



The Word

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

John 1:14

Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ

January 2012

"King of all, You accepted also to be baptized in the Jordan by the hand of a servant, so that, having sanctified the nature of the waters, You, the sinless one, might make a way for our rebirth through water and Spirit and re-establish us in our original freedom."

~Prayer from the Blessing of the Waters

It is most providential that God authentically and completely understands us; our emotions, struggles, life and even death, as He experienced them through taking human flesh by the incarnation and birth of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Beyond our understanding and experience of humility is the offering that God made to His creation, in the form of His Son. As recipients of this Divine love and compassion, we are obligated to recognize and offer glory to our Father in heaven for His love and all the forms in which we receive it.

In the month of January, we recognize and glorify one particular event where Christ's humility and love for us may be witnessed, His baptism! On January 6 the Holy Orthodox Church celebrates the Theophany of our Lord — His baptism at the hand of Saint John the Baptist! (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-

22, John 1:29-34). In the sacrament of Holy Baptism, water, which we experience and equate in daily life as a means for cleansing, is transformed by the Holy Spirit so that it may be used for a cleansing of the soul and a renewal of life in the Body of Christ.

It is Christian tradition that baptism only happens once in an individual's life; therefore, at the feast of Theophany, rather than recognizing it with repeated baptisms, the Church offers the service of the blessing of the waters. Regular water is again transformed by the Holy Spirit, through the prayers of the Church, into a medium of blessing — Holy Water. This transformed water is to be drunk by people of faith as an experience of particular blessing, and sprinkled through environments where people of faith dwell; homes, work places, etc.

House Blessings

"From the Epiphany Blessing of the Waters Celebration, Holy Water is taken into the homes and work places of the faithful by clergy to bless these environments that they may support the quiet Christian pilgrimages of the faithful who dwell within this space, and those who visit therein."

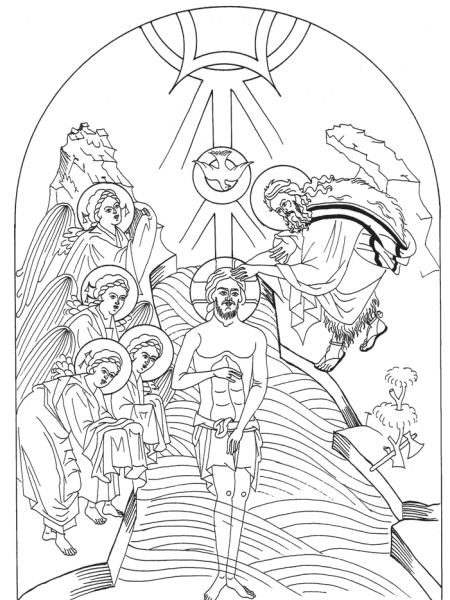
If you are interested in having your home or place of business blessed, please fill out the included request form (see page 8) found in this edition of 'The Word,' and return it to the church office. You will be contacted to schedule a time. The faithful are asked to please be flexible in your scheduling, as it is anticipated that many blessing services will be requested.



*St. Athanasius & St. Cyril
January 18*

From the Epiphany Blessing of the Waters Celebration, Holy Water is taken into the homes and work places of the faithful by clergy to bless these environments that they may support the quiet Christian pilgrimages of the faithful who dwell within this space, and those who visit therein.

As a community of faithful, let us offer glory to our God, the God who loves us to such an extent that He chose to humble Himself beyond measure or understanding for us! This January 6, as we celebrate the baptism of our Lord, let us truly and authentically offer the Lord our thanks, and experience the abundant blessings that He extends to us through His Church.



