



# The Word

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

*John 1:14*

## Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ

March 2014

### A Single Step

It has been said that a journey begins with a single step. One single step may not be a spectacular fete, yet is the initiation of commitment, education, growth and progress. Without introduction to the world beyond a single step, the illusion of life suffocates the human spirit and after time the only thing learned is regret.

On March 3rd of this year, we have been invited by our Mother to take a single step toward spiritual renewal. Clean Monday, the beginning of Great Lent, is an opportunity for Orthodox Christians, individually and communally, to commit to the established journey that ultimately leads to the Lord on the Cross and His third-day Resurrection. How can you grow as a Christian... as a spouse, a parent, a family member, a friend, a stranger... how is it that you can "be a better you" in less than two months? If your Christianity grows in these two months, then your relationships to others will grow in health and magnitude.

The Church's prescription of Great Lent shepherds us on a journey of self-identification--we are given an opportunity to reflect on who we truly are, and more importantly, who we are willing to be.

Are we willing to be a part of a communal experience -- receiving through our active offering?

Are we willing to be disciplined -- actively proclaiming that the will of God drives our decisions, rather than our own will?

Are we willing to be dependent -- trusting that we need God in our lives?

Are we willing to be vulnerable -- vulnerable enough to expose our every weakness in the hope that God heals them?

Are we willing to be loved -- accepting our true identity as the beloved children of God?

The expanded liturgical schedule, the fasting, the readings, the projects of Great Lent, are all intended to lead us to the moment where we may authentically answer *yes* to the preceding questions. Arriving at that *authentic yes* only takes place through pilgrimage of faith. If you already can authentically answer *yes* to these questions then you have no need for Great Lent and you are already a saint. Yet, for those of us who remain, the Church has offered us a journey through which we may grow in our Christianity, improve ourselves, work toward sainthood and the Kingdom of God! Although this destination is beautiful and glorious, it will not be found if you do not take that first single step!

Journey with me and our entire Nativity family, as we commit to the experience of Great Lent this year.

Monday Evenings: 6 pm Compline Service

Wednesday Evenings: 6 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Friday Mornings: 9:30 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Friday Evenings: 6 pm Salutations to the Theotokos

With your first step toward the lenten liturgical services of the Church, a beautiful journey of edification awaits you.

Take a single step...



#### 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
- Fr. Constantine Efstathiou
- George Fotinos
- Fr. Haralambos Fox
- Victor Galvallos
- Marie Kalogiannis
- James Kolyvas
- Athena Lambo
- Kathleen Trimble Mackechnie
- Connie Martigopoulos

From time to time, we may remove names that have been on the list 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.**



*Fr. Luke*

## March Services & Readings

	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Mar 1	9:30 am	2nd Saturday of Souls	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Matthew 6:1-13
Mar 2	9:30 am	Forgiveness Sunday Cheese-fare	Romans 13:11-14:4	Matthew 6:14-21
Mar 8	9:30 am	3rd Saturday of Souls	II Timothy 2:1-10	Mark 2:23-3:5
Mar 9	9:30 am	Sunday of Orthodoxy	Hebrews 12: 1-10	John 1:43-51
Mar 16	9:30 am	St. Gregory Palamas	Hebrews 1:10-2:3	Mark 2:1-12
Mar 23	9:30 am	Holy Cross	Hebrews 4:14-5:6	Mark 8:34-9:1
Mar 25	9:30 am	The Annunciation	Hebrews 2:11-18	Luke 1:24-38
Mar 30	9:30 am	St. John Climacus	Hebrews 6:13-20	Mark 9:17-31

## March Acolyte Schedule

All acolytes are asked to serve in March

## March Candle Duty Schedule

March 2	Bruce Corcoran, Pete Gikkas, George Kokalis
March 9	George Georgeson, Scott Walters
March 16	Alex Slenkin, George Sotiras, Tony Kosmas
March 23	Rose Hunter, Chris Siefkas, Nick Livanos
March 30	Bruce Corcoran, Pete Gikkas, George Kokalis

### Lenten Flowers Opportunities to Participate

#### Salutations to the Mother of God

During Great Lent, the Salutations to the Mother of God are chanted on Friday evenings. If you are interested in donating the cost of the flowers for the Icon, please call the church office. The suggested donation for the cost of the wreath is \$55.00.

#### Flowers for the Epitafion

During all of Great Lent, donations will be accepted (envelopes available in narthex) for the flowers that will be used to decorate the Epitafion for services on Holy Friday (Friday, April 18). All contributions, large and small, are ap-

## The Word

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**published by**

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**March 2014**



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### Time Change on March 9

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 8.

