

# The Word

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

John 1:14

## Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ

### Turning Over Any New Leaves?

January 2013

Common practice this time of the year is to make commitments to new behaviors; exercise regiments, diets, homework, etc... More common is the practice of breaking these commitments within several weeks.

Now take a minute and think about how things would be today if you had kept your new year's resolution from last year? ...from the year before? ...from ten years ago? Your figure, your health, your grades -- do you like what you see?

Now translate that vision to the thought of your soul. It is daunting to think about the state of your soul -- it is difficult to discern or perhaps even begin to understand what it is in practical terms. Your soul is the authentic you -- your essence that will always exist and will experience the fullest of love, bliss, and eternal happiness when it is together with God. Leading to this eternal happiness is the life that you now live...

Much in the same way that following through on our commitments is what produces the results we desire at New Year's -- if we remain vigilant in our commitment to Jesus Christ, our soul moves closer to the experience that it desires...the Kingdom of Heaven.

We initiate this pilgrimage through a 3-Stage Process:

- 1) Choice -- you must choose to make the health of your soul your #1 priority.
- 2) Commitment -- make commitments that are rooted in every capacity of your life that align you with Christ. These commitments should reflect and invest your life's time, talents and treasures.
- 3) Follow through on your commitments!

Your participation in this 3-Stage Process is not the "turning over of a new leaf," but rather it is your Christian journey and it leads to eternal life. The continuation and progression of this journey requires daily reestablishment, reengagement and refreshing! This process is arduous; however, in Christ we experience an infinite source of refreshment that allows us to maintain fortitude throughout our lives.

What are the commitments that you will make today on your pilgrimage of faith? Will you choose to make these commitments, and will you choose to follow through on them?

Your spiritual home at Nativity of Christ is the haven where your choices are guided, your commitments are supported and Christ's refreshment is delivered. Commit or recommit to

your life in Christ, shepherded and renewed through your commitment as an active parishioner at Nativity.

May our Lord bless us all as we grow in Christian pilgrimage through the growth of our chosen Christ-centered commitments.

*Fr. Luke*

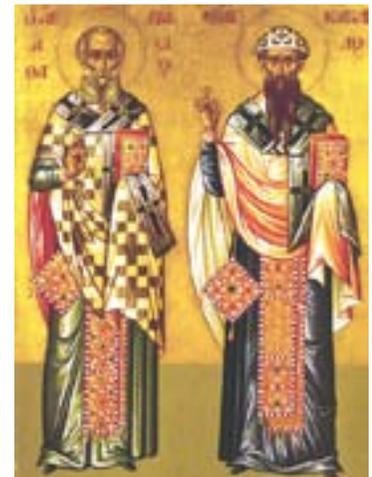
#### House Blessings

*"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.



*Feast of the Holy Epiphany  
January 6*



*St. Athanasius & St. Cyril  
January 18*

# January Services & Readings

	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Jan 1	10:00 am	Circumcision of Christ St. Basil the Great	Colossians 2:8-12	Luke 2:20-21, 40-52
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 13	9:30 am	Sunday After Epiphany	Ephesians 4:7-13	Matthew 4:12-17
Jan 20	9:30 am	12th Sunday of Luke	II Corinth. 4:6-15	Luke:17:12-19
Jan 25	9:30 am	Gregory the Theologian	Hebrews 7:26-8:2	John 10:9-16
Jan 27	9:30 am	15th Sunday of Luke	Hebrews 7:26-8:21	Luke 19:1-10
Jan 30	9:30 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 6	Bruce Corcoran, Pete Gikkas and George Kokalis
January 13	Peter Eliades, George Georgeson and Scott Walters
January 20	Alex Slenkin, George Sotiras and Tony Kosmas
January 27	Chris Siefkas and Nick Livanos

Beloved faithful of Nativity of Christ and brothers and sisters in Christ,  
*Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*

Because many have inquired lately about my health, I wanted to give you a brief update. In early November, I was diagnosed with lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph nodes. A CT Scan revealed a tumor in my abdominal wall. The tumor is treatable, I'm grateful to say, and I will begin a series of chemotherapy treatments beginning Thursday and Friday, Dec. 20-21. The treatments will be one treatment, two days in a row, every four weeks, for a cycle of six treatments. God's grace and presence have and continue to sustain us, and Presvytera Kay and I are extremely grateful for your prayers and the concern and love that so many have shown us. We ask for your continuing prayers for healing. We pray that our loving and gracious God will bless you and your families as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, and grant you all a peaceful and healthy New Year.