Fr. Luke

*Feast of the Holy Epiphany
January 6*

January Services & Readings

Date/Time	Service	Epistle	Gospel
Jan 1 10:00 am	Circumcision of Christ St. Basil the Great	Colossians 2:8-12	Luke 2:20-21, 40-52
Jan 5 9:30 am	Eve of Holy Epiphany	I Corinth. 9:19-27	Luke 3:1-18
Jan 6 9:30 am	Holy Epiphany	Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7	Matthew 3:13-15
Jan 7 9:30 am	John the Baptist	Acts 19:1-8	John 1:29-34
Jan 8 9:30 am	Sunday After Epiphany	Ephesians 4:7-13	Matthew 4:12-17
Jan 15 9:30 am	12th Sunday of Luke (Ten Lepers)	Colossians 3:4-11	Luke:17:12-19
Jan 17 9:30 am	St. Anthony the Great	Hebrews 13:17-21	Luke 6:17-23
Jan 18 9:30 am	Saints Athanasios & Cyril Patriarchs of Alexandria	Hebrews 13:7-16	Matthew 5:14-19
Jan 22 9:30 am	14th Sunday of Luke (Zacchaeus)	I Timothy 4:9-15	Luke 19:1-10
Jan 25 9:30 am	Gregory the Theologian	Hebrews 7:26-8:2	John 10:9-16
Jan 29 9:30 am	17th Sunday of Matthew (Canaanite Woman)	II Corinth. 6:16-7:1	Matthew 15:21-28
Jan 30 10:00 am	Three Hierarchs	Hebrews 13:7-16	Matthew 5:14-19

January Acolyte Schedule

All Acolytes are asked to serve each Sunday in January

January Candle Duty Schedule

January 1	Chris Siefkas, Nick Livanos and Steve Riginich
January 8	Bruce Corcoran, Pete Gikkas and George Kokalis
January 15	Peter Eliades, George Georgeson and Scott Walters
January 22	Alex Slenkin, George Sotiras and Tony Kosmas
January 29	Chris Siefkas, Nick Livanos and Steve Riginich

Thank You

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Presvytera, my family, and I, are deeply grateful for the love and generosity shown us upon my retirement this past August, and for all the years of shared ministry we enjoyed together. With the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and our parish's Feast Day, we once again extend to all of you our deepest thanks and gratitude and wish each and every one of you every blessing from God for the coming year and always.

May the grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.

With love in our Incarnate Lord,
Fr. Constantine

The Word

Monthly Newsletter

published by

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January 2012



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Parish Activities & Ministries

Parish Council

2012 Parish Council

The following parishioners were elected to serve on the Parish Council for two years beginning in 2011: **Fran Corcoran, George Gigounas, Rose Hunter, George Kokalis, Steve Rouman and Chris Siefkas.**

They join the members who have one year remaining on their terms: **Connie Captanian, Peter Eliades, Pete Gikkas, George Sotiras and Scott Walters.**

May our gracious Lord enlighten and guide them to fulfill their responsibilities sincerely and faithfully.

Thank You!

We express our deepest thanks to **Eleni Scanagatta** who has fulfilled her term on the Parish Council. Eleni served as recording secretary during her entire tenure. We appreciate her selfless and diligent service to the parish.

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. Your help is greatly appreciated.

- 11/27 George & Anna Diamantopoulos & Effie Fourakis
- 12/4 Tracy Langley & Jeff Brzycki
- 12/11 Irene and Nicole Meehan
- 12/18 Sunday school dads

For anyone interested, we are in need of coffee hour hosts in January on the 8th and the 29th. Please contact Stassie Sideris at 415-479-4770, or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the coffee room.

BAPSAEF Luncheon

On Saturday, December 10th a group of Philoptochos members attended the annual BAPSAEF fundraiser luncheon to benefit the students at Holy Cross and Hellenic College. The boutique had so many items available to purchase it was hard to choose just one, and the auditorium was beautifully decorated with 19 small theme trees. The tree that our chapter submitted was themed "Sparkle Party Holiday Hostess" and was one of the best trees. We are proud to announce that our own Floretta Burrows won our chapter tree. Thank you, Susan Stockton and Cathy Selmi, for your creative abilities.

