



# The Word

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

John 1:14

## Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ

### Focus & Intent Lead to Good Things... Even in Yoga!

I attended my first yoga class recently. Years of joint pain and multiple surgeries from old athletic injuries prohibit me from what I called, real exercise, and so I approached yoga to help my flexibility and balance. Skeptical, I entered the room looking at the people, the lit candle on the floor, and listening to the new-age music playing. Within the first minutes, I had completely forgotten my intentions of flexibility and balance and began internally judging the oddly dressed, middle-aged participants, the silly 'spiritual candle' and the music... well, let's just say I was awaiting a small man playing a sitar to walk into the room! I was not getting anything out of this class except some good joke material, but not because the yoga exercises were bad – I was getting nothing out of the class because I allowed my focus and intention to be altered. Due to my choice, I was at best a witness, but probably more likely a cynic of what yoga could do for me, and I questioned why I was there and if I would ever return.

When entering the Divine Liturgy our intention and focus is to be the experience of Jesus Christ, Who heals us and makes us whole. It is easy to affirm this intention while outside the Divine Liturgy, however, I challenge myself and others to affirm this focus and intent from the moment that we pull into the parking lot until the moment we leave on Sunday morning. To not be concerned with the type of cars that we see in the lot, who is (or is not) greeting us in the narthex as we enter the church, who we sit by, and what that other person is wearing. To not be consumed with our like or dislike of the music, the language of the service, or if the altar boys lined up a bit too far to one side... When we choose to allow our focus and intention toward the Di-

vine Liturgy be altered from anything other than the experience of God – we become witnesses at best, yet probably most likely cynics – perhaps questioning why we are even there and if we will return.

Twenty minutes into the class I was contemplating walking out and attempting to salvage a workout on the elliptical machine, but I stayed. I have heard from so many people that yoga could be a good thing for me that I had to complete at least one class. The only way that I could stand staying was to close my eyes and refocus on my original intention – flexibility and balance. By choosing to refocus, in moments I was able to begin approaching what was offered responsibly. As a beginner, my form was far from perfect, but it did improve. My breathing stabilized, and I found myself immersed in the Jesus Prayer; Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. By simply choosing to refocus on my original intention – I was starting to get something out of yoga.

In the Divine Liturgy we are not exempt from temptation; in fact, it is even more prevalent as the evil one does not want anyone to approach the salvific experience of Christ. In moments of honesty, we may find ourselves straying from a focused participation in the service. As people of faith, we approach the Divine Liturgy to be healed by God. This reality affirms that our God is a loving and merciful God, Who is willing to receive us, despite our imperfections, when we choose Him. When our focus strays during the Divine Liturgy, if we choose to refocus our intent to the experience of Jesus Christ, that same

loving God will accept our pilgrimage and receive us with compassion and embrace. By simply choosing to refocus on your original intention, you will start to 'get something out of the Divine Liturgy.'

I now recognize yoga as exercise and have chosen to go again.

Do you recognize the Divine Liturgy as necessary for your soul, and will you choose to go again?

Divine Liturgy: Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

*Fr. Luke*



*Presentation of Our Lord  
February 2*



## February Services & Readings

Date/Time	Service	Epistle	Gospel
Feb 2 9:30 am	Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple	Hebrews 7:7-17	Luke 2:22-40
Feb 3 9:30 am	15th Sunday of Matthew	II Corinth. 4:6-15	Matthew 22:35-46
Feb 7 9:30 am	St. Luke, the Righteous	James 1:19-27	Mark 6:30-45
Feb 10 9:30 am	16th Sunday of Matthew	II Timothy 2:1-10	Matthew 25:14-30
Feb 17 9:30 am	17th Sunday of Matthew	II Corinth. 6:16-7:1	Mark 12:13-17
Feb 24 9:30 am	Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee Triodion Begins	II Corinth. 4:6-15	Luke 18:10-14

## February Acolyte Schedule

All acolytes are asked to serve in February

## February Candle Duty Schedule

February 3	Bruce Corcoran, Pete Gikkas, George Kokalis
February 10	Peter Eliades, George Georgeson, Scott Walters
February 17	Alex Slenkin, George Sotiras, Tony Kosmas
February 24	Chris Siefkas, Nick Livanos, Spiro Stratigos

