

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

Rev. Fr. Michael Ibrahim

Deacon Nicholas Mahshie

4988 Onondaga Road, Syracuse, NY 13215

Church: 488-0388 Cell: 973-641-8463

Church Office e-mail: office@sainteliasny.com

For Bulletin Announcements email at office@sainteliasny.com **and**
Sheila at sahmaz@twcny.rr.com

For Liturgy Names & Coffee Hour email the above

Saturday: Vespers at 5:00 PM followed by confession

Sunday: Orthros at 9:30 AM & Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM

Check out our website @ www.sainteliasny.com

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. And as Thou didst enlighten the Apostles and all those who feared Thy name, do Thou also enlighten her with the wisdom to proclaim Thy glad tidings."

When Nino arrived in Rome, she met and baptized the princess Rhipsimia and her nurse, Gaiana. At that time the Roman emperor was Diocletian, a ruler infamous for persecuting Christians. Diocletian (284-305) fell in love with Rhipsimia and resolved to marry her, but Saint Nino, Rhipsimia, Gaiana, and fifty other virgins escaped to Armenia. The furious Diocletian ordered his soldiers to follow them and sent a messenger to Tiridates, the Armenian king (286-344), to put him on guard.

King Tiridates located the women and, following Diocletian's example, was charmed by Rhipsimia's beauty and resolved to marry her. But Saint Rhipsimia would not consent to wed him, and in his rage the king had her tortured to death with Gaiana and the fifty other virgins. Saint Nino, however, was being prepared for a different, greater task, and she succeeded in escaping King Tiridates' persecutions by hiding among some rose bushes.

When she finally arrived in Georgia, Saint Nino was greeted by a group of Mtskheta shepherds near Lake Paravani, and she received a blessing from God to preach to the pagans of this region.

With the help of her acquaintances Saint Nino soon reached the city of Urbnisi. She remained there a month, then traveled to Mtskheta with a group of Georgians who were making a pilgrimage to venerate the pagan idol Armazi. There she watched with great sadness as the Georgian people trembled before the idols. She was exceedingly sorrowful and prayed to the Lord, "O Lord, send down Thy mercy upon this nation...that all nations may glorify Thee alone, the One True God, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ."

Suddenly a violent wind began to blow and hail fell from the sky, shattering the pagan statues. The terrified worshipers fled, scattering across the city.

Saint Nino made her home beneath a bramble bush in the garden of the king, with the family of the royal gardener. The gardener and his wife were childless, but through Saint Nino's prayers God granted them a child. The couple rejoiced exceedingly, declared Christ to be the True God, and became disciples of Saint Nino. Wherever Saint Nino went, those who heard her preach converted to the Christian Faith in great numbers. Saint Nino even healed the terminally ill Queen Nana after she declared Christ to be the True God.

King Mirian, a pagan, was not at all pleased with the great impression Saint Nino's preaching had made on the Georgian nation. One day while he was out hunting, he resolved to kill all those who followed Christ.

According to his wicked scheme, even his wife, Queen Nana, would face death for failing to renounce the Christian Faith. But in the midst of the hunt, it suddenly became very dark. All alone, King Mirian became greatly afraid and prayed in vain for the help of the pagan gods. When his prayers went unanswered, he finally lost hope and, miraculously, he turned to Christ: "God of Nino, illumine this night for me and guide my footsteps, and I will declare Thy Holy Name. I will erect a cross and venerate it and I will construct for Thee a temple. I vow to be obedient to Nino and to the Faith of the Roman people!"

Suddenly the night was transfigured, the sun shone radiantly, and King Mirian gave great thanks to the Creator. When he returned to the city, he immediately informed Saint Nino of his decision. As a result of the unceasing labors of Equal-to-the-Apostles Nino, Georgia was established as a nation solidly rooted in the Christian Faith.

Saint Nino reposed in the village of Bodbe in eastern Georgia and, according to her will, she was buried in the place where she took her last breath. King Mirian later erected a church in honor of Saint George over her grave.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On January 19 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous Father Makarios the Great of Egypt, the Anchorite; and our righteous Father Makarios of Alexandria.

