

Saint Nina, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2025 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

# The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

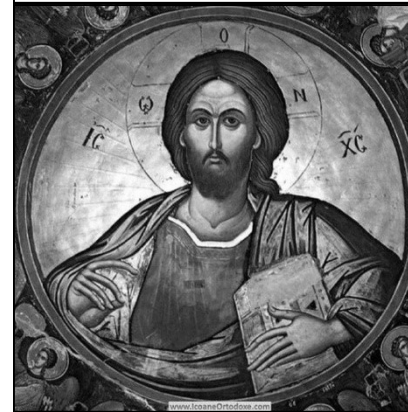
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## Christ's gifts to us



**Now that Christmas is all over,** are you tired thinking about presents? Today's epistle reading tells us about a different kind of present— a gift that Christ gives to each of us. The epistle says that our Lord, Jesus Christ, gives each one of us a gift—not one that you can use for a few weeks and throw away, but one that you use for your whole life. It is a gift that we use to help God's church!

Let's listen to the epistle. "And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers." Some of those words you might not know yet, but the epistle tells us that whatever gift God gives us, whatever we do with our lives, we do it so that we can "build up the body of Christ." That means that whatever we do, we do it so we can help others grow closer to Jesus Christ.

Sometimes people think that if you love God very much, then you should definitely be a priest, or you should become a monk or a nun. But that's not what the epistle tells us today. We all have different gifts, and God wants us to use them to share His love with other people.

Do you see what Saint Paul tells us in the epistle? Each one of us has a different task for our life. But each one of us also has the **SAME** task—to help others grow close to our Lord!

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Apostles
- Church
- Georgia
- Gifts
- Gospel
- Kings
- Nina
- Pastors
- Saint Nina
- Teachers
- Vines

G	D	N	T	Y	R	V	M	B	T	L	A	G	B	Z
F	C	J	F	J	R	V	I	E	Q	N	B	O	Z	K
G	E	O	R	G	I	A	A	N	I	D	I	S	D	P
Q	F	N	V	F	K	C	D	N	E	P	N	P	J	B
S	J	W	S	R	H	N	K	P	I	S	E	E	Z	V
Y	R	L	S	E	L	T	S	O	P	A	G	L	T	V
S	F	O	R	C	H	U	R	C	H	P	I	B	X	E
G	A	S	T	C	L	O	P	A	S	A	H	K	S	E
A	I	I	E	S	K	L	O	I	J	F	G	I	F	C
T	S	R	N	G	A	J	R	S	U	Y	J	N	E	K
G	O	Z	X	T	W	P	T	E	K	V	V	G	Z	O
F	V	A	S	H	P	F	C	I	W	R	W	S	I	Z
O	P	M	Z	J	I	A	P	L	R	U	E	V	Z	M
L	U	K	R	G	M	T	U	S	Z	M	S	U	K	G
V	F	X	E	E	X	E	D	L	X	O	M	B	I	L

# WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is another icon of Saint Nina.

You can find her cross of vines, can't you?

Do you see what she is holding in her other hand? It's a scroll. That means she preached the good news of Christ to people!



# SAINT NINA OF GEORGIA AND HER CROSS OF VINES

**Think for a minute about your country's greatest hero.** Is it George Washington riding into battle on his horse? Is it somebody else who helped save the country?

This week we will celebrate the feastday of a great hero from the country of Georgia (a country with Russia to the north and Turkey and Armenia to the south). Saint Nina lived long, long ago, but the people of Georgia have never forgotten her. That's because she brought Christianity to their country, and the people have kept the Christian faith ever since. That's 1,700 years...and counting!



Saint Nina had a cross made out of vines, which she brought with her everywhere. She carried her cross and taught the people about Christ. With God's help, she healed many people with her cross.

Once, the queen of Georgia was very, very sick, and the Christian people brought her to Saint Nina. When the saint prayed to God, the queen suddenly got better. She wanted to be baptized, and later her husband, the king, was baptized too.

Once the rulers became Christians, the faith really took off in Georgia. Saint Nina is called the "enlightener of Georgia" because she brought the light of Christ to this country!



Here is St. Nina's holy cross made out of vines. You can even visit it in Georgia!

**We celebrate St. Nina on Tuesday, January 14th (OC: Jan. 27th).**