



The Word

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

John 1:14

Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ

Why Do We Go To Church?

June 2012

Saint John Chrysostom once referred to the Church as "a hospital." This understanding of practical spirituality is supported in prayers offered by the Church for individual health, when Jesus Christ is called upon as "The Physician of our souls and bodies..." Truly, the Orthodox Christian Church has always maintained Her understanding and experience as a place of healing, where people may come to find wellness in Jesus Christ. Recognizing Christ as the Physician, when active in the Church, we witness and experience His priests as agents commissioned to shepherd and administer His health and wellness to individuals who seek soundness of body and soul.

Who goes to a hospital and follows doctor's orders? Those who are sick, and those who are proactive against sickness. As Christians we recognize that by default we all have sickness when we allow even a hint of sin into our daily lives. Furthermore, as we address our health through Christ's Hospital (the Church) we also continually focus on proactive thoughts and behaviors good for our soul. Perhaps the question has entered your mind: 'Why am I supposed to go to Church?' But it is impossible to adequately answer that question without first understanding what we encounter at Church, and why we need it.

Through an active life in the Church, we encounter an experience of Jesus Christ, which we need in order to bring health to our individual lives and the world around us. Yes, your prayerful presence and participation in the Church has an effect on the entire world! In the Divine Liturgy each Sunday, we pray for the peace and reconciliation of the en-

tire world and for all her people. This includes those across the globe, the country and the dinner table. Yes, your participation in the Church affects them all! Why should you make a continued commitment to an active participation in Christ's Church? For the health of your soul and the world around it!

Sunday, June 3rd, we celebrate the Pentecost event that we read about in the New Testament (Acts 2), when thousands chose to make a conscious commitment to a life in the Church after hearing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ through His Apostles. Commonly, the feast of Pentecost is referred to as the birthday of the Church! Make your celebration of the life and purpose of the Church substantive by reaffirming your commitment to live a life in the Church.

- Participate in the Divine Services through your prayerful presence.
- Receive sanctification.
- Grow spiritually inside of the Church, so that you may live spiritually outside.

Sunday Matins (*Orthros*) & Divine Liturgy will continue at regularly scheduled times throughout the summer months - 8:30 am & 9:30 am respectively.

May the Benevolent Physician of our souls and bodies rejoice in our humble and consistent presence at His Church!

Fr. Luke



*Feast
of
Pentecost*

June 3

June Services & Readings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
June 2	9:30 am	Saturday of Souls	Acts 28:1-31	John 21:14-25
June 3	9:30 am	Pentecost Sunday	Acts 2:1-11	John 7:37-8:12
June 10	9:30 am	Sunday of All Saints	Hebrews 11:33-12:2	Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30
June 17	9:30 am	2nd Sunday of Matthew Father's Day	Romans 2:10-16	Matthew 4:18-23
June 24	9:30 am	Nativity of John the Baptist	Romans 13:11-14:4	Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76-80
June 30	9:30 am	Synaxis of the Holy Apostles	I Corinthians 4:9-16	Matthew 9:36; 10:1-8

June Acolyte Schedule

All acolytes are asked to serve in June.

June Candle Duty Schedule

June 3	Peter Eliades, George Georgeson and Scott Walters
June 10	Alex Slenkin, George Sotiras and Tony Kosmas
June 17	Chris Siefkas, Nick Livanos and Steve Rigrisich
June 24	Bruce Corcoran, Pete Gikkas and George Kokalis

The Word

Monthly Newsletter

published by

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

Phone: (415) 883-1998

Fax: (415) 883-2057

e-mail: ncchurch@pacbell.net

www.nativityofchrist.org

**Fr. Luke Palumbis,
Pastor**

frluke@nativityofchrist.org

June 2012



In this Issue:

Message from Father.....	1
Services & Readings.....	2
Acolyte and Candle Duty Schedules.....	2
Parish Activities & Ministries	3
Sunday School.....	4
Camp News.....	5
Graduates.....	6
June Calendar.....	7
Festival	8
Stewardship 2012.....	9, 10
Sacraments & Rites.....	11

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.

