



"Let the little children come to Me" - Mark 10:14

JANUARY 2022

Feasts

The Eve of Nativity of Christ
Thursday - 6th
strict fast

Nativity of our Lord
Friday - 7th

St. Seraphim of Sarov
Saturday - 15th

Holy Theophany of Our Lord
Wednesday - 19th

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us
a child is born,
unto us a son is given:
and the government
shall be upon his
shoulder: and his name
shall be called
**Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.**

Happy Namesday

Juliana
3rd
Anastasia
4th

Steffan
9th

Basil
14th

Tatiana
25th
Nina
27th

Nativity

Troparion

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the Light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a Star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to Thee!

Kontakion

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels with shepherds glorify Him! The wise men journey with a star! Since for our sake the Eternal God was born as a Little Child!

"The Christmas Tree"
Zoya Wood



My Faith

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

This beautiful time of year we greet family and friends by saying **Christ is Born! Glorify Him!** This is the day we celebrate God's tremendous love for us. He loves us so much that He became one of us by giving us His only Son. Not to be ruler of earth but of our hearts. That very night as Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the world an angel appeared to shepherds who lay with their flocks. They were told they would find the Saviour lying in a manger this very night and then the sky filled with a chorus of angels all singing

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will among men."*

Theophany

This special feast celebrates Jesus being baptized by St. John in the River Jordan. Upon God's instructions, John was sent to the Jordan Valley to proclaim to all people that the Saviour was coming and to prepare themselves with repentance and baptism. When Jesus first came to John asking to be baptized, John did not feel he had the right to. But Christ assured him that by doing this they would be fulfilling the Law of God and setting a good example to all. When Jesus arose from the water, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a **dove** above Christ's head and they heard the voice of God saying

"This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased."

This signifies the first time that God revealed Himself to all people as the Holy Trinity and people understood that Jesus is both man and God. To this day all Orthodox Christians are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



What do we celebrate during Nativity?

Jan 27th



My Church

Did you know that our Church remembers Christ's birth in every **single liturgy**? During what is called the Small Entry, father brings out the Gospel resting on his shoulder. This symbolizes Christ coming into the world; bringing us the instructions for our salvation, our way of becoming close to God again - as close as Adam and Eve once were! The acolytes (altar boys) who come out ahead of father holding candles, represent the Forerunner St. John the Baptist. He was sent out into the world to teach of Christ's coming. Symbolically the candle represents the Light of the world, that is Jesus, John was given the responsibility of carrying and first introducing the coming of Christ and the Light of the World.

The Old Testament is full of prophecies (God-given insights of the future of Christ). Do you know the very first book of the Bible, the one where God created heaven and earth? In that book God says "I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head and you shall bruise his heel." This means, even in the beginning days of time God told Adam and Eve of the coming of the Saviour. After Eve was deceived in the Garden of Eden God made a promise: a son will be born of a pure and sinless woman and that Son will be able to defeat Satan. Satan will only be allowed to hurt the son's heel. But victory will be with God. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, born of a pure and sinless woman whom God chose and He built His Church with the believers of the world and it shall conquer all darkness with His Love, Mercy and Grace. Glory be to God!

12 Days of Christmas

Did you know that 'Svyatki' or 'Christmastide' is a 12 day celebration of Christ's Birth continuing all the way to Theophany? Svyatki are full of feast days with no fasting



St. Nina, Equal-to-the-Apostles

Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Nina, Enlightener of Georgia, was born in 280 in Cappadocia, where many Georgians lived. When she was young, she learned that Georgia had not then yet been enlightened by Christianity. St. Nina prayed day and night to the Theotokos, that She might grant her to see Georgia converted to Christ. One time, the All-Pure Virgin appeared to her in a dream and gave her a grapevine cross. She said: "Take thou this cross, for it wilt be for thee a shield and protection against all enemies both visible and invisible. Go thou to the land of Iveria, proclaim there the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and spread forth His grace: and I wilt be thine Protectress". Awaking, St. Nina saw the cross in her hand and with the blessing of her uncle, the Jerusalem Patriarch, set off to Georgia in her Apostolic deed. News about her spread around Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia, where she preached and performed numerous miracles. Once, on the day of the Transfiguration of the Lord, St. Nina, by her prayers, toppled down from a high mountain the idols that were being sacrificed to at a pagan festival. She also healed the Georgian Empress Nana, from a terrible illness. Nana, upon accepting holy Baptism, ceased with her idol-worship and became a zealous Christian. Despite of the miraculous healing of his wife, the pagan Emperor Mirian, decided to subject Saint Nina to fierce tortures. "At that very moment, when they prepared to execute Nina, the sun darkened, and a thick mist covered the place where the emperor was". The emperor suddenly fell blind, and seized by terror, his men began to beg their pagan idols for the light of day to return. "But the idol gods were deaf, and the darkness only intensified. Then with one voice the terrified courtmen cried out to Nina's God. Instantly the darkness left, and the sun shone in all its radiance". Emperor Mirian, healed from his blindness by Saint Nina, accepted holy Baptism together with all his men. Within several years, Georgia had become Christian. St. Nina peacefully reposed to the Lord in 335. Many healings and miracles happened at her tomb.