### Festival News

There will be a Festival Meeting after church on Sunday, March 16.

Watch your e-mail for notices about cooking schedules and volunteer sign-ups.

# Parish Activities & Ministries

## Philoptochos

### Coffee Hour



Our Luncheon, for "Go Red for Women's Heart Health" on February 9th proved to be a huge success, thanks to the hard work of Minoan Dancers

They did a fantastic job! It was wonderful to have the Minoan Dancers kick off 2014-who will be next?

We received two donations of food items, which helped us with unhosted coffee hours. Our sign-up sheet is back on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall, which shows the Sundays that are available for you to sign up and host your special coffee hour. Hosting a coffee hour is easy because we want to keep it simple, so there is no pressure. Coffee and drinks are provided. If you have any questions about how it works, you can talk to any Board member and they will be happy to give you the information you need.

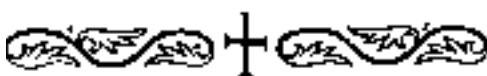
### Membership

A big thank you to Florretta Burrows for chairing our Membership Brunch. We will keep our Membership drive going until we reach our goal of 120 members. As of February 18th we have 60 members. Your support of Philoptochos helps many organizations on a local and national level. The more we raise the more we can give!

Your membership counts, no matter what the amount; it has a significant impact of the lives of those who are in need or less fortunate. If you already joined, God bless you for your support. If you haven't, please send in your membership today. To be a member you do not need to come to meetings-though we would have you there.

### Welcome Aboard!

The Philoptochos is delighted that **Pat Destein** has joined the Philoptochos Board!



### Social Event

Our first social of 2014 was a lot of fun. A group of us went to see a play and not only did we enjoy each other's company we shared a lot of laughs. Stay tuned to next event.



### March Birthdays

The following members have birthdays coming up in March:

**Antonia Touras (3/7) Anna Wildermuth (3/20), Mia Kavantjas (3/21), Rose Hunter (3/21), Anna Diamantopoulos (3/23).**

**Happy Birthday!! And many, many more.....**

### Dates to Remember

Mar 6 – Board Meeting 6:30 pm

## Religious Education News

### March Open House Sundays for Parents

During the month of March, we welcome parents to visit classrooms. Pick a Sunday, and plan to visit your child's classroom. Teachers and students are prepared and eager to share and learn with you each Sunday. Following communion, parents can proceed to their child's class with their student. Parents with more than one child, can pick a different Sunday for each child. Our first Sunday, March 2, will be an Activity Sunday where all students will be working on an activity together. Please join us.

March 2: Youth Activity Sunday

March 3: Lent Begins

March 9: Youth Education Sunday  
Sunday of Orthodoxy - Students & Teachers will participate in procession with icons at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Please have your children bring an icon today

March 16: Youth Education Sunday

March 23: Youth Education Sunday

March 30: Youth Education Sunday

### Save these Dates!

### Palm Cross Making Saturday, April 12

All students, their families, and all parishioners are invited to join in the making of Palm Crosses in preparation for Palm Sunday. Please join us following the Saturday service and learn how to make these crosses. We welcome everyone. A Lenten Luncheon will be provided.

### Holy Friday Retreat Friday, April 18th

A full day of activities will take place for students in preparation for Holy Pascha. Please see the flyer with detailed information for Holy Week, including the Saturday of Lazarus, on page 4 of this newsletter. The Registration form for the Holy Friday Retreat will be available in the Narthex and posted on the website. A letter from Father Luke will be provided for students requiring an excused absence from school on Friday, April 18th.

### Youth Corner

Have you talked to your child today about what he/she learned in Sunday School? If not, be sure to ask them to share what they are learning each week!

### A Note from Fr. Luke about Holy Friday Retreat

Once again we eagerly anticipate our Nativity Holy Friday Youth Retreat, which will take place between the morning Royal Hours service, and the afternoon Taking Down from the Cross Service. This day of prayer, learning, service and fellowship will be extended to all Sunday School-aged youth. If you need a note to have your child dismissed from school, please contact the church office.



L E N T

# SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014 HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA SCHEDULE

## CONFESSION

### Saturday, April 12

- The Sacrament of Holy Confession will be made available to students following the Divine Liturgy ( see below)
- Children may also come at any time by appointment.