Christmas Card

We would like to thank everyone for participating in our Community Christmas Card, benefiting the Retired Clergy Association (RCA). This year, thanks to your generous donations, we were able to send \$3000. Thanks go out to Rose Hunter and Karen Keller for coordinating this worthy fundraiser.

Membership

Our membership drive will begin on January 15, 2012, and will continue through the month of January. Philoptochos symbolizes the basic characteristic and teaching of Christianity, which is charity in all of its forms. Becoming a member of Philoptochos is an excellent opportunity to become involved with our community. It isn't just about meetings, fund raising and writing checks to charities, it's about using your God given talents to enrich the lives of those less fortunate. There can be no better response to the question **why join Philoptochos** than to say your membership is the

manifestation and witness of your faith as an Orthodox Christian. Joining Philoptochos really means actively living and **practicing our Orthodox faith**. All women and men are invited to join this worthy ministry of our church. Make 2012 the year you truly become a "friend of the poor". We have included a membership form in this bulletin for your convenience. We look forward to having you as a member of our parish Philoptochos.

Visitation

The Outreach committee shared Christmas cheer with our home-bound parishioners in December. Joining a team of two to visit one afternoon a month is done around your schedule. Please contact Diane Kavantjas, George Tacticos or Susan Stockton when you have an afternoon to share.

Dates to Remember

- Jan 1 Vasilopeta Sunday
- Jan 3 General Meeting 6:30 pm
- Jan 15 Membership Sunday
- Feb 7 Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Monthly Social

At the December 10th parish social, men and women, boys and girls made 26 blankets to donate to babies and children at the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at UCSF, where Elektra was in the hospital last year and the year before. When she was in the hospital she received two cheerful fleece blankets that had been donated by a family, and now our parish has made a similar donation using our time at the parish social and money donated by parishioners to cover the cost of the fabric. The blankets had to be heated in the dryer for 20 minutes to sanitize them and then stored in individual zip loc bags. On each bag I placed a sticker with a picture of the icon of the Great Martyr and Healer, Saint Panteleimon and the following: "This blanket was created with love and prayers for healing by the parish of the Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church in Novato." Elektra, Odysseas and I delivered the blankets to the PCICU along with a box of home-made Greek pastries. It was nice to visit some of the nurses we had gotten to know, but even better to be able to leave.

The parishioners who tied the blankets enjoyed it so much (and wanted to tie more of them) that I hope we will be able to make more blankets at another parish social. The Child Life social worker told me that they are always in need of these blankets.

~Effie Fourakis



Youth Ministries

HOPE/JOY

In December, our HOPE and JOY kids (ages Preschool through 5th grade and their siblings) had a great deal of fun making gingerbread houses at church! The high school room at church was filled with true joy and excitement as the kids worked on creating vibrant gingerbread houses! Many parents joined the fun and all had a wonderful time socializing while creating their masterpieces! The houses looked fabulous too as the centerpieces on the tables for the family social that followed! This fun and festive event was led by our own Nativity of Christ Sunday School teachers, Matina Seremetis and Eleni Scanagatta, who are also parents of HOPE/JOY kids. Thank you Matina and Eleni!



It's not too late to get involved with the fun of HOPE and JOY. The groups meet monthly for fellowship and fun with church friends!

In January we'll head to Petaluma for bowling and in February we will meet at church to socialize and make cards for the seniors and others who may not be able to leave their homes to get to church. Parent volunteers needed.

Parent help is needed to continue to make these groups a success! You can donate your time by coordinating an activity, helping as a chaperone/parent volunteer, bringing a snack or supplies for an activity and so on. . .your ideas for future gatherings/outings are always welcome.

For more information on upcoming HOPE/JOY events at our parish, to volunteer and to get on the mailing list for this beautiful ministry, contact HOPE and JOY advisors, Dennis and Christina Thomatos at 415-895-1375 or hopeadvisor@yahoo.com or cthomatos@yahoo.com.

