



# The Word

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

*John 1:14*

## Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ

## It is Time to Start at the Beginning

When asked, most people reply that they begin reading the Bible at the Gospel Account of Matthew – the first book in the New Testament. Almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Bible is unashamedly skipped by most as we thumb through segments of the Old Testament on our way to *begin* with Matthew. How can we expect to approach, let alone understand, the New Testament message without an attempt to first encounter that which the New Testament fulfills... the message of the Old Testament!

Depending upon the publication, the Old Testament is roughly 1200 pages long -- the pages are thin, and names are often difficult to pronounce. These are only the beginning temptations that try to keep us from God's Word, yet I offer these quick reflections as a source of perspective...

- The Harry Potter book series is 4100 pages long.
- The fictional language of *Parseltongue* has been learned by thousands to better embrace the Harry Potter experience.
- When asked why he was so dedicated to the Harry Potter series, a young adult responded, *"I believe in the message and what Harry Potter stands for."*

The Bible, in Its entirety, ultimately conveys one message. It is impossible to extrapolate the essence of this message without approaching each of Its parts. Could you imagine following a technical manual to complete a task and only reading a segment or two? This message comes from God Himself, and It is the message that He has established for us. If we believe in God, as the young man referenced

above believed in the message of Harry Potter, then we must have a dedicated effort to approach His Word and learn His Message.

Yet, the Old Testament part of the message still seems so inaccessible...

Approaching the Old Testament in segments can help. Three themed segments comprise the Old Testament:

**The Torah** – The first five books (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), which provide *instruction*, often interpreted as law, to God's people.

**The Prophets** – Major and Minor prophets are used as a mouthpiece for God to deliver His message about faithfulness and the coming of the Messiah.

**The Writings** – Through multiple forms, including Psalms and Proverbs, the message of wisdom is taught by God, specifically manifest in a committed association between mankind and God Himself.

Why do we need to engage the message of God found in the Old Testament, when we can simply encounter the climax found in the New Testament – in the experience of Jesus Christ? Jesus Himself addresses this when He said, *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill."* (Matthew 5:17) How can we understand Jesus Christ if we do not know what it is that He fulfills? If we do not know His purpose?

The Message of Scripture is embracing and delivered to us from our Benevolent God. In understanding this

reality, we must make every attempt to acknowledge, receive, and discern God's Word. The Church assists us in this effort through the structure and content of Divine Services, writings of Church Fathers and theologians, and offerings at local parishes.

**Join your Nativity family in the month of November as we explore the structure and function of the Old Testament in the Nativity Adult Education Program: Wednesdays 6 pm, Thursdays 10 am. ...also the 3rd Grade curriculum that our young people are learning in Sunday School!**

In conclusion, an excerpt from the writings of Bishop Kallistos Ware, referencing the writings of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk:

*"If an earthly king, our emperor, says Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk (1724-83), 'wrote you a letter, would you read it with joy? Certainly, with great rejoicing and careful attention.' But what, he asks, is our attitude towards the letter that has been addressed to us by no one less than God Himself? 'You have been sent a letter, not by any earthly emperor, but by the King of Heaven. And yet you almost despise such a gift, so priceless a treasure.' To open and read this letter, Saint Tikhon adds, is to enter into a personal conversation face to face with the living God. 'Whenever you read the Gospel, Christ Himself is speaking to you. And while you read, you are praying and talking to Him.'"*

*Fr. Luke*

November 2013

## November Services & Readings

Date/Time	Service	Epistle	Gospel
Nov 1 9:30 am	Sts. Cosmas & Damianos	I Corinth. 12:27-13:8	Matthew 10:1, 5-8
Nov 3 9:30 am	5th Sunday of Luke	II Corinth. 11:31-12:9	Luke 16:19-31
Nov 9 9:30 am	St. Nektarios the Wonderworker	II Corinth. 1:8-11	Luke 9:37-43
Nov 10 9:30 am	8th Sunday of Luke	Galatians 1:11-19	Luke 10:25-37
Nov. 13 9:30 am	St. John Chrysostom	Hebrews 7:26-8:2	John 10:9-16
Nov. 14 9:30 am	St. Philip & St. Gregory Palamas	I Corinth. 4:9-16	John 1:43-51
Nov 17 9:30 am	9th Sunday of Luke	Galatians 2:16-20	Luke 12:16-21
Nov 21 9:30 am	Presentation of the Theotokos	Hebrews 9:1-7	Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28
Nov 24 9:30 am	13th Sunday of Luke	Galatians 6:11-18	Luke 18:18-27
Nov 25 9:30 am	St. Katherine, the Great Martyr	Galatians 3:23-4:5	Mark 5:24-34
Nov 30 9:30 am	St. Andrew, the First-Called	I Corinth. 4:9-16	John 1:35-52

