



The Word

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

John 1:14

Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ

Who Are You & Who Do You Choose to Be?

April 2013

"...let us choose life and live, for the mercy of God endures forever!"

~Saint John Chrysostom

The crossroads of life are abundant. Through the divergent pathways that our choices create, identities are developed that impact ourselves and our surroundings. Knowingly or unknowingly, from our lifestyle the butterfly effect matriculates, and we truly have a felt presence in the world!

What then will be our foundation? What will be the motivation and benchmark for our decisions when we reach the daily and abundant crossroads of life? Who are you, and how do you affect the world?

It must be understood that we are not simply reactionary beings that "live in the moment," free of innate or learned experience. What separates mankind from the rest of God's creation is that we have been created *in His image and likeness* (Genesis 1:26), with the reality of free choice, rather than simple instinct. We may choose our direction at the crossroads. What will we base our decision upon?

The chosen pathways of our lives reflect our developed identities. How do others identify us? How do we identify ourselves? Regardless of developed identities, we are honored with one identity that has not been developed through our

choices, but rather was given to us, even prior to our conception (Jeremiah 1:5) – we are *children of God* (1 John 3:1)! The pilgrimage of faith is a journey of equating our developed identity to our given identity. The choices that we make must be rooted in a foundation that is vested in our true experience as God's children – motivated and directed at crossroads by His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Incarnate Word, has taught and provided a foundation by which we may actualize our true identity, His Gospel Life!

A chosen lifestyle (John 14:6) honors our true identity and provides us with divinely-navigated balance through the crossroads, improving our lives and offering manna of various forms to those around us in ways that are both known and unknown. By choosing Jesus Christ as the foundation and motivation of life, we choose authentic life! The authentic life is bound by nothing and leads to eternal bliss. A life in Christ shines radiant beams of hope, reconciliation and love to the world, which otherwise is confused with darkness. With courage and conviction, we may choose life on a daily basis – truly improving ourselves and the world around us!

If you have lived by another foundation and journeyed down alternative pathways of life, do not stay away – the love of God for His

children is super-abundant, as is His mercy. Choose Him now, manifest in a committed life in His Church, and your new life will be glorious.

In these Lenten days leading to the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection, through the journey prescribed by the Church, take advantage of the opportunity to further affirm the identity given to you by God, by a lifestyle choice of true life – the lifestyle choice of Jesus Christ! Be courageous! Choose the Gospel as your foundation and motivation by which you will navigate the crossroads of life! Sanctify your soul and improve the world around you!

Truly, "...let us choose life, and live, for the mercy of God endures forever. (Saint John Chrysostom)

Fr. Luke



April Divine Liturgies & Readings

Date	Time	Service	Epistle	Gospel
Apr 7	9:30 am	Holy Cross	Hebrews 4:14-5:6	Mark 8:34-9:1
Apr 14	9:30 am	St. John Climacus	Hebrews 6:13-20	Mark 9:17-31
Apr 21	9:30 am	St. Mary of Egypt	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 10:32-45
Apr 27	9:30 am	Lazarus Saturday	Hebrews 12:28-13:8	John 11:1-45
Apr 28	9:30 am	Palm Sunday	Philippians 4:4-9	John 12:1-18

April Acolyte Schedule

All acolytes are asked to serve in April

April Candle Duty Schedule

April 7	Peter Eliades, George Georgeson, Scott Walters
April 14	Alex Slenkin, George Sotiras, Tony Kosmas
April 21	Chris Siefkas, Nick Livanos, Spiro Stratigos
April 28	Bruce Corcoran, Pete Gikkas and George Kokalis

Spring Parish Assembly Meeting

Including Clergy Housing Proposal

Sunday, April 14, 2013 following Coffee Hour

Agenda & Information will be mailed.



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.

- Fr. James Adams
- Mary Camamis
- Elaine Cunningham
- Alexandra Edrich
- Fr. Constantine Efstathiou
- Fr. Haralambos Fox
- Tina Gavallos
- Christ Kamages
- Lula Kamages
- James Kolyvas

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

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

Phone: (415) 883-1998

Fax: (415) 883-2057

e-mail: ncchurch@pacbell.net

www.nativityofchrist.org

**Fr. Luke Palumbis,
Pastor**

frluke@nativityofchrist.org

April 2013



In this Issue:

Message from Father.....	1
Services & Readings.....	2
Acolyte and Candle Duty Schedules.....	2
Prayer List	2
Parish Activities & Ministries	3-5
Community Discussion.....	6
Seasonal.....	7
Parish Council News.....	8
Calendar.....	9
Palm Sunday	10
Easter Picnic.....	11
Monastery Icon Fund..	12, 14
Festival Update.....	13, 14
Stewardship 2013.....	15

Parish Activities & Ministries

Philoptochos

Philoptochos Board

Debbie Kokalis, President
Irene Meehan, Vice President
Nancy Slenkin, Corres. Secretary
Rose Hunter, Recording Secretary
Cathy Selmi, Treasurer
Floretta Burrows, Member
Carol Economy, Member
Diane Kavantjas, Member
Karen Keller, Member
Stassie Sideris, Member
Susan Stockton, Pres. Advisor
Kay Simon, Member
Erene Sotiras, Member

Coffee Hour



Tyropita Luncheon

We would like to thank Sophia Stathis, Kay Simon, Ann Yioulos and their kitchen crew for a wonderful tyropita luncheon. All the proceeds from this luncheon will be donated to St. Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap.

