

ST. NINA



EQUAL TO THE APOSTLES

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sunday of Zaccheus

February 17, 2013

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor; Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris, Cantors Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area.

We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 8.

GLAD TIDINGS

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Anna, Ryan, Betty, Mary, Beth, Ann Helene, Debra and Michael.

+++ The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support the parish in this way.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received last Sunday: Tithe Offering, \$591.00; Candles, \$3.00; Parish Dues, \$25.00; Holy Day: \$4.00; Kitchen, \$255.00; Diocesan Dues, \$65.00; Energy, \$10.00; Food Coupons, \$200.00,, for a total of \$1153.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offer their God-given treasure and labored for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls! The attendance was 44 adults and 13 children last Sunday.

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Father Lucas, Pani Lucas, Eleni Pallas, Anna Zacharyczuk, Marilyn Korba, Eleanor Korba, Michael George, Maria Garcia and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of **\$1694.00** from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ Please be certain to see a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$5550.00 on this project to date!

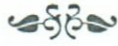
+++ The **Clothing Drive** is a permanent on-going project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals and shoes for the benefit of our parish. The bags can be left in the vestibule or on the front porch of the rectory. Please invite your friends and neighbors to assist us in disposing of unwanted clothing, shoes and fabrics.

+++ The **Luncheon prior to the Great Fast** will be held after the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, March 10** and will be followed by **Forgiveness Vespers**. The **Food Listing Sheet** will be available next Sunday.

+++ Please pray the Lord our God grants us an enrichment of our spiritual lives for his glory.

+++ The next **Pirohi Sale** will be **Saturday, March 2** and the **Bake Sale** will be **March 15 and 16**.

+++ May all glory, adoration and worship be accorded our God in the Holy Trinity by all the faithful of our parish with one mind, one soul and one heart each day of the week!



BIBLE



*Its light is like the body
of heaven in its clearness;
Its vastness like the bosom
of the sea;
Its variety like scenes
of nature.*

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN



KNOWLEDGE AGAINST IGNORANCE

No person can be considered well educated who has not some knowledge of the Old and the New Testament. Here it is not a question of vocabulary, though the infinite riches of the English language are nowhere so gloriously displayed. It is not a question of history, though the development of man may be profitably studied in the chronicles of a powerful and intellectual people. It is a question of knowledge against ignorance. The language, the episodes, the personages of the Bible are so interwoven with our daily speech, with the books we read, with every human utterance throughout Christendom, that our children cannot afford to be ignorant of it.

LAURA B. RICHARDS



HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE BIBLE

1. Come to the Word expectantly.
2. Come surrendering to the truths here revealed.
3. Come expecting to use the truths here revealed.
4. Come unhurriedly.
5. Come with a proper emphasis.
6. Come to it even if nothing apparently comes from your coming.

E. STANLEY JONES



BIBLE WITHIN THE BIBLE

The world of the Bible is a great world. I have wandered through it all, but I have never made it all my own. But some friendly hills and valleys in it are mine by right of experience. Some chapters have comforted me; some have made me homesick; some have braced me like a bugle call; and some always enlarge me within by a sense of unutterable fellowship with a great, quiet Power that pervades all things and fills me. Such passages make up for each of us his Bible within the Bible, and the extent and variety of these claims he has staked out in it measure how much of the great Book has really entered into the substance of his life.

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH



WHAT THE BIBLE CAN DO FOR US

The Bible can give us the wholesome pleasure of reading good literature.

The Bible can help us to understand human nature in ourselves and in others.

The Bible can help us to understand many practices and ideals of our present social order by showing us their roots and how they came to be.

The Bible can correct and elevate our ideals and our faith by its strong and noble expression of the noblest faith and ideals ever given to man.

The Bible can help us to live worthily through the inspiration of the great examples it sets before us.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY





WAY OF LIGHT

The Bible is a great and responsible book, not a sad book. The last thing about it that one can say justly is that it is a sad book. The Bible is a brave, strong book. It seldom speaks easily about life, but it never speaks desperately about it. If it has to admit, as it has to admit, that things at one time or another—and it may even be for the most part—are full of difficulty, the Bible never locks us up in a cell, leaving us to mere anger or despair or remorse. In the Bible there is always a way out. It may not be an easy way; it may not be the way that we should have chosen; but a way out there always is.