- Mary Camamis
- Alexandra Edrich
- Fr. Haralambos Fox
- James Kolyvas



From time to time, we may remove names that have been on the list for awhile. If you feel a name should remain on the list, or if you would like a new name placed on the list, **please contact the church office.**

Parish Activities & Ministries

Philoptochos

Coffee Hour

For the month of May we would like to thank the Madias, Stathis and Petrakopoulos families for hosting a beautiful luncheon in memory of their loved ones, the Parish Council for the Mother's Day fellowship hour, and Paraskeve Karavolos for sponsoring the fellowship hour in honor of the feast day of Saints Constantine and Helen. We are in need of sponsors for the 10th, 17th and 24th of June. Even though Sunday School will be over until September and families will be on vacation, we will do our best to provide a coffee hour each week during the summer for those who are able to attend Liturgy. Any food items you can drop by will be greatly appreciated.

June 3 Graduation Recognition Luncheon

Please join us after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 3rd, for the announcement of the recipients of the 2012 Philoptochos scholarships. In addition to the two Philoptochos scholarships, the Perivolaris family is donating the funds for a third scholarship, in memory of Lela and Markos Perivolaris.

Membership

We would like to welcome our newest member, Olympia Katelanis.

Pennies & Prayers

Please return your Pennies and Prayers canisters on Pentecost Sunday, June 3rd. There will be a basket in the Narthex for the canisters. Thank you for helping support the missions in our own Metropolis.

Philoptochos Luncheon

It is customary for Philoptochos members to have a get together in June before the summer break. This year our theme will be "Volunteer Recognition." Philoptochos has had many activities in the past months that have required our members to repeatedly give of their precious time and many talents. Now it's time for the volunteers to relax and enjoy themselves. Please come for lunch, relax and chat with friends. This year's luncheon will be at the home of Debbie Kokalis, on June 9th at 11:30 am. If you plan on attending, please contact Debbie at 367-5252 or debsplaygr@comcast.net. Hope to see you there.

Summer Activities

It is our hope that during the summer Philoptochos can arrange a few activities, whether it's lunch out or a visit to a local monastery. Just something to keep in touch and enjoy each other's company. Please watch the summer bulletins for information. If you have an idea for something you think would be enjoyable, please contact Debbie Kokalis.

Dates to Remember

June 3 Graduate Recognition Luncheon
June 9 Annual Philoptochos Luncheon



Folk Dance Groups

Volunteers Needed for Gyros Booth at the Marin County Fair

Volunteers are needed for the Marin County Fair Gyros Booth, which is a joint fundraiser for the Minoan Dancers and the parish. The fair runs from Saturday, June 30, through Wednesday, July 4.

The secret's out about healthy Greek yogurt, so we'll be taking advantage of all that yogurt company advertising and offer our own Greek yogurt with honey and granola.

This year we are presented with a new challenge as we are required to cook the gyros meat and grill the pita outside the booth, in a covered tent, requiring the meat and pita to be transported from the tent to the booth.

These changes will require even more volunteers for each shift! Scheduling will begin the week after the Marin Greek Festival. Volunteers are encouraged from all "walks" of the parish: dancers and their parents, Sunday School students and their parents, Parish Council, Philoptochos, GOYA, altar boys, choir, students who need service hours for school... we're hoping everyone will be able to help out! Call your friends and get a crew together. It's a lot of fun, plus you get free admission to the fair and a delicious meal!

There are 100 spots that need to be filled over the 5 days, in addition to the set-up and break-down crews. The fair runs from Saturday, June 30, through

Wednesday, July 4; the early shift is 10 am - 5 pm, the evening shift is 4:30 pm - 11 pm. Each shift needs **AT LEAST 10** workers: 1 shift coordinator (that person gets the parking pass to park right behind the booth!), 2 gyros cutters/pita grillers, 1 gyros runner, 4 workers (assemble gyros, salad, yogurt), 1 person to serve drinks, and 1 person at the cash register.