## SATURDAY OF LAZARUS PALM CROSS MAKING

### Saturday, April 12 9:30 AM

- All students are encouraged to help make the palm crosses afterwards. We need many hands--young and old--to make 350 Palm Crosses.
- Lunch will be served.
- Children may come to Confession at this time.

## PALM SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY Sunday, April 13 9:30 AM

- Palm crosses will be distributed to all.
- Lenten project coin boxes to be returned by today.
- Traditional fish luncheon will be sponsored by Philtochos. Plan to attend!



**Palm Sunday**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY UNCTION (Holy Oil - Efhelion)

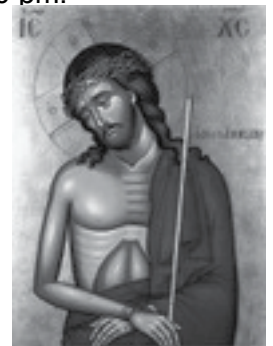
### Wednesday, April 15 3:00 PM

- Holy Unction is the Sacrament of Healing.** In addition to specific times of illness, it is administered every year during Holy Week on Holy Wednesday for **spiritual and bodily health and sanctification.**
- All students are urged to participate in this Sacrament with their families.
- Students will read the Epistles for this service.
- Holy Unction will be administered again during the evening Bridegroom Service at 7:00 pm.

## GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

### RETREAT Friday, April 18 10:00 AM

- Students from Kindergarten through High School will participate in a journey of faith
- A day of prayer, fasting, fellowship and learning.



## DESCENT OF CHRIST FROM THE CROSS (Apokathilosis)

### Friday, April 18 2:30 PM

- The retreat will conclude with this service.
- Students will participate in a procession with candles.**
- Parents, please have your children excused from school for this most important and inspiring day for our children. Contact the church office for a letter from Fr. Luke.

## RESURRECTION SERVICE & EASTER DIVINE LITURGY Saturday, April 19 11:45 PM

- **Students will light their specially decorated Easter candle at this service.**
- Traditional red Easter eggs will be distributed at the conclusion of the service.



*Christ is  
Risen!*

*Christos  
Anesti!*

## HOLY AND GREAT PASCHA \* SERVICE OF AGAPE Sunday, April 20 11:30 AM

- Students will light their specially decorated Easter candles at this service.

# Folk Dance News

The 38th annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance Festival provided many opportunities for our Minoan Dancers to connect with faith, to dance and enjoy fellowship with new and old friends. Held in Anaheim Feb. 13-16, this year's FDF was stage to over 100 groups from 8 states.

Connection started during Opening Ceremonies with a parade of dancers, singing of national anthems, Agiasmos by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and debut of singer Margarita's new single, "Opa" with Minoans as backup dancers (Margarita is a Minoan, class of '96-'98). We debuted our new logo, a throwback to a local band, with some groovy costuming.

Friday was the semi-final round of competition with our high school (Minoans II) and elementary (Minoans III) groups presenting dances from Crete and the adult group (Minoans I/II) presenting dances from Epiros. Dancers attended workshops led by clergy. On Saturday Minoans II presented dances from Epiros, Minoans III dances from Thrace and the youngest group, Little Minoans directed by Lucy Diamantopoulos and Eleni Katsaros, performed Cretan dances in the non-competitive category.

Many families enjoyed the warm So Cal weather with a trip to Disneyland. We enjoyed a concert by the singer Glykeria, having come from Greece to FDF to help us connect with vintage Greek bouzouki and folk songs and dances.

Divine Liturgy was celebrated Sunday morning followed by the final round of the Adv. Senior competition (Minoans I presented dances from Crete).

The Awards Banquet on Sunday evening was attended by almost 2,500 dancers, clergy and families. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Elios Award of Excellence to Christ Kamages (Minoan husband, father and grandfather) by Tony Saris, President of the Elios Society. Tony wrote: "The Elios Society salutes Christ Kamages as he deservingly is honored during this year's FDF. Christ embodies a commitment to both our Orthodox faith and Hellenism, and his lifelong acts of service are sincerely appreciated and worthy of emulation." AXIOS!

All of our Minoan Dancers performed extremely well at FDF and were awarded for their efforts. Minoans III received the Founder's Special Achievement Award in Adv. Primary and the Minoans I/II received costume award and 3rd place in Adv. Senior.

Congratulations to all the dancers and their families! Keep Dancin'!



**Congratulations to Christ Kamages**  
Christ Kamages was honored at the FDF with the Elios Award of Excellence on Sunday night. The award in recognition of his years in the architecture profession. For further information, please go to [www.cjk-design.com/christ-kamages-to...by-the-elios-society](http://www.cjk-design.com/christ-kamages-to...by-the-elios-society)

We congratulate Christ on this honor. Axios!