GOYA

Happy New Year! from the Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

by Paul Gikkas

I hope and pray that all of you had a wonderful Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and that you are ready for all of the blessings and challenges that 2012 will bring!

After being in the Metropolis Youth Office for close to three months now, and having the opportunity to speak with many of you out there in our parishes, I believe I have a little better idea of the kinds of things this Office needs to do in order to continue to develop the Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Metropolis.

So, in addition to the yearly programs that you are familiar with like FDF, Oratorical Festival, GOYA Lenten Retreats, Summer Camp and Greek Village, here are a few new things to look for in the New Year:

- Metropolis Youth Website and Facebook Page
- Metropolis Young Adult Website and Facebook Page
- YAL Lenten Retreat
- Youth-Worker Retreat

I very much look forward to getting these websites up and running which should become a very valuable tool to trying to connect all of us throughout our very geographically large Metropolis.

However, I would still like to hear from all of you, our young people, young adults and our youth-workers, with any ideas you may have for our Metropolis Youth and Young Adult Ministries. So please e-mail me at pgikas@sanfran.goarch.org with your ideas and suggestions..... or just to say "hello".

In Christ,

Paul Gikas

Director, Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco
Office: 415-814-1186
Cell: 415-525-6803
Email: pgikas@sanfran.goarch.org



Thoughts from Fr. Luke

Nativity Youth & Beyond

Nativity Youth Ministries are continuing to flourish as many of our children continue to experience and grow closer to Christ through these experiences of Christian fellowship, learning and prayer.

HOPE & JOY: Over 26 Nativity young people gathered on December 10th and created gingerbread houses! Thank you to all our HOPE & JOY advisors who made this happen – well done, good and faithful servants!

GOYA: Following the Holy Unction Service on December 21st, our GOYA remained at Nativity for an overnight retreat! As a family, our teens prayed together, ate together, learned together and laughed together! Thank you to our GOYA advisors who braved a night on the floor with our teens – well done, good and faithful servants!

Nativity Christmas Pageant: What a beautiful offering! In my first experience of the annual Nativity Christmas Pageant, I was thoroughly impressed and filled with joy to see almost 50 of our young people participate in this beautiful play, and the congregation joining them in traditional Christmas carols! Thank you to our director, and all those parents who were involved – well done, good and faithful servants!

Sunday School: Our Nativity Sunday School program continues to offer a beautiful experience of bringing our young people closer to the experience and knowledge of Christ. Our dedicated directors and teachers prepare and offer themselves in the effort to bring your children and grandchildren closer to the Lord! Built on this commitment, our youth religious education experience will only be as strong as your commitment to consistently bring your children. Please (re)commit to regular and supported involvement in our Sunday School. Remember the words of our Lord, *"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"* Matthew 19:14

Nativity Socials: Each month our community has the opportunity to gather and celebrate God's love through our expression of Christ-centered

fellowship. We pray together, we eat together, we talk and get to know one another, and our children play together... what more could we ask for in a gathering! Thank you to all those whose efforts are bringing these social gatherings to fruition – well done good, and faithful servants!

Nativity Stewardship

"Your gifts, of what is Yours, we offer to You, in behalf of all, and for all!"
~ from the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

From the most intimate experience of God, the Divine Liturgy, we affirm the principle of Stewardship as a necessity for the health of our souls. In the above quote, immediately before the consecration of the gifts, as the priest begins to invoke the Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, a proclamation of Stewardship is offered. Recognizing that the bread and wine have come from God, it is stated that we are offering back to Him what is already His for the good of all people. By offering back to God the bread and wine, He does something miraculous with it for our own benefit – He transforms them into the Body and Blood of Christ, which sanctifies and heals our souls! This formula holds true for all stewardship offerings – all that we have, our time, talents, and treasures, have come from God, and when we offer them back to Him, He does tremendous things with them!