Please contact Effie Fourakis for more information and to sign up (cell 415-823-9433 or effiejf@me.com).

Monthly Socials

We need you to bring friends to our Parish on Saturday, June 23rd, for our first annual Nativity "Neighborhood" Block Party!

THE GOAL: To demystify who we are here at Nativity, share the warmth of our parish community with friends who are outside of it, and **grow our church!** We all have friends who wonder about what we do on Sundays, friends who are searching. Bring them to this Social and show them a great time! We need to work collectively, as a family in order for this event to succeed! Start thinking NOW about which of your friends you will bring with you.

Who to invite:

- Friends in the neighborhood
- Detached Greek friends who seldom attend
- Your fellow Christian friends
- Your friends who don't have faith
- Friends who you think are searching!

Bring people and share gyros, laughs and wine as we share our warmth, and a bit about who we are, with folks outside of our parish.

JUNE PARISH SOCIAL DETAILS: Saturday, June 23rd, 3:30pm, Neighborhood Block Party!

GOYA

GOYA Outing

GO GIANTS! June 9th we will spend a day in San Francisco - lunch and a ballgame! Please contact GOYA advisors George Sotiras or Peter Passaris for details.

Sunday School News

Sunday School Recognition Day

Our Sunday School Recognition Day will be held on **Sunday, June 3**. There will be a brief ceremony following the Divine Liturgy. Each student will receive recognition, and awards will be presented to students who have completed certain milestone grade levels. In addition, those students who have achieved attendance awards will receive them at that time. Sunday School students should sit in the specially designated area in the front pews that will be reserved for them.

Sunday School Stewardship Envelopes

The offering envelopes the Sunday School students received in September are dated to include the summer months. Please remind your children to bring an offering envelope to church each Sunday during the summer months and place it in the offering tray that is passed after the Divine Liturgy. Help us teach our children that Stewardship is an on-going commitment!



Summer Church Attendance

Sunday School students and their parents are reminded that church attendance is important and necessary year-round, not just during the school year. Please make every effort to worship together at each Divine Liturgy during the summer months. Don't forget God this summer. He doesn't forget you!

Thanks to our Staff

Our heartfelt thanks to the Sunday School staff: **Kathy Marshall** and **Lisa Rigisich**, Supervisors, and the following teachers who have offered their time and talents this past year teaching our children: **Kristen Efstathiou, Matina Seremetis, Eleni Scanagatta, Christina Thomatos, Susan Siefkas, Karen Walters, Steven Rouman and Steve and Vickie Mavromihalis**. We also want to thank the following who make themselves available to substitute when needed: **Floretta Burrows, Pres. Kay Efstathiou, Angela Eggleston, Christina Foster, Vicki Kalabokes, Kathy Hontalas Marshall, Gigi Medan, Katina Pantazes, Joanna Rizzuti, Dina Stathis and Paul Trimble**.

We are deeply appreciative of your efforts and pray that God will bless you one and all!

Summer Retreats for Sunday School Teachers

We look forward to our monthly teacher retreats (currently scheduled on Sunday, June 24, and Sunday, July 15, from noon until 2 pm) throughout the summer and forums for greater parental input/involvement starting in the fall.

For their extra help during this Sunday School year, we express our deepest gratitude to the following:

Anna Diamantopoulos, Effie Fourakis and Steve Rigisich

Kim Bondarenko and Kristen Efstathiou

Elaine Chyrklund & Christina Foster

Gigi Medan

Debbie Kokalis & Kay Simon

Kay Simon, Sophia Stathis & Presb. Kay

Kathy Marshall & Lisa Rigisich

Bruce and Fran Corcoran

Effie Fourakis, Amalia Haginichols, Kathy Marshall, Steve and Lisa Rigisich, Kay Simon and Sophia Stathis



Beginning of the Year Sunday School Picnic

Fall Classic

Angel Tree

Christmas Pageant

Lazarus Saturday Lenten Luncheon

Holy Wednesday Dinner with Metropolitan Gerasimos

Holy Friday Lenten Retreat

Oratorical Festival

Parish Socials

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

Congratulations to **Nicole Mavromihalis**, who received an Honorable Mention at the Metropolis Oratorical Festival at St. Nicholas Ranch on **Saturday, May 5**. The judges commented on Nicole's poise during her first appearance in the Oratorical Festival. We are proud of you, Nicole!



