



# The Word

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

John 1:14

## Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ

## Come Receive the Light!

May 2013

*"Come receive the light from the unwaning light, and glorify Christ, Who has risen from the dead."*

~ from the Holy Resurrection Service

In a few short days, we will have journeyed from various points of human experience to the invitation to eternal life! The life of God is eternally good, and in the words initiating the Holy Resurrection Service, we are called to receive Him by joining ourselves to Him. Regardless of where we have come from, or the journeyed path that we have taken, at that moment, 12:00 am Pascha Sunday, we are all called to the love of God through the invitation of His Church to *come receive the light!*

Why?

Light is not only the opposite of darkness -- it is the remedy! When light is present, darkness cannot exist.

Unfortunately, we see darkness all around us: threats of nuclear attack, economic uncertainty, acts of terrorism, teen suicides – all of this in just the last week, and all symptomatic of a developed/developing moral vacuum. Often we see the manifestations of darkness, and search for explanation by identifying sources of darkness, i.e., *who is the bad guy?*

Identifying "the bad guy" of a situation potentially allows us to temporarily address problems, but it does nothing to the greater experience of darkness. Adolf Hitler was identified and is dead, but we still experience dictators obsessed with oppressive ambitions of world domination! In order to address the greater experience of darkness, we must understand its nature. In the

most simplistic terms, darkness is the absence of light. Darkness only exists if light does not.

If we focus on light, and continually seek its experience, then darkness cannot exist.

We must rejoice! Light exists, and it cannot be extinguished! The Light of God (John 8:12, 9:5) exists in this world, and in Its presence, no darkness may come. When God creates us, we are given a beautiful innate connection with His Light; however, separation from His Light and the entrance of darkness take place in a dramatic fall from grace as a result of our sins. Although we at times sever ourselves from the Light, and darkness enters into our own personal experience – the Light of God remains intact, as the evil one has no power over Him. The only effect that darkness can inflict is upon us, when we choose to separate ourselves from the Light.

We must rejoice because there is more good news... The Light of God, which is unending, is always available to us – regardless of the depth that we have been engulfed in the abyss of darkness. God loves us all and waits for us to actively seek Him in our lives, so that He may dispel every darkness that tries to inflict our souls.

In the physical darkness of Holy Saturday evening, experience the words of the Church when with a single flame the priest exclaims, *"Come, receive the light from the unwaning light, and glorify Christ, Who has risen from the dead."*

Know that the Light of God is ever-present and extended to you, and through His Light we may truly experience life! Do not hesitate, if you have been away from the Church and are un-

familiar with the experience and love of God – Come!

Come! Receive the Light that will heal any darkness in your life!

Come! Experience the Love of God that makes all things whole!

Come! Glorify Christ, Who has risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tomb, He has bestowed life!

Truly, as we will proclaim early Sunday morning...

Christ is Risen!

Fr. Luke



## May Services & Readings

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
May 5 9:30 am	Pascha	Acts 1:1-8	John 1:1-17
May 6 9:30 am	St. George	Acts 12:1-11	John 1:18-28
May 8 9:30 am	St. John, the Apostle	Acts I John 1:1-7	John 19:25-28; 21:24-25
May 10 9:30 am	Theotokos of the Life-Giving Font	Acts 3:1-8	John 2:12-22
May 12 9:30 am	Sunday of Thomas Mother's Day	Acts 5:12-20	John 20:19-31
May 19 9:30 am	Sunday of the Myrhh Bearers	Acts 6:1-7	Mark 15:43-16:8
May 21 9:30 am	Saints Constantine & Helen	Acts 26:1, 12-20	John 10:1-9
May 26 9:30 am	Sunday of the Paralytic	Acts 9:32-42	John 5:1-15

## May Acolyte Schedule

All acolytes are asked to serve in May.