If you have not yet made your 2012 Stewardship commitment to the Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Christian Church, please prayerfully do so now by contacting the church office and submitting your completed Stewardship commitment card. (One is enclosed for your convenience.) If you have already completed and submitted your card, may God bless your offering and do something miraculous with it!

Let us live the Liturgy by being the most prayerfully, and responsible good stewards in 2012!

Religious Education

Bible Studies: We are continuing to navigate the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Galatians. Early morning Bible study needs, not only your participation, but your input! If you are interested in attending an early morning Bible Study, please contact the church office to convey your preferences as to time and location. The possibility of doing an off site Bible Study at an appropriate location (coffee shop, private room at a restaurant, golf course, etc...) is dependent upon how many people that would work for. Let's be creative together and be edified by God's Word! Mid-morning Bible study will continue at 10:00 am.

Orthodoxy 101: We continue to progress in our study and experience of Christ's Holy & Orthodox Church each Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm. Starting in January, we will proceed with a focus on the Divine Liturgy. All are invited and encouraged to participate!

Bring A Friend

In the Great Commission (Matthew 28), while ascending into Heaven, Jesus tells His disciples that He wants them to spread His teachings to all nations and grow the Church by baptizing people! The mission and nature of the church is to grow! The Church's history in North America is dynamic, however, it is not ended or in any way complete. In the tradition of the Apostles and all the saints, we are called to grow Christ's Church, and you have a role to play! First, by the way that we live our lives we should strive to exemplify the Gospel, in turn inspiring others toward Christ and His Church. Second, with your own understanding and appreciation for the role of the Church – share that joy with your family and friends by inviting them to experience the love we experience, share and glorify at Nativity! Invite someone to a Church service, to a class, to a youth event, to a parish social, etc., etc., etc... Let us always be cognizant of the Great Commission and strive to honor God by authentically attempting to grow His Church.



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 2012 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.

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

JANUARY 2 0 1 2

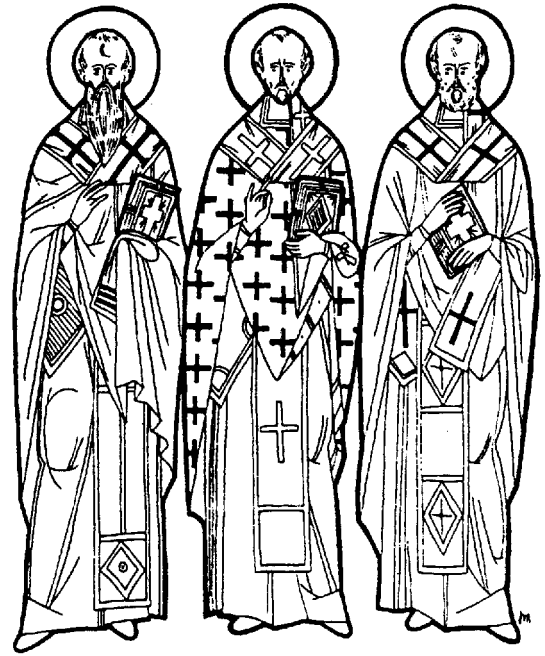
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 St. Basil the Great Circumcision of Christ Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  2012 Parish Council Oath of Office The Cutting of the Vasilopita	3 • Bible Study 7:00 a.m. • Bible Study 10:00 a.m. • Philoptochos General Membership Meeting 6:30 p.m.	4 • Bible Study 7:00 a.m. • Bible Study 10:00 a.m. • Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm	5 The Eve of Epiphany Royal Hours of the Epiphany 10:00 am 	6 Holy Epiphany- Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Blessing of the Waters 	7 John the Baptist Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 	
8 Sunday after Holy Epiphany Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows	10 • Bible Study 7:00 a.m. • Bible Study 10:00 a.m. • Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm	11 • Bible Study 7:00 a.m. • Bible Study 10:00 a.m. • Greek School 4-5:45 pm • Folk Dance Practice • Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm • GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm	12	13	14 • 11 am Baptism	
15 12th Sunday of Luke (Ten Lepers) Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows 	17 Clergy Laity Assembly 2012 January 16-17, 2012 St. Nicholas Ranch	18 Clergy Retreat January 17-18, 2012 St. Nicholas Ranch • Greek School 4-5:45 pm • Folk Dance Practice • GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm	19	20	21 • 11 am Wedding	
22 15th Sunday of Luke (Zacchaeus) Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows 	24 • Bible Study 7:00 a.m. • Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	25 St. Gregory the Theologian Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  • Greek School 4-5:45 pm • Folk Dance Practice • GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm	26	27 • Photos for Directory 2:00-9:30 pm High School Classroom	28 • Photos for Directory 9:30-5:30 pm High School Classroom	
29 17th Sunday of Matthew (Canaanean Woman) Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows 	31 Three Hierarchs Divine Liturgy 9:30 am • Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	Feb. 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 	3 • Photos for Directory 2:00-9:30 pm High School Classroom	4	