With love in Christ,

*Fr. Constantine*



# The Word

Monthly Newsletter

published by

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Greek Orthodox Church  
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Novato, CA 94949**

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Pastor  
[frluke@nativityofchrist.org](mailto:frluke@nativityofchrist.org)**

**January 2013**



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# Parish Activities & Ministries

## Parish Council

### 2013 Parish Council

The following parishioners were elected to serve on the Parish Council for two years beginning in 2013: **Peter Eliades, Pete Gikkas, Matina Seremetis, George Sotiras, Spiro Stratigos and Scott Walters.**

They join the members who have one year remaining on their terms:

**Fran Corcoran, George Gigounas, Rose Hunter, George Kokalis, Steve Rouman and Chris Siefkas.**

With the collective prayers of the community and a focus on the will of God -- may His will be done through the servant-leadership of those who labor in His Vineyard!



Many thanks to **Connie Captanian** who had served on our Parish Council for multiple years, and was a steadfast presence within the experience of parish leadership.

## Philoptochos

***In the spirit of the New Year, your Philoptochos Board would like to wish you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2013. May the New Year bring you love, peace and the blessings of our Lord, Jesus Christ.***

### Philoptochos Board Members:

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

We thank Poppy Patrinellis and Stella Stenros for sponsoring coffee hours

in the month of December. We also express our appreciation to those who brought in goodies to help supplement our food supply; your help is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in hosting a fellowship hour, please contact Debbie Kokalis, 415-367-5252.

### BAPSAEF Luncheon

On Saturday, December 1st, a group of Philoptochos members from Nativity attended the annual Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund Luncheon at Holy Cross, Belmont. Our chapter submitted a tree called "Where the Wild Things Are," which included multiple gift cards to various attractions including the Aquarium by the Bay, a family membership to California Academy of Science and gift cards to Bernal Beasts Pet store in S.F. Cathy Selmi did a wonderful job with the tree decorations and gift items. All donated trees were raffled off, and our own Presbyteria Evelyn Adams was one of the winners. Congratulations, Presbyteria!

### Christmas Card

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our annual Community Christmas Card, which benefits the Retired Clergy Association. Thanks to your generosity, we received over \$2500 in donations this year. Karen Keller and Rose Hunter did an excellent job coordinating this worthy fundraiser.

### Membership

Our membership drive will begin on January 6, 2013 and will continue throughout the month of January. 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. All women and men are invited to join this worthy ministry of our church. There is a Membership Form included on page 6 for your convenience. We will also have forms available during coffee hour each Sunday in January. We look forward to having you as a member of our parish Philoptochos, and also to exceeding our record 100 members in 2012.

### Cookbook Update

We are very excited to be working on our new cookbook representing the Greek and Mediterranean heritage and ethnic diversity of our church. We

have developed a form to be used when submitting your recipes, which is attached on page 5. This form is a short version of the regular form because of limited space in the bulletin. For your convenience, there will be two-page forms available in the church office, Narthex and during coffee hours. We encourage you to submit your favorite recipe, and we are looking forward to receiving as many multicultural recipes as possible. Please submit any type of food recipe you choose, including appetizers, vegetable, legumes, meat, poultry, fish, desserts and even drinks! Menu ideas to go with your recipes are also welcomed and much appreciated. We look forward to your cherished family recipes and stories. Our next meeting will be immediately following Divine Liturgy on January 6th. We are still in need of help in many areas of this project so we hope you will plan on attending.

### Valentine's Dinner Dance

Plans are coming together nicely for our Valentine's Dinner Dance. The music is set, the dinner menu selections have been determined and we're working on the invitation and decorations. This should be a beautiful evening with big band/swing type music, dancing, no host bar and specialty coffee cart. For those of you who would like to learn, or brush up on your skills, we are working on a dance lesson or two before the event. Watch your emails for more information coming soon!

