

The Word

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

John 1:14

Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ

Why Lent? ...Because the Reward is Great!

March 2013

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step! In the same spirit, a journey of 50 days begins with a single experience of motivation.

and transformation of self-knowledge -- to join yourself as a dependent to Jesus Christ -- can only be done with a motivation to something great!

Clean Monday, March 18th, marks the beginning of Great & Holy Lent this year -- initiating a journey that delivers us to Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and ultimately the celebration of Pascha! Through this 50-day journey we are called to particular focus on the Mystery of God's Grace, as we ponder His Son on the Cross and find elation in His Resurrection. In order to begin approaching these great mysteries, we often need a process of re-orientation where priorities are reexamined, commitments are then established and we begin to view ourselves once again in terms of our relationship with Christ.

The motivation to join one's self to Christ, through the trials, tribulations, and temptations of this broken world, exists because of its great reward experienced when the journey is complete! Not a temporary reward that soon exists only in the form of memories, but a reward that never ceases to nourish, to make whole, and to complete -- a reward that lasts for all of eternity and is never incomplete. The reward is salvation!

When embarked upon, this beautiful yet exhausting journey of self-awareness affirms to believers that they truly need God in their life -- not as a convenient association or concept, but rather as their foundation.

I pray that you will join me, so that we may journey together as a spiritual family throughout this substantive chapter of our greater Christian journey -- the journey of Great & Holy Lent. When one of us is weary, let us collectively lift him up! Truly the reward is great, and it is extended to us if we are only willing to put ourselves in a position to receive it.

This journey is replete with challenges--the challenges of temptation that suggest that we do not truly need God, or perhaps even more destructive, the temptation that suggests that we do need God, but it is okay to seek Him tomorrow or on your own terms.

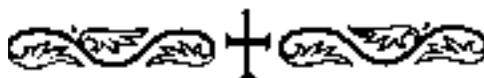
May this 2013 journey of Great & Holy Lent be profound in our individual and communal pilgrimage of faith!

No doubt about it, the journey to the Resurrection is not gentle or accidental. Yet, in the wake of such challenge, each year waves and waves of faithful Christians choose to embark upon the journey. What tremendous strength of conviction to choose the difficult path! Such conviction, to undertake a pilgrimage of inward examination

Fr. Luke



Lent begins



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
- Elaine Cunningham
- Alexandra Edrich
- Fr. Constantine Efstathiu
- Fr. Haralambos Fox
- Heloisa Gavallos
- Tina Gavallos
- Christ Kamages
- Lula Kamages
- James Kolyvas

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.**



March Services & Readings

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Mar 3 9:30 am	17th Sunday of Luke Prodigal Son	I Corinth. 6:12-20	Luke 15:11-32
Mar 9 9:30 am	1st Saturday of Souls	Hebrews 12:1-10	Matthew 20:1-16
Mar 10 9:30 am	Judgment Sunday Meatfare	I Corinth. 8:8-9:2	Matthew 25:31-46
Mar 16 9:30 am	2nd Saturday of Souls	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Matthew 6:1-13
Mar 17 9:30 am	Forgiveness Sunday Cheesefare	Romans 13:11-14:4	Matthew 6:14-21
Mar 23 9:30 am	3rd Saturday of Souls	II Timothy 2:1-10	Mark 2:23-3:5
Mar 24 9:30 am	Sunday of Orthodoxy	Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40	John 1:43-51
Mar 25 9:30 am	The Annunciation	Hebrews 2:11-18	Luke 1:24-38
Mar 31 9:30 am	St. Gregory Palamas	Hebrews 1:10-2:3	Mark 2:1-12

March Acolyte Schedule

All acolytes are asked to serve in March

March Candle Duty Schedule

March 3	Bruce Corcoran, Pete Gikkas, George Kokalis
March 10	Peter Eliades, George Georgeson, Scott Walters
March 17	Alex Slenkin, George Sotiras, Tony Kosmas
March 24	Chris Siefkas, Nick Livanos, Spiro Stratigos
March 31	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 (use enclosed envelope) for the flowers that will be used to decorate the Epitafion for services on Holy Friday (Friday, May 3). All contributions, large and small, are appreciated.



Time Change on March 10

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 9.