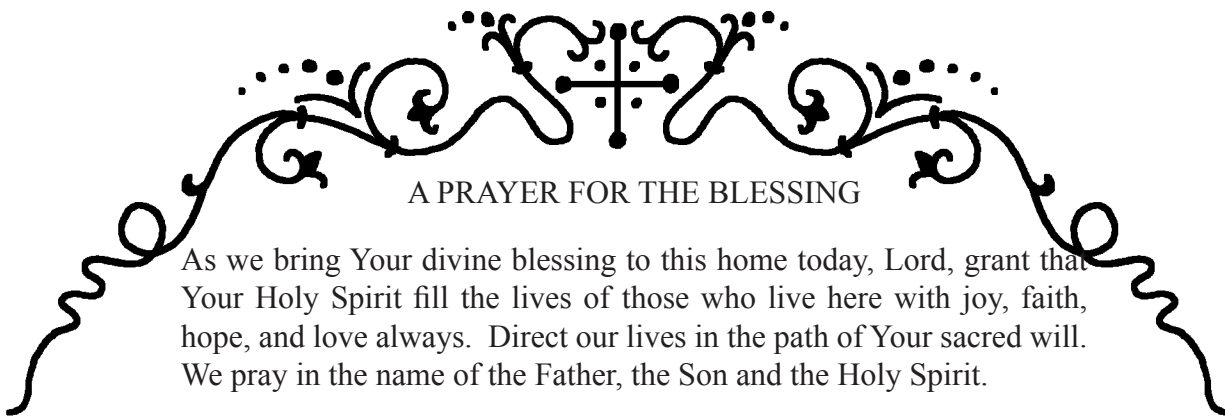
THREE HIERARCHS

Check out our Website for Father Luke's Blog, News and Photos as well as the Monthly Newsletter and Calendar.

www.nativityofchrist.org



The Three Hierarchs
January 30



A PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING

As we bring Your divine blessing to this home today, Lord, grant that Your Holy Spirit fill the lives of those who live here with joy, faith, hope, and love always. Direct our lives in the path of Your sacred will. We pray in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Request for House Blessing
2012**

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone _____

e-Mail _____

Please return to the office or call 415-883-1998 to submit your request.

2012 Stewardship Campaign

Thank You

We thank those listed below for their response to the 2012 Stewardship Campaign.