## May Candle Duty Schedule

May 5	Peter Eliades, George Georgeson and Scott Walters
May 12	Alex Slenkin, George Sotiras and Tony Kosmas
May 19	Chris Siefkas, Nick Livanos and Spiro Stratigos
May 26	Bruce Corcoran, Pete Gikkas and George Kokalis

## The Word

**Monthly Newsletter**

**published by**

**Nativity of Christ  
Greek Orthodox Church  
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Novato, CA 94949**

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**Fr. Luke Palumbis,**

**Pastor**

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

**May 2013**



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### 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
- Elaine Cunningham
- Fr. Haralambos Fox
- Fr. Constantine Efstathiou
- Christ Kamages
- Tina Gavallos
- James Kolyvas
- Mary Camamis

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

# Parish Activities & Ministries

## Philoptochos

### Philoptochos Board

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

### Chapter Board Member Elections

During the May 7th meeting we will be electing new officers for the next two-year term. We encourage any Full Philoptochos member who is interested in being a Board member to please attend this meeting. According to the size of our membership, we are allowed to have up to seventeen Board members, and we currently have only eleven (two of our members cannot remain). There are certain criteria that have to be met in order to be on the Executive Board, but do not apply to becoming a regular Board member. We have a wonderful group of dedicated, caring women on the Board who would love to see some new faces and hear new ideas. Monthly meetings usually alternate between General and Executive meetings, or approximately six meetings per year if you are on the General board!

### Loukoumathes Coffee Hour



In recent months, we have been spicing up our fellowship hours by designating one Sunday per month to preparing something special. These special coffee hours have been used to boost the donations to some of our regular charities. On April 14th we had a wonderful crew in the kitchen preparing loukoumathes. The "chefs" did an awesome job, and the loukoumathes were delicious. Thanks to your generous support, we raised \$1005 from this coffee hour and have designated the proceeds to benefit the Metropolis Ministry of Kids 'n' Cancer. The Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape began at St. Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, California, has expanded to

camps in Portland, Seattle, San Diego and Prescott, Az, and offers an all-expense-paid summer camp experience to hundreds of cancer-afflicted children and their families from less fortunate homes. The kindness and caring that surrounds the participants offers an ideal environment for therapy and healing.

### Cookbook Update



Keep the recipes coming because we are in need of many more! If you have any questions or comments, please contact Cathy Selmi at cathyselemi@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. If you need a form, there is a supply in the office, during coffee hour and online, through Cathy's email address.

### Membership

We will keep our Membership drive going until we reach our goal of 120 members. As of April 19th we have 95 members, with 25 members remaining 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. If you have already joined, God bless you for your support. Since March 18th, the following people have joined Philoptochos: **Tina Gavallos, Rose Giannis, Stella Hanis, Joanne Kambur, Karen Kambur, Evangelia Madias, Ephimia Morphew, Toula Nichols and Anthonia Papadakis.** Thank you so much for your love and support.

### Pennies & Prayers

Pennies and Prayers is a ministry that funds missions in our own Metropolis. Your family's spare change can help support our current mission parishes and begin new ones. Keeping a jar in your home is a way to remind us of Christ's call to go to all people everywhere. Pennies & Prayers canisters will be distributed on **Sunday, May 12**, and should be returned to church on Holy Pentecost, **Sunday, June 23.**



### Scholarships

Don't forget that **Sunday, May 26**, is the deadline for scholarship applications. There are two \$1000 scholarships available this year. You can obtain an application form in the church office, or you can call Bonnie and have one emailed to you. Recipients will be announced on **Sunday, June 2**, along with the Sunday School awards.

### May Birthdays



The following members have birthdays coming up in May: **Vickie Hatos (5/5),**

**Dennis Cordellos (5/8), John Reighard (5/13), Cindy Daifotis (5/15), Arlene Angelonides (5/15) Pres. Evelyn Adams (5/22), Christina Thomatos (5/25).**

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

### Dates to Remember

- April 27 Decorate church after Liturgy
- April 28 Palm Sunday Luncheon
- May 1 Deadline for Easter Picnic Reservations
- May 2 Wrap eggs after Liturgy
- May 3 Decorate Epitaphion 9 am
- May 5 Easter Picnic after Agape Vespers
- May 7 General Election Meeting 6:30
- May 26 Scholarship Deadline
- June 2 Scholarships Announced
- June TBD Philoptochos Members and spouses-Dinner out

