

The Word

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14

Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ

Tradition

February 2012

As Tevye explains in the opening of act 1 – tradition is what maintains balance amidst the dynamics of life! Throughout history, tradition has been a gift from God serving mankind, nature, and all of creation. The tradition of the earth's rotation allows the balance of day and night. The tradition of seasons enables the fruits of the earth to know when to bloom, and the traditions of multiple natural human cycles support mankind in finding stability in every capacity of life! Appropriate traditions can help any piece of God's creation to find equilibrium – even a fiddler on a roof!

Traditions are not the balance themselves, but rather they assist us in our pilgrimage to experience edifying stability. Factors of the world in which we live impact our ability and strategy to experience peace, and in our ever-changing world, these factors take different form as time goes on. Striving to find solid footing on changing rungs of a ladder is a circus act, at best; however, the experience of healthy traditions and their ritual forms enable us to find that footing and stand erect in constantly changing environments.

We need the experience of tradition in our lives, yet as the environments around us change, the manifestation of tradition may take new forms in order to best serve mankind. If the ritual aspect of tradition becomes the goal of experience rather than the balance itself, then a grave danger arises in the possibility of missing the ultimate experience of balance that the tradition was originally intended to help us progress toward. Tradition serves a role, it is not the goal.

The Church has beautifully cultivated the gift of tradition that our Father in

Heaven has so graciously given to His creation. Traditions found in the divine services, daily life applications of faith, local and universal experience, and cultural relativism – all have been molded by the Church in the effort to bring us to the greatest balance that our souls yearn for – the experience of Jesus Christ. The authentic experience of Christ heals and sanctifies our souls, and manifests the eternal peace that the faithful recognize as the presence of God in our lives. This healing experience of Jesus Christ is our focus, it is our balance, and it is the purpose of our pilgrimage of faith. Traditions of the Church assist us in experiencing that peace.

Christian traditions that deal with the dogma and doctrine are immovable, as they are built directly upon the foundation of God's Word, and reflect the reality, nature, and experience of God, which is unchangeable (Hebrews 13:8) – however, many traditions not reflecting these doctrinal truths have been embraced, molded, and exercised by Christ's Church in the effort to assist the faithful in finding and experiencing the love of Jesus Christ. These manifestations in tradition are never arbitrarily founded or transformed, but with prayerful discernment are offered by the Church to the faithful, in ways that may never compromise the substance of that which the tradition leads us toward – the peace of God.

Multiple points in history have witnessed the Church's love throughout the world by virtue of Her willingness to appropriately extend God's gift of tradition to the faithful in capacities that we may access. This is the living tradition of the Orthodox Christian

Church, and it is as alive right now as it ever has been – existing to bring all of God's children to His embrace.

Experience the Living Word of God through His Living Tradition by participating in the Divine Liturgy. Experience and learn more about the embrace of Christ by participating in the multiple Church traditions found in the life and programming of the Nativity parish. Live as Christian pilgrims who experience the tradition of Christ's Church in the effort to feel His embrace, establish balance in your life, and find joy in His eternal peace.

To God be the glory, and we thank Him for the grace manifest in His tradition!

Fr. Luke



*Presentation of Our Lord
February 2*

February Services & Readings

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Feb 2 9:30 am	Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple	Hebrews 7:7-17	Luke 2:22-40
Feb 5 9:30 am	Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee Triodion Begins	II Timothy 3:10-15	Luke 18:10-14
Feb 10 9:30 am	St. Haralambos the Martyr	II Timothy 2:1-10	John 15:17-16:2
Feb 12 9:30 am	Sunday of the Prodigal Son	I Corinth. 6:12-20	Luke 15:11-32
Feb 18 9:30 am	Saturday of Souls	I Corinth. 10:23-28	Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36
Feb 19 9:30 am	Judgment Sunday Meatfare	I Corinth. 8:8-9:2	Matthew 25:31-46
Feb 25 9:30 am	Saturday of Souls	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Matthew 6:1-13
Feb 26 9:30 am	Forgiveness Sunday Cheesefare	Romans 13:11-14:4	Matthew 6:14-21