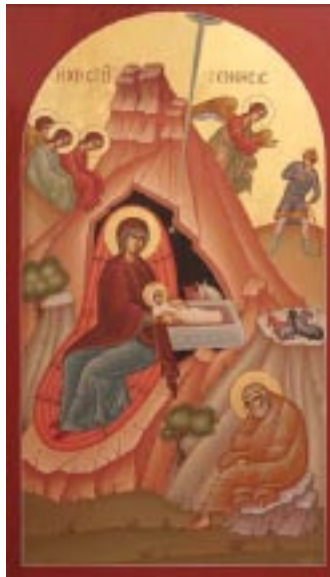
Pledges Received as of 12/22/11

Angelonides, Peter & Arlene
 Antonis, Chris & Keri
 Arango, Pat
 Argyres, Andreas & Joanne
 Booras, Pauline
 Boosalis, Gus & Kari
 Burrows, Angela
 Burrows, Bill & Floretta
 Camamis, Constantine & Mary
 Capetanos, John & Aglaia
 Christon, Dorothea
 Corcoran, Bruce & Fran
 Cordellos, Dennis & Anna
 Cunningham, Elaine
 Daifotis, Kim & Cindy
 Degaitis, Pete & Julia
 Diamantopoulos, George & Anna
 Economy, Carol
 Edrich, Alexandra
 Efsthathiu, Fr. Constantine & Pres. Kay
 Efsthathiu, Paul & Kristen
 Fourakis, Vasilis & Effie

Gagas, Charles & Claire
 George, Pete & Ann
 Georgeson, George & Debbie
 Gikkas, Peter & Vickie
 Haginicols, Charles & Amalia
 Haralambopoulos, Costas & Ria
 Hontalas, Frank & Evie
 Hunter, Hugh
 Hunter, John & Rose
 Iannios, Demetrios & Manu
 Kamages, Alex & Sherry
 Kamages, Christ & Pat
 Kamages, Lula
 Kanas, Nick & Carolyn
 Katsanos, George & Georgia
 Keratzides, Elaine
 Kokalis, George & Debbie
 Kosturos, John & Dolly
 Kuvelis, Dean & Denise
 Lagios, Michael & Sheila
 Lekas, Louis & Betty
 Lynn, Tom & Lucy
 Madias, Evangelia
 Manesis, Alexandra
 Marshall, Philip & Kathy
 Meehan, Thomas & Irene
 Mestakidis, Soteria
 Morales, Marlon & Andrea
 Morris, Susan
 Mouzakis, Robert
 Nichols, Toula
 Niemcewicz, Roland & Bess
 Ortner, Rob
 Palumbis, Fr. Luke & Pres. Eleni
 Pantazes, George & Katherine
 Papadopoulos, John & Stella
 Papanikolaou, George & Soula
 Pappas, Angelo & Maria
 Pappas, Arthur
 Passaris, Ted & Elaine

Perivolaris, George & Sharon
 Petrakis, Steve & Martha
 Prouty, Vicki
 Psaros, Stamatis & Eleni
 Roland, George & Doris
 Rossi, Patricia
 Russell, Chuck & Daphne
 Sandoval, Oscar & Irene
 Sarantakis, George & Susan
 Sarganis, Peri
 Scafidas, Anastasia
 Serafimescu, Constantin & Livia
 Sideris, Milton & Stassie
 Siefkas, Chris & Susan
 Simon, Kay
 Smernes, Kalliope
 Smyrni, Steve & Ann
 Soldatos, Vasilios & Helen
 Soter, Kathryn
 Soter, Samuel & Stella
 Sotiras, Maria
 Stathis, Gus & Sophia
 Stockton, John & Susan
 Stratigos, Spiro & Mary Kay
 Tar, Michael & Natalie
 Thomatos, Dennis & Christina
 Touras, Tony & Antonia
 Triantafyllos, John & Laura
 Trimble, Paul
 Vallas, James & Judith
 Vassiliou, Maggie
 Walters, Charles & Amalia
 Walters, Scott & Karen
 White, Sonja
 Whitmore, Sophia
 Wildermuth, Anna
 Xenelis, Nicholas
 Yiakis, Joseph & Margaret
 Zahariudakis, Dimitrios
 Zootis, Mary

*Stewardship
 2012*



2012 Stewardship Update December 22, 2011

Number of Commitment Cards Received	102
Total Amount Committed	\$ 94,661
Budgeted Goal	\$231,146