We would like to thank everyone who brought in goodies during the month of March. This helped us with unhosted coffee hours. Our sign-up sheet is back up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall, and shows the Sundays that are available for you to sign up and host your special coffee hour. Hosting a coffee hour is easy because we want to keep it simple, so there is no pressure. It's a lovely way to greet (and meet) other parishioners in our church community. Coffee and drinks are provided.

We realize that many of our members "fast" in different ways, taking into consideration what works best for their individual situation. During Lent, if you would like to bring in a food item for coffee hour, please indicate if it is "Lenten" so we can label any "non Lenten" items for those adhering to a strict fast.

Loukoumathes Sunday

On April 14th we are serving loukoumathes for coffee hour as a special treat. All proceeds will be donated to "Kids n Cancer."

Palm Sunday Luncheon

Our traditional Palm Sunday Luncheon will be held on April 28th after Liturgy. The proceeds from this luncheon will

be used to help fund donations to local charities that Philoptochos supports. Please see flyer on page 10.



Cookbook Update

Recipes are being submitted and they look delicious! Keep them coming because we are in need of many more! If you have any questions or comments, please

contact Cathy Selmi at cathyselemi@gmail.com or at (415) 246-1760. You can email recipes directly to Cathy, mail them to the church, or just drop them by the office when you are there. If you need a form, there is a supply in the office, during coffee hour and online, through Cathy's email address.

Membership

We will keep our Membership drive going until we reach our goal of 120 members. As of March 18th we have 86 members, leaving 34 members to reach our goal. Your support means the world to the charities we support so please send in your form today. Your membership counts, no matter what the amount, and has a significant impact of the lives of those who are in need and less fortunate. If you have already joined, God bless you for your support. If you haven't, please send in your membership today. **Membership forms are available in the Narthex and in the church office.**

Since February 19, the following people have joined Philoptochos: **Loula Aniston, Arlene Angelonides, Mary Camamis, Carrie Clark, Connie Grey, Elaine Passaris, Jeannie Ranglas** (Metropolis President), **Kalliope Smernes and Stacey Weeks.** Thank you so much for your love and support.

Makarias

Philoptochos is excited to announce that we are currently working on forming a committee to help families plan a Makaria, which is a warm custom of our faith. The Makaria is a meal following the funeral service to comfort the family and to commemorate the life of the loved one lost. Look for more information as this committee finalizes the details.

Scholarships

Every year Philoptochos has two \$1000 scholarships available to graduating high school students, continuing collegestudents or returning students whose families are stewards of our church. Students must be carrying at least 12 units (8 units for graduate students). The application with grade and transcript requirements as well

as written narrative and character reference instructions is available in the church office. The application with all supporting documentation must be submitted by May 26. Recipients will be announced on Sunday, June 2.

2013 Easter Picnic

Reservation flyers will be mailed soon for our Parish's Annual Easter Picnic. This year we will not be providing a meal; we will be charging an admission fee to cover the cost of the band, jumpy and tents. Attendees will bring their own food. We will have a bar and will be selling gyro. As in the past, we will accept the first 350 paid reservations (what we can accommodate in the hall) until we know what the weather will be on May 5th. When we hold the picnic outdoors, we can accommodate 400 attendees. If you are interested in bringing a spit to cook your lamb, please contact Rose Hunter at kynegos@hotmail.com or at (415) 497-8300 to discuss. A flyer appears on page 11.

April Birthdays



The following members have birthdays coming up in April: Stassie Sideris (4/1),

Karen Keller (4/10), Loula Aniston (4/10), Cathy Banks (4/13), Gigi Pappas Medan (4/23), Stella Stenros (4/29).

Happy Birthday!! And many, many more.....

Dates to Remember

- April 2 General Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- April 27 Decorate church after Liturgy
- April 28 Palm Sunday Luncheon
- May 2 Wrap eggs after Liturgy
- May 3 Decorate Epitaphion 9 am
- May 5 Easter Picnic after Agape Vespers



Parish Activities & Ministries

Continued from Page 3

Youth Religious Education News

April Religious Education Classes

- April 7 Students attend Classes
- April 14 Students attend Classes
- April 21 Students attend Classes
- April 28 Palm Sunday - Students attend Liturgy

Mark your calendars:

Holy Week Activities

- April 19 Akathist-Students participate in reading
- April 27 Saturday of Lazarus Palm Cross Making
- May 1 Wednesday - Holy Unction 3:00 pm
- May 3 Great and Holy Friday Retreat Full day
- May 5 Holy Pascha - Students attend Liturgy
- May 12 Students attend Liturgy
- May 19 Last day of classes Students attend Classes
- June 2 Students attend Liturgy Presentations & Family BBQ Picnic

