



# The Word

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

John 1:14

## Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ

### Call on the Name of the Lord

June 2014

The crowd had just witnessed a phenomenal miracle as the Holy Spirit acted in the Apostles through the speaking in tongues. Some who had experienced this divine happening doubted – refusing to recognize the presence of God, they mocked the miracle by saying that the people there were simply drunk from wine.

The Great Apostle Peter spoke to this vast crowd on the day of Pentecost, bearing witness to the work of God and the validity of this great miracle. In his teaching, Saint Peter references the Old Testament Prophet Joel, who foreshadowed this event, and the presence of God in every individual's life,

*"But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maid-servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"*

*Acts of the Apostles 2:16-21*

Saint Peter not only uses the prophecy of the Prophet Joel to bear witness to the Pentecost event, but to convey to the crowd that God is actively present in each of their lives, "...I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh..." God has initiated our relationship through our very creation, and He continues to actively

engage our relationship by pouring out His grace upon us. Scripture does not allow the opportunity for anyone to truthfully proclaim that God is not present in his or her life. By His great love for us, God is always present and active in every corner of His creation, especially in the lives of people. This active presence is the answer to all our needs and ultimately escorts us into the Kingdom of Heaven. The consistency of God is Biblically established; however, He alone is constant.

In our relationship with God, we are inconsistent. Our inconsistency is not damning in our failures when trying to lead Christian lives, but rather in the experiences of arrogance and/or slothfulness when we do not try.

Calling on the name of the Lord is our active participation in our relationship with God. Calling on the Lord's name does not refer to a whimsical utterance of God's name, yet it implies that we invoke God into all aspects of our lives. How is God witnessed in your daily life? ...as a spouse, ...as a child, ...as a parent, ...as an employer/employee, ...as a peer, ...as a friend, ...as a stranger, as a steward of Nativity?

When we actively witness the Lord's name in our daily lives by applying His love, we truly call on the name of the Lord. By engaging the Lord and in doing so receiving His consistent presence, we shall be saved!

Through an active Christian life supported by the life and experience of the Church, we place our eternal soul in the merciful Hands of the Lord as witnessed by the hopeful prophecy of Joel. There is no safer experience than trusted dependency on God. In His mercy we find ourselves.

In this Pentecost season, seek the mercy of the Lord by engaging His active presence: become a more active Orthodox Christian in the life of Nativity and in all the multiple daily experiences you find.

*"And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

*Fr. Luke*



*Feast of Pentecost*

*June 8*

## June Services & Readings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
June 1	9:30 am	Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council	Acts 20:16-18,28-36	John 17:1-13
June 7	9:30 am	Saturday of Souls	I Thess. 4:13-17	John 21:14-25
June 8	9:30 am	Holy Pentecost	Acts 2:1-11	John 7:37-8:12
June 15	9:30 am	All Saints Father's Day	Hebrews 11:33-12:2	Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30
June 22	9:30 am	2nd Sunday of Matthew	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, 57-58, 76-80
June 29	9:30 am	Holy Apostles Peter & Paul	II Corinth. 11:21-12:9	Matthew 16:13-19
June 30	9:30 am	Synaxis of the Holy Apostles	I Corinth. 4:9-16	Matthew 9:36; 10:1-8

## The Word

**Monthly Newsletter**

**published by**

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Pastor**

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

**June 2014**

### 2014 Festival

As I write, the tents are being erected, food is being prepared, and many other final efforts are under way to bring this year's Festival to fruition. Many thanks are offered to those who have labored through multiple forms to make our community's festival a reality. Pre-emptively, with confidence, I recognize this year's festival as a tremendous success – as the Nativity community will receive, honor and serve the thousands of visitors that will step foot on this holy campus!



### KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

- Fr. James Adams
- Alexandra Edrich
- George Fotinos
- Victor Gavallos
- James Kolyvas
- Katherine Pantazes
- Katia Zoe Antonis
- Fr. Constantine Efstathiu
- Fr. Haralambos Fox
- Mary Georgeson
- Connie Martigopoulos
- Nancy Slenkin

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.**

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# Parish Activities & Ministries

## Philoptochos

### Membership: We are almost there!

We will keep our Membership drive going until we reach our goal of 120 members. As of May 16 we have 92 members, leaving 28 members to reach our goal. Your support means the world to the charities we support so please send in your form today. Your membership counts, no matter what the amount, and has a significant impact of the lives of those who are in need and less fortunate. Attendance at meetings is not a requirement to be a member. If you have already joined, God bless you for your support. Membership forms are available in the Narthex and in the church office. Please do not wait. Send in or hand in your membership today!

### Coffee Hour

The Philoptochos will not be hosting coffee hour **during the months of July and August.** If you would like to host a coffee hour during these months please let Debbie Kokalis know.



### Graduate Luncheon

The Philoptochos will host a light luncheon to honor our graduates and the scholarship recipients on **June 1.** Please join us to wish them well.

### Homeward Bound

Philoptochos will be serving a meal for Homeward Bound on **May 30.**



### Book Drive

We would like to thank all those who brought in books to give to the Short School in San Rafael. **The basket will be delivered by June 13. Please continue to bring in books until then.**



### June Birthdays

June birthday wishes to: **Maryanne Spyridis (6/2), Scott Walters (6/4), Dina Camamis (6/11), Helen Selmi (6/14), Pat Kamages (6/17), Keri Antonis (6/25) and Cathy Selmi (6/25).**

### Dates to Remember

6/1 Scholarship Luncheon

# Religious Education News

Our **first annual Sandwiches and Sundaes** that took place on May 18 was a joyous way to mark the end of the Sunday School year. Smiles were on the faces of all as we greeted each other after church to congratulate all our Sunday School students and enjoy sandwiches and tasty ice cream sundaes. We owe special thanks to Floretta Burrows, Irene Meehan, Debbie Kokalis and Carol Economy for making this event possible.

**Congratulations to our graduating seniors: Phoebe Boosalis, Katherine Daifotis, Nicole Gavallos, Franco Mavromihalis and Nick Messner.**

A very special thanks to our **Youth Education teachers** this year:

- Angie Nelson**
- Meredith Passaris**
- Kristen Efstathiou**
- Zana Howard**
- Christina Thomatos**
- Floretta Burrows**
- Susan Siefkas**
- Karen Walters**
- Steve Rouman**
- Steve Mavromihalis**
- Vicki Mavromihalis**
- Kathy Hontalas Marshall**

**Youth Education Sundays** will resume in September. Please bring your children to church this summer when you are in town to experience the beauty of our Liturgy and we will see you all back on **September 7** when Youth Education classes resume.

### Message from Fr. Luke 2013-2014 Nativity Sunday School

Last month our Nativity Sunday School experience was honored following a Sunday Divine Liturgy (see photo below). Let us continue to honor the efforts and commitments of those involved with the Nativity youth education program by preparing to commit at an even greater level in the future... as a teacher, a student, a parent, a community member!

The Nativity community expresses her gratitude to the individual stewards who have so beautifully been a part of this important ministry!



# Folk Dance Groups

### Marin County Fair Volunteers Needed!

Each year our parish participates in the Marin County Fair serving Gyros, Greek salad and Greek yogurt. The fair runs from Wednesday, July 2, through Sunday, July 3. Shifts are from 10 am - 5 pm or from 4:30 - 11 pm.

The proceeds from the booth benefit both the parish (40%) and the Folk Dance Groups (60%). If you are unable to volunteer, please patronize the booth when you attend the Marin County Fair!

See the flyer on page 9 for all the details.