SUMMER CAMP 2012 AT SAINT NICHOLAS RANCH



It's time to start thinking about summer plans for your children to spend a week or two at the Saint Nicholas Ranch Summer Camp. Sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, Saint Nicholas Ranch has provided a fun and life-transforming summer camp experience that for over 30 years has strengthened the faith of those who have participated. The dates for Summer Camp 2012 are:

Session 1: July 8-14 (All ages)

Session 2: July 15-21 (All ages)

Session 3: July 22-28 (All ages)

Session 4: July 29-August 4 (High School Only)

Age requirements for the first three weeks are 8 years of age (or entering the 3rd grade in September 2012) to 17 years of age (or Spring 2012 high school graduates). Summer Camp is a week of fun, fellowship and faith. Campers will have the opportunity to meet other youth from throughout the Metropolis, while participating in the following camp activities: campfires, theater, music, hiking, pool time, Olympics, athletics, canoeing, Orthodox Life discussion sessions, a tour of the Monastery of the Life Giving Spring, and much more. Registration is available now. Sessions fill up quickly, so reserve your spot today!

To find out more about Saint Nicholas Ranch Summer Camp, and to download the Camper Application Cover Letter and Registration Form, and the Camper Health History Form and Camper Health Care Recommendations, visit http://www.stnicholasranch.org/summer_camp.htm You may also contact the Saint Nicholas Ranch office at (559) 338-2103 or e-mail info@stnicholasranch.org.



Be a Counselor at Camp!

Are you a young adult looking for a rewarding and meaningful way to spend your summer? Have you ever thought of being a Summer Camp Counselor? The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Summer Camp at Saint Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, California is currently seeking applicants ages 21 years old and over for this exciting program. One of the most fulfilling experiences

you can have is being a positive Orthodox role model for our youth and helping them grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Not only will you make a difference in the lives of our young people, but you will also grow in a multitude of ways, all while forming friendships with other young adults from throughout the Metropolis. In addition, young adults between the ages of 19 – 20 are encouraged to apply for the Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program. Camp sessions are as follows: Counselor Orientation Week: July 2-7; July 8-14; July 15-21; and July 29-August 4.

At Saint Nicholas Ranch, counselors will participate in all of the traditional camp activities like arts and crafts, swimming, canoeing, campfires, archery, a nature hike, camp Olympics, skit night, daily worship services, regular visits to the Monastery of the Theotokos the Life Giving Spring, and Orthodox life discussions. Staff application forms are available on the Saint Nicholas Ranch website at: www.stnicholasranch.org. Go to the "Camps" tab and click on "Summer Camp."

Congratulations



Graduates

Our sincere congratulations and best wishes and, above all, our prayers for a life and future pleasing to God in every way, to the following graduates of our parish:

High School Graduates

*James Thomas Adams II
Nick Destein
Athanasias Forrest Gousios
Elaina Koros
Ilija Medan
Angelina Susmani*

We apologize if we have omitted anyone from this list. If you have a son or daughter graduating from school this year, please call the office at (415) 883-1998 so we can print a complete list in the next newsletter.