Both men were the contemporaries of Anthony the Great. Makarios the Great withdrew into the wilderness where he spent 60 years in labor and struggle, both internally and externally for the Kingdom of Heaven. So much did he succeed in cleansing his mind and heart of evil that God bestowed upon him the abundant gift of miracle-working; he even raised the dead. Makarios often told his disciple Paphnutius: "Do not judge anyone and you will be saved." Nine days before his death, St. Anthony, St. Pachomius and a cherub revealed to him that he would enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Makarios lived to be 97 years old and died in the year 390. The younger Makarios also entered the monastic life to fight demonic temptations. Once, a brother saw him fill a basket with sand, carry it uphill and empty it. Astonished, the brother asked him, "What are you doing?" Makarios answered, "I am tormenting my tormentor," that is, the devil. He died in the year 393, well past the age of 100.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Arsenios, bishop of Kerkyra; Venerable Mark Eugenikos, metropolitan of Ephesus, pillar of Orthodoxy; and Martyr Antony of Damascus. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: *Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation. Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

أَنْتَ يَا رَبِّ تَحْفَظُنَا وَتَسْتُرُنَا مِنْ هَذَا الْجِيلِ،

خَلِّصْنِي، يَا رَبِّ، فَإِنَّ الْبَارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُلُوسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ كُولُوسِي. (11-4:3)

يَا إِخْوَتِي، مَتَى ظَهَرَ الْمَسِيحُ الَّذِي هُوَ حَيَاتُنَا، فَأَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً تَظْهَرُونَ حِينَئِذٍ مَعَهُ فِي الْمَجْدِ. فَأَمِيتُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ

التي على الأرض: الزنى، والنجاسة، والهوى، والشهوة الرديئة، والطمع الذي هو عبادة وثن. لأنه لأجل

هذه يأتي غضب الله على أبناء العصيان. وفي هذه أنتم أيضاً سلكتم حيناً إذ كنتم عائشين فيها. أما

الآن، فأنتم أيضاً اطرحو الكُل: الغضب، والسخط، والخُبث، والتجديف، والكلام القبيح من أفواهكم. ولا

THEOTOKION IN TONE EIGHT

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Most blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos, for through Him that was incarnate of thee is Hades despoiled, Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void, Eve is set free, death is slain, and we are endowed with life. Wherefore, in hymns of praise, we cry aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who is thus well pleased, glory to Thee.

والديّة باللحن الثامن

الآن وكلّ أوانٍ وإلى دهرِ الدهرين. آمين.

أنتِ هي الفائقة على كلّ البركات، يا والدة الإله العذراء، لأنّ الجحيم قد سُبِيت بواسطة المُتجسّد منك، وآدم دُعِيَ ثانياً، واللّعنة بادت، وحواء انعتقت، والموت أميت، ونحن قد حيينا. فلذلك نُسبِح هاتين: مبارك أنتِ أيها المسيح إلهنا، يا من هكذا سرّ، المجد لك.

Saint Nino (Nina), Equal of the Apostles, Enlightener of Georgia

Commemorated on January 14

The virgin Nino of Cappadocia was a relative of Great-martyr George and the only daughter of a widely respected and honorable couple. Her father was a Roman army chief by the name of Zabulon, and her mother, Sosana, was the sister of Patriarch Juvenal of Jerusalem. When Nino reached the age of twelve, her parents sold all their possessions and moved to Jerusalem. Soon after, Nino's father was tonsured a monk. He bid farewell to his family and went to labor in the wilderness of the Jordan.

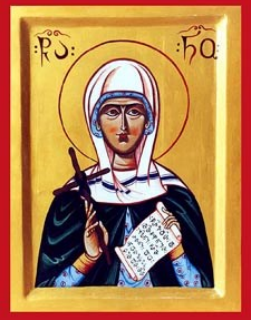
After Sosana had been separated from her husband, Patriarch Juvenal ordained her a deaconess. She left her daughter Nino in the care of an old woman, Sara Niaphor, who raised her in the Christian Faith and related to her the stories of Christ's life and His suffering on earth. It was from Sara that Nino learned how Christ's Robe had arrived in Georgia, a country of pagans.