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

Phoebe Boosalis  
Katherine Dai Fotis  
Nicole Gavallos  
Franco Mavromihalidis  
Nick Messner

College Graduates

Alexander Eliades  
BA - History  
with a Minor in Religious Studies  
UC - Davis

Achilleas Fourakis  
BA - Broadcast & Electronic  
Communication Arts  
San Francisco State University

[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.]



**Blessings to All Fathers on Father's Day  
June 15, 2014**

*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





## Parish Council Notes



### **Many Hands, Many Bodies and Dedicated Leadership**

With sincere gratitude, we salute the many people who spent countless hours preparing the delicious foods and pastries for the food festival. Additionally, this event could not be successful without the assistance of the many people who supply the physical labor such an event requires. A huge "Thank You" goes out to co-chairs Mike Madias and Ed Keller, along with their supportive wives Laurie and Karen, without whom this event would not have been possible.

### **A Tranquil Place for Reflection**

Through the financial assistance of concerned parishioners, the grounds of the Nativity of Christ campus continue to receive landscaping attention. There is great value in creating an appealing physical environment for those who are first-time visitors or regular attenders of our church. If you have an interest in being a part of the beautification of the church grounds, please contact Father Luke.

### **Time Marches On**

As our facilities age, there is an increasing need for updating. Recently, our safe decided it was time for it to be retired. We now have a new, more secure safe with features that were not available 40 years ago. Additionally, many of our security doors are in the process of being replaced.

In order to keep our somewhat isolated facility protected from wandering minds and bodies, all parishioners are encouraged to secure whatever facility they may be the last to leave, whatever the day of week of your use. Unfortunately, numerous doors have been left open for many hours recently and electronic devices have not been turned off. Please do not assume that someone else is present or will appear to close down a room or electronic equipment you may be using.

### **Looking Down the Road**

A website for our youth is in the developmental stages and hopefully will be ready within the next few months. The goal of reaching all ages of our community digitally is a continual challenge. It is essential that we meet some of the most digitally-astute members of community, our youth, through a portal matching their comfort level.

In an effort to assist anyone who plans his/her life by months rather than days or minutes, the dates for the Fall Parish Assembly and Parish Council Election have been set. The assembly meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 9**, and the election is scheduled for **Sunday, December 7** after church.

### **Time to Stop Pushing the Form around the Desk**

There does come a point of diminishing returns when it comes to pushing your stewardship form around your desk. Help meet today's needs of your church by filling out your stewardship form and mailing it this week!

While there has been an up-trend in the level of stewardship commitments, numerous previous stewards have yet to express their fiscal and physical commitments to the church for this calendar year. As we approach the mid-point

in 2014, please take a few moments to finalize your support of our community. (See page 10 for a copy of the 2014 Stewardship Commitment Card.)

### **Summertime and the Living is Easy**

What more relaxing way to spend a Sunday morning in June, July or August can there be than to be spiritually fulfilled through the beauty of the Divine Liturgy. The weather is perfect, the school calendar is clear, and the Giants' games don't start until 1:05. Enhance the great lifestyle of Northern California this summer by reinvigorating you and your family's spiritual relationship.



## **Synaxis of the Twelve**

### **Holy Apostles**

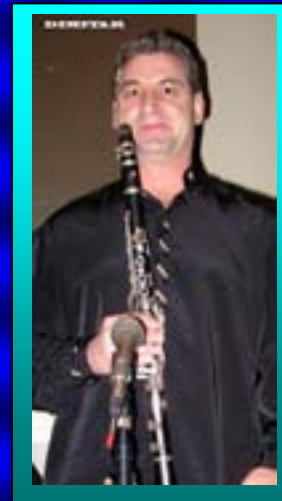
**June 30**

**The Nativity of Christ  
Orthodox Church Presents:  
The Celebration of Holy Pentecost  
GREEK GLENDI**

**With Live Greek Music Entertainment**



**Saturday,  
June 7th, 2014  
6:00 PM - 11:00 PM  
Delicious & Tasteful  
Greek Food &  
No Host Bar  
\$60.00 per person  
secure your reservation  
by May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Church Of Nativity  
1110 Highland Dr. Novato,  
California**



