

Saint Mina, the Miracle performer

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Aim

- ✠ To know about the life of Saint Mina, the Miracle performer
- ✠ To learn how to apply St. Mina's virtues in our lives

Key verses

"If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Matthew 19-21)

Lesson

Today (25-Nov) is the feast of Saint Mina, the Miracle performer. St. Mina was born in Egypt in the year 285A.D, in the city of Niceous. His parents were good Christians; his father's name was Eudoxius, and his mother's name was Euphemia.

His father, Eudoxius, was a native of the city of Nakiyos (Nikiu) and was its Governor. His brother was envious of him and he brought charges against him before the Emperor. The Emperor transferred him to Africa and appointed him Governor over it. The people were pleased with him because he was merciful.

His mother Euphemia had no children and was always praying to God to grant her a child. One day she went to church on the feast of our Lady, the Virgin, the Mother of God, at Attribe. She saw the children in the church wearing their beautiful clothes with their parents. She wept before the icon of Our Lady St. Mary, entreating her to intercede for her before her beloved Son, in order that He would give her a son. A voice came from the icon saying, "Amen." She rejoiced in what she had heard and realized that the Lord had heard her prayers. When she returned to her home and told her husband about it, he replied, "May God's will be done." His Mum said that if God grants her a child she would call him Mina and that is because if the first letter of the word "Amen" is taken to the end, it becomes **Mina** (or **Mena**), which means **Steadfast** or **Amen**.

The Lord gave them this saint and they called him Mina, according to the voice that his mother heard. His parents taught him reading and writing and they brought him in a Christian manner. When he was 11 years old, his father departed at a good old age. Then his mother departed 3 years later.

St. Mina devoted his life to fasting, praying and to living a Christian life. Because of everyone's love towards him and his father, they placed him in his father's position. In spite of that, he did not forsake his worshipping. St. Mina wanted in his heart to leave everything and live in the desert. When **Diocletian** left Christianity and issued his orders to worship idols, many were martyred for the Name of the Lord Christ. St. Mina left his position and went to the desert, where he stayed many days worshipping God with all his heart.

One day he saw the heavens open and the martyrs crowned with beautiful crowns. He heard a voice saying, "**He who toils for the Name of the Lord Christ shall receive these crowns.**" He

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returned to the city over which he was Governor and confessed the name of the Lord Christ. Knowing that he belonged to a noble family, they tried to dissuade him from his faith and promised him honors and precious gifts. When he did not change his mind, they threatened him and the Governor ordered him to be tortured. When the Governor failed to turn him away from his faith in the Lord Christ, he sent him to his brother so that he might influence him but he failed also. Finally, he ordered his head to be cut off with the sword, his body to be cast in the fire and his ashes to be scattered in the wind. The body remained in the fire for 3 days, but it was not harmed.

His sister came and gave the soldiers a lot of money and they let her take the body. She put it in a sack made of fronds and decided to go to Alexandria, as her brother had previously advised her. She embarked with her brother's body on one of the ships to Alexandria.

During their trip, sea beasts came out of the water and attacked the passengers aboard the ship. They were frightened and screamed with fear. The Saint's sister prayed to the Lord and asked for the intercession of her brother. While the passengers were in fear, fire went forth from her brother's body and burned the faces of the beasts. They dived immediately into the water and as they reappeared, the fire burned them again. They finally dived and did not reappear.

When the ship arrived at the city of Alexandria, most of the people went out with the father, the Patriarch. They carried the holy body with reverence and honor and entered the city with a venerable celebration and placed it in the church, after they shrouded it in expensive shrouds. When the time of persecution ended, the angel of the Lord appeared to the honorable Patriarch, Pope Athanasius the Apostolic. The angel informed him of the Lord's command which was to place the body of St. Mina on a camel and to take it out of the city without letting anyone lead it, but to follow it from a distance until it stops at a place that the Lord had designated. They walked behind the camel until they arrived at a place called [Lake Bayad](#), in the district of [Marriot](#). There they heard a voice saying, "This is the place where the Lord wishes the body of his beloved Mina to be placed." They lowered the body and placed it in a coffin, then they situated it in a beautiful garden and many miracles happened through the body.

Later on, the people of Pentapolis ([the western five cities, in Libya](#)) rose against the cities around Alexandria. The people were getting ready to face the Berbers, and the Governor decided to take the body of St Mina with him to be his deliverer and his strong protector. He took the body secretly and through the blessings of this saint, he overcame the Berbers and returned victorious.