February Acolyte Schedule

All acolytes are asked to serve in February

February Candle Duty Schedule

February 5	Bruce Corcoran, Pete Gikkas, George Kokalis
February 12	Peter Eliades, George Georgeson, Scott Walters
February 19	Alex Slenkin, George Sotiras, Tony Kosmas
February 26	Chris Siefkas, Nick Livanos, Steve Riginich

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please use this list to pray for members of our parish who are sick or in need of God's care.



- Alexandra Edrich
- Fr. Haralambos Fox
- James Kolyvas
- Evelyn Lendaris
- Milton Sideris
- Paul Truebenbach, Sr.

From time to time, we may remove names that have been on the list for awhile. If you feel a name should remain on the list, or if you would like a new name placed on the list, **please contact the church office.**

The Word

Monthly Newsletter

published by

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Greek Orthodox Church
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Novato, CA 94949**

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**Fr. Luke Palumbis,
Pastor
frluke@nativityofchrist.org**

February 2012



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Parish Activities & Ministries

Philoptochos

Coffee Hour

We would like to thank the following people for hosting a coffee hour in the recent weeks and also to those who helped them but were not listed on the sign-up sheet. Thank you for taking the time to give back to our community. Your hard work is greatly appreciated

- 1/1 Vasilopeta Sunday
- 1/8 Paraskeve Karavolos
- 1/15 Gigi Pappas Medan
& Maria Pappas
- 1/22 The Gigounas Family
- 1/29 no host

For anyone interested, we are in need of coffee hour hosts in February on the 12th, 19th and 26th. Please contact Stassie Sideris at 415-479-4770, or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Vasilopeta

January 1st we celebrated the feast day of St. Basil with our annual Vasilopeta coffee hour to benefit St. Basil's Academy. We couldn't have done it without Sophia Stathis who made and donated 32 of the vasilopetes that were sold! Her dedication and hard work is a true example of giving back to the community through her God given talents. Thank you so much, Sophia! We are happy to inform you that we were able to send over \$700 to help this worthy cause. A Metropolis member visited the orphanage in December and observed that it is in disrepair due to a storm in October that left the girls' dorm without electricity for two weeks. The money they receive will be put to good use.

Membership

Our membership drive began on January 15th with a fantastic luncheon provided by Gigi Medan and her mother, Maria Pappas. This year our goal for membership is 100 members. Being a member of Philoptochos is more than dues and meetings. We are broadening our horizons and developing specialized small groups devoted to one purpose, whether it's philanthropy, fundraising, social events or something new. Now is the time to bring your talents and expertise to make our great organization even better. Don't forget to list your "talents" or interests on your membership form (see page 8),

and feel free to talk to any board member about an idea you might have. Who knows, it could be the beginning of a new activity or tradition for Philoptochos.

Philoptochos Luncheon

All Philoptochos members and spouses are invited to our beginning of the year luncheon on **Sunday, February 5th, at Inn Marin in Novato**. This is an informal lunch for the sole purpose of just getting together and taking some time to socialize. The luncheon price of \$28 includes tax and tip. Please contact Diane Kavantjas to add your reservation. Hope to see you there!

Visitation

The Outreach Committee is continuing its drive to add more volunteers to this Church ministry. During January our members met in small groups and visited some of our homebound parishioners. In February we hope to expand our ministry with new members who will join us visiting those of our seniors who may be experiencing isolation from their Community due to illness, loss or other hardship. This is an excellent way for all of us to share with others the message of God's love. Please consider giving this joy to someone in need. If you are interested in joining us for a visit, perhaps once a month, or to learn more about the program, please contact Diane Kavantjas at dkavantjas@netzero.net, George Tacticos at geotact@yahoo.com or Susan Stockton at 22pies@att.net.