**For Tickets and Information Contact Hosts  
Loukas at (415) 717-8955 or Maryanne (707) 541-6552  
email: [maryannespyridis@hotmail.com](mailto:maryannespyridis@hotmail.com)**

**Please make checks payable to the "Nativity of Christ".  
All Proceeds from ticket sales of this event will benefit the  
Nativity of Christ Greek School Program. You can mail your  
payment by check to Maryanne Spyridis 560 Rohnert Park  
Expy West #232 Rohnert Park, CA 94928**

# NATIVITY OF CHRIST

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

**JUNE**  
2 0 1 4

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 	2 Philoptochos Scholarship Luncheon	3 Bible Study 10:00 am	4	5	6	7 Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  •Baptism 11:00 am •Baptism 1:00 pm •Great Vespers 5:00 pm
8 Pentecost Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 	9 Celebration of Parish Feast Day at Holy Trinity, San Francisco 9:00 am Matins 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Luncheon Following	10 Bible Study 10:00 am Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm	11	12	13	14 Pentecost Glendl 6:00 - 10:00 pm June 7 - Nativity Fellowship Hall
15 Sunday of All Saints Father's Day Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 	16 Apostles' Fast Begins June 16-June 30	17	18	19	20	21 Wedding 2:00 pm
22 2nd Sunday of Matthew Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 	23	24 Nativity of John the Baptist Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  Bible Study following Divine Liturgy	25	26	27	28
29 Holy Apostles Peter & Paul Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 	30 Synopsis of the Twelve Holy Apostles Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 	July 1 Bible Study 10:00 am	2	3	4	5 Marin Co. Fair Gyros Booth July 2 - 6



*Don't*

*Miss*

*The*

*Ball!!!*

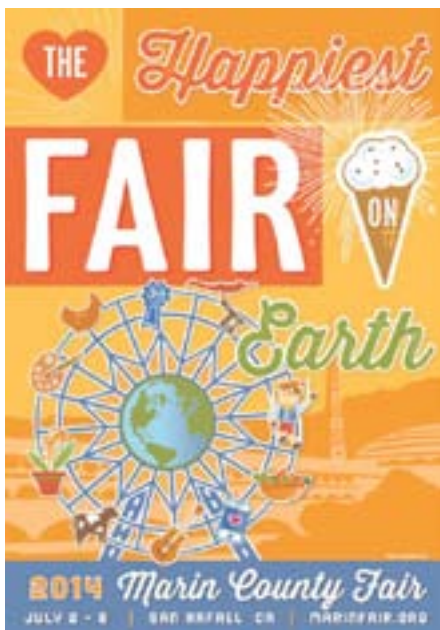
## Kick Start a Love of Reading

Please Donate to the Children of Short School, San Rafael.

We're looking for new or gently used books, appropriate for children aged 4—9, most of whom are English learners.

Look for the boxes in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall **until June 12**. Cash donations (made out Philoptochos) also accepted with gratitude.





*Don't Worry, Be Happy...*

*... volunteer at our Parish  
GYROS Booth*



*at the  
Marin County Fair*



*at the Marin Food Court,  
near the Ben & Jerry's Solar Stage*

*July 2 - 6*

Each year our parish participates in the Marin County Fair, serving Gyros, Greek salad & Greek yogurt. This year we are adding hummus with carrot sticks, dolmades and baklava

*Our presence at the Fair offers us several opportunities:*

- ~ We share our Hellenic heritage with the larger community through our cuisine ~
- ~ We extend our Orthodox Christian values through our philoxenia (hospitality) by our food preparation and customer service (always with a smile and a good word!) ~
- ~ A significant fundraiser for our parish ~

Early shift is  
10 am - 5 pm

Evening shift is  
4:30 - 11 pm

Flex and shared  
shifts available

The fair runs from Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup>  
through Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup>

Scheduling will begin the week after the Marin Greek Festival (using SignUp Genius online or you can contact one of the chairpeople listed here).