HOPE/JOY News

In March, HOPE and JOY kids took a trip to Calistoga to visit the sisters at the Holy Assumption Monastery. The sisters received us graciously and with much Christian love and warmth. The kids enjoyed meeting the sisters and learning about the many animals that have come to live at the monastery. There are several parrots who talk and squawk, some furry rabbits and a pond of amazing, colorful koi fish who love to eat Cheerios and will let you pet them! The grounds are peaceful with lovely gardens and a rustic chapel. We joined the sisters in prayer for the sixth hour and learned a lot about the chapel. There were icons of many Russian saints and some Greek saints and some icons that came several hundred years ago from Russia when Fort Ross was established. Some of the icons even contain relics of saints! The children asked many questions about our Faith and about the animals and the monastery; it was beautiful to see their excitement and interest as we toured the monastery. They learned that the sisters all take turns doing different jobs from tending to the gardens, the animals, singing in church, volunteering across the street at the local school as classroom aides, praying for all people many times a day, and cooking and cleaning at the monastery. We joined the sisters for lunch, and we all had excellent fellowship and conversation. The sisters were delighted by our visit and have invited our group to come again. We hope to plan a return visit this summer, so if you were not able to join us keep an eye open for a summer date to visit the monastery again.

Great & Holy Friday Retreat for Sunday School Students

All Religious Education Students from Kindergarten through High School are invited to join us on **Great and Holy Friday, May 3**, for a journey of faith...for a day of prayer, of fasting, of fellowship and learning.

Our retreat will begin at 10:00 am and end with the *Apo-kathilosis* (the service of taking Christ down from the cross), which ends at approximately 4:30 pm. Those who are able are encouraged to attend The Royal Hours Service at 8:30 am, before the retreat begins.

Help prepare yourself, your friends and our church community for the Paschal Celebration.

Registration forms will be mailed soon and will be due Sunday, April 28. Call the church office if you need further information.



Sister Marguerite shows the parrot to Maddie Reighard, Marina & Valentina Scanagatta and Peter Thomatos.



Back: Grete Reighard, Pres. Eleni Palumbis with Vasili and Mother Melania. Front: Panayioti and Nikola Palumbis, Maddie Reighard and Peter Thomatos.

Parish Activities & Ministries

HOPE/JOY News

Continued from Page 4

April: Please bring filled plastic eggs for our church egg hunt! Bring them to either the 3rd/4th grade classroom on Sundays in April or to the church office during the week. Please mark clearly "HOPE and JOY Egg Hunt."

Also we will have an Altar Table items workshop on Sunday, April 21, immediately after Sunday School. Fr. Luke will lead the workshop for our students and we will learn about many items that are on the altar table and see them up close, from the chalice and paten to the blessing cross and more. . .

Looking ahead:

HOPE and JOY families please plan to bring your children to the Holy Friday retreat on **May 3** to experience fellowship and prayer together on Great and Holy Friday.

May 5: Pascha Agape Service, Easter Egg Hunt and Parish Picnic!

June: Time to brainstorm and plan new activities for summer through fall!

Questions, ideas, suggestions, talents and skills to share, spare a couple hours to volunteer? Contact Dennis and Christina Thomatos, HOPE and JOY advisors 415-895-1375.



Asian Art Museum

The members of Philotochos and Filenathes will join together to take a trip to the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco on **April 13, 2013** to see the special exhibit of the Terracotta Warriors from China. The tour will start promptly at 10:15 am. Admission is \$20-Adults and \$17-seniors (65+) (this includes the admission to the Museum and the tour.)

We will meet and carpool from Nativity of Christ Church in Novato at 8:45 a.m and from the Park and Ride in Greenbrae at 9:00 am.

We will have lunch at a nearby restaurant after the museum visit.

Reservations may be made by calling Diane Kavantjas at (415) 457-8265 or e-mail at Dkavantjas@netzero.com or Cathie Banks at (415) 499-1736.

Reservations deadline is April 5.



In Heaven, He is seated upon a Throne and on earth He rides upon a foal. O Christ our God, accept the praise of the Angels and the hymn of the children who cry out to You, "Blessed are You who comes to recall Adam."

*Kontakion for Palm Sunday
Tone 2*

.....
Foon, the wonderful lady who has been helping us with clean up for coffee hour, festival and special events, is retiring. We thank her for her many years of service, always performed with a cheerful smile and a warm greeting. Beginning in June we will need to find someone to fill her shoes. The position entails about 2 hours of work each Sunday, cleaning up after coffee hour. In addition, there are opportunities to work for special events, which usually entail clearing tables, and washing and putting away dishes, silverware, and glassware. Additional opportunities include washing pots, pans, and utensils after Festival work parties, pre- and post- Festival kitchen cleaning, and clean-up work during the Festival. If you know of someone who would be interested in this position, please contact Fran Corcoran at francorcoran@comcast.net or (415) 722-8248.
.....