# 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](mailto:ncchurch@pacbell.net)**

**[www.nativityofchrist.org](http://www.nativityofchrist.org)**

**Fr. Luke Palumbis,  
Pastor  
[frluke@nativityofchrist.org](mailto:frluke@nativityofchrist.org)**

**February 2013**



*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."*

### KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

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



- |                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| •Mary Camamis               | •Tina Gavallos  |
| •Alexandra Edrich           | •Christ Kamages |
| •Fr. Constantine Efstathiou | •Lula Kamages   |
| •Fr. Haralambos Fox         | •James Kolyvas  |
| •Heloisa Gavallos           | •Joan Marsala   |

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 office.**

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# Parish Activities & Ministries

## Philoptochos

### Philoptochos Board

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

### Coffee Hour



#### February 3, 17 and 24

are available for you to host a coffee hour if you have some special occasion to celebrate: a birthday, name day, memorial or any other reason. If you are unable to host a coffee hour, but would like to bring something to share, anything you can bring is appreciated by all.

On **February 10** we will have a special treat for you during our Sunday fellowship hour. We will be serving gyros with all the trimmings! During our January board meeting we wanted to do something special for our "Go Red Sunday," and Father Luke suggested something fun like gyros or loukoumathes. We decided to go with **gyros** and save the loukoumathes coffee hour for a Sunday during Lent. There will be a charge for the gyros to help fund our donation to the American Heart Association.

If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour, please contact Debbie Kokalis at 415-367-5252. Coffee will be made for you, the table set and juices for the children provided. It can't get much easier than that! It doesn't need to be elaborate; in fact we prefer to keep it simple. So make 2013 the year you help your parish Philoptochos by hosting a coffee hour. It's a great way to keep in touch and greet fellow parishioners.

### Vasilopeta



Our annual Vasilopeta was held on December 30th this year. Congratulations go out to Susan Stockton and Vickie Gikkas and

their baking staff for a job well done. With the coffee hour proceeds and Vasilopeta sales, \$700 will be sent to benefit St. Basil Academy.

### Membership

Our membership drive began on January 6, 2013 and will continue throughout the month of January (see page 10 for a membership form). As of January 19, we're almost half way to our goal of 120 members. The following people are the new 2013 members of the Nativity of Christ Philoptochos Society: **Pres. Evelyn Adams, Keri Antonis, Cathy Banks, Floretta Burrows, Connie Captanian, Paraskevi Catel, Bruce Corcoran, Fran Corcoran, Anna Cordellos, Dennis Cordellos, Anna Diamantopoulos, Carol Economy, Pres. Kay Efstathiou, Vivian Fotinos, George Fotinos, Effie Fourakis, George Georgeson, Maria Hilakos Hanke, Vickie Hatos, Rose Hunter, Paraskeve Karavolos, Olympia Katelanis, Diane Kavantjas, Mia Kavantjas, Debbie Kokalis, Kathy Marshall, Irene Meehan, Nicole Meehan, Soteria Mestakidis, Adam Nicoloupolos, Katherine Pantazes, Grete Reighard, John Reighard, Patricia Rey, Doris Roland, Patricia Rossi, Cathy Selmi, Helen Selmi, Matina Seremetis, Stassie Sideris, Chris Siefkas, Susan Siefkas, Kay Simon, Nancy Slenkin, Sophia Stathis, Stella Stenros, John Stockton, Susan Stockton, Mary Kay Stratigos, Spiro Stratigos, George Tacticos, Christina Thomatos, Maggie Vassiliou, Amalia Walters, Karen Walters and Scott Walters.**

Becoming a member of Philoptochos is an excellent opportunity to become involved with our community. It isn't just about meetings, fundraising and writing checks to charities, it's about using your God-given talents to enrich the lives of those less fortunate. Make 2013 the year you truly become a "friend of the poor." Joining Philoptochos really means actively living and **practicing our Orthodox faith.**

Your membership, along with coffee hour proceeds and our two fundraisers, Palm Sunday Luncheon and Harvest Luncheon, help to fund our donations to various National, Metropolis and local charities. Examples of some of the charities we send donations to

are: American Heart Association, Cancer Society, Homeward Bound, Hospice by the Bay, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Marin Food Bank, Matrix Resource Center, Ministry on HIV/AIDS, Novato Human Needs Center, Raphael House, Retired Clergy Association, Ritter Center, Senior Access, Trinity Children's Foundation, USO Operation Phone Home and Young Imaginations, plus many more worthy organizations. If you would like a complete list of charitable organizations we donate to, please contact Cathy Selmi or Debbie Kokalis, and we will be happy to give you the information.