Spiritual Retreats

For our first Spiritual Retreat of 2012, we are honored to host Dr. Fr. John Chryssavgis who will join us for a lecture and discussion on **Saturday, February 11. (See registration form on page 9.)** Dr. Fr. John Chryssavgis is a deacon of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and currently serves as theological advisor to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I on ecological issues. He completed his doctoral studies in Patristics at the University of Oxford (1983), and his teaching since has covered wide-ranging theological, political, socio-cultural, liturgical, and ecological topics. His research has specialized in the ascetic thought and practice of early Christianity, especially from the desert tradition of Egypt (4th century)

through the regions of Palestine (5th-6th centuries) and Sinai (7th century). Fr. Chryssavgis was appointed Professor of Theology at Holy Cross School of Theology in 1995 and directed the Religious Studies Program at Hellenic College until 2002. He established the Environment Office at the same School in 2001. Among his numerous publications are included: *Beyond the Shattered Image* (1999); *The Body of Christ* (2002); *In the Heart of the Desert* (2003); *Cosmic Grace, Humble Prayer* (2003); *The Reflections of Abba Zosimas* (2004); and *Remembering and Reclaiming Diakonia* (2009). He has also edited three volumes of the official statements by the Ecumenical Patriarch, published with Fordham University Press (2010-2012), the last of which focuses exclusively on environmental issues.

Easter Picnic

Plans are under way for our Easter picnic. There will be plenty of good food, fellowship, music, dancing and activities for the youth. Much help is needed for this event. We will need assistance with cooking the meat, serving at the bar (short shifts), set up, clean up and children's activities. Please see Debbie Kokalis, Rose Hunter, Irene Meehan or Carol Economy if you would like to assist with this event.

Adopt-A-Student

During the Christmas holiday, Philoptochos was able to send gift certificates to our two Seminarians at Holy Cross and Hellenic College to help them pay some of their expenses. Please read the following excerpt from an email I received after inquiring of one student what to send in our Christmas package. "People here suffer. Many need food stamps, WIC, Medicaid, can't fly home for the holidays, take out loans to continue. Everything you do makes a difference. With all the help from the Metropolis and the Leadership 100, the costs are still significant." We will be sending gift cards and packages periodically throughout the year. An email will be sent out beforehand so those wishing to contribute will have that opportunity.

Dates to Remember

- Jan 30 Deadline for Feb. 5 Luncheon Reservations
- Feb 5 Luncheon 12:30 pm
- Feb 7 Board Meeting - 6:30pm
- Feb 11 Spiritual Retreat at Nativity

Continued on Page 4



Parish Activities & Ministries

Continued from Page 3

Youth Ministry

As our youth ministry programs are consistently growing and bringing many to beautiful fellowship experiences - I wish to thank all of the advisors who are giving of their time and talents to create opportunities for our children to experience the love of Christ. I wish to thank all the parents and grandparents who have chosen to commit to support their children's participation in this aspect of the life of the Church. I wish to thank all of the youth who have represented their faith and families with great character and integrity in their participation. And, above all, I thank God for the opportunity He gives us to grow together in His Light and in His Love! Please continue to look at the parish calendar for scheduled events, and may God continue to bless the tradition of Nativity Youth Ministry!



HOPE/JOY

The HOPE/JOY families will meet on **Friday, February 10 at 5:30-8:30 pm** for a potluck, card-making (for the visitation committee to share with the elderly and homebound) and a movie. Watch your e-mail for an eVite and potluck sign-ups, and plan to be at the church for a fun evening of fellowship.

Folk Dance

The Minoan Dancers will be holding a fundraising "Cretan Glendi" on **Sunday, February 12th**. Dinner will be served and guests will enjoy listening and dancing to live musicians from Crete. They will also preview the dance performances that are being prepared for presentation at the annual Folk Dance Festival, which will be held this year in Anaheim on February 16-20. Please see the flyer on page 10 for ticket information.