Community Hall Discussion

In March, we continued our experience of Community Hall discussion, and explored the topics of: *The Experience of Great Lent & How We Respond to God*. I am very thankful for these opportunities to communicate and further develop our communication and connect as a parish family. The following is a reflection of our discussion:

The Experience of Great Lent

- ⇒ What comes to mind when we think of Great Lent?
 - o Fasting
 - o Almsgiving
 - o Jesus
 - o Reading Scripture
 - o Dedicating ourselves to God
- ⇒ Each reflection is experiential, not philosophical or conceptual.
- ⇒ Are any of these unique to Great Lent?
 - o No – these experiences are consistent throughout the year.
 - Therefore, Great Lent does not invite anything new from us.
 - Great Lent is an invitation to have greater focus & experience on the things that we are called to throughout the year.
- ⇒ Greater focus & experience is invited as we come closer to the celebration of great events.
 - o The Lord's Resurrection
 - o The Lord's Nativity
 - o Feast Days, etc...
- ⇒ Greater focus & experience edifies the celebration.

How We Respond to God

- ⇒ We have a relationship with God that was initiated by Him.
 - o Stating that we respond to God, presupposes that He has acted first – we must be responding to something.
 - o God created us
 - o God has given us everything that we have, summed up in three categories: time, talent, treasure.
 - Time: God has given us our life and determines its duration.
 - Talent: God has given us our natural talents and the ability to develop them.
 - Treasure: God has given us 'things,' including the money in our possession – whether we received it' or 'worked for it,' God has given us the ability to do so.

- o Grace: what we receive from God
 - Grace is free
 - Grace is a gift
 - Grace cannot be earned -- if it could, it would be compensation... a very different concept.
- ⇒ By design, not default, we respond to what God has given us by how we choose to use it.
 - o Stewardship: response to God's grace.
 - o Everyone has receive grace from God, therefore, everyone is offering stewardship because everyone is responding to God by the way they live their life – the life that God gave them.
 - The question is not if you are a steward...
 - The question is if you are a responsible steward.
 - Are you a good steward or a bad steward?
 - o The benchmark of determining good stewardship is the Bible.
 - We choose to live by the Gospel Message or we do not.
 - The Bible gives us standards of what to do with our time, talent, and treasure.
 - o What if we have not responded well up to this point?
 - Refer back to the standard (The Bible), and see Jesus' first public teaching – Repent. Which means to realign yourself with the Gospel message.
 - You can choose to be a good steward today.
- ⇒ When we offer back to God responsible stewardship – He increases the grace that He gives us.

In lieu of a Community Hall discussion in the month of April – we will experience our Spring General Assembly Meeting, on Sunday, April 14.



*Before Your cross
we bow down, O
Master, and we
glorify Your holy
resurrection.*

*Trisagion Hymn
Third Sunday of Lent*

HOLY WEEK

Throughout the year we eagerly anticipate the experience of Holy Week, as it so appropriately shepherds us to the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Intellectually, emotionally, physically, and spiritually, Holy Week delivers us to Pascha in beautiful form when we choose to experience these days to the best of our ability. The following are two announcements with regard to Nativity's journey of Holy Week this year:

1) **Holy Friday Retreat** – we look forward to continuing the beautiful experience of our youth retreat on Holy Friday, which will take place between the services of the Royal Hours and the Taking Down from the Cross. In addition, **this year we will add the experience of adult retreat to Holy Friday.** During the same hours, Father Luke will lead adults in discussion and reflection on the substance of this most solemn and holy day. Lunch will be provided.

2) **Holy Wednesday** – We will experience the 4th Bridegroom Service, Holy Wednesday Evening. As we celebrate the Bridegroom services Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings during Holy Week, we will also celebrate Wednesday evening in preparation of honoring and celebrating the Last Supper of our Lord, in the Divine Liturgy the following morning. **We will still celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Unction.** Unction Service will take place at 3:00 pm, and all families are encouraged to bring their children directly from school, so that as a family you may be anointed with the Holy Unction, and receive Sacramental healing. For those who will not be able to attend the 3:00 pm Holy Unction Service, in the context of the evening Bridegroom Service, the faithful will have the opportunity to be anointed. Therefore, on Holy Wednesday, the following schedule of service will apply:

9:30 am	The Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts
3:00 pm	The Sacrament of Holy Unction
7:00 pm	Bridegroom Service (with anointing of Holy Unction)

A Lenten Message from Saint John Chrysostom

if anyone is devout and loves God, let him commence this radiant fast with joy!

If anyone is a wise servant, let him, rejoicing, enter into the school of repentance.

We who have wallowed long in sin, let us now begin our return.

If anyone has strayed from the first hour, let him today repent with zeal.

If anyone has sinned from the third hour, let him with gratitude embrace the fast.

If anyone has fled God from the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings about his prompt return;

because he shall in nowise be turned away therefore.

If anyone has indulged the works of the flesh since the ninth hour,

let him draw near, fearing God alone and trusting in His mercy.

And if anyone has turned away only at the eleventh hour, let him also not hesitate to turn back to God with haste.