**DAILY LENTEN PRAYERS  
LENTEN PERSONAL DEVOTIONS**

**In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
Glory to our God, glory to You.**

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come and abide in us. Cleanse us from all impurity and save our souls, gracious Lord.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for the glory of Your name. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**LENTEN PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM**

Lord and Master of my life, give me not a spirit of sloth, vain curiosity, lust for power, and idle talk.

But give to me, your servant, a spirit of soberness, humility, patience, and love.

Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults, and not to condemn my brothers and sisters, for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE HOURS**

Christ our God, Who at all times and in every hour are worshiped and glorified in heaven and on earth; long-suffering, generous in mercy, and rich in compassion; loving to the righteous and merciful to the sinner; You call all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: Lord, in this hour accept our prayers and direct our lives in the way of Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds, and deliver us from all affliction, evil, and distress. Encompass us with Your holy angels, so that guided and guarded by their company we may reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory, for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He shine the light of His countenance upon us and have mercy on us.



# NATIVITY OF CHRIST

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

# MARCH

## 2 0 1 4

Be Sure to Set Your Clocks Ahead One Hour on Saturday Night March 8!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> Forgiveness Sunday Cheese-fare Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows Tiropitas Luncheon	<b>3</b> Great Lent Begins Great Compline 6:00 pm	<b>4</b> Bible Study 10:00 am	<b>5</b> Greek School 4:15-5:45 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following	<b>6</b> Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>7</b> Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>1</b> 2nd Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 3rd day of Souls Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
<b>9</b> 1st Sunday of Lent Sunday of Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Procession with Icons Sunday School follows	<b>10</b> Great Compline 6:00 pm	<b>11</b> Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>12</b> Greek School 4:15-5:45 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> St. Gregory Palamas Divine Liturgy Sunday School follows Festival Meeting	<b>17</b> Great Compline 6:00 pm	<b>18</b> Bible Study 10:00 am	<b>19</b> Greek School 4:15-5:45 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>22</b> 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 pm Baptism 12:00 noon
<b>23</b> Sunday of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows	<b>24</b> Great Compline 6:00 pm Annunciation Vespers at Annunciation Cathedral 7:00 pm	<b>25</b> The Annunciation of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Bible Study following Divine Liturgy	<b>26</b> Greek School 4:15-5:45 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> St. John Climacus Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows Greek School Presentation for March 25 Observances	<b>31</b> Great Compline 6:00 pm	<b>April 1</b> Bible Study 10:00 am	<b>2</b> Greek School 4:15-5:45 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos 6:00 pm	<b>5</b>



## *Notes from the Parish Council*

*Ever wonder what the Parish Council does? Here's what is currently happening.*

**Setting the groundwork for change:** Spiro Stratigos is heading a sub-committee of the Parish Council, which will also include several non-Council members, orchestrating a listening campaign to elicit input from all community members regarding every aspect of parish life. By reflecting upon the strengths and weaknesses of the many activities of our church, a directional plan can be established to provide for a vibrant future for our community. Much more will follow in the coming months.

**Securing the foundation for governance:** Vice President Matina Seremetis is facilitating a committee charged with reviewing and recommending changes to the Parish Bylaws. Community members Fran Corcoran, Vickie Kalabokes, and Patricia Kamages have graciously volunteered their time and energy to the tedious, but necessary, job of bringing our operational guidelines up to date.

**Enhancing budgetary clarity:** At the February Parish Council meeting, unanimous support was given to a plan outlined by Treasurer Kim Daifotis designed to increase the flexibility and transparency of the Parish's accounting system. The approved proposal to update our accounting software was well researched and clearly presented, which made for a confident Parish Council decision.

**Maintaining our resources:** For several months, the phone line to the church social hall has been a dead end for people seeking to contact our hard working volunteers. George Kokalis is working with AT&T to fix this problem as soon as possible. Additionally, George is tackling the leaky hall roof issue, which has led to flooding in the women's restroom. Wish him luck!

George Georgeson is studying the use agreements and charges established for the rental of all buildings on our campus. For proper building maintenance to occur, it is essential that appropriate charges and rental expectations be maintained via periodic reviews, such as the one being undertaken.

*Save trees, save our parish a lot of money!*

At the February meeting, Pete Gikkas reviewed with the council members several bids received regarding the copier contract for the church. Pete is seeking the most competitive bid for one of our church's greatest expenses. Rental and maintenance fees, materials, and personnel expenses for our copying are well in excess of \$15,000.