Parish Council

The 2012 Parish Council was given the oath of office on January 1. Members include: **Connie Captanian, Fran Corcoran, Peter Eliades, George Gigounas, Pete Gikas, Rose Hunter, George Kokalis, Steve Rouman, Chris Siefkas, Matina Seremetis, George Sotiras and Scott Walters**. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, January 10. Election of officers was held with the following results:

- President: Peter Eliades**
- Vice-President: George Gigounas**
- Secretary: Matina Seremetis**
- Treasurer: Chris Siefkas**

May the Spirit of our Lord be with them and guide them throughout the coming year in their service to His Church.

Feel free to contact any of the Council members if you have suggestions or concerns.

We wish to thank **Eleni Scanagatta**, whose tenure ended on December 31, for her years of service as Secretary on the Parish Council.

Greek School

Almost 40 young people adorned the church, classrooms, and halls of our Nativity campus on our first day of the newly reestablished Nativity Greek School. Built upon the established tradition that was offered by Presvytera Kay for so many years - our program will strive to teach the Greek language, yet most important will serve to bring great numbers of our young people to the blessed setting of our Nativity campus one more day of the week! ...learning together, praying together, eating together, sharing in healthy Christian fellowship together! Thanks to Presvytera Kay for building this particular house of learning and fellowship, and thank you to our new teachers who are striving to continue this particular environment of learning and fellowship for our youth. May God bless this ministry of our beloved Nativity parish.

February Social

Want some more Fun and Fellowship? BINGO! Our first Parish Social of the new year will be a Bingo Night, for the very young, the older, and everyone in between! We will have some great prizes, but the biggest prize is the good time we all have when we get together like this, casually and often. Once again, bring a bottle of wine and come enjoy a casual dinner and great company.

About Bingo - Adults love it, of course, but so do the children! Bring them! We will have prizes for kids and adults. So please, everyone plan to attend. These Socials are a community effort, so please reach out to your best friends in our Parish and make sure they come, too. It will not be the same without you!

Parish Social Bingo Night
Saturday, February 4th, 5:00-9pm
Supper at 6:00pm, Bingo at 6:45!
\$20/family or \$5 person

Anastasia Barksdale
OCCM Missionary
to Albania
will visit on
Sunday,
January 29, 2012

God willing, I hope to return home in January to share the story of renewal and mission in Albania as I commit to two more years of ministry. Proposing to do something a little different, I would like to offer Mission retreats and share the vision and missiology of His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios outlined in his book Mission in Christ's Way. I hope to visit as many cities as possible on my way back across country, before returning to Tirana to celebrate Holy Week and Pascha in the new Cathedral of the Resurrection. In preparation for my journey, I especially ask my pledging Prayer Partners to reenlist with me, renewing monthly or annual commitments for two additional years.

Anastasia Barksdale

Looking Toward Lent

Lenten Services

Saturday of Souls

On the preceding two and first Saturday of Great Lent, the Church celebrates the Divine Liturgy, followed by the Saturday of Souls memorial service, where we remember and pray for the souls of those of our loved ones who have reposed in the Lord. It is customary for the faithful to bring a list of names of their beloved departed this life, to be prayed for in this special memorial service. Please feel free to submit a list of names that you would like included in this service, either to the church office prior to the service, or simply by placing the list of names on the memorial table prior to the service. **Please type the names or write clearly...**

Compline Service

The compline service is a common service of evening prayers, composed of multiple scripture readings from the Psalms, hymns, offerings of thanks and repentance. Compline service will begin at 6:00 pm each Monday evening during Lent.