For the Lord, who is longsuffering and full of compassion and mercy, will accept the last even as the first.

He restores him who repents at the first hour, as He does him who turns back at the eleventh.

He shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first;

To the one He gives, and upon the other He bestows gifts.

He both accepts the confession, and welcomes the intention, and honors the contrite heart and rejoices in the repentance.

Wherefore, enter all of you into the holiness of your Lord; Offer your repentance, both the last, and likewise the first.

You rich and poor together, repent, for today we stand outside the closed gates of paradise.

You sober and you heedless, prostrate yourselves before your King!

Return to the Lord today, both you who have sinned with knowledge and those who have done so in ignorance.

Your pantries are full; empty them to the hungry.

The belly enslaves us; let no one be dominated thereby.

Enter all of you into the Great Fast;

Stripped of heavenly wealth by sin, let us all draw near to God's rich loving-kindness!

Let no one despair in his sinfulness, for the Bridegroom comes in the midst of the night.

Weep all of you for your iniquities, and draw near to the life-giving Cross of our Lord.

Let no one put confidence in the flesh, for the Devil has deceived us all thereby, and therewith enslaves us to sin.

By turning from God, we are made captives.

We have called good evil and evil good, and put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.

And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry out: Woe to those who put darkness for light, and light for darkness!

We are embittered, for we are banned from Eden.

We are embittered, for it is we who have mocked God.

We are embittered, for now we shall surely die.

We are embittered, for we have succumbed to the Serpent.

We are embittered, for we are bound by the chains of sin.

We partook of a fruit, and met the Deceiver.

We were entrusted with paradise, but we chose hell.

Our eyes were opened to see the nakedness of our sin.

Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver us!

O Lord, make haste to help us!

This is the acceptable time, let us repent!

This is the day of salvation, let us crucify the passions!

The end is at hand and destruction hangs over us!

The end draws near, let us come again to our senses!

The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, what first-fruit shall we offer?

Let us delay not, lest we remain dead in the grave, sold under sin!

For God desires not the death of the sinner, but that he should turn from his wickedness and live!

So, let us choose life, and live, for the mercy of God endures forever!

To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.



**2013 Parish Council Members
Roles and Responsibilities**



George Gigounas, Pres.	Master Plan
Peter Eliades, Vice Pres.	Operations
Chris Siefkas, Treasurer	Budget and Finance
Rose Hunter, Secretary	Communications
George Kokalis	Buildings and Grounds
Pete Gikkas	Technology
Spiro Stratigos	Parish Events/Calendar
Scott Walters	Mission and Evangelism
Fran Corcoran	Philanthropy/Philoptochos
Matina Seremetis	Religious Education
Steve Rouman	Stewardship
























2012 Parish Philanthropic Distributions

1 Monastery of the Theotokos The Life Giving Spring	\$ 2,000.00
2 Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival	\$ 250.00
3 Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary	\$ 2,000.00
4 IOCC – Domestic Programs	\$ 2,000.00
5 Father Athanasios Akunda – S. Africa Mission	\$ 1,000.00
6 Anastasia Barksdale – Albania Mission	\$ 1,000.00
7 Christina Semon – Romania Mission	\$ 1,000.00
8 Saint John of SF Monastery, Manton	\$ 750.00
9 Assumption Monastery, Calistoga	\$ 750.00
10 Holy Virgin of Kazan Skete, Santa Rosa	\$ 750.00
11 Saint Raphael House	\$ 1,000.00
12 Zoe for Life – Orthodox Crisis Pregnancy Agency	\$ 500.00
13 Retired Clergy Association (RCA)	\$ 1,000.00
14 PAOI	\$ 500.00
15 Homeward Bound	\$ 1,000.00
16 Novato Human Needs	\$ 250.00
17 Marin Food Bank	\$ 250.00
18 Bridge the Gap Tutoring & Mentoring Program	\$ 250.00
19 LITA Program for the Elderly	\$ 250.00
20 Wounded Warriors	\$ 500.00
21 Hearing & Speech Center of Northern California	\$ 250.00
22 Center for Domestic Peace Abused Women’s Shelter	\$ 250.00
23 Mary Issak Center Homeless Shelter, Petaluma	\$ 250.00
24 San Quentin College Program	\$ 250.00
Total	\$18,000.00

