia had not yet been enlightened by the light of Christianity, St Nino entreated the Most Holy Theotokos to grant that she would see Georgia converted to Christ, and might also enable her to find the Tunic of the Lord.

The Queen of Heaven heard the prayer of the young righteous one. Once, when St Nino was resting after long prayer, the All-Pure Virgin appeared to her in a dream, and entrusting her with a cross plaited from sprigs, She said, "Take this cross, for it will be for you a shield and protection against all enemies both visible and invisible. Go to the land of Iberia, proclaim there the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and spread forth His grace, and I will be your Protectress."

Awakening, St Nino saw the cross (now preserved in a special reliquary in the Tbilisi Zion cathedral church) in her hand. Rejoicing in spirit, she went to her uncle, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, and told him about her vision. The Patriarch then blessed the young virgin in her deed of Apostolic service.

On the way to Georgia, St Nino escaped martyrdom, which however befell her companions: the emperor's daughter Ripsimia, her guide Gaiana and thirty-five virgins (September 30), who had fled to Armenia from Rome to escape persecution under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bolstered in spirit by visions of an angel of the Lord, who appeared the first time holding a censer, and a scroll the second time, St Nino continued on her way and arrived in Georgia in the year 319. News of her soon spread through the area of Mtskheta, where she lived in asceticism. Numerous miracles accompanied her preaching. On the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, as pagan priests offered sacrifice in the presence of the emperor Mirian and a multitude of the people, the idols Armaz, Gatsi, and Gaim were toppled from a high mountain through the prayers of St Nino. This was accompanied by a strong storm.

Entering Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia, St Nino found shelter in the household of a childless imperial official, whose wife Anastasia was delivered from infertility through the prayers of St Nino, and she came to believe in Christ.

St Nino healed the Georgian empress Nana from a grievous infirmity. After her Baptism, she ceased to worship idols and became a zealous Christian instead (October 1). In spite of the miraculous healing of his wife, the emperor Mirian (265-342), in view of the complaints of the pagans, prepared to subject St Nino to fierce tortures. "At that very moment, when they plotted to execute the righteous one, the sun darkened and an impenetrable mist covered the place where the emperor was."

The emperor suddenly fell blind, and seized by terror, his retainers began to beg their pagan idols for the light to return. "But Armaz, Gaim and Gatsi were deaf, and the darkness only intensified. Then with one voice they cried out to the God of Nino. Instantly, the darkness was lifted, and the sun shone in all its radiance." This event occurred on May 6, 319.

Emperor Mirian, healed from his blindness by St Nino, was baptized with all his retainers. By 324, Christianity had established itself in Georgia.

The Chronicles relate that through her prayers, the location of the Lord's Chiton was revealed to St Nino. At this place the first Christian church was built in Georgia (at first a wooden church, but then a stone cathedral, in honor of the Twelve Holy Apostles, the "Svetitskhoveli").

At the request of the emperor Mirian, and with the cooperation of the Byzantine emperor St Constantine (306-337), Bishop Eustathius of Antioch was sent to Georgia with two priests and three deacons. Christianity took a definite hold upon the land. The mountain regions of Georgia, however, remained without enlightenment.

St Nino traveled with the presbyter James and one of the deacons, to the upper regions of the Aragva and Iori Rivers, where she preached the Gospel to the people. Many of them came to believe in Christ and received Holy Baptism. Then St Nino proceeded to Kakhetia (Eastern Georgia) and settled in the village of Bodbe, in a small tent beside a mountain. Here she led an ascetic life of constant prayer, and converting the local inhabitants to Christ. Amidst all these was the empress of Kakhetia, named Sodzha [Sophia], who accepted Baptism with all her court and a multitude of the people.

Having completed her apostolic service in Georgia, St Nino had a revelation from God of her impending end. In a letter to the emperor Mirian, she requested him to send Bishop John, so that he might prepare her for her final journey. Not only Bishop John did come, but also the emperor with all the clergy went to Bodbe, where many healings took place at the deathbed of St Nino. For the edification of the people who had come, and at the request of her disciples, St Nino told them of her life. This narration, written down by Solomia of Udzharm, has served as the basis of the Life of St Nino.

Having received the Holy Mysteries, St Nino instructed that her body be buried at Bodbe, and then she peacefully departed to the Lord in the year 335 (according to other sources, in the year 347, at the age of sixty-seven, after 35 years of apostolic labor).

The emperor, the clergy and the people, grieving over the death of St Nino, wished to transfer her relics to the Mtskheta cathedral church, but they were not able to remove the coffin of the ascetic from her chosen place of rest. The emperor Mirian laid the foundations of a church on this site in 342, and his son the emperor Bakur (342-364) completed and dedicated the church in the name of St Nino's relative, the holy Great Martyr George.

Later, a women's monastery dedicated to St Nino was founded at this place. The relics of the saint, concealed beneath a crypt at her command, were glorified by many miracles and healings. The Georgian Orthodox Church, with the consent of the Patriarchate of Antioch, designated St Nino the Enlightener of Georgia as Equal of the Apostles. She was numbered among the Saints, and her Feast was established as January 14, the day of her blessed repose.