The Word

Monthly Newsletter

published by

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March 2013



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Parish Activities & Ministries

Philoptochos

Philoptochos Board

Debbie Kokalis, President
Floretta Burrows, Member
Irene Meehan, Vice President
Carol Economy, Member
Nancy Slenkin, Corres. Secretary
Diane Kavantjas, Member
Rose Hunter, Recording Secretary
Karen Keller, Member
Cathy Selmi, Treasurer
Stassie Sideris, Member
Susan Stockton, Pres. Advisor
Kay Simon, Member
Erene Sotiras, Member

Coffee Hour



Our Gyro Luncheon, for "Go Red for Women's Heart Health" on February 10th proved to be a huge success, thanks to the hard work of Vickie & Pete Gikkas and Karen, Ed and Gregory Keller. You did a fantastic

job! Since this was such a popular event, we will plan another luncheon, probably sometime in the fall, with plenty of gyros available to make sure there is enough for all, and also to take home if you can't stay for lunch.

We would like to thank everyone who brought in goodies during the month of February, which helped us with unhosted coffee hours. Our sign-up sheet is back up 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. It's a lovely way to greet (and meet) other parishioners in our church community. Coffee and drinks are provided. If you have any questions about how it works, you can talk to any Board member listed above and they will be happy to give you the information you need.

2013 Community Easter Card

We are again producing a Community Easter Card to spread the good news of Christ's resurrection to families, individuals and friends throughout our community. Please see flyer included in this bulletin on page 8. The proceeds of this card will benefit the philanthropic work of Philoptochos.



to emphasize our ethnic diversity, so please consider contributing a special recipe, whether it is of Greek origin or not. Nativity's original cookbook, Greek Cookery Marin, is back in print and will continue to be available for sale through the church office, Philoptochos and the Deli booth of our Festival in May. We are encouraged by the recipes that have already been received, but we need many more, so keep them coming! For more information, contact Cathy Selmi at cathyselmi@gmail.com or at (415) 246-1760. You can email recipes directly to Cathy, mail them to the church, or just drop them by the office when you are there.

Cheesefare Sunday

To celebrate the beginning of Lent and our journey to Pascha, we will have a Tyropita Luncheon immediately following Divine Liturgy on March 17th, Cheesefare Sunday. Please see flyer on page 10.

Membership

We will keep our Membership drive going until we reach our goal of 120 members. As of February 18th we have 79 members. Your support of Philoptochos helps many organizations on a local and national level. During the year 2012, National Philoptochos donated \$1,623,640 to various organizations including: \$65,343 to the Autism Assistance Fund, \$160,000 for aid to the People of Greece, \$41,582 to the Cancer Fund, \$91,893 to the Children's Medical Fund, \$55,000 to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities), \$24,000 to Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund and many other worthy organizations. If you would like to see the complete list from National Philoptochos, please contact Debbie Kokalis.

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. A form is provided on page 11.

Since January 19th, the following people have joined Philoptochos: **Barbara Bizani, Karie and Phoebe Boosalis,**

Cookbook Update Katherine Brandy, Dina Camamis, Cindy Daifotis, Pat Destein, Marie Eliades, Nonie Giusti, Vickie Kalabokes, Pat Kamages, Karen and Ed Keller, Angero Kozas, Michael and Sheila Lagios, Gigi Pappas Medan, Sharon Perivolaris, Stella Soter, Erene Sotiras, Antonia Touras and Anna Wildermuth. Thank you so much for your love and support.



March Birthdays

The following members have birthdays coming

up in March: **Anna Wildermuth (20th), Mia Kavantjas (21st), Anna Cordellos (23rd).**

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

Dates to Remember

Mar 5 – Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Mar 17 – Cheesefare Sunday
Tyropita Luncheon

April TBD – Loukoumathes Coffee Hour

Asian Art Museum

The members of Philoptochos and the members of the Filenathes will join together to take a trip to the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco on **April 13, 2013** to see the special exhibit of the Terracotta Warriors from China. The tour will start promptly at 10:15 am. The price of admission is: Adults \$20 and seniors (65+) \$17.00 (this includes the admission to the Museum and the tour.)

We will meet and carpool from Nativity of Christ Church in Novato at 8:45 a.m and from the Park and Ride in Greenbrae at 9:00 am.