While the vast majority of our parish households have an email account, only 22% of our email recipients have opted out of receiving a hard copy of the bulletin. The cost of producing and mailing our bulletin is easily 60% of the church copying expense.

During the next three months, the church office will transition to mailing hard copies only to parishioners lacking an email account. Should any parishioner with an email address feel their personal needs require a hard copy via mail, he/she is encouraged to contact communication liaison John Stockton at [parishcouncil@nativityofchrist.org](mailto:parishcouncil@nativityofchrist.org) or the church office at (415) 883-1998.

As we transition to digital bulletins, it is hoped we will be able to use our personnel resources to implement special email bulletins centering on weekly services and readings. The Archdiocese has made available at no cost to all parishes a bulletin format (Bulletin Builder) that could prove to be a spiritual benefit to our members. However, we must first transition to a substantial majority of our members receiving bulletins via email.

*A wish from Tony Kosmas, Parish Council Stewardship Liaison*

Please return your stewardship pledge card this month and consider fulfilling your commitment as soon as possible.

*Continued on page 9*



Continued from page 8

While the number of pledges and money pledged is up over last year, there is much room for growth. It is important to remember that our stewardship fund does not come close to meeting the full expenses of the church ministries.

## Stewardship Pledges to Date Versus Stewardship Budget \$206,688



■ Received to Date 73%=  
\$151,246

■ Current Budget Gap 27%=  
\$55,442

### Scholarship and liturgical needs benefit from a superb social event

Congratulations are in order for the extraordinary efforts of the Pan Cretan Chapter Polirinia of Marin, Sonoma, and Napa Counties, which made the February 1<sup>st</sup> Community Crab Feed a smashing success. The evening was filled with great fellowship, food, dancing, and prizes. This event was a sterling example of the level of support for our church and youth that resides within the hearts of our parishioners.

### Put it on your calendar today!

The Spring General Assembly Meeting will be held after church on May 4. Please set aside this date to as a commitment to the informed stewardship of our community.



### **Hellenic Organizations & The Church**

International, national, and local experiences of Hellenic Organizations exist, and are enjoyed by many men and women of all ages. Some formalized in organization and function, and some not so much, these forums can offer an abundance to those who choose to invest themselves.

Sadly, many individuals may be inclined to perceive that Hellenic Organizations are separate entities from the Church. This sadness is in direct response to ignorance of Hellenism -- often from those who proclaim Hellenism, and those who respond to expressions of it.

Hellenism is the experience of a society built upon a shared recognition and investment in virtues. A culture embodied by a shared system of values. A people not united by blood, but by ideals rooted in something bigger than themselves.

The experience of Hellenism mandates a profound experience of faith -- in contemporary response it takes form through authentic recognition of the Divine. In as much as they were exposed to the one True God, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle all presented profound

"Christian" ideals and are pillars of Hellenic experience.

Now that Our Heavenly Father has been revealed to all of mankind, in order for a pure Hellenic experience to exist, it must be built upon the experience of Christian virtue. Such virtuous experience could never be presented, witnessed or experienced as something "outside the Church!" If an organization is truly Hellenic in nature, it could never understand itself as existing outside of, or autonomous from the Church. In the same way that a truly Hellenic effort could never be looked upon by the Church as outside of Her embrace.

It is not an accident that God chose to plant His Church in the fertile soil of the Hellenized world 2000 years ago.

A Hellenic Orthodox Christian Church is what was established 2000 years ago, what arrived on the shores of North America over 200 years ago, and is experienced today. A virtuous gathering of faithful, actively seeking and experiencing the embrace of God!

May our Benevolent Lord embrace true Hellenism, and the individuals who live it!

# 2014 Stewardship Campaign

## Be Wise As Magi

The faithful of Nativity of Christ continue to grow in Magi Wisdom, as more and more of those served by Nativity are committing to the process of the Three-Wise-Men...

### Recognition + Commitment + Offering

Recognizing that God is needed in our lives, we must commit to a lifestyle that invites Him into our identities and manifests Him in our actions. If we have made this choice, then by design we offer to Him the best that we have.

Grow in your individual journey of Magi Wisdom. Where are you today? Do you recognize that you need God, and that He is waiting for you in the Orthodox Church? Have you committed to God by articulating a lifestyle in accordance with His will? Have you made offering to God through the giving back of a minority percentage of that which He has already given to you?