The Governor decided not to return the body of the Saint to its original place and wanted to take it to Alexandria. On the way back, they passed by Lake Bayad, St. Mina's original place. The camel carrying the body knelt down and would not move in spite of frequent beatings. They moved the body over another camel, but again this second camel did not move from its place. The Governor finally realized that this was the Lord's command. He made a coffin from decay-resistant wood and placed the silver coffin in it, then returned to his city. That is why there are 2 camels next to St Mina in his icon.

When the Lord wanted to disclose the location of St. Mina's holy body, He did it in this manner. There was a shepherd in the desert. One day a sheep with mange (A type of animal skin disease) slipped down into the water of a well near the place of the saint's body. The sheep then came out of the water and rolled over in the sand of that place, and instantly the sheep was healed. When the shepherd saw this miracle, he was amazed. He took some of the sand and mixed it with water and smeared it over every sheep with mange, as well as on those with other infirmities, and immediately they were healed.

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The news of these miracles spread in all the countries until the Emperor of Constantinople heard of them. He had an only daughter and she was leprous. Her father sent her to the place where the saint's body was and she inquired from the shepherd how these miracles were happening. She took some of the sand, moistened it with water, smeared it on her body and slept the night in that place. In her sleep she saw St. Mina saying to her, "Arise early and dig in this place, and you will find my body." When she woke up, she found herself cured. She began digging as she was told and she found the holy body. She sent word to her father, informing him of the news. The Emperor rejoiced exceedingly, thanked the Lord and glorified His Name. He then sent men and money and built a church in that place and it was consecrated on the 15th of Baounah.

When Arcadius and Honorius reigned, they ordered a city to be built there. Multitudes of people came to that church asking for the intercession of the blessed St Mina. The Lord had honored him with many signs and wonders that appeared from his pure body. When the Arabs came to Egypt, some of them attacked the city and the church was destroyed; only ruins remained. When His Holiness, the late Pope Kyrillos the 6th was ordained Patriarch over the See of St. Mark, he took interest in building a large monastery in this area (Marriot) in the name of St Mina. He spent a great deal of money in establishing it. There are now many churches in the monastery, visited by many Orthodox worshippers who go there to receive blessings and to pray. He also bought one hundred acres of land and built a fence around it. He ordained a number of monks who had high degrees of scientific and religious education.

Pope Kyrillos the 6th and St Mina had a very strong friendship and they were very close. St Mina used to appear to pope Kyrillos and talk to him and they performed miracles together many times.

Twelve years ago, there was a girl who loved Pope Kyrillos very much. He was her favorite saint and she had a very strong relationship with him. She used to have a photo of Pope Kyrillos on top of her bed and everyday she would talk to him as if he was a close friend to her. She would also notice that he would always smile to her. She, however, didn't know much about St Mina and the devil gave her a thought in her heart that St Mina is not a great Saint. One day she said to herself: ***How come St Mina doesn't perform miracles like Pope Kyrillos; how is he called the "Miracle performer" then? If he was as good as Pope Kyrillos, then he would have many miracle books like him.*** Of course that was a very wrong thought of her and it was from the devil. The next morning she woke up and looked at the photo of Pope Kyrillos to say good morning like she was used to, she found him with a big frown on his face. She was surprised and shocked. She spent the whole day thinking why Pope Kyrillos would be upset. She stood in front of the photo and talked to pope Kyrillos and cried and asked him why he was upset at her. At the same moment she remembered the thought that she had about St Mina. She felt bad and ashamed to think like this and she brought a photo of St Mina and said to him: ***"I am sorry to think like that. I am sure you are a great Saint because you endured many sufferings for Christ but please help me to know more about you and please forgive me"***. Instantly, she looked at the photo of Pope Kyrillos and she found him smiling to her. Since this day, she started to know and read more about St Mina; she realized that these 2 saints love each other and are connected always. She bought a photo of St Mina and Put it next to the one of Pope Kyrillos and she has them on top of her bed until this moment. He became her favorite saint with Pope Kyrillos.

St Mina was always known for his courage. He was never scared of anything or anyone. His parents departed when he was young and he took his own responsibility from this young age. St Mina was a simple and humble person. He was a very rich person but he used to love everyone and to help the poor and the needy. When St Mina was in the desert, the devil used to fight him with many temptations; appearing to him in the form of women, or beasts to frighten him but he was never shaken at it. He was always strong and firm in Christ regardless of what happened. St Mina received 3 crowns: for virginity, for living in the desert, and for martyrdom.

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May God help us to know and appreciate the virtues of St Mina that we know about the greatness of this Saint.

The intercession of Mari-Mina be with us all.

Glory is to God, forever. Amen.