Reservations may be made by calling Diane Kavantjas at (415) 457-8265 or e-mail at Dkavantjas@netzero.com or Cathie Banks at (415) 499-1736.

Monthly Socials

Monthly Socials are Returning!

Monthly Socials will resume in March and on subsequent 4th Saturdays of each month. The **March Parish Social is on Saturday, March 23, 5:30pm-9pm.** Supper at 6:15! Cost is \$20/family or \$5 person. More details will follow as the date approaches.

Religious Education News

Inside Religious Education Classes

Students have been actively engaged in their classes each Sunday. This month, we highlight our younger students:

Pre-K/Kindergarten Class

In February, our youngest students worked very hard to create Valentine cards. They talked about the love that comes from GOD. They learned about how God wants us to love and how He teaches us to show our love! See photos below.

Grades 3/4

Students have been participating in activities that make the Sunday gospel readings and lessons come alive. Each month a new hymn is introduced - and the students just love to sing! They also enjoy working as a team to find the answers in Biblical based crossword puzzles and then discussing the content.

One very popular lesson is the interactive storyboard on the gospel and icon of the Theophany. Students recreate their own paper figures, and as the teachers read the story of Jesus' baptism, students add their figure to the community storyboard. The students have been so engaged to see the actual story of Jesus' baptism come alive that they just keep talking about it! The students keep asking for more singing, word puzzles and storyboards, so stay tuned as these activities continue to be incorporated into future lessons.

Sunday - March Calendar

March 3rd Students attend Classes
 March 10th Students attend Classes
 March 17th Students attend Classes
 March 24th Sunday of Orthodoxy - Students Attend Liturgy
 March 31st Students attend Classes

Holy Week

As we prepare for the season of Lent, parents will be receiving more information about Holy Week activities to take place between April 28-May 5. In the meantime, mark your calendars for the following activities that will be taking place for all ages:

Friday, April 19 Akathist - *Students will participate in reading*

Saturday, April 27 Saturday of Lazarus -- *Palm Cross Making*

Wednesday, May 1 - Holy Unction
 6:00 pm Liturgy

Friday, May 3 - Great and Holy Friday Retreat *Full day Retreat*

Looking Ahead:

Sunday - April/May Calendar

April 7 Students attend Classes
 April 14 Students attend Classes
 April 21 Students attend Classes
 April 28 Palm Sunday - Students attend Liturgy
 May 5 Holy Pascha - Students attend Liturgy
 May 12 Students attend Liturgy
 May 19 Last day of Classes
 Students attend Classes
 June 2 Awards Presentations
 Students attend Liturgy
 Family BBQ Picnic

HOPE/JOY News

Saturday, March 2. Family field trip to Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga. **Our GOYA friends are welcome to join us.** Meet at church at 9 AM or at the monastery at 10:30 sharp. **RSVP by Feb 21** to Dennis and Christina Thomatos (cthomas@yahoo.com or 415-895-1375). Please RSVP with number of folks attending so the sisters can plan accordingly.

March: Planning and preparation for Egg Hunt. Teen and young adult volunteers are needed to run the Easter egg hunt in May. All families are asked to donate one to two dozen plastic eggs (or more) filled with trinkets and treats. Please contact Christina Thomatos to let her know how you will help with this fun endeavor for our youth! 415-895-1375 or cthomas@yahoo.com.

April: Altar table items workshop led by Fr. Luke on **Sunday, April 14.** Come learn about the blessing cross, chalice, paten and more and see them up close!

We will also continue to collect plastic filled eggs in April.



From left to right: Katia Antonis, Sophia Passaris, Alena Starling, Elektra Burrows and Teddy Rouman.

Below: Working on their craft project are Jocelyn and John Gigounas.



Folk Dance Group News

The Minoan Dancers attended the annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance Festival (Faith. Dance. Fellowship) over President's Day weekend, held in Anaheim, California. The theme of this year's FDF was INSPIRE.

Twenty-seven Minoan Dancers were accompanied by parents, grandparents, siblings and friends, and met other friends and family at the event. Father Luke also attended and held parenting workshops on Friday and Saturday, in addition to inspiring the groups before their performances with a pep talk and a prayer.