Presanctified Liturgies

Throughout the journey of Great Lent, recognizing our soul's need for the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Church offers the faithful the opportunity to receive Holy Communion during the week, in addition to Sunday's Divine Liturgy. Presanctified Liturgies will be celebrated each Wednesday and Friday during the season of Great Lent: Wednesdays at 6:00 pm & Fridays at 9:30 am. Following the Wednesday evening services, we will share in fellowship at a potluck meal – followed by a discussion on multiple topics related to the faith. **All parishioners are encouraged to bring an offering of your favorite Lenten cuisine to the potluck meals!** Let us look forward to the journey of Great Lent, and embrace the fellowship, spiritual and tangible, that the Church extends to us during this sacred time.

Salutations to the Mother of God

The beautiful Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos well defines the relationship of the Panagia with her Son, and establishes our relationship to her as our fervent intercessor. The poetic words and melodies of the Akathist or Salutation service are both humbling and inspirational to those who rely upon her in our lives. Salutation Services will be celebrated on Fridays at 6:00 pm.

Feedback from Philanthropy Recipients



Each year Nativity of Christ makes donations to local and national charities from our philanthropy budget. Periodically, we will publish responses so that you, our parishioners, are aware of these donations and the impact they have.

CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE

December 22, 2011

Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church
1110 Highland Drive
Novato, CA 94949

Dear Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church,


On behalf of those we serve, thank you for your recent donation in the amount of \$250.00, dated December 16, 2011. The power of your gift is doing more than you will ever know. Your investment in the work we do inspires us to stay focused on creating lasting solutions for domestic violence survivors by addressing their safety, housing, advocacy, and economic needs. You are helping us change one individual, one family, one community at a time.

Additional ways to support our work throughout the year include:

- Becoming a **monthly donor** by contributing automatically online. Once established through our secure website, your credit card is billed monthly and automatically. Our loyal monthly donors are crucial to helping us meet the needs of our service users through this steady and reliable stream of revenue.
- Joining us on **May 11, 2012** for our annual fundraising luncheon, In Celebration of Mothers.
- Look for details on our website early next spring.
- Consider hosting a **"House Party"** to share your passion for our organization and introduce us to your community. Contact Marla Hedlund, Development and Community Relations Manager, for more information. 415-526-2543

Again, your gift is invaluable to us. We recognize it as a statement of solidarity with the day-to-day work of our organization, and the long term vision of domestic peace for all.

Toward a Safe and Just World for All,


Marla Hedlund
Development and Community Relations Manager

Center for Domestic Peace is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization, Tax ID # 94-2415856.
Your contribution is deductible to the fullest extent of the law. IRS regulations require us to state that
Center for Domestic Peace did not provide any goods or services to you in consideration of your contributions.

734 A Street San Rafael, CA 94901-3923 Phone 415-457-3424 Fax 415-457-6457 www.centerfordomesticpeace.org

Changing our name,
continuing the work
Home of Main Abused Women's Services

2012 Stewardship Campaign

Additional Stewardship Commitments Received between 12/23/11 and 1/23/12

Adams, Fr. James & Pres. Evelyn
Adams, Bill & Lisa
Anderson, Frances
Baird, Maria
Balopoulos, Michael & Anna
Banks, Charles & Catherine
Bechaka, Sonia
Bertolina, Ron & Elaine
Blasingame, David & Katina
Brahman, Alexander
Captanian, Ted and Connie
Commick, Ann
Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie
Destein, Pat
Eliades, Peter & Marie
Farmer, Tim & Helen
Fotinos, George & Vivian
Fourakis, Andreas & Argyro
Gavallos, Dennis & Heloisa
Gavallos, Victor & Tina
Gigounas, George & Laura
Giusti, Nonie
Hontalas, Chris & Susan
Kakleas, Jon & Michelle
Kambur, James & JoAnne
Karavolos, Steve & Paraskeve
Katelanis, Olympia
Kavantjas, Diane