### Dates to Remember

Jan 6	Membership Sunday
Jan 6	Cookbook Meeting following Liturgy
Jan TBD	Board Dinner Meeting
Feb 2	Valentine's Dinner/Dance



### Calendars Delayed

Due to circumstances beyond our control, delivery of the 2013 calendars has been delayed. The calendars will be sent out along with the Bible Reading Guides and the pocket calendars sometime after January 7.

# Youth Ministries

## Religious Education

## HOPE/JOY

### **Angel Tree Thanks**

Thank you to Elaine Chyrklund and Christina Foster for their coordination of the Angel Tree. Our parish filled the wishes of many children and adults, by purchasing special items listed on the tags. In partnership with the Salvation Army, the Angel Tree gifts were delivered in time for Christmas. Special thanks and appreciation to all in the parish who filled someone's wish.

### **Christmas Pageant**

The Christmas Pageant held on December 23 following Liturgy. The Christmas story recreated through script and song was a joyful memory for those who participated and those of us in the pews watching.

Special thanks to Gigi Medan for her commitment to coordinate this special pageant again this year.

### **2013 Oratorical Festival**

If you are a student in Grades 7-12, you have a wonderful opportunity to participate in this year's Oratorical Festival. Students who are interested will receive coaching support from Fran and Bruce Corcoran. Our Parish Festival will take place in early March, and the Metropolitan Festival is April 20. We encourage all eligible students to participate. Please let your teacher know by Sunday, January 20th if you are interested.

Oratorical Topics for 2013: [http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused/sjcof/2013\\_topics\\_only.pdf](http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused/sjcof/2013_topics_only.pdf).

### **January Class Schedule**

**Jan 6:** Holy Theophany. Students will attend Liturgy today and participate in blessing of waters service in the church following the Diving Liturgy. There will be no Sunday School classes.

**Jan 13:** Attend Sunday Classes

**Jan 20:** Attend Sunday Classes

**Jan 27:** Attend Sunday Classes

HOPE and JOY youth groups are meeting monthly to have fun together, show our faith in action through service projects and learn more about our Orthodox Christian beliefs and practices. HOPE stands for Hellenic Orthodox Primary Education and is for children in preschool through 2nd grade. JOY is the acronym for Junior Orthodox Youth and is for kids in grades 3 through 6.

All of our HOPE and JOY events and activities are family centered activities, so parents/grandparents/aunts/uncles/godparents, please bring your kids/grandkids/nieces/nephews/godchildren and join the fun. Our activities are also always open to friends of our youth, so bring a friend! What a wonderful way to have someone who may not know the church experience Christian fellowship.

In October and November HOPE and JOY sponsored a book drive at our church to benefit a family shelter in Petaluma. Thank you to everyone who donated books!!

In December, some of our HOPE and JOY members met at the church to create gingerbread houses and enjoy a pizza lunch together. Thank you to Matina Seremetis and Eleni Scanagatta for putting on another fun Gingerbread House Workshop.

This year of 2013, we are excited to announce our planned activities from January 2013 to May 2013. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the following HOPE and JOY gatherings! We look forward to seeing you all there!

**Sunday, January 13:** Family bowling outing to AMC lanes in Petaluma after church. This year the bowling alley needs advance notice so they can plan ahead for us. **Please RSVP to Dennis and Christina Thomatos by January 5th.** Cost is approximately \$12 per person with shoes for one game of bowling. Brown Bag your lunch or you may purchase food at the bowling alley's restaurant.

**February 1 thru February 24:** Service project—Clothing, toy and blanket drive for local Novato shelter. New items and gently used items are welcome. Adult and teen volunteers will

be needed to help sort items and possibly drive items to the shelter.

**Saturday, March 2:** Family Field Trip to Calistoga to the Holy Assumption Monastery. Meet at church at 9 AM to carpool/caravan or meet us at the monastery at 10:30 sharp. Mother Melania and the sisters have invited us to explore the grounds, share in a short prayer service, learn about the monastery, have a story time, and also learn what the nuns do and have lunch with them. **Please RSVP to Dennis and Christina Thomatos by Feb 21** in order to provide the nuns with a heads-up about roughly how many will attend.