Volunteers are encouraged from all "walks" of the parish: dancers, students, parents, Parish Council, Philoptochos, GOYA, altar boys, choir, students who need service hours for school... we're hoping everyone will help out! Call your friends and get a crew together, it's a lot of fun, you get free admission to the fair and a delicious meal!

**Each shift needs AT LEAST 10 workers:**

- 1 shift coordinator (gets 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
- 1 person at the cash register

*For more information  
and to sign up:*

Kimon Daifotis  
415-606-7661 cell  
kimdaifotis@yahoo.com

Effie Fourakis  
415-823-9433 cell  
effiejf@me.com

# 2014 Stewardship Campaign

## Be Wise As Magi

Holy Tradition holds that Saint Eleni, on her inspired pilgrimage to find the Cross of our Lord, returned to Constantinople with the relics of the Magi – the three Wise Men who made pilgrimage to the infant Lord. Venerated in the great Constantinople Cathedral of Holy Wisdom, the relics were taken to Milan, then ultimately to Cologne, Germany where the relics are still venerated in the Cologne Cathedral in ornate golden tombs.

Millions of faithful have made pilgrimage to venerate the relics of the Magi, all in recognition for their wisdom. What a blessing it would be to one day make such pilgrimage to Germany!

Although you may not be boarding a plane to Germany today, you may still begin your pilgrimage immediately...by embarking upon the same faithful process as the Magi, you not only venerate their saintliness, but you please God.

### Recognition + Commitment + Offering

When you *recognize* that Christ is found in an active experience of the Church...  
 When you *commit* to a lifestyle that is consistent with the teachings of the Lord...  
 When you *offer* your time, talent and treasure to God through His Church...you please the Lord, and follow in the footsteps of the Magi, who God Himself recognized as wise!

Be Wise as Magi – be the best steward that you can be at the Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Christian Church!

If you are yet to return a completed 2014 Commitment Card, please complete the included commitment card, and return it to the church office today!

## Stewardship Commitments Received between 4/28/19 and 5/26/14

Daugherty, Matthew  
 Jouganatos, Spiro & Connie  
 Mouzakis, Robert  
 Offill, William & Christina  
 Sarantakis, Chris & Tina  
 Stathis, Peter & Dina  
 Valakitsis, Yiannis & Eugenia  
 Vallianos, Antonia  
 Vangelatos, Demetra  
 Vellis, George & Dimitra  
 Vlahakos, Nick & Georgia  
 Yatrakis, Christopher & Eirini

### 2014 Stewardship Update May 26, 2014

Number of Commitment Cards Received	199
Total Amount Committed	\$173,181
Budgeted Goal	\$206,961

### Thank You

We thank those listed above, as well as those who have been listed previously, for their response to the 2014 Stewardship Campaign.

## Be Wise as Magi

*In the tradition of the Magi, who faithfully made offerings to the infant Lord, I/we pledge faithful pilgrimage to God as a parishioner of the Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Christian Church, through the offering of...*

God's House to your house

*Time and Talents*

Talents that I pledge to offer to Nativity life...

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Please write in specific talents that you are willing to offer in support of Nativity

*Treasure*

Total annual financial offering that I pledge to Nativity for the year 2014

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in including Nativity of Christ in my estate planning. Check box if interested.

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





Nativity of Christ  
Greek Orthodox Church  
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*Dated Material*



*O Foremost of the Apostles and  
teachers of the universe, intercede  
with the Master of all that He grant  
peace to the world and great mercy  
to our souls.*

*Dismissal Hymn  
The Holy, Glorious and  
All-Famed Chiefs of the  
Apostles, Peter and Paul*

**Feast of Saints Peter  
& Paul  
June 29**