### Monthly Birthdays

This year we have added a new question to our Membership form: your birthday month and day. Each month we will be honoring our Philoptochos members by wishing them a "Happy Birthday." Since our membership drive started in January we were unable to list the January birthdays so we will list them in February. When you fill out your membership form, don't forget your birthday! If you forgot, don't worry, we will be giving you a call or sending you an email for the information.



#### January birthdays:

Diane Kavantjas (8th),  
Debbie Kokalis (20th)  
and Patricia Rey (25th).

#### February birthdays:

Bruce (10th) and Fran  
(11th) Corcoran. Happy  
Birthday!! And many  
many more.....

### Cookbook Update

Recipes have started arriving in the mail, and we are very excited to see what interesting recipes and stories we are getting. We encourage you to continue submitting your favorite recipes and stories. Just as a reminder, this new cookbook is more of a Mediterranean cookbook and is not limited to Greek recipes. We hope to receive many multicultural recipes to reflect the diversity of our parish. So please continue submitting any type of food recipe you choose, including appetizers, vegetables, legumes, meat, poultry, fish, desserts and even drinks! Menu ideas to go with your recipes are encouraged and much appreciated. We look forward to your cherished family recipes and stories. Forms for recipe submissions will be available during Sunday coffee hours and also in the church office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our cookbook coordinator, Cathy Selmi. *Continued on Page 4*



# Parish Activities & Ministries

## Philoptochos

Continued from Page 3

### February General Meeting

Our first General meeting of 2013 will be a **dinner meeting** on **Tuesday, February 5, at 6:00 pm**, in our small hall. We invite all members of Philoptochos, new for 2013 and existing from 2012, to come and enjoy a lasagna dinner, meet with other Philoptochos members and plan exciting events and projects for this year. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Debbie Kolkalis, 415-367-5252 or debsplaygr@comcast.net and let us know you are coming. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Dates to Remember

- Feb 5 General Meeting 6 pm
- Feb 10 Go Red Sunday - Gyro Lunch

## HOPE/JOY

Thank you to all who donated books and magazines for our first book drive to benefit the Mary Issak Center in Petaluma.

We delivered the books to the children's program coordinator in December and she and the center staff were so appreciative of our church youth groups remembering those less fortunate in this way during the holiday season. In December, we also enjoyed a wonderful Gingerbread House making workshop!

Thank you to all the families who made time for our first fellowship activity of 2013! We had a good time socializing while bumper bowling at Boulevard Lanes!

Our next few activities are as follows. Please plan to attend/participate! It's a true joy to see our kids learning and having fun together! Siblings and friends always welcome on our outings and at our activities.

**February Service Project:** We are collecting new and/or gently used jackets/coats/sweaters/sweatshirts/hoodies etc., toys and blankets for a local Novato shelter. Please find new

and/or gently used items in good condition that you can share/spare with those in need.

Parent volunteers will be needed to help sort and deliver the donated items.

**Saturday, March 2.** Family field trip to Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga. **Our GOYA friends are welcome to join us.** Meet at church at 9 AM or at the monastery at 10:30 sharp. **RSVP by Feb 21** to Dennis and Christina Thomatos (cthomas@yahoo.com or 415-895-1375) Please RSVP with number of folks attending so the sisters can plan accordingly.

**April 1 through April 30:** All this month, please donate plastic eggs filled with trinkets and treats for the church egg hunt.

**Sunday April 14:** Altar Table Items Workshop. Come learn about the chalice, paten, blessing cross and more, and see them up close!

**Friday May 3:** Holy Friday Retreat at church. HOPE and JOY families please participate in this day of beautiful fellowship and prayer in remembrance of the crucifixion and burial of our Lord and Savior and in anticipation of his Resurrection.