*You are already a
 Steward...*

Polirinia Cretan Chapter of Marin & Sonoma Counties

6th Annual

CRETAN



CRAB FEED



GLENDI

Saturday January 21, 2012

(reservations by January 16th)

6:00 pm – no host reception

7:00 pm – dinner



Music and Dancing

~ Performance by Minoan Dancers ~



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



*Join us for a delicious feast including
Crab, pasta, salad, garlic bread, wine, dessert & coffee*



**\$50.00 per person, \$20.00 for children 6–14 years old
Children 5 and under free**



Reservations:

Tony Kosmas 415.209.0096

Stacey Weeks 415.806.5851

2staceyweeks@gmail.com

*A portion of the proceeds will go to
the Polirinia Scholarship Fund*

May we suggest accommodations at:

*Inn Marin
250 Entrada Drive*

*Novato
415.883.5952*

www.innmarin.com

*Best Western Novato Oaks
215 Alameda Del Prado*

*Novato
415.883.4400*

www.novatooaksinn.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please reserve _____ tickets or _____ tables (10 guests per table)

Make checks payable to:

Polirinia Cretan Chapter

Mail your form and check by January 16th to:

Stacey Weeks

15 Wildflower Court • Corte Madera • CA • 94925

Sacraments and Rites

Baptism

November 29 -- **Anne Marie Chanel** daughter of George & Lena Papanicolaou. Sponsor was Margaret Hastey.

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

Chrismation

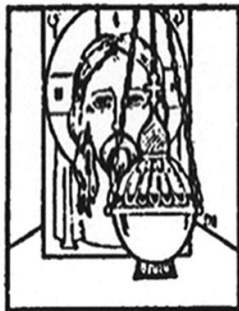
December 4 -- **Tracy Ann Langley**. Sponsor was Christina Thomatos.

"In Him you also,...were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit."

Funeral

December 19 -- **John Gigounas**. Our sincerest condolences to Ann, George and the family.

May his memory be eternal."



Memorials

November 27 -- **Linda (Catherine) Xydas; George and Lily Papas; Deceased members of the Diamantopoulos/Kyritsis families and the Manetas/Paganells families.**

December 4--**Markos Perivolaris**

December 18--**Maria Passaris**

"May their memory be eternal."



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
- James Kolyvas
- George Pantazes
- Fr. Haralambos Fox
- Evelyn Lendaris
- Sharon Perivolaris
- 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 VALUE AND BENEFITS OF WORSHIP – A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos

Do you want to appreciate the value and benefits of worship?

- Think of worship as an empowering time with God.
- Think of the worship services – especially the Divine Liturgy – not as rituals but as prayer events.
- Think of worship as an opportunity for prayerful concentration.
- Think of worship as entering into the presence of God and speaking with God, through prayer.
- Think of worship as asking for forgiveness and God's guidance and deepening your experience of God; coming out of worship in peace and with the conviction that His will governs all.

Do you want to experience the benefits of worship? It is not enough to think rightly about worship. It is also necessary to rightly practice worship.

- Arrive on time! Be alert and attentive.
- Focus and learn about what is going on.
- Concentrate in prayer to God, even if weakly, because more concentration will be given to you.
- Thank God for helping you worship and for all His blessings.
- Follow closely and pray the words of the services.
- Ask God for understanding, grace, forgiveness, and guidance.
- Prepare to receive Holy Communion with a sense of thankfulness, humility before God and trust in His mercy and forgiveness.
- Resolve to mend your life and your habits according to His loving will.
- Then do all these things again and again.

This is the only way, not only to break the seemingly intractable habit of late arrival, but also to enter into the transforming experience of God's presence and kingdom, the new and refreshing world of authentic faith and life in Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Feast of St. Basil -- January 1



Your voice resounded throughout the world that received your word by which, in godly manner, you taught dogma, clarified the nature of beings, and set in order the character of people. Venerable father, Royal Priesthood, intercede to Christ God to grant us great mercy.

Apolytikion of St. Basil