Opening Ceremonies were on Thursday evening, with each community walking across stage wearing their team colors and waving their banners. The ceremony included national anthems, a welcome to the groups visiting from Brazil and Cyprus, an agiasmos service in which Metropolitan Gerasimos blessed each participant, a video on Holy Cross Seminary/Hellenic College and an inspirational demonstration by a disabled archer.

Friday morning, competition began at 8 am, and our first group to perform was the Little Minoans, presenting dances from Thrace in costumes from that region of Greece. Minoans II (high school group) followed with a presentation of dances from Naxos, and Minoans I (adult group) presented dances from Andros that evening. Both of the older groups were accompanied by live musicians for their performances (violin, laouto and santouri with Vasilis Fourakis on vocals). All three groups attended their age-appropriate workshops that day, led by priests from throughout the Metropolis. Friday evening brought more rehearsals and then early-to-bed for another 8 am performance Saturday morning. Minoans II performed Cretan dances Saturday morning, again with live Cretan lyra and laouto with Vasilis singing. They did an exceptional job, especially since it was so early in the morning. Little Minoans performed again Saturday morning, and after that, it was Disneyland for many families and dancers!

Divine Liturgy was held Sunday morning, officiated by Metropolitan Gerasimos with many priests from throughout the Metropolis and the Metropolitan from Brazil. The Advanced Senior category was showcased Sunday afternoon, with Minoans I presenting dances from Crete. On Sunday evening everyone dressed up in their finest for dinner and the Awards Ceremony. Communities were seated together, and we enjoyed entertainment by the singer Margarita (a former Minoan Dancer!), a video montage of the weekend and a presentation to FDF by the president of the Elios Society, Tony Saris (father of another Minoan, Jeanette Saris). The Minoans II received 4th place in the Intermediate category, and Minoans I received the silver medal, second place honors, in the Advanced Senior category. A fun time was had by all!



Minoans I (above)

Minoans II (below)



Note from Fr. Luke

Congratulations to Nativity's Minoans, who represented the Nativity Community with integrity and grace at this year's Metropolis FDF. Additional performance awards were received, to be added with the plethora of awards from the past -- yet, the true reward was found in the healthy fellowship that our participating families entered into with hundreds and thousands of other Orthodox Christian families from across the Metropolis, and even from around the globe (a group came from the island of Cyprus!).

Many thanks to Vasilios & Effie Fourakis, who continue to lead this ministry after many years! May our Lord continue to bless this ministry, and the pathway that it carves to Christ!



Little Minoans

Community Hall Discussion

Last month we continued on our pathway of self-awareness with our second community hall discussion following Sunday's Divine Liturgy. The following two topics were explored: Participation in the Divine Liturgy and Nativity Operations. The discussion was positive.

The following is an outline of the summary of our discussion...

Participation in the Divine Liturgy?

- I. Why do we come to the Divine Liturgy?
 - a) To receive Holy Communion: the most intimate experience with/of God.
 - b) To glorify God.
 - c) To build our faith.
 - d) It is the same as 'coming home.'

- II. Music from the Divine Liturgy.
 - a) Emphasis on participation -- the music should actively bring us together as one.
 - i) Music should help to facilitate engagement in the service.
 - b) The words of the Liturgy are purposeful and need to be understood.
 - c) Should set the tone for prayer.
 - d) Needs to be uplifting.

- III. Language.
 - a) Most important factor is the ability to understand what is being said.
 - b) Appreciation of Liturgical Greek by those who identify with it culturally or those who have worked hard to learn the language.
 - i) For those who can understand the Liturgical Greek language, the Divine Service has a profound experience.
 - ii) Can the Liturgical Greek language be learned through the services?
 - iii) Some in discussion are fearful of 'losing the Greek.'
 - c) Church history showcases many examples expressing the importance of worshipping in the 'language of the people.'
 - i) Example of Saints Cyril & Methodios, creating the Cyrillic (Slavonic) language alphabet, so Slavs could worship in their own language.
 - ii) Some in the discussion are fearful that language will always be an obstacle of a full experience of the Liturgy.