Soon Nino began to pray fervently to the Theotokos, asking for her blessing to travel to Georgia and be made worthy to venerate the Sacred Robe that she had woven for her beloved Son. The Most Holy Virgin heard her prayers and appeared to Nino in a dream, saying, "Go to the country that was assigned to me by lot and preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will send down His grace upon you and I will be your protector."

But the blessed Nino was overwhelmed at the thought of such a great responsibility and answered, "How can I, a fragile woman, perform such a momentous task, and how can I believe that this vision is real?" In response, the Most Holy Theotokos presented her with a cross of grapevines and proclaimed, "Receive this cross as a shield against visible and invisible enemies!"

When she awoke, Nino was holding the cross in her hands. She dampened it with tears of rejoicing and tied it securely with strands of her own hair. (According to another source, the Theotokos bound the grapevine cross with strands of her own hair.)

Nino related the vision to her uncle, Patriarch Juvenal, and revealed to him her desire to preach the Gospel in Georgia. Juvenal led her in front of the Royal Doors, laid his hands on her, and prayed, "O Lord, God of Eternity, I beseech Thee on behalf of my orphaned niece:



يُكذّب بعضكم بعضاً، بل اخلعوا الأنسان العتيق مع أعماله. والنسوا الأنسان الجدي الذي يتجدد للمعرفة على صورة خالقه. حيث ليس يوناني ولا يهودي، لا ختان ولا قلف، لا بزيري ولا اسكيثي، لا عبد ولا حر، بل المسيح هو كل شيء وفي الجميع.

GOSPEL

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (17:12-19)

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا البشير التلميذ الطاهر. (19-12:17)

في ذلك الزمان، فيما يسوع داخل إلى قرية استقبله عشرة رجال برص ووقفوا من بعيد، ورفعوا أصواتهم قائلين: يا يسوع المعلم ارحمنا. فلما رآهم قال لهم امضوا وأروا الكهنة أنفسكم. وفيما هم منطلقون طهروا. وإن واحدا منهم، لما رأى أنه قد برى، رجع يمجّد الله بصوت عظيم. وخرّ على وجهه عند قدميه شاكرًا له وكان سامريًا، فأجاب يسوع وقال، أليس العشرة قد طهروا فأين التسعة؟ ألم يوجد من يرجع ليمجّد الله إلا هذا الأجنبي؟ وقال له، قم وامض، إيمانك قد خلصك.

THE EIGHTH EOTHINON DOXASTICON IN TONE EIGHT

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The fervent tears of Mary were not shed in vain; for behold, she hath been counted worthy of being instructed by Angels, and of seeing Thy countenance, O Jesus; yet as a weak woman, she still minded earthly things. Therefore, she was turned back that she might not touch Thee, O Christ. Howbeit, she was sent as a herald to Thy disciples, and telling them the good tidings, she proclaimed Thine ascent unto Thy Paternal inheritance. Together with her, account us also worthy of Thy manifestation, O Sovereign Lord.

نوكتا الإيوثينا الثامنة باللحن الثامن

المجد للآب والابن والروح القدس.

إنّ دموع مريم الحارة لم تنسكب عبثاً، فها إنها قد استحققت أن تتعلم من الملائكة، وأن تنظر إلى وجهك يا يسوع. لكن بما أنها امرأة ضعيفة، كانت بعد مُفكّرة بأمر أروضية. لذلك أُبعثت عن لمسك أيها المسيح. لكنّها أرسلت كارزة لتلاميذك، قائلة لهم البشرى، ومُخبرتهم بالصعود إلى الميراث الأبوي. فمعها أهلنا نحن أيضاً لظهورك أيها الرب السيّد.