JOHN A. HUTTON



BIBLE BE'S

- "Be ye therefore perfect." Matthew 5:48.
- "Be ye holy in all manner of conversation; . . . be ye holy; for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15, 16.
- "Be patient." James 5:7.
- "Be at peace." Job 22:21.
- "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." Matthew 14:27.
- "Be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." 2 Peter 3:14.
- "Be subject one to another." 1 Peter 5:5.
- "Be clothed with humility." 1 Peter 5:5.
- "Be sober, be vigilant." 1 Peter 5:8.
- "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another." Ephesians 4:32.
- "Be strong and of a good courage." Joshua 1:6.



WORD OF LIFE

The Bible is the Word of Life. I beg you will read it and find this out for yourself—read, not little snatches here and there, but long passages that will really be the road to the heart of it.

You will not only find it full of real men and women, but also of things you have wondered about and been troubled about all your life, as men have been always, and the more you read, the more will it become plain to you what things are worthwhile and what are not; what things make men happy—loyalty, right dealing, speaking the truth, readiness to give everything for what they think their duty, and, most of all, the wish that they may have the real approval of the Christ, who gave everything for them; and the things that are guaranteed to make men unhappy—selfishness, cowardice, greed, and everything that is low and mean.

When you have read the Bible, you will know that it is the Word of God, because you will have found it the key to your own heart, your own happiness, and your own duty.

WOODROW WILSON

MEDICINE CHEST

- For the blues, read Psalm 27.
- For an empty purse, read Psalm 37.
- If discouraged about work, Psalm 128.
- If people seem unkind to you, John 15.
- If you are losing confidence in people,
I Corinthians 13.
- If you cannot have your own way, James 3.
- If you are all out of sorts, Hebrews 12.
- For a traveling companion, Psalm 121.

THE UNIVERSAL BOOK

How many ages and generations
Have brooded and wept and agonized
Over this Book!

What untellable joys and ecstasies,
What support to martyrs at the stake!
To what myriads has it been
The shore and rock of safety—
The refuge from the driving tempest
and wreck.

Translated into all languages,
How it has united this diverse world!
Of its thousands there is not a verse,
Not a word but is thick-studded
With human emotion.

WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR
THE CHRISTIAN YEAR



TRIBUTE

This book is the hive of all sweetness, the armory of all well-tempered weapons, the tower containing the crown jewels of the universe, the lamp that kindles all other lights, the home of all majesties and splendors, the stepping-stone on which heaven stoops to kiss the earth with its glories, the marriage-ring that unites the celestial and the terrestrial, while all the clustering white-robed multitudes of the sky stand round to rejoice at the nuptials. This book is the wreath into which are twisted all garlands, the song into which hath struck all harmonies, the river of light into which hath poured all the great tides of hallelujahs, the firmament in which all suns and moons and stars and constellations and galaxies and immensities and universes and eternities wheel and blaze and triumph.

T. DE WITT TALMAGE



HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

It shall greatly helpe ye to understande
Scripture,
If thou mark
Not only what is spoken or wrytten,
But of whom,
And to whom,
With what words,
At what time,
Where,
To what intent,
With what circumstances,
Considering what goeth before
And what followeth.

JOHN WYCLIFFE



WHY I READ MY BIBLE

1. Within its pages I find power for the ordering of my inner life.
2. It offers a way of escape from those inner perils which threaten our modern life.
3. In its pages are found the secrets by which men walk the pathways of light and hope and freedom.
4. It assures me that man is supremely dear to God.
5. It points the way to world brotherhood.
6. It tells me whither I am bound and why.
7. It offers me sound social philosophy.
8. It teaches me, in the words of Emerson, that "the lesson of life is to believe what the years and the centuries say, as against the hours."

PAUL B. KERN





EVER-FLOWING RIVER

The Bible is a great river of spiritual reality rising out of Israel's remote past and continuing to flow more deeply and powerfully through succeeding centuries. It is fed by many rushing streams and mighty torrents and into it has flowed the spiritual wisdom and insight of twelve centuries.

The long river of the Bible is broad and very deep, and the Spirit of God moves upon the face of its waters. Here men that thirst come to drink of the water of life. The power of its onrushing current turns many a wheel. It gives direction and continuity to our individual understanding of spiritual things. Following the shores of this river, no man need lose his way in jungles of speculation nor deserts of spiritual dryness. It is like the ancient river that "went out of Eden to water the garden," for it is a river that enriches the soil of our civilization.