**April 1 thru April 30:** 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! Our own Fr. Luke will lead the workshop.

**Friday, May 3:** Holy Friday Retreat at church--Hope/Joy families, please participate in this beautiful day of prayer and fellowship in remembrance of the crucifixion and burial of our Lord and Savior and also in anticipation of His Glorious Resurrection on the 3rd day.

**Sunday, May 5,** Holy Pascha/Easter: Egg Hunt after the Agape Service and before the parish picnic so all families can enjoy the egg hunt together. Teen and Adult volunteers needed to help run the egg hunt.

We are working on events for June, July and August. Look for an email in February or March with dates for the summer months.

If you have ideas for future activities and also the time to volunteer, please contact Dennis and Christina Thomatos, HOPE and JOY advisors at [cthomatos@yahoo.com](mailto:cthomatos@yahoo.com) or 415-895-1375.

Your suggestions, skills to share and help are always welcome!

Thank you!

## Family Recipes are Family Traditions

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Philoptochos is creating a new cookbook to celebrate our Greek and Mediterranean heritage and the ethnic diversity of the Nativity congregation. You are encouraged to submit as many recipes as you like, although we cannot guarantee that all recipes will be included in the new cookbook.

Please complete the following form and return it to the Church office by January 27. Your recipe should include as much information as possible. To submit multiple recipes, you may make copies of this form. Additional blank forms will be available at church. If the recipe is already typed, simply fill out the first section of this form and attach a copy of the recipe.

If you need help translating your family recipes, please contact Cathy Selmi or Debbie Kokalis, and we will be happy to work with you.

Cathy Selmi  
Debbie Kokalis

415.246.1760  
415.367.5252

[cathyselmi@gmail.com](mailto:cathyselmi@gmail.com)  
[debsplaygr@comcast.net](mailto:debsplaygr@comcast.net)

**Recipe Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitted by** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Food Category**

e.g., Beef, Lamb, Chicken, Fish, Vegetable, Pasta/Rice, Beans/Legumes, Fruit, Cheese, Dessert

**Additional Labels**

e.g., Lenten, festival, great for entertaining, origin (Italian, Eritrean, Lebanese), appetizer/entrée

**Serves** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preheat oven to** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prep Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cooking Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ingredients**

**Due to space limitations in the bulletin, please list on a separate page.**

**Step-by-Step**

**Instructions**

**Due to space limitations in the bulletin, please list on a separate page.**

**Serving Suggestions  
and Menu Ideas**

**Due to space limitations in the bulletin, please list on a separate page.**

e.g., serve with rice/pasta, can be served hot/at room temperature, works best with day old bread

**History, Story,  
Origins**

**Due to space limitations in the bulletin, please list on a separate page.**

Where did the recipe come from? Is it a specialty of a specific region or island? Did you learn it from your mother, yiayia or thia?