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

APRIL 2 0 1 3

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 2nd Sunday of Lent St. Gregory Palamas Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows 	Great Complime 6:00 pm	2 • Bible Study 10:00 am • Philoptochos General Meeting 6:30 pm	3 • Greek School 4:15-5:30 • GOYA-to participate in Divine Services Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following 	4 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am Confession Follows 	5 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am Confession Follows 	6 GOYA Retreat April 5-7 Marin Headlands 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 pm
7 3rd Sunday of Lent Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows 	Great Complime 6:00 pm	9 • Bible Study 10:00 am • Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm	10 • Greek School 4:15-5:30 • GOYA-to participate in Divine Services Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following 	11 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am Confession Follows 	12 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am Confession Follows 	13 4th Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 pm
14 4th Sunday of Lent St. John of Climacus Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows Spring Parish Assembly Fellowship Hall 	Great Complime 6:00 pm	16 • Bible Study 10:00 am	17 • Greek School 4:15-5:30 • GOYA-to participate in Divine Services Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following 	18 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am Confession Follows 	19 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am Confession Follows 	20 • Church and Grounds Cleaning 9 am • 6:00 pm Monthly Community Social Dinner at 6:45 P.
21 5th Sunday of Lent St. Mary of Egypt Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows HOPE/JOY Altar Items Workshop following class 	Great Complime 6:00 pm	23 • Bible Study 10:00 am	24 • Greek School 4:15-5:30 • GOYA-to participate in Divine Services Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following 	25 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am Confession Follows 	26 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am Confession Follows 	27 Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Palm Cross Making- Noon following Divine Liturgy
28 Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Palm Sunday Luncheon Service of the Bridegroom 7:00 pm Confession Following 	Service of the Bridegroom 7:00 pm Confession Following	30 Great and Holy Tuesday Service of the Bridegroom 7:00 pm	1 Great and Holy Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am Sacrament of Holy Unction 3:00 pm Service of the Bridegroom with anointing of Holy Unction-7:00-9pm 	2 Great and Holy Thursday Liturgy of St. Basil 9:30 am The Twelve Gospels 7:00 pm 	3 Great and Holy Friday Royal Hours 8:30 am Holy Friday Retreat 10:00 am-2:30 pm Removal of Christ from the Cross 2:30 pm Lamentations 7:00 pm 	4 Great and Holy Saturday Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Canon 11:15 pm Resurrection Service 11:45 pm 

Annual
Palm Sunday
Luncheon

Sponsored by the Philoptochos Society

Sunday, April 28, 2013
in the Fellowship Hall

immediately Following Divine Liturgy



Complete Fish Dinner
(fish, pasta, vegetable, salad, bread,
desserts, wine and soft drinks)

Proceeds to benefit
the work of Philoptochos

Easter Picnic

sponsored by the
Philoptochos Society
of the

Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Christian Church

Sunday, May 5, 2013

held on the Church grounds
Rain or Shine

Activities begin *after* Agape Services

Children's Activities

Music and Dancing



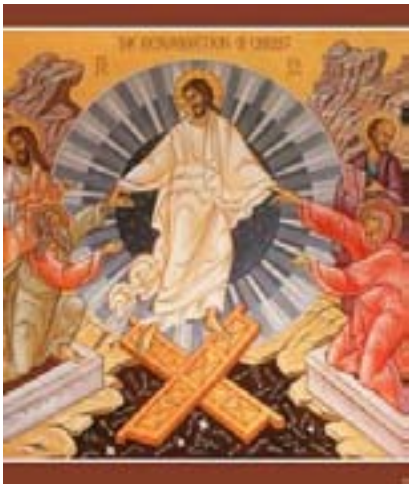
More information to follow

*Please feel free to contact
Rose Hunter (415) 497-8300*

or

*kynegos@hotmail.com
with any questions*

Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Theotokos, The Life Giving Spring Fundraiser



The sisters from the Monastery have recently built the new Dormition Chapel themselves with the assistance of volunteers. The chapel is behind the Katholicon and is being used for the nuns and smaller groups of visitors.

Because the chapel is next to the nuns' graveyard it is especially used for funerals. The icons in the chapel have all been painted by the sisters, who put in thousands of hours painting them. The nuns have reached out for sponsorships for the icons to assist with their expenses. Outside

sponsorship of these icons is but one of the ways that the sisters sustain themselves and the considerable cost of running a monastery that houses 23 sisters. Our parish has committed to raising \$8,000 to sponsor the icon of the Resurrection. We are reaching out to our parishioners to become a part of this sponsorship as a way for us to show our respect and appreciation for the constant prayers of the monastics on our behalf. Look for an image of the icon in the Fellowship Hall that will form, piece by piece, as donations are received — one piece for each \$100 donation.



I would like to become a sponsor of the Resurrection Icon. Please accept \$_____ for ___ sponsorships at \$100 each, or my donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone #: _____



Marin Greek Festival

March 21, 2013

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

This year marks our 42nd Marin Greek Festival which will take place over Memorial Day Weekend, on Friday, May 24, Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26. The Festival offers opportunities for all of us to be able to participate in supporting our church. Annually more than 5,000 festival-goers come to eat, drink, dance, visit, shop, browse, or just relax and have fun both indoors and outdoors.

Giving Back to the Community - Each year the Festival donates 5% of the net proceeds to a local organization. This year our festival charity partner is **Homeward Bound**. Homeward Bound is located just across the freeway from us and provides a multitude of services in an effort to address the problem of homelessness. Their Executive Director, Mary Kay Sweeny, was present to share some insights with us last Sunday. She stated that homelessness affects 1% of our population, or about 2,500 people locally. She also stated that the average age of a homeless person is 9 years old. The services provided by Homeward Bound can truly be life changing. We encourage you not only to get involved with the festival, but to also take time to stop by the Homeward Bound booth to learn more about how you may be able to help this most worthy festival partner.