## November Acolyte Schedule

All acolytes are asked to serve in November.

## November Candle Duty Schedule

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



### KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

- Fr. James Adams
- Elaine Cunningham
- Fr. Constantine Efstathiou
- Kathleen Trimble Mackechnie
- James Kolyvas
- Alexandra Edrich
- Fr. Haralambos Fox
- Connie Martigopoulos

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 office.**

## The Word

Monthly Newsletter

published by

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**Fr. Luke Palumbis,  
Pastor**

**November 2013**



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# Parish Activities & Ministries

## Philoptochos

### Coffee Hour

In September and October, Dina Camamis, Vicki Kalabokes, Poppy Parnell and Maria Pezzuto hosted coffee hours in memory of their loved ones; we thank you very much for your support. We would also like to thank those of you who dropped off baked items. The following dates are still open in November: the 3rd, 10th and 24th.

### Holy Cross Luncheon

On October 13th we had our yearly luncheon to benefit the students of Holy Cross/Hellenic College. As a result of your generosity, we were able to raise over \$700 to send to the seminarians, which includes donations received by mail. Thank you so much.

### Harvest Luncheon

Our annual Harvest Luncheon fundraiser will be held on **November 17th** after Divine Liturgy. The menu will include the traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Prices are \$15 for adults; \$10 for Students (age 13-18) and \$5 for Students (age 5-12). The proceeds will be used to help serve our local charities and help with our Metropolis and National Philoptochos obligations.

### Cookbook News

We are excited to announce that the ball is rolling for our next cookbook project. This is a new cookbook that will focus on family recipes from everyone in the Nativity family. We encourage you to send in any recipes that have been a part of your family -- whether it's Greek, Italian, Eritrean, Hungarian or American. This is a brand new cookbook and will not replace our original cookbook. **We will continue publishing the original cookbook.** Cathy Selmi is in charge of this project; you can contact her at [cathyselmi@gmail.com](mailto:cathyselmi@gmail.com) or call her at (415) 382-7894 if you have any questions. Please send your recipes to the church office.

### Turkey Bomb Week

Last year Father Luke's "turkey bomb" week was so successful that we think it's a great idea to do it again. We were able to donate over 60 turkeys to the Food Bank in Novato. This year, during the week of **November 10 through November 17**, please stop by your local market and purchase a turkey, bring it to

church any time during the week and on Monday, November 18th, we will have the Food Bank stop by and pick them up. Last year they were ecstatic when they saw the freezer full of turkeys. In the spirit of giving during the season of the birth of our Lord, please help to make this a more joyous time of year by helping others.



### Community Christmas Card

It's that time of year when we start accumulating names for our Community Christmas Card. To have your name added this year, please fill out your information on the enclosed flyer on page 7. Please keep in mind that 100% of the net proceeds go directly to the Retired Clergy Association to help priests and presbyteres who retired prior to a retirement system being put into place by the Archdiocese. These funds are desperately needed so please be generous with your donations. The deadline for the Community Christmas Card is **December 8.**

### September Outing

Tons of fun and fellowship were shared at our outing to the Glendi festival.



On **November 10**, our activity will be attending the IOCC Passport to Hope dinner.