# 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.

# NATIVITY OF CHRIST

## C H U R C H C A L E N D A R

# JANUARY

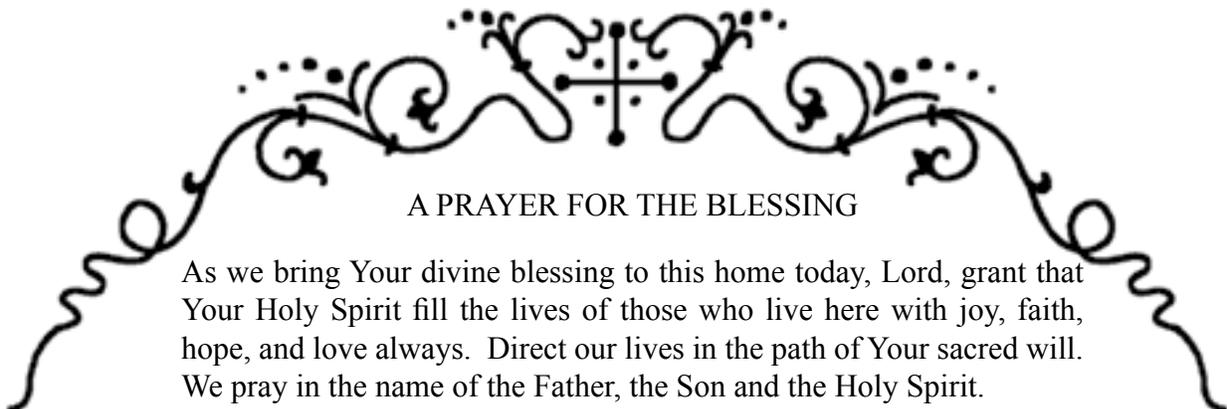
## 2 0 1 3

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>30</b> Sunday After Christmas Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Cutting of the Vasilopita Youth Religious Education Teachers Luncheon	<b>31</b> Apodosis of the Nativity of Christ Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>1</b> St. Basil the Great Circumcision of Christ Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>2</b> Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ 5:30 pm Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm	<b>3</b> •12:00 noon Baptism	<b>4</b> Royal Hours of the Epiphany 9:30 am	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Holy Epiphany Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Blessing of the Waters 2012 Parish Council Oath of Office Philoptochos Membership Sunday	<b>7</b> Synaxis of John the Baptist Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>8</b> •Bible Study 10:00 a.m. •Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>9</b> Folk Dance Practice Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ 5:30 pm Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> •2:30 pm Wedding
<b>13</b> Sunday after Holy Epiphany Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows Community Hall Meeting following Liturgy 1:00 HOPE/JOY Family Bowling Activity	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> •Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	<b>16</b> Greek School 4-5:45 pm Folk Dance Practice GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> •6:00 pm 7th Annual Community Crab Feed	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 12th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> •Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	<b>23</b> Greek School 4-5:45 pm Folk Dance Practice Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ 5:30 pm Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> St. Gregory the Theologian Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>26</b> •4 pm Baptism
<b>27</b> 15th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> •Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	<b>30</b> Three Hierarchs Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Greek School 4-5:45 pm Folk Dance Practice Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ 5:30 pm Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm	<b>31</b>	<b>Feb. 1</b>	<b>2</b> Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance



**Father Luke at the White House**

Representing International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Father Luke Palumbis along with other clergy and lay representatives, was hosted at the White House by the White House Office of Public Engagement in conjunction with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Orthodox Christianity was well represented by the IOCC and the other Orthodox charity-based organizations that were represented through IOCC leadership and invitation. Please maintain the IOCC in your daily prayers, as the mission of the IOCC is the message of the Gospel!



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  
2013**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

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

# 2012 Stewardship Campaign

## Why Do I Need To Fill Out That Commitment Card?

"Didn't I read somewhere that the right hand is not supposed to know what the left hand is doing?"

When Christ taught that the one hand should not know what the other hand is doing, He speaks to the motivation of our actions. If we are motivated to act by our desire to be seen by others, then we progress only on a journey of self-glorification. Yet if we are motivated to act by our desire to be seen as righteous in the eyes of God -- we Glorify Him, and journey toward His Kingdom.

Completing a parish commitment card is not an effort to be seen by others, but is an action that benefits your own soul through a process of establishing a formal statement of commitment to an active Christian life. A gym, the library, even the Safeway gas station require filled out forms to establish your commitment. Your parish does not require anything, but provides an opportunity for you to establish a cognizant recognition to the reality that Christ requires your active commitment!

As your parish home shepherds your Christianity through the sacraments, prayers, programs and fellowship -- allow your active commitment to Christ to be led through an experience of stewardship. Complete your 2013 Nativity of Christ Commitment Card, and take a significant step forward on your journey toward Christ.