## Philoptochos Graduates Luncheon

Sunday, June 2, 2013  
following Divine Liturgy

Please join us as we  
honor our 2013  
Graduates

## Sunday School & Youth News

### Last Day of Sunday School Classes

Sunday, May 19

Sunday School  
Recognition

Sunday, JUNE 2, 2013

Honoring our graduates and  
students who have earned  
Attendance Awards

Mark your calendars:

#### Activities Holy Week & Beyond

- April 27 Saturday of Lazarus Palm Cross Making
- May 1 Wednesday - Holy Unction 3:00 pm
- May 3 Great and Holy Friday Retreat Full day
- May 5 Holy Pascha - Students attend Liturgy
- May 12 Students attend Liturgy
- May 19 Last day of classes - Students attend Classes
- June 2 Students attend Liturgy Presentations & Family BBQ Picnic

## HOPE/JOY News

HOPE and JOY families: please plan to bring your children to the Holy Friday retreat on **May 3** to experience fellowship and prayer together on Great and Holy Friday.

**May 5:** Pascha Agape Service, Easter Egg Hunt and Parish Picnic!

**June:** Time to brainstorm and plan new activities for summer through fall!

Questions, ideas, suggestions, talents and skills to share, spare a couple hours to volunteer? Contact Dennis and Christina Thomas, HOPE and JOY advisors 415-895-1375.

## Great & Holy Friday Retreat for Sunday School Students

All Religious Education Students from Kindergarten through High School are invited to join us on **Great and Holy Friday, May 3**, for a journey of faith...for a day of prayer, of fasting, of fellowship and learning.

Our retreat will begin at 10:00 am and end with the *Apo-kathilosis* (the service of taking Christ down from the cross), which ends at approximately 4:30 pm. Those who are able are encouraged to attend The Royal Hours Service at 8:30 am, before the retreat begins.

Help prepare yourself, your friends and our church community for the Paschal Celebration.

Registration forms have been mailed and are posted at [nativityofchrist.org](http://nativityofchrist.org). **Registrations are due this Sunday, April 28.** Call the church office if you need further information.



Is a member of your family graduating from high school, college or graduate school this year? We need to know who they are so they can be included in our recognition of 2013 graduates.

Please notify the church office of your graduate's details.

415-883-1998



# Easter Picnic

Hosted by the  
Philoptochos Society  
Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

## Sunday, May 5, 2013

held on the Church grounds—Rain or Shine  
Gates open after Agape Services (12:30 PM)

***PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN FORMAT, NO MEAL WILL BE SERVED.  
Souvlas and barbeques welcome. Microwaves available for warming food.***

### ***ENTRANCE CHARGE :***

\$10.00 –Adults; \$5.00 - Students (6 to 16); Children 5 and under—free

***Helios Greek Band***

***Jumpy***

***No Host Bar***

***Seating will be assigned as paid reservations are received.***

***Reservations Deadline—MAY 1, 2013. No Tickets will be sold at the door!***

For information, contact Rose Hunter (kynegos@hotmail.com—415.497-8300)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$10.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$5.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Children 5 & under : \_\_\_\_\_ No Charge

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make Checks Payable to: Philoptochos Society, and mail to: Nativity of Christ Greek  
Orthodox Church, 1110 Highland Drive, Novato, CA 94949*

**Tables reserved for groups of 6 or more PAID reservations on a first come basis.**

We will be bringing a:     Souvla     Barbeque

We would like to be seated inside.

# MARIN GREEK FESTIVAL

A Marin County Tradition for Over 40 Years

**Memorial Day Weekend**  
**May 24th, 25th and 26th**

- AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD •
- LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING • ETHNIC VENDORS • COOKING DEMOS •
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • CHURCH TOURS • BYZANTINE CHANTING •
- FOLK DANCE PERFORMANCES & LESSONS •
- AND MUCH MORE

**JOIN IN THE FESTIVAL FUN!**

**ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND HELP MAKE THIS THE BEST FESTIVAL EVER!**

A quick Update:

- ◆ Food pre-orders went very well and are ready for pick up. Contact Fran Corcoran if you have any questions.
- ◆ Volunteer sign ups will begin at the end of April. Keep an eye out for the announcement and sign up to help out.
- ◆ Sponsorship of food items has begun but more are always welcome. This can be sent directly to the church office.
- ◆ Our website is being updated and will be ready for prime time about the end of April.
- ◆ Some small changes are planned for the outdoor areas and additional efforts will be needed to get it set up. Remember the main set up day is Saturday, May 18th from 8AM to 4PM. Many hands make light work!
- ◆ Cooking is moving along very nicely.
- ◆ The baking schedules are set (Take a look - your help is needed!)