- IV. Iconography.
 - a) We appreciate the current iconography in the Sanctuary.
 - b) Iconography adds beauty.
 - c) Everything has a purpose.
 - i) Desire exists to learn more about the purpose of iconography and other experiences inside of the church.
 - ii) We want to have an informed worship experience.
 - d) A desire exists to complete more phases of iconography in the Sanctuary.
 - i) Orthodox tradition of completely covering interior walls of a church in iconography.
 - e) Continue communication with iconographer, Mr. Elias Katsaros, who has written all the iconography in the Nativity Sanctuary.

Nativity Operations

- I. Why does the Nativity of Christ Church operate? ...why does this Church exist?
 - a) To glorify God.
 - b) So that we have a place to take care of our souls.
 - c) So that we have a place to rear our children in the Faith... our Religion.
 - d) Small group of special people served as founders.
 - e) To provide service to others.
 - f) To celebrate and experience the Sacraments regularly.
 - g) To support the local community.
 - h) The role of the Church is to sanctify and cleanse our souls.
 - i) The Church allows us to be close to Jesus.

- II. Current Nativity Operations - Human Capital.
 - a) 1 Priest, 1 Office Staff, Volunteers.
 - b) Is this adequate staffing to comply with the great commission (Matthew 28) to grow the Body of Christ?
 - c) Does our current Human Capital allow us to adequately serve those that are currently connected to Nativity?
 - i) Over 325 families connected to / served by Nativity.
 - ii) Roughly 60-70% of those families financially support Nativity.
 - iii) Average consistent participation in Divine Services and Parish Programming is far less.
 - d) To stay the same -- keep the current parish structure.
 - e) To grow -- change the parish infrastructure.
 - f) In order to grow Nativity staff, clergy and laity, we must become significantly more financially responsible as stewards -- Stewardship must increase.

- III. Current Nativity Operations - Fiscal Snapshot.
 - a) Parish budget is roughly \$410,000.
 - b) Budget is satisfied by Stewardship offerings (roughly 35-40%), and various fundraising efforts (60-65%).
 - c) Discussion affirmed a recognition that the total parish operating budget should be funded by stewardship offerings.
 - i) How do we increase stewardship?
 - (a) 100% participation is needed.
 - (b) Re-educate the concept of stewardship to reflect an understanding that giving treasure is for the benefit of the giver's soul and not simply a monetary donation to an organization.
 - (c) Parishioner to Parishioner communication.

- IV. Current Nativity Operations - Programs
 - a) Current and future programs exist to bring the faithful to the experience of Jesus Christ.
 - b) Multiple program forums can exist (educational, activity, fellowship, athletic, cultural) as long as the forum is being used to bring others to Christ. If the forum exists as its own motivation, it does not belong in the life of the community.
 - c) Support of current parish programs.
 - d) Support of parish program expansion and diversity.

I wish to thank all the Nativity faithful who participated in the Community Hall Discussion. Through mature conversation, we will honor our past by striving to progress as our forefathers progressed... with the fear of God, faith, and love!

Our next Community Hall Discussion will take place on Cheesefare Sunday, **March 17**, following the Divine Liturgy. Once again, a meal will be offered in the hall, and all are encouraged to 'break bread' with your Nativity family and discuss the dynamics of our Spiritual Home.

The following two topics will be explored in 25 minute timed increments...

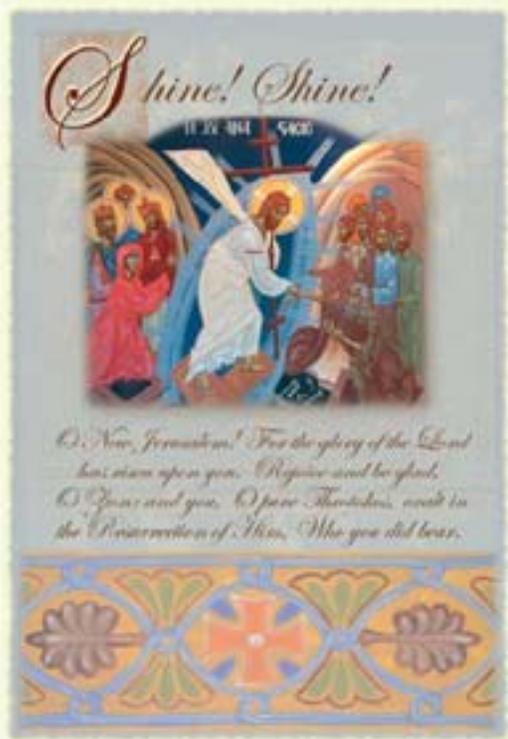
The Experience of Great Lent

Stewardship: A Response to God



Nativity of Christ

Greek Orthodox Christian Church



2013 Community Easter Card

We are producing a Community Easter Card to spread the good news of Christ's Resurrection, to families, individuals and friends throughout our community.