College Graduates

*George Eliades
BA - Economics
with a Minor in Demographics
UC - Berkeley*

*Thomas Ells
MBA - Operations Global Supply
Chain Management and Public
Administration
Golden Gate University*

*Electra Katelanis
BA-Business Administration/
Marketing Management
Cal Poly University - San Luis
Obispo*

Blessings to All Fathers on Father's Day June 17, 2012

A Father's Prayer

Lord, God, you have called me to be a father. You have placed in my stewardship the crown of your creation, other human lives. Forgive me where I have failed in this calling, but let me rejoice genuinely in the successes I have had in being a father. Be with me as I struggle to reflect your love, your reconciliation within my family. And hear me as I pray for the needs of my brothers who are fathers around the globe. Hear this father's prayer in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen

John P. Gilbert
Men and Faith



NATIVITY OF CHRIST

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

JUNE
2 0 1 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>May 27 Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council Divine Liturgy 9:00 am</p> <p>Marin Greek Festival 11 am - 10 pm</p>	<p>May 28 Memorial Day</p> <p>Festival Clean-up 9:00 am - 4:00 pm</p>	<p>May 29 • Bible Study 10:00 am • Marriage Preparation Seminar (Session 3) 6:00 pm</p>	<p>May 30 • Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm</p>	<p>May 31</p>	<p>June 1</p>	<p>June 2 Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p> <p>• Baptism 11:30 am</p>
<p>June 3 Pentecost Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p> <p>Sunday School Recognition Day & Philoptochos Graduate Luncheon</p>	<p>June 4 Monday of the Holy Spirit Liturgy at Holy Trinity in San Francisco 10:00 a.m. Luncheon Following 7:30 pm</p>	<p>June 5 • Bible Study 10:00 am • Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm</p>	<p>June 6 • Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm</p>	<p>June 7</p>	<p>June 8</p>	<p>June 9 • GOYA Activity -- Day in San Francisco including a Giants game • Philoptochos Annual Luncheon 11:30 am</p>
<p>June 10 Sunday of All Saints Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p>	<p>June 11 Fast of the Apostles June 11 - 28</p>	<p>June 12</p>	<p>June 13</p>	<p>June 14</p>	<p>June 15</p>	<p>June 16 • Baptism 11:30 am</p>
<p>June 17 2nd Sunday of Matthew Father's Day Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p>	<p>June 18</p> <p>• Bible Study 10:00 am</p>	<p>June 19</p>	<p>June 20 • Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm</p>	<p>June 21</p>	<p>June 22</p>	<p>June 23 • Monthly Social Neighborhood Block Party! 3:30 pm</p>
<p>June 24 Nativity of John the Baptist Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p> <p>• Sunday School Teachers' retreat 12 noon - 2:00 pm</p>	<p>June 25</p> <p>• Bible Study 10:00 am</p>	<p>June 26</p>	<p>June 27</p>	<p>June 28</p>	<p>June 29 Saints Peter & Paul</p>	<p>June 30 Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles Divine Liturgy 9:30 am • Wedding 4:00 pm</p> <p>Marin Co. Fair Gyros Booth June 30 - July 4</p>

THIS WEEKEND! Marin Greek Festival

Don't Miss Our Amazing Line Up of Events!

- Local band, Mediterranean Soul, will be playing Friday night. Helios Greek Band will be featured Saturday & Sunday.
- 3rd Annual Food of the Gods ~ Fruit of the Vine Wine Tasting event will feature seven fabulous wineries and an amazing food and wine pairing menu!
- Our own Costa Haralambopoulos will be performing a Byzantine chanting exhibition on Saturday
- Cooking Demo master, Katina Pantazes, will teach you how to make 2 fabulous Greek treats - Potato Balls and Artichokes with Lemon Dill Sauce

ATTEND! VOLUNTEER! - Be a part of the festivities!

SPREAD THE WORD - Tell your friends, coworkers, and neighbors!