Keller, Ed & Karen
Kokalis, Nick & Lena
Kozas, Anna
Livanos, Nick & Patti
Madias, Alexander
Madias, Dino & Marti
Madias, Theo
Mantalvanos, Alex & Maria
Medan, Dushan & Gigi
Morphew, Forrest & Ephimia
Pasadis, Dennis & Maryann
Patrakis, Peter & Hope
Patrineliis, Charles & Poppy
Peterson, Katie
Protos, Dora
Rouman, Steve & Liz
Saris, Tony & Betty
Sklavos, Vasiliki
Slenkin, Alex & Nancy
Soeten, Alexandra
Spyridis, Maryanne
Stathis, Peter & Dina
Stavrinides, Thalia
Stenros, Stuart & Stella
Stewart, Artemis
Tacticos, George
Tocmakidis, Peter & Pinelopy
Trapalis, Arthur & Niovi
Tzafopoulos, John & Erica
Valakitsis, Yiannis & Eugenia
Weeks, Daniel & Stacey
Yatrakis, Christopher & Eirini
Yioulos, Dean & Ann



Thank you to everyone who has returned their Stewardship commitment cards for 2012. If you have not yet responded, please do so as soon as possible. A Stewardship card is included on page 11.

Stewardship

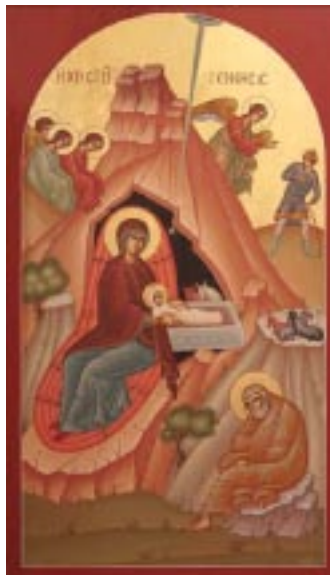
"Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

An Orthodox Christian Steward is an active participant in the life of the Church. The parish encourages all who accept the Orthodox Faith to become practicing Stewards. Each year the Steward is expected to carefully review his or her personal circumstances and make a commitment of time, talent, and treasure to support the Parish and her Ministries..."

~ www.stewardship.goarch.org/

A little girl noticed that after the collection was taken in a certain church, the ushers brought it up to the altar. She whispered to her mother, "Mommy, how do they get the money up to heaven?" The mother replied, "The church doesn't send money to heaven, but uses it to bring heaven down to us."

*Stewardship
2012*



2012 Stewardship Update January 23, 2012















Number of Commitment Cards Received	163
Total Amount Committed	\$139,538
Budgeted Goal	\$231,146



*You are already a
Steward...*

NATIVITY OF CHRIST C H U R C H C A L E N D A R

FEBRUARY 2 0 1 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 29 17th Sunday of Matthew (Canaanite Woman)  Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows Anastasia Barksdale Visit	30 Three Hierarchs  Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	31 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	1 Photos for Directory 2:00-9:30 pm High School Classroom Greek School 4-5:45 pm Folk Dance Practice Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm	2 Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple  Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Photos for Directory 2:00-9:30 pm High School Classroom		
5 Sunday of the Publication & Pharisee Tridion Begins  Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows Philoptochos Luncheon	7 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greek School 4-5:45 pm Folk Dance Practice Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greek School 4-5:45 pm Folk Dance Practice Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm 	10 St. Haralambos  The Great Martyr Divine Liturgy 9:30 am HOPE/JOY Activity 5:30 pm	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Social Bingo Night 5:00 pm Parish Retreat Fr. John Chryssavgis 	
12 Sunday of the Prodigal Son  Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows Minoan Dancers' Glendi	14 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greek School 4-5:45 pm Folk Dance Practice Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greek School 4-5:45 pm Folk Dance Practice Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Folk Dance & Choral Festival February 16-20, 2012 Anaheim, CA 	18 1st Saturday of Souls  Divine Liturgy 9:30 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filenahes Luncheon 12:00 noon 	
19 Judgment Sunday  Meatfare Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows Annual Folk Dance & Choral Festival February 16-20, 2012 Anaheim, CA	21 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm 	25 2nd Saturday of Souls  Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	
26 Forgiveness Sunday  Cheesefare Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows Great Compline 6:00 pm	27 Great Lent Begins	28 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GOYA-to participate in Divine Services Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following 	Mar 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GOYA-to participate in Divine Services Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following 	2 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am  1st Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 pm	3 3rd Saturday of Souls  Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

PARTNERSHIP FOR SUCCESS

Philoptochos Stewardship Form

Philoptochos supports many charities while spiritually enriching its members through their participation in its work.

“Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:8)

The Philoptochos Society is the only official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Church in America. We are also the largest women’s Christian Philanthropic Organization in America. The name Philoptochos literally means *friend of the poor*. We help those who are poor in financial and material resources, in spirit, in health, in companionship, in emotional stability, and in whatever is needed to lead a fulfilling life.

In addition to our philanthropic endeavors, we are committed to the preservation of the sacredness of the Orthodox Family and promotion of the Greek Orthodox Faith.

Membership Form

_____ Full Member

Women of the Greek Orthodox Faith, at least 18 years of age. Although we welcome all to the General Meetings, attendance is not required for Membership.

_____ Associate Member

Non-Greek Orthodox person married to a Greek Orthodox or Greek Orthodox men. An Associate Member enjoys all privileges of membership except the right to vote or hold office.

_____ Gift Membership

Please complete a Gift Card.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Special gifts and interests to share (i.e., event planning, fundraising, publicity, baking/cooking, decorating, visitations, leadership skills):

My 2011 Philoptochos stewardship offering is \$ _____

Please note that from each stewardship offering, **\$15** is given to the National Philoptochos and **\$10** is given to the Metropolis Philoptochos. Your generous support to the Nativity of Christ Philoptochos Chapter helps provide for our many charitable contributions.

Please Join Us

Saturday, February 11, 2012

Fr. Dn. John Chryssavgis—Guest Speaker



Dr. Fr. John Chryssavgis is a deacon of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and currently serves as theological advisor to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I on ecological issues. He completed his doctoral studies in Patristics at the University of Oxford (1983), and his teaching since has covered wide-ranging theological, political, socio-cultural, liturgical, and ecological topics. His research has specialized in the ascetic thought and practice of early Christianity, especially from the desert tradition of Egypt (4th century) through the regions of Palestine (5th-6th centuries) and Sinai (7th century). Fr. Chryssavgis was appointed Professor of Theology at Holy Cross School of Theology in 1995 and directed the Religious Studies Program at Hellenic College until 2002.

9:30 AM Registration— 10:00 AM 1st Session Begins;
12:00 PM Lunch; 1:00 PM 2nd Session Begins;

Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Christian Church
1110 Highland Drive, Novato, California

\$15.00 Registration (Students-\$10.00) includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch
Clergy—we welcome you to attend as guests of the Parish

Registration Form

First & Last Name _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

No. of People Attending: _____ @ \$15.00/person \$ _____

Please Send Completed Form by February 8th, to:
Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos, 1110 Highland Dr., Novato, CA 94949
Attn: Rose Hunter (415) 497-8300 * kynegos@hotmail.com

CRETAN GLENDI

Proceeds benefit the Minoan Dancers, a Ministry of the Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church Fellowship Hall
1110 Highland Drive, Novato

5:00 pm - No Host Reception

5:30 pm - Traditional Lamb Dinner

**Preview of the Minoans' FDF Performances
Dancing & live music, direct from Crete**

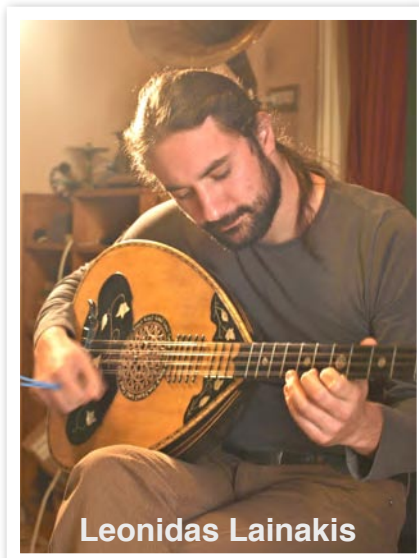
\$40.00 adults • \$20.00 children 6 - 17