How You Can Support the Festival

1. **Food Sponsorship Opportunities** – Help underwrite the cost of food and drink. Contact us for more information.
2. **Program Book** – Advertise your business, offer a greeting from your family, or list your name as a Friend of the Festival. Fill out the form that will be e-mailed to you and return to the church office. Additional forms are available in the church office.
3. **Pre-Festival Food** – Order our Greek specialties for your freezer! The order forms were e-mailed last week and are available in the church office.
4. **Cooking Schedule** – Roll up your sleeves and help with the cooking – no experience necessary, it's a great way to learn! To volunteer simply review the enclosed schedule and sign up at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4DABAF2EA31-festival>
5. **Volunteer to Staff the Festival** – Signups for staffing the festival will begin in mid-April.

We look forward to your participation and seeing you on Memorial Day Weekend.

Marin Greek Festival Committee

Mike Madias & Ed Keller

Festival Cooking Schedule

Wednesday, March 27	Moussaka - Eggplant Prep, 8 am
Saturday, March 30	Dolmathes 9 am - 5 pm
Wednesday, April 3	Spanikopita Assembly 2 - 6 pm
Friday, April 5	Spanikopita Assembly 2 - 6 pm
Monday, April 8	Koulouria and Paximadia 9 am
Friday, April 12	Moussaka Meat Prep 3 - 6 pm
Saturday, April 13	Moussaka Assembly 9 am - 5 pm
Friday, April 19	Pastitsio - Pasta Prep 4 - 6 pm
Saturday, April 20	Pastitsio Assembly 9 am - 5 pm
Wednesday, May 8	Melomakarona 9 am
Monday, May 13	Diples 9 am
Thursday, May 16	Kourabiethes 9 am
Saturday, May 18	Kataifi 9 am
Monday, May 20	Baklava 9 am
Wednesday, May 22	Dip Diples and Melomakarina in honey; Taramosalata 9 am
Thursday, May 23	Bean Soup 9 am

Come and help prepare for our Greek Festival. You can volunteer online by going to the following website: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4DABAF2EA31-festival>

Family in Novato looking for PT Nanny/Child care. Flexible on days/times but ideally would like someone 2 to 3 days a week, 12 to 6 pm. Does require driving. If interested, please email Karry Karavolos Bryan at kkbryan@comcast.net or call 415/717-4461.



Monastery of the Theotokos, The Life Giving Spring Icon Fundraiser

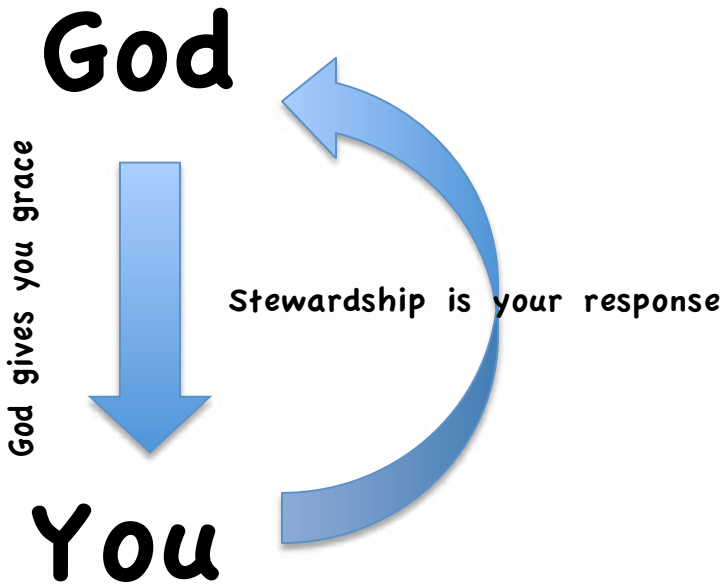
The youth of our community (represented by Valentina and Marina Scanagatta) taking part in the "Building of the Icon" fundraiser for the Monastery of the Theotokos - The Life Giving Spring. Our icon is the Resurrection - let us as a parish family complete the building of this icon, piece by piece, before May 5 - Pascha! We can do this - together - we are more than 50% complete! See page Donation Form on page 12.

2013 Stewardship Campaign

Be a Responsible Steward of God Through Commitment to His Church

Thank you to all who completed and returned a 2013 Stewardship Commitment Card in March. Through your active commitment to Christ's Church – our individual and our communal pilgrimage of faith progressed!

Remember, everyone is already 'a steward' of God, because we have all received His grace, and stewardship is simply our response to God's grace. Being a responsible steward of God is paramount for Christians, and is felt through commitment to His Church!