**Sunday, May 5,** Holy Pascha/Easter: HOPE and JOY will again coordinate the Egg Hunt. This year the Egg Hunt will take place immediately after the Agape Service and before the parish picnic. So, please come to church for the Agape Service and join in the egg hunting fun afterwards. Bring your own Easter Basket :-).

We would like to plan a family outing to Southern Marin for the summer or Fall. Any suggestions?

We always need your help and fresh ideas to continue to provide quality fellowship opportunities for our pre-school through 6th grade youth!

Thank you for your continued support of HOPE and JOY!!

Christina Thomatos  
HOPE and JOY Co-Advisor  
415-895-1375

## Parish Council

The 2013 Parish Council was given the oath of office on January 6. Members include: **Fran Corcoran, Peter Eliades, George Gigounas, Pete Gikkas, Rose Hunter, George Kolkalis, Steve Rouman, Chris Siefkas, Matina Seremetis, George Sotiras, Spiro Stratigos and Scott Walters.** The first meeting was held on Tuesday, January 8. Election of officers was held with the following results:

- President: George Gigounas**
- Vice-President: Peter Eliades**
- Secretary: Rose Hunter**
- 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 **Connie Captanian**, whose tenure ended on December 31, for her years of service on the Parish Council.

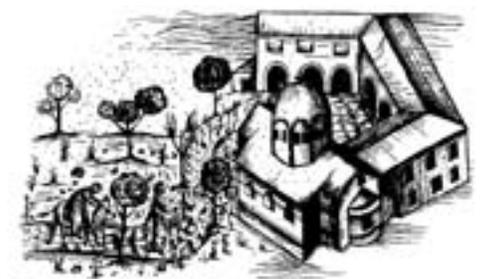
## Sunday School

### Town Hall Meeting

The Town Hall Meeting last month provided an open opportunity for all members in the Parish to contribute to the thinking and vision for the future of religious education. Recognizing that learning takes place at any age, at all times, and everywhere, the discussion led by Father Luke prompted us to reflect on our purpose and consider the religious education experience within and beyond our church family AND the potential for what it could become.

### February Class Schedule

- February 3: Students attend Classes
- February 10: Students attend Classes
- February 17: Students attend Classes
- February 24: Students attend Classes



# 2013 Stewardship Campaign

## Stewardship – What’s the Point?

When you choose to be a committed steward of Nativity, two things happen:

- 1) The church may responsibly plan and develop our current and future ministry model.
- 2) You take a significant step forward on your Christian journey toward the Kingdom!

We have currently received 135 Stewardship Commitment Cards for 2013. Based upon the number of listings in our Parish Directory, we invite a minimum of 197 additional Stewardship Commitment Cards to be submitted to the church office.

Life can be busy, and filled with details – if you have simply overlooked turning in your 2013 Nativity Stewardship Commitment Card, please make the commitment to do so as soon as possible. If you have not returned a completed Stewardship Commitment Card for any other reason, please contact Father Luke to open a dialogue.

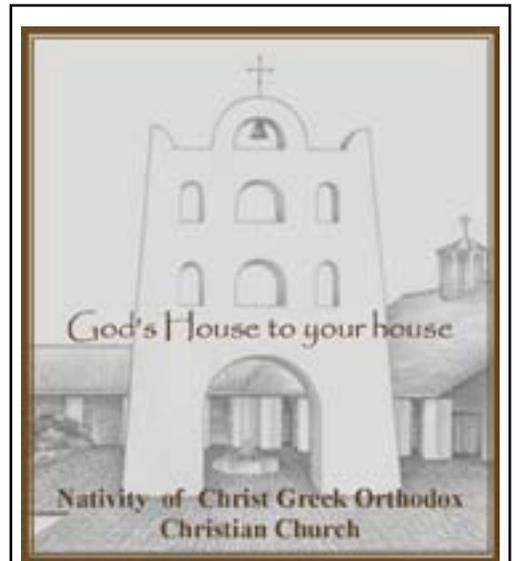
“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