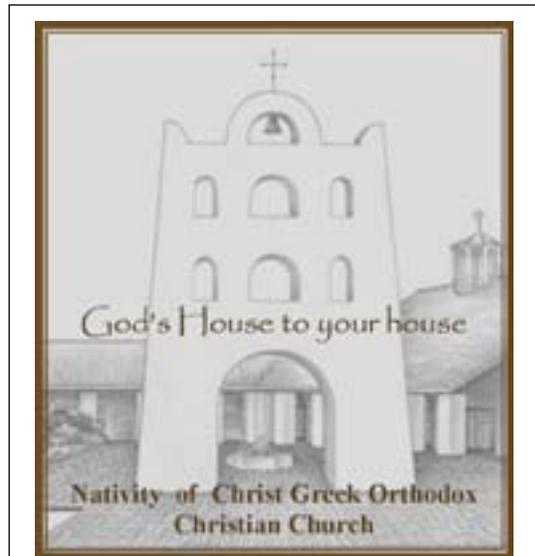
## Thank You

We thank those listed below and those listed previously for their response to the 2013 Stewardship Campaign. **Extra commitment cards are available in the Narthex or by calling the office at 415-883-1998.**

## Pledges Received between 11/27/12 and 12/18/12

Adams, Fr. James & Pres. Evelyn  
 Antonis, Chris & Keri  
 Argyres, Andreas & Joanne  
 Banks, Charles & Catherine  
 Camamis, Constantine & Mary  
 Corcoran, Bruce & Fran  
 Cordellos, Dennis & Anna  
 Cunningham, Elaine  
 Edrich, Alexandra  
 Efsthau, Fr. Constantine & Pres. Kay  
 Gigounas, Ann  
 Gikkas, Peter & Vickie  
 Hanis, James & Stella  
 Hundley, Courtney & Marilyn  
 Iannios, Demetrios & Manu  
 Kavantjas, Diane

Kokalis, George & Debbie  
 Kozas, Anna  
 Lekas, Louis & Betty  
 Lynn, Tom & Lucy  
 Medan, Dushan & Gigi  
 Meehan, Tom & Irene  
 Niemcewicz, Roland & Bess  
 Orogas-Roland, Nickie  
 Ortner, Rob  
 Pantazes, Christos & Jacqueline  
 Protos, Dora  
 Rehn, Diane  
 Saris, Tony & Betty  
 Sklavos, Vasiliki  
 Soeten, Alexandra  
 Soter, Kathryn  
 Sotiras, Maria  
 Stockton, John & Susan



## 2013 Stewardship Update December 18, 2012

<b>Number of Commitment Cards Received</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Total Amount Committed</b>	<b>\$ 57,720</b>
<b>Budgeted Goal</b>	<b>\$205,000</b>



## THREE HIERARCHS



*The Three Hierarchs  
January 30*

## Community Communication - Community Hall

In an effort to further develop self-awareness as a community of faithful, we will facilitate Community Hall discussion forums in the style and tradition of town hall forums. Our first Community Hall will take place on **Sunday, January 13, following the Divine Liturgy** in the community hall/gymnasium. Coffee hour will still be offered in the hall, however, rather than the typical social setting, the hall will be set up for discussion, which will start shortly after the Divine Liturgy.

This first Community Hall session will have two topic of discussion:

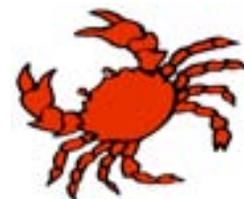
- 1) Religious Education
- 2) Community Opportunities & Commitment

Please choose to participate in this important conversation so that your voice may be heard!

7th Annual

COMMUNITY

CRAB FEED



DINNER



# To Benefit\* the Nativity of Christ Ecclesiastical Fund

(for Church Beautification)

## & Polirinia Cretan Chapter

of Marin & Sonoma Counties

\*Proceeds to be shared equally



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

### Friday January 18, 2013

(reservations by January 13<sup>th</sup>)

6:00 pm – no host reception • 7:00 pm – dinner

### Music and Dancing

~ Performance by Minoan Dancers ~

#### Reservations:

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

Tony Kosmas 415.209.0096  
Stacey Weeks 415.806.5851  
2staceyweeks@gmail.com  
Effie Fourakis 415.823.9433  
effiejf@me.com

\$50 per person  
\$20 for 6–14 years old  
5 and under free

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 13<sup>th</sup> to:  
Stacey Weeks  
15 Wildflower Court • Corte Madera • CA • 94925

# Sacraments and Rites

## 40-Day Blessing

December 2 -- Benjamin Michael and his mother, Andriana Cox.  
December 22 -- Oliver Zachary and his mother, Eva Smith.