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4DABAF2EA31-festival>

Remember to encourage your friends and acquaintances to attend the festival. It is with all of our efforts that we will be successful!

**Don't Wait to be Contacted • Volunteer to be Part of the Festival Team!**

**Festival Co-Chairs:**

**Mike Madias (415) 893-9732 [mtmadias@yahoo.com](mailto:mtmadias@yahoo.com)**

**Ed Keller (415) 883-4937 [edkeller@comcast.net](mailto:edkeller@comcast.net)**

# NATIVITY OF CHRIST

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

**MAY**  
2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>28</b> Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Palm Sunday Luncheon Service of the Bridegroom 7:00 pm Confession Following	<b>29</b> Great and Holy Monday Service of the Bridegroom 7:00 pm Confession Following	<b>30</b> Great and Holy Tuesday Bible Study 10:00 am Service of the Bridegroom 7:00 pm	<b>1</b> Great and Holy Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am Sacrament of Holy Unction 3:00 pm Service of the Bridegroom with anointing of Holy Unction 7:00 pm	<b>2</b> Great and Holy Thursday Liturgy of St. Basil 9:30 am The Twelve Gospels 7:00 pm	<b>3</b> Great and Holy Friday Royal Hours 8:30 am Holy Friday Retreat 10:00 am-2:30 pm Removal of Christ from the Cross 2:30 pm Lamentations 7:00 pm	<b>4</b> Great and Holy Saturday Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Canon 11:15 pm Resurrection Service 11:45 pm
<b>5</b> Holy Pascha Easter Sunday Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! Service of Agape 11:00 am Easter Picnic Following	<b>6</b> Renewal Monday St. George, the Great Martyr Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>7</b> Renewal Tuesday Bible Study 10:00 am Philoptochos General Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>8</b> Renewal Wednesday St. John, the Apostle Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Folk Dance Practice Greek School 4-5:45 pm Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm	<b>9</b> Renewal Thursday Liturgy of St. Basil 9:30 am The Twelve Gospels 7:00 pm	<b>10</b> Renewal Friday Life-Giving Spring of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy 8:00 am IOCC Executive Board Meeting at Nativity	<b>11</b> Renewal Saturday
<b>12</b> Sunday of Thomas Mother's Day Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>13</b> Sunday of St. Constantine & Helen Church in Vallejo 7:00 pm Reception will follow	<b>14</b> Bible Study 10:00 am Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>15</b> Folk Dance Practice Greek School 4-5:45 pm Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School follows Last Day of Classes	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Saints Constantine and Helen Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Bible Study after Divine Liturgy	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Festival Set-up Workday 9:00 am - 5:00 p.m.
<b>26</b> Sunday of the Paralytic Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Marin Greek Festival 11 am - 10 pm	<b>27</b> Memorial Day Festival Clean-up 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	<b>28</b> Bible Study 10:00 am	<b>29</b> Folk Dance Practice Greek School 4-5:45 pm Orthodoxy 101 6:00 pm GOYA 7:00-7:30 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Marin Greek Festival 11 am - 10 pm

# 2012 Stewardship Campaign

## Stewardship

**Orthodox Christian Stewardship** is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to Whom we give our love, loyalty and trust, and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

**An Orthodox Christian Steward** is an active participant in the life of the Church. The parish encourages all who accept the Orthodox Faith to become practicing Stewards. Each year the Steward is expected to carefully review his or her personal circumstances and make a commitment of time, talent, and treasure to support the Parish and her Ministries, which in turn support the National Ministries of our Archdiocese, Metropolises, and institutions.

**Effective Stewardship Ministry** is not a single event or project. Rather, it is going out to our people wherever they are in their walk with Christ, listening to their concerns, helping them to realize their importance as branches of the True Vine and encouraging them to offer their gifts in His service. We use various resources to support our efforts, but unless we meet with our people personally, sincerely listen to their ideas and concerns, and share a vision for the future of the parish, our efforts will not reach their full potential.