ALICE PARMELEE



UNIVERSAL BOOK

The Bible is not only many books. It is a literature. History, poetry, prophecy, philosophy, theology, oratory, humor, sarcasm, irony, music, drama, tragedy, strategy, love tales, war tales, travelogues, laws, jurisprudence, songs, sermons, warnings, prayers, all are here. Was there ever such a literature? The Bible begins with a garden and ends with a city. It starts with a morning followed by a night and ends with a day that shall know no night. It breaks the silence with "In the beginning" and it hushes the universe to sleep with "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."

JOHN SNIDER



RECEPTIVITY

There is a very large part of the Bible which can be received by us only when we come into the places for which the words were given. There are promises for weakness which we can never get while we are strong. There are words for times of danger which we can never know while we need no protection. There are consolations for sickness whose comfort we can never get while we are in robust health. There are promises for times of loneliness, when men walk in solitary ways, which never can come with real meaning to us while loving companions are by our side. There are words for old age which we never can appropriate for ourselves along the years of youth, when the arm is strong, the blood warm, the heart brave. God cannot show us the stars while the sun shines in the heavens.

J. R. MILLER



MORE THAN A DEAD LETTER

The Bible is like a telescope. If a man looks *through* his telescope, then he sees worlds beyond; but if he looks *at* his telescope, then he does not see anything but that. The Bible is a thing to be looked through, to see that which is beyond; but most people only look at it; and so they see only the dead letter.

PHILLIPS BROOKS



What you bring away from the Bible depends to some extent on what you carry to it.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES



THE ANVIL

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door,
 And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
 Then looking in, I saw upon the floor
 Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," I said,
 "To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
 "Just one," said he, and then with twinkling
 eye,
 "The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, thought I, the anvil of God's word,
 For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;
 Yet though the noise of falling blows was
 heard,
 The anvil is unharmed . . . the hammers gone.



FLAME

The spiritual life of the world has burned
 during all these centuries with the pure flame
 first kindled by the sublime mystic of the
 Galilean Hills.

JOHN MORLEY



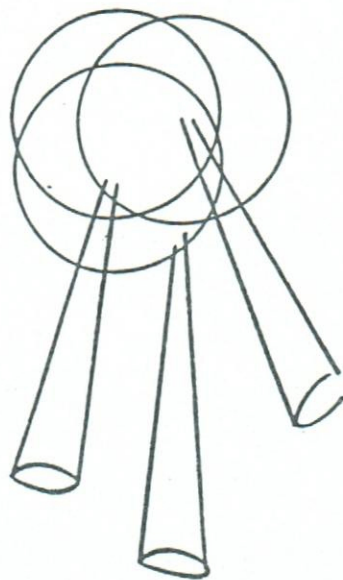
I thoroughly believe in a university education
 for both men and women; but I believe a knowl-
 edge of the Bible without a college course is
 more valuable than a college course without the
 Bible.

WILLIAM LYON PHELPS



What is home without a Bible?
 'Tis a home where daily bread
 For the body is provided,
 But the soul is never fed.

C. D. MEIGS



"There is a hunger
 in the land, not a
 hunger for bread,
 and not a thirst for
 water, but for the
 sound of the words
 of GOD."

Amos 8 : 11

It's good to say "I'm sorry"

Regardless of the size of the family unit, parents should not necessarily leap into action when they hear the inevitable progression from smack to shriek, to the inevitable thundering approach of the tattler train. What one parent heard one day was somewhat different. Five year old Nicholas, red-faced, appeared and said, "I had to hit Basil! He would not accept my apology!" At the same moment, Basil, two years older, leaped down the last stair. "I'm hurt! I'm very badly hurt! My arm and my feelings. He should have said sorry twice!"

We should all be alert to welcome everyone to a very sorry family. One of the cardinal rules of any family should be that anyone in the wrong must apologize for a transgression and ask for it to be accepted. This family practice, which does work, is something learned after seriously thinking about God's eager forgiveness if we apologize in the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation. Children often think about it and in their own minds point out life's serious realities. Parents both apologize to each other when they are wrong and make mistakes, but not necessarily to their children when they swore, used bad and offensive language, lied, misbehaved, shouted or handed out unfair consequences.