## Wedding

December 8 -- **Christoula Koutoulas** and **Bill Capetanos**. Koumbaroi were Dustin & Chrisoula Novo.

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

## Funeral

December 7 -- **George Perivolaris**. Our sincerest condolences to Sharon and the entire family.

*"May his memory be eternal."*



## Memorials

December 2 -- **Charles Patrinellis**  
December 9 -- **John Gigounas**  
December 23 -- **Fevronia Spentzos, Panayiotis Spentzos, Alexandra Fotinatos, Angelo Fotinatos and Jerry Fotinatos; George Pantazes; George Wysup, Konstantinos Kouvelis and Vasiliki Kouvelis.**

*"May their memory be eternal."*



## 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
- Heloisa Gavallos
- Alexandra Edrich
- Lula Kamages
- Fr. Constantine Efstathiou
- James Kolyvas
- Fr. Haralambos Fox

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.**

## Willing to Open Your Home?

Something light? An hour or two at your house with a few peers from your Nativity Family to openly discuss the life of our Nativity community. Please consider opening your home to a small group for open discussion aimed at enhancing the connection between God's House (Nativity of Christ) and your house. If you are willing to host a gathering, please contact Father Luke to discuss arrangements.

A poem in light of recent events....

Twas' 11 days before Christmas, around 9:38 when 20 beautiful children stormed through heaven's gate.  
their smiles were contagious, their laughter filled the air.  
they could hardly believe all the beauty they saw there.  
they were filled with such joy, they didn't know what to say.  
they remembered nothing of what had happened earlier that day.  
"where are we?" asked a little girl, as quiet as a mouse.  
"this is heaven." declared a small boy. "we're spending Christmas at God's house."  
when what to their wondering eyes did appear, but Jesus, their savior, the children gathered near.  
He looked at them and smiled, and they smiled just the same.  
then He opened His arms and He called them by name.  
and in that moment was joy, that only heaven can bring those children all flew into the arms of their King and  
as they lingered in the warmth of His embrace, one small girl turned and looked at Jesus' face.  
and as if He could read all the questions she had He gently whispered to her, "I'll take care of mom and dad."  
then He looked down on earth, the world far below He saw all of the hurt, the sorrow, and woe then He closed  
His eyes and He outstretched His hand, "Let My power and presence re-enter this land!"  
"may this country be delivered from the hands of fools"  
"I'm taking back my nation. I'm taking back my schools!"  
then He and the children stood up without a sound.  
"come now my children, let me show you around."  
excitement filled the space, some skipped and some ran.  
all displaying enthusiasm that only a small child can.  
and i heard Him proclaim as He walked out of sight, "in the midst of this darkness, I AM STILL THE LIGHT."

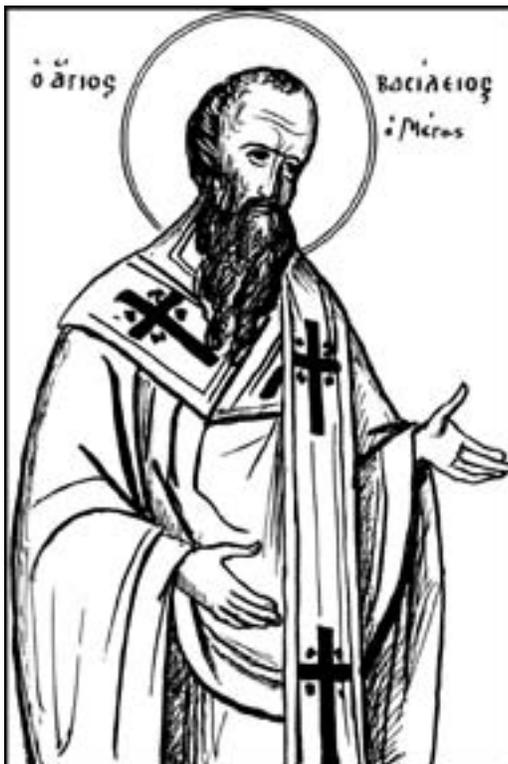


Nativity of Christ  
Greek Orthodox Church  
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*Dated Material*



## *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.*