### November Birthdays

11/9 Susan Siefkas; 11/16 Maria Hilakos Hanke; 11/18 Vicki Kalabokes; 11/21 Ed Keller; 11/22 Kari Boosalis; 11/26 Effie Fourakis; 11/30 Toula Nichols

### Dates to Remember

Nov 3 Breast Cancer Awareness Coffee Hour  
Nov 7 Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
Nov 10-17 Turkey Bomb  
Nov 17 Harvest Luncheon  
Dec 7 BAPSAEF Christmas Luncheon at Nativity of Christ  
Dec 8 Deadline for Christmas Card

**Passport to Hope – IOCC Fundraiser, November 10th**

We are quickly approaching the annual Bay Area, IOCC Fundraiser hosted by Nativity, titled, 'Passport to Hope.' Thank you to all who have already labored and made offerings in support of this most worthy ministry [IOCC]. We look forward to this beautiful opportunity to support the work of the Church, as it is manifest through International Orthodox Christian Charities.

Get ready for fun! Cajun food, live music, and dancing!

### Test Your Orthodox IQ

#### Questions

- 1) Which Gospel Account in the New Testament was the first to be written?
- 2) Why does the Church call us to fast consistently on Wednesdays and Fridays?
- 3) Which great saint struck someone at the First Ecumenical Council?  
\*Hint: his feast day is in December.
- 4) Who is the current Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco?
- 5) The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is a daughter church to which Patriarchate?

*Answers on page 4*

# Religious Education News

## Youth Education Kid's Corner

What are students learning on Sunday mornings following Communion? What are they learning in their classes? We thought we would find out - just by asking. Thus, the Youth Education Kid's Corner was created. Two brothers were eager to share their thinking with us this month. Check back with us next month to read more about how students are growing and learning in our Orthodox faith.

"On Activity Sunday we learned about St. Demetrios and St. Nestor, and we had a scavenger hunt. Sunday School is great, but it is only 45 minutes long. I think if it was a bit longer, we could have more lessons in one day. We are learning about the Old Testament, and it is fun. I like it that we moved the kindergarten, first and second grade downstairs and the older grades upstairs. Of course, I always look forward to the snacks and treats at coffee hours." - Peter Thomatos (Fourth grade)

"I am five years, almost six years old. I am learning the Lord's Prayer. I like the snacks and treats, too!" - Marc Thomatos (Kindergarten)

## Open House

November 17- Open House for Parents (Grades 5,6,7,8 and HS). Plan to visit your student's classroom to learn more about the program this year. Following Communion, parents are invited to participate in the Sunday lessons with their students.

## What is Youth Activity Sunday?

Youth Activity Sundays take place following Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Students, from all classes, join together in fellowship to deepen their understanding of our Orthodox faith and their relationship with God. The November and December Activity Sundays will center on the theme of the Sacrament of Eucharist/Communion in the context of thanksgiving and worship. We welcome all students!

- November 3 **Youth Activity Sunday**
- November 10 Youth Education Classes
- November 17 Youth Education Classes  
Open House for Parents - Grade 5/6;  
Grade 7/8; High School
- November 24 Youth Education Classes
- December 1 **Youth Activity Sunday**

## Angel Tree Program

Beginning on Sunday, November 18, the Angel Tree will be in the Narthex for each of us to select the "angels" who need our help for brighter holidays. When the Angel Tree arrives, please select an Angel and purchase the requested gift(s). Place your gift under the tree. Monetary contributions to buy perishable food items and Christmas presents are gratefully accepted. Special thanks to Christine Foster and Elaine Chyrklund for organizing this opportunity for our youth and our parish families to be "angels by giving to others."

## Adult Education

Nativity's Adult Education program continues to grow! With the new curriculum, and two available weekly timeslots, participation in the adult education program has more than doubled! Join us as we continue to grow in our understanding and experience of Christianity!

**Bible Study:** Tuesdays 10 am-Gospel Account of St. Mark  
**Adult Education:** Wednesdays 6 pm & Thursdays 10 am-The Old Testament

## Youth Education

Nativity's Youth Education program is enjoying the new curriculum, especially our first 'Activity Day' on the first Sunday of October. As a collective group, Nativity youth learned about Saint Demetrios the Great Martyr through a tremendous activity facilitated by 3rd/4th grade teacher Christina Thomatos and other teachers. Our youngest learned along with our teens, and all enjoyed the reality of Orthodox Christian fellowship!