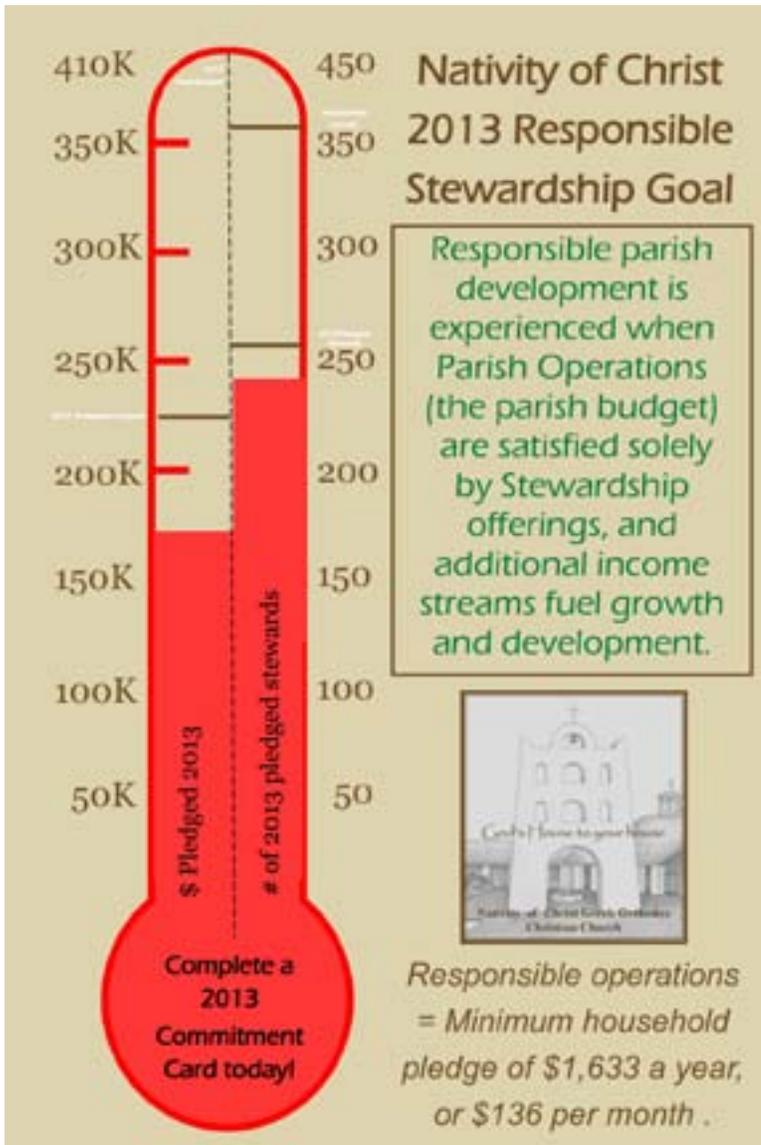
Taken from [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

## Stewardship Commitments Received between 3/25/13 and 4/19/13

Bekris, Fr. Niko & Presb. Stella  
 Castro, Jeff & Joanna  
 Daifotis, Kim & Cindy  
 Diamantopoulos, Lucy  
 Diamantopoulos, Stelios  
 Efstathiou, Paul & Kristen  
 Giannis, Demetrios & Rose  
 Gregory, Helen  
 Leones, Kay  
 Mainaris, Theo  
 Mavromihalis, Steven & Vickie  
 Mertens, Freddie & Theo  
 Orologas, Mike & Katerina  
 Orr, Thomas & Beverly  
 Pantazes, Katina  
 Papadopoulos, John & Stella  
 Pasadis, Dennis & Maryann  
 Patrinely, Poppy  
 Pezzuto, Maria  
 Picras, Beatrice  
 Preovolos, Ted  
 Terplan, Egon & Christina  
 Thomatos, Dennis & Christina  
 Triantafyllos, John & Laura  
 Vellis, George & Dimitra  
 Weeks, Daniel & Stacey  
 Zaferiou, Paul & Phyllis

## Thank You

We thank those listed above, as well as the others previously listed, for their response to the 2013 Stewardship Campaign.