### Additional Stewardship Commitments Received between 12/18/12 and 1/28/13

Angelonides, Peter & Arlene  
Arango, Pat  
Balopoulos, Michael & Anna  
Bertolina, Ron & Elaine  
Bizani, Pano & Barbara  
Bryan, Keith and Karry  
Burrows, Bill & Floretta  
Catel, George & Paraskevi  
Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie  
Eliopoulos, Paul & Sophia  
Fourakis, Vasilis & Effie  
Fourakis, Andreas & Argyro  
Georgeson, George & Debbie  
Hajopoulos, Kathy  
Haralambopoulos, Costas & Ria  
Harris, Helen  
Hontalas, Frank & Eve  
Hunter, Hugh  
Hunter, John & Rose  
Jouganatos, Spiros & Connie  
Kamages, Alex & Sherry  
Kamages, Lula  
Kambur, James & JoAnne  
Karavolos, Michael  
Katsaros, Eleni  
Lagios, Michael & Sheila  
Mackechnie, Michael & Kathleen  
Martin, James & Mairobi  
Orologas-Roland, Nickie

Panas, Michael & Erin  
Papanikolaou, Marina  
Psaros, Stamatis & Eleni  
Rossi, Patricia  
Rouman, Steve & Liz  
Sarantakis, George & Susan  
Scafidas, Anastasia  
Selmi, Helen  
Seremetis, Matina & Andres Pineda  
Simon, Kay  
Slenkin, Alex & Nancy  
Smyrni, Anna  
Sotiras, Giorgis  
Sotiras, Paraskevas & Erene  
Stathis, Gus & Sophia  
Stavrinides, Thalia  
Stenos, Stuart & Stella  
Stratigos, George  
Stratigos, Spiro & Mary Kay  
Tacticos, George  
Tocmakidis, Peter & Pinelopy  
Trimble, Paul  
Valakitsis, Yiannis & Eugenia  
Vassiliou, Maggie  
Walters, Charles & Amalia  
Walters, Scott & Karen  
White, Sonja  
Wildermuth, Anna  
Yioulos, Dean & Ann

**Please note:** If your stewardship card was received prior to December 18, your name should have already appeared in a previous



### 2013 Stewardship Update January 28, 2013

<b>Number of Commitment Cards Received</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Total Amount Committed</b>	<b>\$109,966</b>
<b>Budgeted Goal</b>	<b>\$205,000</b>

*Thank you to everyone who has returned their Stewardship commitment cards for 2013. If you have not yet responded, please do so as soon as possible. Commitment cards are available in the narthex or call the church office.*

### 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.”



## **Nativity Community Hall Discussions**

Last month we began our community hall discussions with a wonderful conversation on the following two topics: Religious Education & Opportunity and Commitment. I wish to thank all those who stayed and participated in the discussion, and preemptively thank all those who after reading this reflection will engage in community life.

Seated in our community hall, some shivering over a cup of coffee, we explored the following...

### **Education**

- 1) By God's design, learning takes place at all times from the moment of conception, up to and through death.
- 2) Education is the process of filling the time and space around us with forums, materials, and experiences that engage our learning.
- 3) Concepts that are valued by our community and are desired in educational forums are:
  - A. The Bible, Orthodoxy Today, Family, Belief in God, Progressing in Faith, History, The Golden Rule, Church Participation, Foundations of Morality, Inclusiveness, Charity and Stewardship.
- 4) Church Education needs to engage all stages of life.
  - A. A gap exists in Church commitment/involvement between High School and the time that adults have children.
  - B. The same gap exists in church programming aimed toward those demographics.
  - C. Concept remedies include: Universal Education, Life-Long-Learning and Ministry Outreach.
- 5) Notion of Streamlining Educational Experience at Nativity
  - A. Family-based programming - to engage family bonding and growth.
  - B. Programs embracing multiple generations.
  - C. Merging activity-based programs with formal education programs.
  - D. Multi-media forums.
  - E. Varying dynamics, including wide geographic spread of the community (Marin & Sonoma Counties), difficulty getting to Nativity during traffic times on Highway 101.

### **Opportunities & Commitment**

- 1) Opportunity – God creates opportunities in our lives so that we may choose Him.
  - A. Opportunities add value to our lives
  - B. Opportunities open doorways that lead to salvation.
  - C. Through opportunities God calls us to love Him.
    - i. Because He loves us, He calls us to choose Him.
    - ii. When we choose God, our ultimate reward is salvation.