In a high school lesson teaching the experience of "the seal of the Holy Spirit," as delivered in the Sunday Epistle reading (Ephesians 1:13), Nativity teens learned about the Sacrament of Chrismation - and this spiritual/sacramental seal, as the mark of God, denoting the faithful as the flock or herd of God. One Nativity high-schooler remarked with a note to Father Luke stating, "I am really happy that I have joined 'this herd.' It's pretty exciting and I will always feel comfortable around my herd. Not left out."

Yes, with this response we may say, "The Nativity Youth Education Program is working!"

**Answers from Page 3:** (1) The Gospel Account of Mark;  
(2) Wednesday - the day in which Jesus Christ was betrayed.  
Friday - the day in which Jesus Christ was crucified.;  
(3) St. Nicholas the Wonderworker struck the heretic Arias;  
(4) Archimandrite Apostolos Joufallakis;  
(5) The Patriarchate of Constantinople.

*"For I was hungry and  
and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you  
gave me drink, I was  
a stranger and you  
welcomed me."*

*Matthew 25:35*



## Holiday Food Drive

We can help others enjoy their Thanksgiving. How? Nativity of Christ is again sponsoring a **FOOD DRIVE** program and is asking for the support of the entire parish to help as many families as possible.

Beginning on **Sunday, November 3**, please bring one or two non-perishable food items every Sunday through Christmas so that we can help as many families as possible. Place the food items in the Food Bank barrel in the Narthex.

Suggested items include canned goods and dry packaged goods such as: rice, beans, pasta, cereals, cake mixes, powdered milk, flour, sugar, etc.

# 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."

~ [www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/stewardship](http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/stewardship)

## **Nativity of Christ North Star Ministry**

"...the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was."

~ Matthew 2:9

The experience of Jesus Christ is the one thing that is truly needful in this life (Luke 10:42), and it was the light of the star that led the wise men to Him. The experience of Jesus Christ is maintained in a committed life within the Orthodox Church, which is the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 11-13).

## **2013 Stewardship Update October 22, 2013**

<b>Number of Commitments Received</b>	<b>262</b>
<b>Total Amount Committed</b>	<b>\$187,275</b>
<b>2013 Stewardship Budget</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>



Although no star continuously resides above 1110 Highland Drive, illuminating a pathway to the Church -- the Light of God illumines this pathway when the individual members of the Nativity of Christ parish interact with the love of God.

YOU are the North Star of the Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Christian Church!

YOUR contact and communication with fellow parishioners, let alone non-parishioners, has the potential to lead others to Jesus Christ!

As members of the Nativity Family, let us be focused and committed to illuminating the pathway to Jesus Christ, through the active application of God's love amongst our brothers-and-sisters-in-Christ.

With warmth and hospitality receive the points of contact, whether they be phone calls, notes, emails, or face-to-face greetings from your fellow community members, and know that in that interaction... you may be a North Star leading someone to Christ.

Each household served by the Nativity of Christ parish will be contacted in the coming weeks -- for no reason other than to say hello, and let you know that you are loved.

May God bless you, us, and our journey to His unending Light!

### **Thank You**

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

### **Stewardship Commitments Received between 9/24/13 and 10/22/13**

- Aaron, Steven & Eva
- Frudakis, George & Darlene
- Gregory, Helen
- Lendaris, George & Nia
- Simos, Ted & Sophia

## **The Nativity Lenten Period**

November 15th marks the beginning of our active recognition of the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. Not only are we called to fast during these 40 days leading to Christmas, but the liturgical cycle and experience lead us in a direction to have a most substantively informed recognition and celebration of our Lord's birth.

Make a choice this month.

Choose to embark upon an active journey to actively prepare for our parish feast day! Come to the Divine services consistently, develop discipline through the blessing of fasting, and read a spiritual offering on the Nativity, such as the following sermon by Saint John Chrysostom...

### **A Sermon by Saint John Chrysostom on the Nativity of Christ**

Behold a new and wondrous mystery.

My ears resound to the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing. The Archangels blend their voice in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt His glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He Who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised.

Bethlehem this day resembles heaven; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in place of the sun, enfolds within itself on every side, the Sun of justice. And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed; He had the power; He descended; He redeemed; all things yielded in obedience to God. This day He Who is, is Born; and He Who is, becomes what He was not. For when He was God, He became man; yet not departing from the Godhead that is His. Nor yet by any loss of divinity became He man, nor through increase became He God from man; but being the Word He became flesh, His nature, because of impassability, remaining unchanged.