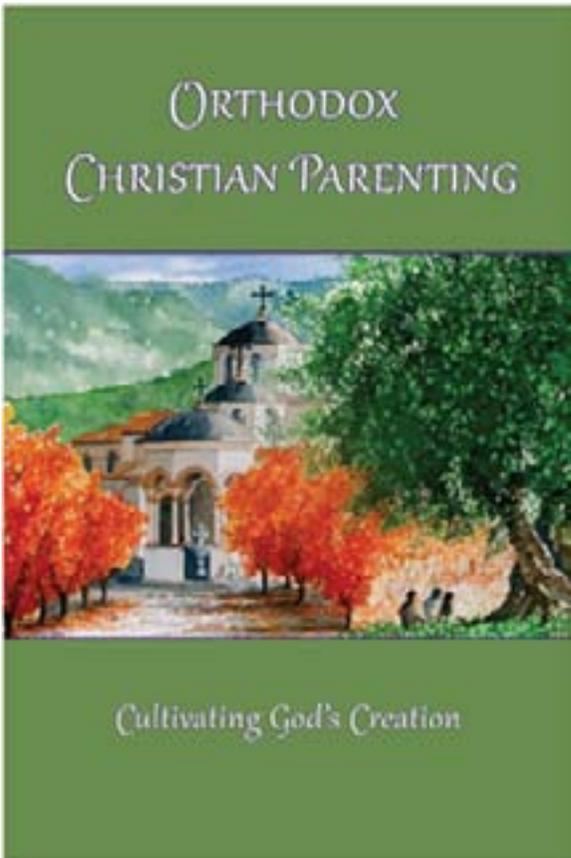


## 2013 Stewardship Update April 19, 2013

<b>Number of Commitment Cards Received</b>	<b>237</b>
<b>Total Amount Committed</b>	<b>\$167,304</b>
<b>Budgeted Goal</b>	<b>\$205,000</b>

*“If we have true love with sympathy and patient labor, we shall not go about scrutinizing our neighbor’s shortcomings.”*

St. Dorotheos of Gaza



Gardeners know that in order for a tree to be healthy and develop strong roots, it must be watered deeply and fed well while young. Later, when the inevitable storms come, the strong roots will be deep enough to prevent the tree from blowing over. If the roots are shallow, the tree will be lost.

In the Sacrament of marriage we hear: Your children will be like olive shoots around your table (Psalm 128:3). This metaphor aptly describes the way we need to raise our children. Teach them all we can about their faith as early as possible, giving them spiritual roots that are strong and run deep, so that when they face the world their faith does not blow away like seedlings in a storm.

This book is especially designed for busy Orthodox Christian parents. It is the fruit of the labors of many pooled resources: Scripture, holy fathers, monastics, clergy, clergy family, and Orthodox parents. In the end, our children are the fruit of God's grace and our labors. If we spiritually tend to them in their youth, we will have nurtured their potential to grow into amazing, faithful, fruitful, even holy Orthodox Christians. Let us work diligently when they are young and the harvest will be plentiful.

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*Orthodox Christian Parenting - Cultivating God's Creation* (A great gift idea for a baptism or new baby)

Order directly from [www.zoepress.us](http://www.zoepress.us) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) (more expensive) where the reviews are.

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### Festival Program Book

Support the Marin Greek Festival and program book with your business ad or a Friends and Family listing; full page, 1/2 page or 1/4 page ad.

The book is in production and time is of the essence. Ads are available in color or black and white.

Please complete the information below and email [karynkambur@wans.com](mailto:karynkambur@wans.com) with your ad in jpeg or pdf format.

Please check the appropriate box:

- |                          |                                 |                    |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full Page                       | \$120              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full Page - (color)             | \$180              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1/2 page                        | \$60               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1/2 page - (color - as avail)   | \$90               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1/4 page                        | \$30               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friends of the Festival Listing | \$15 min. donation |

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel # \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have indicated that you would like to be listed as "Friends of the Festival", please write your name(s) as you would like it to appear in the Program Book:

\_\_\_\_\_ email your ad/greeting to me at [karynkambur@wans.com](mailto:karynkambur@wans.com).