- 2) Commitment – The active participation in the opportunity in front of you.
- 3) God has initiated our relationship.
  - A. God has given to us – we call this grace.
  - B. We respond to what God has given to us – we call this stewardship.
  - C. Our responses to the time, talents and treasures that God has given to us can be good or bad... the measuring stick of 'good/bad stewardship' is the Gospel.
  - D. Each day that we respond to the grace that God has given us, we engage an opportunity with a commitment.
    - i. Choice precedes Commitment, which creates identity.
    - ii. What decisions are we making that identify us as Orthodox Christians?
    - iii. How can you choose God at Nativity?
      1. What opportunities do we have, and can we cultivate at Nativity to invite decisions to become committed, responsible Orthodox Christian stewards?
        - a. Attend Divine Services.
        - b. Daily Prayer.
        - c. Become a Steward. Increase stewardship.
        - d. Philanthropic ministries – Join Philoptochos.
        - e. Attend Bible Study & other adult classes.
        - f. Join the choir or sing from the pews.
        - g. Engage parish programming.
        - h. Bring a friend to church.
        - i. Find ways to love, in addition to Sundays.
        - j. Etc...

All of this discussion took place, and more – in two, timed sessions of 25 minutes each! Thank you for answering the call to have your voice heard! Come participate in our next monthly Nativity Community Hall Discussion, where we will maintain the same format, limiting our discussion to a total of 50 minutes.

**Sunday, February 10  
following the Divine Liturgy  
in the community hall.**

**Discussion Topics:  
The Divine Services  
Nativity Operations**

**YOUR VOICE IS REQUESTED!**



# Photos Community Christmas and HOPE/JOY Bowling Activity



Photos above are from the Community Christmas Celebration on December 23 that preceded the production of "A Christmas Carol."

The photos below are from the HOPE/JOY outing on Sunday, January 13, to the bowling alley in Petaluma.



# 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 Orthodox Christian Faith.

### Membership Form

\_\_\_\_\_ Full Member

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate Member

Non-Orthodox Christian man or woman, married to an Orthodox Christian spouse, or an Orthodox Christian man. An Associate Member enjoys all privileges of membership except the right to vote or hold office.

\_\_\_\_\_ Gift Membership

Please complete a Gift Card.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday(Mo/day) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

My 2013 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.

# Sacraments and Rites

## **40-Day Blessing**

December 6 **Antonios Darakis** and her son, Miltiadis Antonis (Milton).

## **Baptisms**

January 3 **James Molyneaux IV**, son of James & Mairobi Martin III. Sponsor was Athena Elizabeth Ateshian.

January 5 **Miltiadis Antonis**, son of Jung Joo Kim-Darakis & Antonios Darakos. Sponsor was Nikolas Sarrigeorgiou.

January 26 **Katerina Maria**, daughter of Freddie & Theothosia Mertens. Sponsor was Eleni Katsaros.

*“As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”*



## **Wedding**

January 12 **Georgia Psaros** and **Nick Vlahakos**. Koumbaro was George Panagiotidis.

*“You have set on their heads crowns of precious stones.”*



## **Memorial**

January 12 **George Perivolaris**.

*“May his memory be eternal.”*



## **Prayer Request For Our Local Area**

Did you know that the #1 crime in Marin County is domestic violence? In considering our neighbors, together with our sons & daughters in our armed forces, please maintain the people of our local area in your daily prayer lives by adding the following prayer for peace:

*Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth.  
Guide, I pray, all the nations, their leaders, and all peoples  
in the ways of justice and peace.*

*Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation,  
conflict, abuse, and war.*

*Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred.*

*Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of abuse and war.*

*Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom.*

*Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace  
against ignorance, poverty, disease, abuse, and oppression.*

*Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship  
as brothers and sisters created in Your image,  
to Your honor and praise.*

*Amen.*



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

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*Let us flee from the boasting  
of the Pharisee and learn  
through our own sighs of  
sorrow the humility of  
the Publican. Let us cry  
out to the Savior, "Have  
mercy on us, for through You  
alone are we reconciled."*

*Kontakion for Publican and the Pharisee*