

**Russian Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ**

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Schedule for the Week of January 27 – February 2, 2008

Sunday Jan 27	Отдание Богоявление Leave-taking of Theophany 8:30 AM Nocturns, Confessions 9:00 AM Liturgy / Литургия
Saturday Feb 2	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Feb 3	St. Maximos the Confessor 8:30 AM Nocturns, Confessions 9:00 AM Liturgy / Литургия

Момент Крещения Господня

Момент Крещения Господня – один из самых страшных и трагических моментов Его жизни. Рождество – это мгновение, когда Бог, по Своей любви к человеку желающий спасти нас от вечной погивели, облачается в человеческую плоть, когда плоть человеческая пронизывается Божеством, когда обновляется она, делается вечной, чистой, светозарной, той плотью, которая путем Креста, Воскресения, Вознесения сядет одесную Бога и Отца. Но в день Крещения Господня завершается этот подготовительный путь: теперь, созревший уже в Своем человечестве Господь, достигший полной меры Своей зрелости Человек Иисус Христос, соединившийся совершенной любовью и совершенным послушанием с волей Отца, идет вольной волей, свободно исполнить то, что Предвечный Совет предназначал. Теперь Человек Иисус Христос эту плоть приносит в жертву и в дар не только Богу, но всему человечеству, берет на Свои плечи весь ужас человеческого греха, человеческого падения, и окунается в эти воды, которые являются теперь водами смерти, образом погивели, несут в себе все зло, весь яд и всю смерть греховную. (*Mum. Антоний Сурожский*)

Feb. 15 (Friday):	Presentation / Сретение
March 10	Great Lent Starts
April 27	Pascha / Пасха

Thank you!

To each and every one of you who helped and assisted in our Nativity celebration.

To the singers who labor at rehearsals to prepare for the feast

To the Sisterhood who arranged all the background needs and who prepared a most delicious meal following the Nativity Liturgy

To all of you members and friends who volunteered your time, efforts and energies in transporting, setting up, and in cleaning the church after the festivities.

Спаси Вас Господу!

Schedule your House Blessings

If you desire to have your house blessed at this time of year, which is our custom following the Feast of Theophany of the Lord, please leave your name and your phone number.

Father John will contact you to set up a time for blessing your home. Thank you!

Name: _____

Telephone # _____

Best time to call: _____ (AM/PM)

Равноапостольная Нина, Просветительница Грузии

Святая Нина родилась в Каппадокии в знатной и благочестивой семье. Еще в отрочестве мысль ее остановилась на судьбе хитона Господнего, и она страстно возжелала найти святыню.

Получив чудесным образом от Богоматери крест из виноградных лоз и повеление идти в Иверийскую страну для евангельского благовествования, св. Нина отправилась из Иерусалима в Грузию искать святой хитон и учить народ Христову Евангелию. При помощи Божией архиепископ Антиохийский Ефстафий вместе с Ниной за несколько лет просветили Иверийскую страну, вырвав ее из тьмы идолопоклонства.

По преданию, Нина нашла только место, то есть могилу, в которой вместе с умершей девицей Сидонией была зарыта и риза Господня.

Одна женщина с громким плачем носила по улицам города своего умирающего ребенка, взывая о помощи. Взяв больного дита, святая Нина положила его на свое, устроенное из листьев, ложе; помолившись, она возложила на малютку свой крест из виноградных лоз и потом возвратила его плакавшей матери живым и здоровым.

After Christ was baptized, the first words that He said were: 'Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand'. Why? Because after we have been baptized, we are always tempted and the only way to end temptation is to repent. But what exactly do these words mean? What is repentance? What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

In order to understand the meaning of the word repentance, we must first understand the nature of the opposite of repentance, the reason for repentance - sin. Sin comes to us in three stages.

Firstly, we have a thought, a temptation towards evil. Secondly, we entertain that thought and imagine its attraction until it becomes irresistible. Thirdly we act on that thought that we have entertained. These are the three stages of sin.

Repentance also has three stages.

Firstly, our consciences are pricked, we have the thought that what we have done is bad. Secondly, we entertain that consciousness and develop it until action becomes irresistible. Thirdly, we act. These are the three stages of repentance.

Repentance then is not just an idea, a thought, it is above all an action. Repentance is a change of mind

which leads to a practical and visible change in our way of life.

Yes, it is true, that often we seem to come to confession with the same sins as before. Yes, it is true, that often we seem to make no progress, that although we have done wrong yet again, we have no tears, no depth of repentance to make us change our way of life. However, this should not mean that we lose hope, that we despair. That would be to fall to another temptation of the demon, the thought that we are unable to repent and that all our efforts are futile. Merely coming to confession and saying that we are weak, that we have done wrong yet again, that our repentance lacks depth, is an act of repentance in itself. As the Gospel says, we must forgive even unto seven times seventy. Moreover, by continued repentance and the determination to repent, eventually depth of repentance and tears will come to us.

If this is repentance, what then is the Kingdom of Heaven?

Firstly, the Kingdom of Heaven was Christ Himself Who spoke these words to the people of that time, before whom He stood. The Kingdom of Heaven was indeed at hand, for He stood before them.

Secondly, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand in another sense and stands before us in the here and now. The Kingdom of Heaven is here and now, but it depends on our willingness to accept Christ and His Holiness, Mercy and Grace. At this very moment each one of us is in fact able to meet God and enter into His eternal joy, but only if we wish to do so through deep repentance. The joy of the Kingdom of Heaven, simply the state of contentment with God, our well-being, is open to all who wish to accept Christ, the Word of God.

Yes, it is true that our well-being does to some extent depend on whether we have a job, a roof over our heads, enough money to pay our way in the world. But none of these things is absolutely essential, for there are people who have all these things but are still unhappy, they do not have the Kingdom of Heaven. And there are people who have none of these things and yet they are happy, they have the Kingdom of Heaven.

In other words the presence of the Kingdom of Heaven depends ultimately not on our external circumstances but on ourselves, on our interior disposition, on our ability to repent. Indeed it is only if we repent that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

May God grant us the desire for that repentance.

(excerpted from Orthodox England)