For all those who have consciously embarked upon the journey of Magi Wisdom, your articulation of this journey through the filling out of a 2014 Nativity Commitment Card is a tangible boost forward on your journey. For those who are yet

to fill out a Commitment Card this year, join your brothers-and-sisters-in-Christ and move forward today by completing the card in this month's edition of The Word, and returning it to the church office as soon as possible... your soul will benefit!

May the Magi intercede on our behalves as we strive to follow in their footsteps -- as we strive to worship the Lord.

### Additional Stewardship Commitments Received Between 1/28/14 and 2/24/14

- Anderson, Frances
- Captanian, Ted & Connie
- Daifotis, Kim & Cindy
- Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie
- Destein, Pat
- Fafoutis, Aris & Diane
- Hanke, Maria Hilakos & Michael Watts
- Hundley, Courtney & Marilyn
- Mainaris, Theo
- Mantalvanos, Alex & Maria
- Meehan, Nicole
- Morales, Marlon & Andrea
- Pantazes, Christos & Jacqueline
- Pantazes, Katina
- Perivolaris, Sharon
- Tangalakis, Odysseus & Joanna

Tar, Mike & Natalie  
Tzaopoulos, John & Erica  
Yiakis, Joseph  
Zagorites, Marian



### 2014 Stewardship Update February 24, 2013

<b>Number of Commitment Cards Received</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Total Amount Committed</b>	<b>\$154,346</b>
<b>Budgeted Goal</b>	<b>\$206,688</b>

Thank you to everyone who has returned their Stewardship commitment cards for 2014. If you have not yet responded, please do so as soon as possible. A Stewardship card is included below.

## 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...*

### Time and Talents

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

God's House to your house

# Sacraments and Rites

## Funerals

February 11 -- Paraskeve Karavolos

February 14 -- Ulysses Orologas

Our sincere condolences to Steve Karavolos and Ken and Carie Delfino and the entire Karavolos family and to Julie Orologas and the entire Orologas family.

*"May their memory be eternal."*



For the repose of the soul of:

Ὁ ἅγιος ἀναπαύσας τῆς ψυχῆς τοῦ:

Names: Ὀνόματα:



Our Nativity family is anxiously awaiting the new chalice set that is currently being hand-crafted in Greece from pure sterling silver. Appropriately adorning the chalice set are Cherubim & Seraphim angels -- conveying the reality that we read about in Isaiah 6:

...I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. The house was full of His glory. Around Him stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory."  
~ Isaiah 6:1-3

In the same way as the angels glorified God in Holy of Holies within the Jewish Temple, this iconography of the angels on this chalice set (together with the iconography of the angels on the processional fans maintained on either side of the rear of the altar table), remind us that they continue to glorify God in the Mysteries of the Church!

Included are pictures of the chalice cup as it is currently being hand-crafted by world renowned ecclesiastical craftsmen.

We pray that the chalice set will be completed and delivered to Nativity by Pascha!

A series of horizontal dashed lines provided for handwritten names or addresses.

### Sacrament of Confession

Great Lent provokes the experience of many Orthodox Christian faithful to seek the sacrament of Confession. The soul rejoices when the mind commits to the seeking of such health! Confession is available by appointment throughout the year, including the period of Great Lent. Please contact the church office, or speak directly to either Father Luke or Father Constantine, who are both available to hear confessions.

May our Benevolent Lord always hear the substance of our repentance and continue to offer us His great mercy!

### Presanctified Liturgies

Presanctified Liturgies will be celebrated each Wednesday and Friday throughout the period of Great and Holy Lent. **Wednesday services will begin at 6:00 pm**, followed by a potluck dinner (please bring lenten food!) and a discussion. **Friday services will begin at 9:30 am**. We hope that by offering the Presanctified Liturgy in both the morning and evening hours, that as many of the faithful as possible will have the opportunity to participate on a weekly basis.

### Saturday of Souls

In Orthodox Christian tradition, each of the three Saturday of Souls (the second and third services fall on March 1 and March 8) we offer memorial prayers for our beloved departed. If you would like to have the names of departed loved ones recited during these memorial services, please submit a list of neatly typed or written names to the Church office.



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

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*Before Your most pure  
image we bow down, O  
Good One, entreating You  
to forgive our sins, Christ  
our God. For You willingly  
ascended the cross in the  
flesh to deliver from the  
enemy those whom You had  
made. For this we thank  
You and we cry to You,  
O Savior: By coming to save  
the world, You have filled  
all things with joy.*

*Apolotyktion  
Sunday of Orthodoxy*