The proceeds of this card will benefit the Philanthropic work of Philoptochos

We are requesting a **minimum donation of \$20.00** to include your name in the 2013 Community Easter Card. Please send your response form to the Church Office, Attn: Easter Card Committee, **by April 21, 2013.**

Please encourage family members & friends to participate.

Name: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Please indicate how you would like your name to appear in the Community Easter Card:

I have enclosed my donation of: \$ _____

Deadline—April 21, 2013

Make Checks Payable to : Philoptochos Society

NATIVITY OF CHRIST

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

MARCH

2 0 1 3

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3 17th Sunday of Luke Prodigal Son Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p>  <p>Sunday School follows</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 •Bible Study 10:00 a.m. •Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 pm</p>	<p>6 •Greek School 4-5:45 pm •Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ 5:30 pm •Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm •GOYA-7:00 pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 1st Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p>  <p>Be Sure to Set Your Clocks Ahead One Hour on Saturday Night March 9!</p>
<p>10 Sunday of Judgment Meatfare Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p>  <p>Sunday School follows</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 •Bible Study 10:00 am •Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm</p>	<p>13 •Greek School 4-5:45 pm •Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ 5:30 pm •Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm •GOYA- 7:00 pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 2nd Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p> 
<p>17 Forgiveness Sunday Cheesefare Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p>  <p>Sunday School follows</p> <p>Tiropitas Luncheon Community Hall Meeting following Liturgy</p>	<p>18 Great Lent Begins</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Great Compline 6:00 pm</div>	<p>19 •Bible Study 10:00 am</p>	<p>20 •Greek School 4-5:45 pm •GOYA-to participate in Divine Services</p>  <p>Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am</p>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Confession Follows</div> <p>1st Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 pm</p>	<p>23 3rd Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p>  <p>•5:30 pm Monthly Community Social</p>
<p>24 1st Sunday of Lent Sunday of Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p> <p>Procession with Icons Sunday School follows Annunciation Vespers at Annunciation Cathedral Time TBA</p>	<p>25 The Annunciation of the Theotokos</p>  <p>Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Great Compline 6:00 pm</div>	<p>26 •Bible Study 10:00 am</p>	<p>27 •Greek School 4-5:45 pm •GOYA-to participate in Divine Services</p>  <p>Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Potluck Following</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am</p>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Confession Follows</div> <p>2nd Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 pm</p>	<p>30</p>



Tyropita Luncheon
Tyropita, salad, dessert & drinks
Hosted by Philoptochos

In Celebration of the beginning of Lent, and our journey to Pascha, please join us on:

Cheesefare Sunday

Sunday, March 17, 2013

Immediately following Divine Liturgy

\$6.00

Festival Pastries Cooking Schedule

Sunday, February 24	Preparation after church
Monday, February 25	Make Galaktobouriko
Tuesday, February 26	Make Galaktobouriko
Monday, April 8	Koulouria and Paximadia
Wednesday, May 8	Melomakarona
Monday, May 13	Diples
Thursday, May 16	Kourabiethes
Saturday, May 18	Kataifi
Monday, May 20	Baklava
Wednesday, May 22	Dip Diples and Melomakarina in honey; Taramosalata
Thursday, May 23	Make Bean Soup

Come and help prepare for our Greek Festival. Cooking sessions begin at 9:00 am. Questions? Contact Sophia Stathis 415-499-1062.

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.

**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.



2013 Stewardship Campaign

Who does really benefit?

When you respond to God, you offer stewardship.

God has given you life... what are you doing with it?

God has given you talents... how are you applying them?

God has directly or indirectly given you all your treasures... what are you investing them in?

By design, you respond to God in every moment of your life -- this question is, Are you offering a good response?

When you respond well to God, you ultimately add benefit to yourself! By offering your time, talent, and treasure to the glory of God, your soul comes into greater alignment with Christ, who is the source of our authentic and eternal health and happiness!