\_\_\_\_\_ Please create my ad/greeting by emailing [karynkambur@wans.com](mailto:karynkambur@wans.com) with your ad text and graphics.

Return with payment no later than April 24th, 2013. **The deadline has been extended to this Sunday, April 28. Deadline for "Friends of the Festival," is Tuesday, April 30.**

Please forward this contract with your artwork and check payable to the Marin Greek Festival.

# 2013 Festival Cooking Schedule

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the pastries below!

To sign up please click on the following link:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090C4DABAF2EA31-festival](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090C4DABAF2EA31-festival)



Melomakarona  
Wednesday, May 8th  
9AM - 3PM



Diples  
Monday, May 13th  
9AM - 3PM



Kourambiethes  
Thursday, May 16th  
9AM - 3PM



Kataifi  
Saturday, May 18th  
9AM - 3PM



Baklava  
Monday, May 20th  
9AM - 3PM

Tuesday, May 21st - Dip melomakarona and diples in honey.  
9AM - 3PM

# Sacraments and Rites

## Funeral

April 12 **Lula Kamages** Our sincerest condolences to the entire Kamages and Hunter families.

*"May her memory be eternal."*



## Memorials

April 14 **Constantinos & Kyriaki Dracopoulos**

April 21 **Orestes Kumbelief**

*"May their memory be eternal."*

## Condolences

To Olympia Katelanis on the recent repose of her brother, **Ignatios Kellis**.

*"May his memory be eternal."*

## **HOLY WEEK**

Throughout the year we eagerly anticipate the experience of Holy Week, as it so appropriately shepherds us to the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Intellectually, emotionally, physically, and spiritually, Holy Week delivers us to Pascha in beautiful form when we choose to experience these days to the best of our ability. The following are two announcements with regard to Nativity's journey of Holy Week this year:

1) **Holy Friday Retreat** – we look forward to continuing the beautiful experience of our youth retreat on Holy Friday, which will take place between the services of the Royal Hours and the Taking Down from the Cross. In addition, **this year we will add the experience of adult retreat to Holy Friday**. During the same hours, Father Luke will lead adults in discussion and reflection on the substance of this most solemn and holy day. Lunch will be provided.

2) **Holy Wednesday** – We will experience the 4th Bridegroom Service, Holy Wednesday Evening. As we celebrate the Bridegroom services Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings during Holy Week, we will also celebrate Wednesday evening in preparation of honoring and celebrating the Last Supper of our Lord, in the Divine Liturgy the following morning. **We will still celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Unction**. Unction Service will take place at 3:00 pm, and all families are encouraged to bring their children directly from school, so that as a family you may be anointed with the Holy Unction, and receive Sacramental healing. For those who will not be able to attend the 3:00 pm Holy Unction Service, in the context of the evening Bridegroom Service, the faithful will have the opportunity to be anointed. Therefore, on Holy Wednesday, the following schedule of service will apply:

9:30 am	The Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts
3:00 pm	The Sacrament of Holy Unction
7:00 pm	Bridegroom Service (with anointing of Holy Unction)



## **Happy Mother's Day**

On this day when we articulate the love and appreciation we have for motherhood, let us recognize the motherhood that has been offered to us by the multiple "mothers" in our lives, including, and especially, the Church! Any who initiate and base their relationships on the premise of self-sacrificial love, can be considered a mother. Thanks be to God for our mothers, and may He continue to bless motherhood abundantly!

Allow me to share a beautiful quote in reference to a mother, from one of our nation's founding fathers:

*"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."*

~George Washington



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

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## **Blessings to All Mothers on Mother's Day**

**May 12, 2013**



I have been reminded of your sincere faith,  
which first lived in your grandmother...  
and in your mother...and...now lives in you also.

2 Timothy 1:5

*A woman does not become a mother in the full sense of that term simply because she biologically produces a child. It is the woman who loves and cherishes, who nourishes and sacrifices that deserves the honor of Mother's Day. It is precisely this quality of love and sacrifice that makes mothers so dear. It has been said that a man and woman might forget each other in time...but no one will forget a mother.*