For more information,
contact Effie Fourakis 415.823.9433 or effiejf@me.com



Stelios Lainakis

Stelios Lainakis is a renowned laouto and boulgari musician, having played and studied with the masters of Cretan music. He has extensively researched and documented traditional Cretan music including the tabachaniotika genre of music and the boulgari instrument.



Leonidas Lainakis

Leonidas Lainakis (Stelios' son), is an accomplished laouto, boulgari and three-chord bouzouki virtuoso and a composer who plays tabachaniotika, the music of Kissamos and Crete, and rebetika. He also makes instruments and teaches boulgari and laouto.



Michalis Loufardakis

Michalis Loufardakis is a skillful violinist who studied with the masters of Cretan music. His family is from Palia Roumata, Kissamos, a village with a rich musical and dance tradition. Influenced by the masters and his father who played laouto, Michalis has defined his own course in Cretan music.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please reserve: _____ Adult tickets (\$40 each) and _____ Children's tickets (\$20 each) ~ OR ~ _____ table(s) at \$400 each

Make checks payable to: **Minoan Dancers, Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church**

Mail your form and check by February 6th to: **Effie Fourakis • 164 Lakeside Drive • Corte Madera • CA • 94925**

Sacraments and Rites

40-Day Blessing

January 8 **Paula Berry** and her daughter, Audrianna.

Baptism

January 14 **Jacob David**, son of David & Katina Blasingame. Sponsor was Steve Giahos.

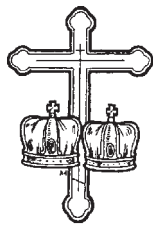
"As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."



Wedding

January 21 **Katherine Kalabokes** and **Joseph Dante Della Cella**. Koumbaroi were Michael & Kathy Casotti.

"You have set on their heads crowns of precious stones."



Funeral

December 30 **George Pantazes**, who reposed on December 28. We extend our sincerest condolences to his wife Lula, and their entire family.

"May his memory be eternal."

Memorials

January 8 **Dimitra Karavolos**

January 15 **Gust (Constantinos) Zagoritas**

January 22 **John Gigounas**

"May their memory be eternal."



Condolences

Our sincere condolences to the Pappas and Medan families on the repose of Maria Pappas' sister-in-law and Gigi Medan's aunt, **Marjorie Marinos**, in Atlanta on December 20; and to Bill and Lisa Adams on the repose of Lisa's mother, **Nancy Spetzer**, on December 27 in Petaluma.

"May their memory be eternal."

Nativity Stewardship Commitment 2012

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: (h) _____

(c) _____

E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____

X _____

Time & Talent: check circle of ministry of

Administrative

Philanthropic

Educational

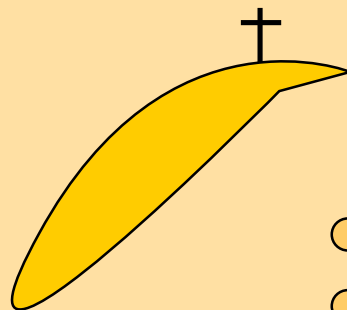
Stewardship

Fellowship

Youth

Treasure:

total pledge amount for 2012



\$ _____

to be given:

weekly

quarterly

monthly

annually



Nativity of Christ
Greek Orthodox Church
1110 Highland Dr., Novato, CA 94949

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Dated Material



O Father, foolishly I ran away from Your glory, and in sin, squandered the riches You gave me. Wherefore, I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal, "I have sinned before You, Compassionate Father. Receive me in repentance and take me as one of Your hired servants."

Kontakion for The Prodigal Son