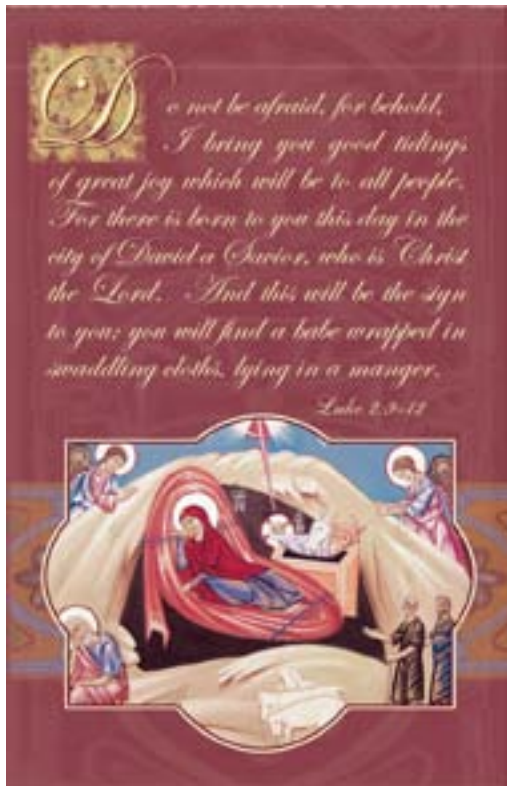
And so the kings have come, and they have seen the heavenly King that has come upon the earth, not bringing with Him Angels, nor Archangels, nor Thrones, nor Dominions, nor Powers, nor Principalities, but, treading a new and solitary path, He



# NATIVITY OF CHRIST

## Greek Orthodox Christian Church

### 2013 Community Christmas Card



We are once again producing a Community Christmas Card to spread the good news and greetings of Christ's birth to families, individuals and friends throughout our community.

The proceeds of this card will benefit the RCA (Retired Clergy Association) Benevolence Fund. This group is made up of Retired Clergy and widowed Presbyteres who are currently receiving very minimal or no monthly pensions.

We are requesting a minimum donation of \$20.00 to include your name in our 2013 Community Christmas Card. Please send your response form to the Church Office, Attn: Christmas Card

Committee, **by December 8, 2013**. We will be mailing a check to the RCA so that the funds will reach them before Christmas. Please encourage family members & friends to participate.

---

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

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed my donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline—December 8, 2013**

# NATIVITY OF CHRIST

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

# NOVEMBER

2 0 1 3

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>27</b> 7th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Youth Education follows Northstar Ministry Parish Presentation	<b>28</b> Fr. Luke will be attending the National Clergy Retreat in Florida October 29-31 Greek School 4:15-5:45 pm Folk Dance Practice	<b>29</b> the National Clergy Retreat in Florida October 29-31	<b>30</b> Greek School 4:15-5:45 pm Folk Dance Practice	<b>31</b> Philoptochos Board 6:30 p.m.	<b>1</b> Sts. Cosmas & Damianos, the Holy Unmercenaries Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>2</b> Daylight Savings Time Ends Saturday night, 11/2. Turn Clocks Back 1 Hour St. Nektarios the Wonderworker Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 11:00 am Baptism
<b>3</b> 5th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Youth Education follows Breast Cancer Awareness Coffee Hour	<b>4</b> Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Youth Education follows	<b>5</b> Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>6</b> Greek School Folk Dance Practice	<b>7</b> St. John Chrysostom Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Greek School Folk Dance Practice Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ 5:30 Adult Ed 6:00 pm	<b>8</b> St. Philip, the Apostle & St. Gregory Palamas Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Adult Ed - Topic: Old Testament following Divine Liturgy	<b>9</b> St. Nektarios the Wonderworker Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 11:00 am Baptism
<b>10</b> 8th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Youth Education follows IOCC Dinner - Passport to Hope - Here	<b>11</b> Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Youth Education follows Youth Education follows	<b>12</b> Bible Study 10:00 am Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>13</b> Greek School Folk Dance Practice Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ 5:30 Adult Ed 6:00 pm	<b>14</b> St. Philip, the Apostle & St. Gregory Palamas Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Adult Ed - Topic: Old Testament following Divine Liturgy	<b>15</b> Nativity Fast Begins	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Youth Education follows Youth House Grades 5 through 12 Annual Philoptochos Harvest Luncheon	<b>18</b> Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Youth Education follows Youth House Grades 5 through 12	<b>19</b> Bible Study 10:00 am	<b>20</b> Greek School Folk Dance Practice Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ 5:30 Adult Ed 6:00 pm	<b>21</b> The Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Adult Ed - Topic: Old Testament following Divine Liturgy	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 13th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Youth Education follows Fall Parish Assembly Meeting	<b>25</b> St. Katherine, the Great Martyr Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Youth Education follows	<b>26</b> Bible Study 10:00 am	<b>27</b> Greek School Folk Dance Practice Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ 5:30 Adult Ed 6:00 pm	<b>28</b> Thanksgiving	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**IMPORTANT!** The parking lot and driveway are schedule to be repaved November 4-7. There will be no admittance to the property Monday through Thursday. All regularly scheduled classes and activities are cancelled.

