



NATIVITY OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Dynamic Shepherd is Appointed to Serve Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

Monday, May 16, 2016, Novato, Marin County, California: After a year without a permanent full time pastor, Bishop Apostolos of Medeia announced the appointment of a new pastor at Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church located in Ignacio, Novato, Marin County, California.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco with great insight and dedication indicated: *"For the past year your parish has been experiencing the time transition with the departure of your past pastor. In the interim you we're most capably served with dedication and love by Father Constantine Efstathiou and more recently by his Grace Bishop's Apostolos of Medea. While it might been trying at times to not have a pastor ,I commend the Parish and It's Leadership for it's faithfulness and perseverance .It was necessary to take the time for careful consideration to identify the best new spiritual leader for your community. After prayerful contemplation of the assignment of a priest to serve your parish, it is with great joy and love that I inform you that I am assigning Rev. Father John Kocolas as is your full-time proistamenos effective July 15th "*

Father John was born in Modesto to Jim and Chryssi Kocolas. Throughout his upbringing he participated in various ministries of the Church and was deeply connected to his Cretan heritage. After graduating from high school, Father John earned his BA in Business Marketing and a minor in Mathematics from California State University, Stanislaus in 2008. That summer, he volunteered as a camp counselor at Ionian Village and began his studies at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA in the Fall of 2008.

Father John and Presvytera Stephanie were married in 2011 and spent their first year of marriage on campus at the Seminary. They moved back to California in the summer of 2012 as they were assigned to the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Belmont. Fr. John was ordained a deacon on December 2, 2012 at the Annunciation Church in Modesto and ordained a priest on December 30, 2012 at the Holy Cross Church in Belmont by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.

Bishop Apostolos noted "The time I have spent with the Nativity of Christ Parish for the last five weeks has been very special to me. This Parish together with Father John will be a fantastic combination, and will make a difference and continue their wonderful journey."

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Parish Council President Ed Keller reflects on this milestone moment- "This is a fantastic Parish and we look forward to working together with Father John to continue our good work dedicated to the glory of God here in Northern California"