This can become a light bulb moment. What serious logic! Apologize to your kid? What a concept! Everybody has parents who are oftentimes wrong, but never apologize. To admit even the most horrible mistake would have been parental heresy. It would have implied weakness, or diluted authority. Anarchy would result!

When parents mess up on occasion, the children find themselves in the surreal situation of having to pretend that nothing had happened, which if it didn't rock the world, certainly fragmented their sense of justice. No parent wants their children to think of themselves as an

exception or being an exclusion to the expectations of our Creator God. We do not want them to think there is no way in God's plan of salvation for our redemption, even after sinning blatantly. Forgiveness must be sought because under the right conditions, forgiveness from God is available. And it includes parents and children, adults and little ones.

As believers, as parents who genuinely care about their children in the same sense our Creator does, as our God does, as our Saviour does, we must insist that everyone in the household apologize to each other, and that we make certain the aggrieved party gets the unfolding message.

Yes, it is hard! Yes, it is difficult! Often the husband and wife, adults both are so embarrassed when they transgress the charity prescribed by our Lord, God and Saviour, that they continue to put off repentance or avoid it all together. Still thinking of themselves as "the law," having to recognize humbly that being bigger and certainly older than the children, paying for the all the games, the soccer shoes, or even college, does not always make them right and correct in all their decisions and conclusions. When parents finally begin to walk the walk, the children notice immediately. They are indelibly impressed with repentant behavior. In fact, it has been known that they try to convert other families into aping and copying and participating in forgiveness therapy behavior.

When Basil along with his mother was at the home of a friend whose father hit the roof and let fly a long string of minor cusswords and vulgarities, the guilty dad turned to his counterpart, Basil's mother, and asked her pardon for the offensiveness. Basil then piped up, "Aren't you going to say you're sorry to us kids?"

Basil had to be reminded that different families have different ways and different patterns of inter-relating, but that we have gotten used to ours and favor our own way because it strengthens our own family and makes it God-like. Not only are there three most beautiful words, "I love you," but when warranted they may also be understood as "I was wrong," and "I am sorry."

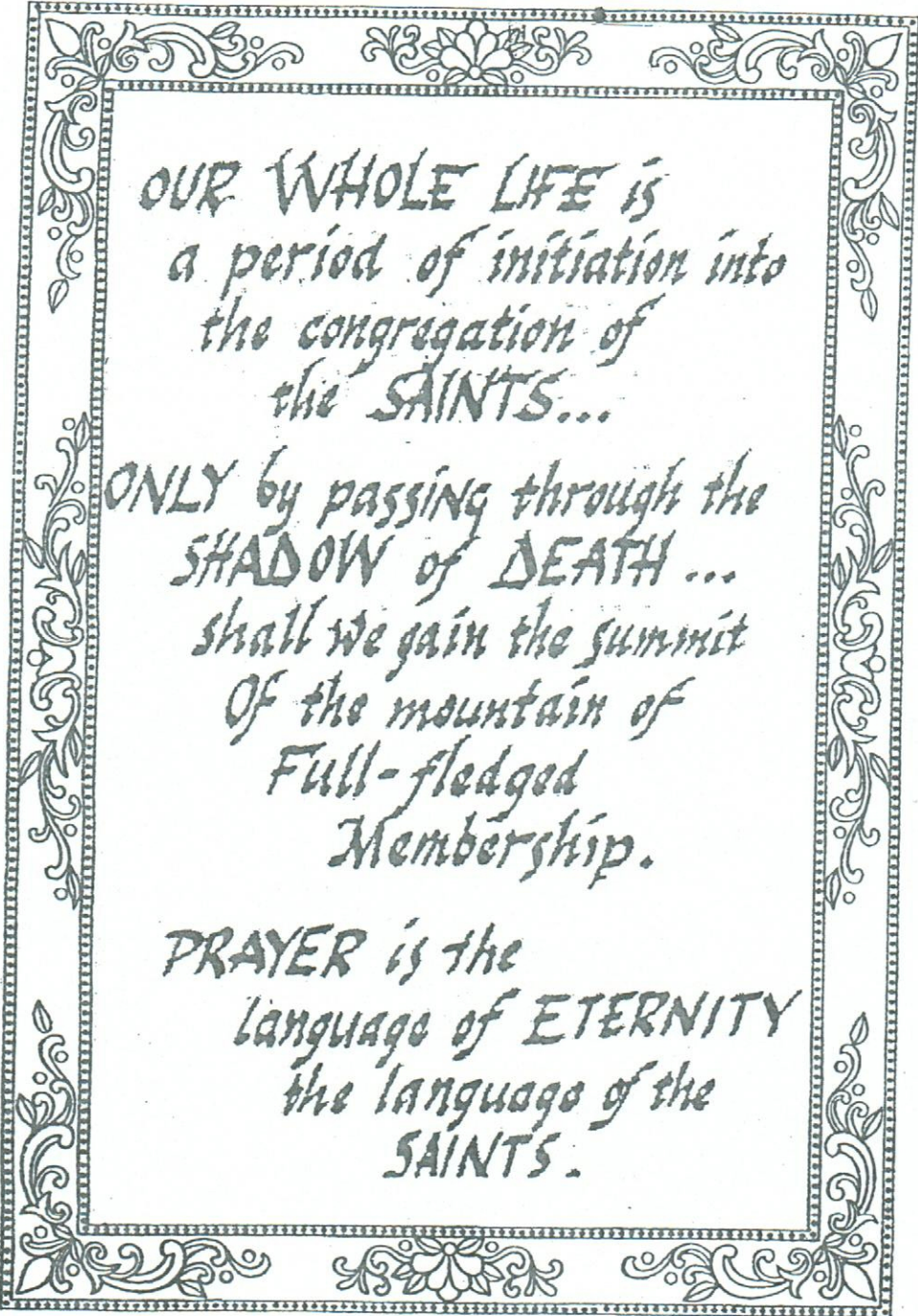
It is no big deal; it is no huge scene. Saying and meaning we are sorry tells children that they are more than beloved; they are considered people of integrity, capable of fidelity by their parents, genuinely seeking to do God's will along with their parents, who want them to go out into the world respecting authority, respecting and appreciating the love God has for them, and of course, respecting themselves as created in God's image as well.

