



**Michael Silpoch, William Sophia Jr.; Ola Alqazaha** and newborn **Christina** who were brought back into the life of our parish through the Prayers of Churching.

- We pray for those who are with child: **Ghaida Awad**.

### **Reception of Holy Communion**

*If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion.*

- Please remember ONLY ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have PREPARED THEMSELVES may partake of Holy Communion. If you have a special need or circumstance, please let one of the ushers know so we may assist you. Thank you -- St. George Ushers
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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP MEMORIAL MEAL** is hosted today by *Zahra Abuaita and Family*.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: January 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> ~ sign-up poster and hosting information is in the Lounge and includes: bringing whatever you wish to serve and cleaning up afterwards. St. George provides coffee, cups, cream, and sugar at a charge to the host of \$25. For more information, please see Manal Abuaita.

**CHANTER AND CHOIR WORKSHOP** This coming Saturday, we are please to welcome the former chairman of the archdiocesan Department of Sacred Music who will be providing this workshop. Chanters from 10am-12 Noon and Choir members from 1:30-3:30pm. ALL chanters and choir members are asked to come and make better the talents God has given you! For more information or questions, please see Dn. Mike (chanters) or Elias Abueita (choir members).

**2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDERS** Please pick yours up (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name isn't listed, call the church office. The calendars (please take 1 per family) are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary, THANK YOU, LADIES! Our children will receive their envelopes in Church School. **Parents**, please make sure your child has received their *Offering Envelopes*.

**GODPARENT SUNDAY & BREAKFAST IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>** Invitations for Godchildren to send to their Godparents (and *vice-versa*) are available in Church School or in the Lounge. Please pick up an invitation to send to your Godchild (or Godparents). It will be a wonderful day and we want everyone to be here! Godchildren may bring their Godparents to their class. When you know who will be attending, please RSVP in the Church School office.

**SUMMER CAMP** The Summer Camp Program at the Antiochian Village (about 1½ hours from Pittsburgh) serves young people ages 9-17 who come from parishes throughout the Archdiocese. The main goal of the camp program is to *“present to young people a living experience of the Holy Orthodox Faith in their relationship with God and other campers in an uncluttered, natural environment”*. The Village provides an experience, which has been very instrumental in the spiritual maturation of many of our young people. The major components which contribute to that experience include the following: 1) daily Orthodox worship with an emphasis on participation; 2) a challenge toward spiritual growth through daily homilies,

religious education, and relationships with counselors and fellow Orthodox campers; 3) a safe and naturally beautiful setting for group living; and 4) a caring and loving staff fully dedicated to the camper's well-being and growth. For more information and to register, go to their website at: <https://avcamp.org/>. Our parish goes 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, July 1<sup>st</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. Right now the session is full so when you register, make sure you are put on the waiting list. If you have questions or would like more information, please speak with our Camp coordinator, Anaam Abueita (810-686-9744).

**ALTAR SERVERS AND PARENTS** It is an awesome and humbling experience to assist the clergy in the Holy Place. All boys who are 7 years of age and older are invited to participate serving God's Holy Altar. If you would like to serve, please let Father Joe know.

**CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS** We are now able to take Credit or Debit Card purchases and donations. If you would like to make a purchase or a donation, please come to the office during normal Office Hours (see below) or call to do it by phone.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** Our average weekly offerings need to be \$5,630 to meet our 2018 Budget. On January 7<sup>th</sup>, our offerings were \$3,100, so we were short \$2,530 ☹! If you haven't already, please fill out your 2018 Offering Form and support God's work at St. George!

#### **COMING EVENTS**

THIS WEEK	The traditional fasting discipline is observed on Wednesday and Friday ( <i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil or their by-products</i> ).
Monday	<b>Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles</b> 3-5pm
Tuesday	<b>Pan-Orthodox Book Club at St. George</b> 6-8pm
Wednesday	<b>Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles</b> 12:30-2pm <b>SOYO Wednesday</b> 7-9pm
Thursday	<b>Dormition Monastery Dinner at Assumption</b> 5:30pm
Friday	<b>OCF at St. George</b> 7pm
Saturday	<b>Chanter &amp; Choir Workshop with Christopher Holwey</b> (see announcements) <b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm

#### **JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> ~ ST. NINA (NINO) OF GEORGIA**

The virgin Nina 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 Nina reached the age of twelve, her parents sold all their possessions and moved to Jerusalem. Soon after, Nina'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 Nina 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 Nina learned how Christ's Robe had arrived in Georgia, a country of pagans.

Soon Nina began to pray fervently to the Virgin Mary, asking her blessing to travel to Georgia

and be made worthy to venerate the Sacred Robe she had woven for her beloved Son. The Most Holy Virgin heard her prayers and appeared to Nina 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 Nina 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, Nina 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.)

Nina 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: 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 she finally arrived in Georgia, Saint Nina was greeted by a group of Mtskhetan shepherds near Lake Paravani, and she received a blessing from God to preach to the pagans of this region. Wherever Saint Nina went, those who heard her preach converted to the Christian Faith in great numbers. Saint Nina 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 Nina’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 Nina, 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 Nina 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 Nina of his decision. As a result of the unceasing labors of Equal-to-the-Apostles Nina, Georgia was established as a nation solidly rooted in the Christian Faith.

Saint Nina 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.

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➤ **OFFICE HOURS** Our secretary, Kelly Dotson, works Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays (10am-4pm) and Tuesdays and Wednesdays (1-4pm). Kelly can be reached at the church office 810-732-0720 or [kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com).