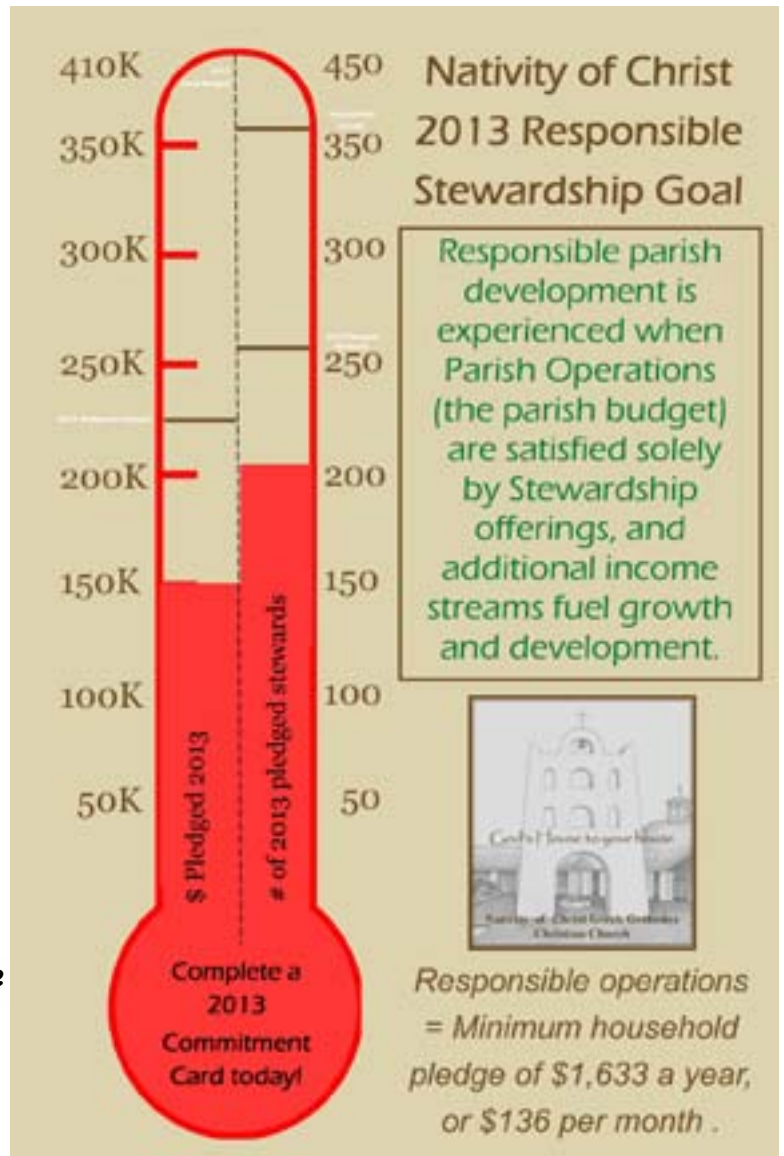
If you still have not completed and returned a 2013 Stewardship Commitment Card to Nativity, fear not! Our Lord receives our commitments continually... as an important component of your Orthodox Christian life, please complete and return a commitment card today!

Nativity Responsible Stewardship Goals:

- 1) 100% Participation
- 2) Fulfill the Nativity Operating Budget with Stewardship

Thank You

We thank those listed on the right, as well as the others previously listed, for their response to the 2013 Stewardship Campaign.



2013 Stewardship Update March 22, 2013

Number of Commitment Cards Received	202
Total Amount Committed	\$149,830
Budgeted Goal	\$205,000

Stewardship Commitments Received between 2/25/13 and 3/25/13

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Afendikov, Mikhail & Lilia | Lourdis, Vasiliki |
| Anderson, Frances | Madias, Alexander |
| Baird, Maria | Madias, Dino & Marti |
| Bechaka, Sonia | Madias, Evangelia |
| Berry, John & Paula | Madias, Theo |
| Capetanos, John & Aglaia | Manesis, Stephan & Sandi |
| Captanian, Ted & Connie | Mantalvanos, Alex & Maria |
| Demopoulos, Nick | Margaronis, Anastassios & Maya |
| Destein, Pat | Martigopoulos, Harry & Connie |
| Dutoff, Dimitri | Martin, Jason & Mia |
| Eliades, Peter & Marie | Mavrantonis, Antoni |
| Fafoutis, Aris & Diane | Morphew, Forrest & Ephimia |
| Kakleas, Jon & Michelle | Morris, Susan |
| Kamages, Christ & Pat | Papanikolaou, George & Soula |
| Karas, Tom & Eleni | Passaris, Michael & Meredith |
| Katselis, Anthony & Karin | Rust, Matthew & Athina |
| Kosmas, Tony | Saddik, Neveen |
| Kosturos, John & Dolly | Sarantakis, Chris & Tina |
| | Soldatos, Helen |
| | Tar, Michael & Natalie |
| | Yiakis, Joseph & Margaret |
| | Zagorites, Marian |



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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Novato, CA
Permit No. 124

Change Service Requested

Dated Material



*“I see Thy
Bridal Chamber
adorned,
O my Saviour,
and I have no
wedding garment
that I may enter therein;
O Giver of Light
make radiant
the garment of my soul
and save me.”*

*Exapostelaron for Bridegroom Vespers
during Holy Week*