All should realize an apology is due to children when parents do something wrong. Parents will not look weak and the children will grow up strong!

a
Prayerful
Presence
Amid Grief



*Being a follower of Jesus Christ means we believe in the history of humanity,
even though it is marked by evil and suffering, the final word belongs to
life and love
because our heavenly Father sent his only begotten Son to
dwell among us
that
we might dwell in him.*



OUR WHOLE LIFE is
a period of initiation into
the congregation of
the SAINTS...

ONLY by passing through the
SHADOW of DEATH ...
shall we gain the summit
of the mountain of
Full-fledged
Membership.

PRAYER is the
language of ETERNITY
the language of the
SAINTS.

THE ENLIGHTENER OF GEORGIA

S AINT NINA was a fourth century Saint who is credited with spreading Christianity in Georgia, for which she is commonly referred to as its "Enlightener" and "Equal to the Apostles." She was born in the region of Cappadocia in the latter part of the third century. Her father Zabulon was a general in the Roman army; her mother the sister of Patriarch Juvenaly of Jerusalem. It is said that she was also the cousin of St. George the Great-Martyr.

When Nina was 12 years old, her parents both entered into the monastic life, leaving her under the spiritual care of Patriarch Juvenaly. Even at an early age, Nina had hopes of going to Georgia to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. One night, the Theotokos appeared to her in a dream, revealing to her that she, herself, was supposed to take Christianity to Georgia, but was never able to do so. The Virgin instructed Nina to go there to do the work of the Lord, promising to be her personal guardian and protectress. In the dream, Nina was given a cross by the Theotokos formed out of grapevines. When Nina awoke from sleep, she was clutching the cross in her hands!

With the blessing of the Patriarch, Nina set out for Georgia, where she quickly gained the love and respect of the Georgian people. She was successful in converting the Georgian Emperor Mirian, his wife Nana and their son, Bakar to Christianity. Bakar himself became a zealous assistant to Nina as she traveled the rugged terrain of Georgia preaching about our Lord wherever she went. It is ironic that while many Christians were being martyred throughout the Roman Empire by the Emperor Diocletian, Georgia, throughout the tireless work of the saintly Nina, had become a Christian nation.

St. Nina peacefully fell asleep in the Lord in 335 AD. Her relics rest in a church in Samtavro.