VISIT WWW.MARINGREEKFESTIVAL.COM - for discount coupon, directions, menus, & more

FRIDAY, MAY 25 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM



Let's Do Lunch ~ Greek Style Lunch Café and Take-Out Service

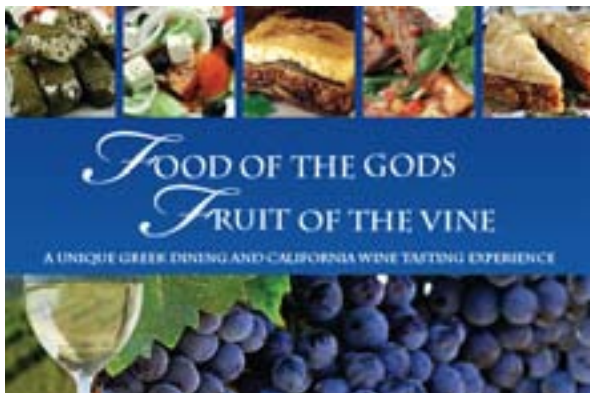
Free Admission - Parking at Church

**Eat In and Take Out Lunches for Area Businesses -
And Everyone Else!**

Take out menu order form online at
www.maringreekfestival.com

- **Tell your co-workers and friends**
- **Organize a lunch event for your office or school!**

FRIDAY, MAY 25 5 - 10 PM



3rd Annual Food of the Gods ~ Fruit of the Vine A Unique Greek Dining and California Wine Tasting Experience

One Night Only - Free Admission - Shuttle from IVC

Special À La Carte Food and Wine Pairing Menu
Dancing to the Music of **Mediterranean Soul**

Wine Tasting - 5:30 - 8:30 pm

\$15 tasting fee to sample the wines of Ravenswood, Roessler Cellars,
Keller Estate, Suacci Carciere, Fotinos Vineyard,
Small Vines, and Mahoney Vineyards

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 26 & 27 11 AM - 10 PM



Our Traditional Marin Greek Festival

Admission: Adults - \$6 Seniors - \$5 Children 12 & under free

Delectable, authentic Greek delicacies prepared from recipes passed down from generation to generation and enjoyed in the old world ambiance of our Greek village on the hill

Dancing to the Music of **Helios Greek Band**

Performances by the Minoan Dancers, Church Tours,
Byzantine Chanting, Greek Marketplace, Cooking Demos,
Children's Activities, and more!



***Balloon Launch
Last Day of Sunday School
May 20, 2012***

Each balloon carried a note decorated by the Sunday School students and containing a Scripture verse of hope and how God loves us. Whoever finds the balloon will be encouraged.



2012 Stewardship Campaign

What's the Goal?

With over half of my life focused intensely on athletics, the process of setting goals and working tirelessly to fulfill them was common. To initiate this process, first one must contemplate what the goal is and understand why it is important. Sometimes it can be attained quickly, sometimes in more methodical incremental steps... Then it is time to work!

Christian Stewardship is no different!

Scripture informs us that God has given us all things, and in leading a life that glorifies Him, we are to offer back to Him from all that He has given us. Again, the Bible tells us that 10% is the appropriate level at which we are to offer back to God. Why? This 'offering back' to God – this process of stewardship is good for our soul, and ultimately benefits your own soul! Yes, when we are good stewards, it is good for our souls!

In our contemporary society many individuals live beyond their means – through forms of credit living at 100%+ of their capacity! In these circumstances, the prospect of adhering to the Biblical standard of a tithe (10%) seems im-

possible. How can one offer back to God 10% if we spend over 100% of what He has entrusted us?

When we understand the why? of stewardship (we give back to God because it is good for our souls) then we must be motivated to establish steps in our lives that bring us to a more responsible experience of living – ultimately creating the room for responsible stewardship in our lives.

If you currently live at 110% of your capacity – choose to scale back your lifestyle to a minimum level of 90%, so that you may offer back to God what He has established as responsible.

- 10% of your time.
- 10% of your talents.
- 10% of your treasures.

If you are currently unable, then begin the goal process and begin taking the steps toward responsible stewardship.

May our Father in heaven receive our humble offerings and continue to increase the grace He extends to us!



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

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

Change Service Requested

Dated Material



O Prophet and Forerunner of Christ's coming to us, all we who extol you with longing are at a loss to honor you worthily. For your mother's barrenness and your father's long silence, by your all-renowned and hallowed birth, were both ended, and the Incarnation of the Son of God is preached unto all the world.

*Aposticha Hymn
Nativity of St. John the Baptist
June 24*