Have you made your response to God by completing a 2013 Nativity Stewardship Commitment Card and returning it to the church office? If not, for your benefit, please do so today!

We need 100% participation in the Nativity Stewardship program, so that we may collectively align ourselves with the love and experience of our Lord, Who blesses all things -- especially our good responses to His grace!

Additional Stewardship Commitments Received Between 1/29/13 and 2/25/13

- Adams, William & Lisa
- Brandy, Kathryn
- Camamis, Dina
- Chyrklund, Chris & Elaine
- Della Cella, Joseph & Kathryn
- Demakas, George
- Diamantopoulos, George & Anna
- Fotinos, George & Vivian
- Gavallos, Dennis & Heloisa
- Gigounas, George & Laura
- Kalabokes, Chris & Vicki
- Karavolos, Steve & Paraskeve
- Keller, Ed & Karen
- Kozas, Tom & Angie
- Morales, Marlon & Andrea
- Passaris, Theodore & Elaine
- Perivolaris, Sharon
- Perivolaris, Nick & Ellen
- Peterson, Katie
- Prouty, Vickie
- Selmi, Catherine
- Spyridis, Maryanne

Trapalis, Arthur & Niovi
Tsiplakos, George & Maria
Tzafopoulos, John & Erica
Tzafopoulos, Nick & Vasiliki



2013 Stewardship Update February 25, 2013

Number of Commitment Cards Received	161
Total Amount Committed	\$130,310
Budgeted Goal	\$205,000

Thank you to everyone who has returned their Stewardship commitment cards for 2013. If you have not yet responded, please do so as soon as possible. A Stewardship card is included below.

God's House to your house

2013 Nativity of Christ Commitment Card

As a faithful steward of the Nativity of Christ parish, I/We pledge to commit ourselves through the offering back of our time, talents and treasures in the following:

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><u>Time and Talents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgical life <input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropic life <input type="checkbox"/> Educational life <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship and Cultural life <input type="checkbox"/> Youth life <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative and Operational life <input type="checkbox"/> Willing to host an event or meeting at our home in 2013 	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><u>Treasures</u></p> <p style="margin: 0;">2013 total financial commitment to your Church and House \$_____. To be offered:</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><input type="checkbox"/> Annually <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly</p> <p style="margin: 0;">I/We would like to make an addition commitment of \$_____ to support the development of _____</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in including Nativity of Christ in my estate planning.</p>
--	---

Name: _____

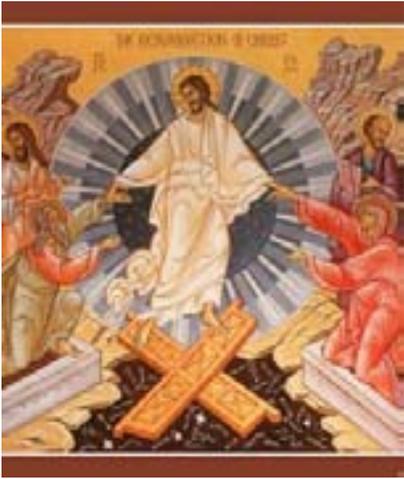
Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Theotokos, The Life Giving Spring Fundraiser



The sisters from the Monastery have recently built the new Dormition Chapel themselves with the assistance of volunteers. The chapel is behind the Katholicon and is being used for the nuns and smaller groups of visitors.

Because the chapel is next to the nuns' graveyard it is especially used for funerals. The icons in the chapel have all been painted by the sisters, who put in thousands of hours painting them. The nuns have reached out for sponsorships for the icons to assist with their expenses. Outside

sponsorship of these icons is but one of the ways that the sisters sustain themselves and the considerable cost of running a monastery that houses 23 sisters. Our parish has committed to raising \$8,000 to sponsor the icon of the Resurrection. We are reaching out to our parishioners to become a part of this sponsorship as a way for us to show our respect and appreciation for the constant prayers of the monastics on our behalf. Look for an image of the icon in the Fellowship Hall that will form, piece by piece, as donations are received — one piece for each \$100 donation.



I would like to become a sponsor of the Resurrection Icon. Please accept \$_____ for ___ sponsorships at \$100 each, or my donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone #: _____



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*