# Serving the Church as a Member of the Parish Council

*The following excerpts from the Uniform Parish Regulations and other pertinent material from our Archdiocese, offer us the guidelines necessary in determining qualified candidates for service on the Parish Council of our parish. Please bear them in mind as you consider nominating a fellow parishioner or offering your own name in nomination.*

## **AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE PARISH**

"The aims and purposes of the Parish are to keep, practice, and proclaim the Orthodox Christian Faith pure and undefiled."

"The diakonia (ministry) of the Parish will include proclaiming and teaching the Gospel in accordance with the Orthodox Faith; sanctifying the faithful through God's grace in worship, the Divine Liturgy, and the other sacraments; enhancing its parishioners' spiritual life; and adding to the numbers of the faithful by receiving persons into the Church through instruction, baptism, and/or chrismation. In addition, the Parish shall establish educational and philanthropic activities to foster the aims and mission of the Parish and to edify its parishioners in the Faith and ethos of the Church. The Parish shall also engage in such inter-Orthodox, ecumenical, and interfaith activities as are consistent with the policies of the Archdiocese."

**(Uniform Parish Regulations, Part Three, Article 15, Sections 2 and 4)**

## **PARISHIONERS**

"Orthodox theology teaches that the Church is the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:12-31). The characteristic of a healthy body is that every member performs its own function for the good of the whole. However, unity does not mean uniformity, and therefore within the Church there are differing gifts and differing functions. Every one of them is a gift of the same Spirit and designed, not for the glory of the individual members, but for the good of the whole.

"It is correct that the voice of the laity be heard in the Church. However, there must be a clear understanding of roles, prerogatives and limits. Only believing and worshipping lay persons should be permitted to assist in the governing of the Church; nominal and uninformed Christians should at all costs be excluded from governing roles."

**(From the "Report to His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos Concerning the Future Theological Agenda of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese")**

"Every person who is baptized and chrismated according to the rites of the Orthodox Church is a parishioner. The religious, moral, and social duties of a parishioner are to apply the tenets of the Orthodox Faith to his/her life and to: adhere to and live according to the tenets of the Orthodox Faith; faithfully attend the Divine Liturgy and other worship services; participate regularly in the sacraments; respect all ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the Church; be obedient in matters of the Faith, practice and ecclesiastical order; contribute towards the progress of the Church's sacred mission; and be an effective witness and example of the Orthodox Faith and Traditions to all people."  
**(Uniform Parish Regulations, Part Three, Article 18, Section 1)**

## **WHAT IS A PARISH COUNCIL?**

"A Parish Council is a body of practicing Orthodox Christians sacramentally in good standing with the Church, elected by the members of a parish for the purpose of working together with the priest in fulfilling the goals and needs of that parish. This brief description of a local governing body also describes the fundamental structure of the Orthodox Church. That is, that we, as clergy and laity together, are the "People of God", seeking, to the best of our human capabilities, and with the grace of God, to fulfill the mission entrusted to us by our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ."

**(Welcome to the Parish Council, A Guidebook for Parish Council Members)**

## **DUTIES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

"The members of the Parish Council shall attend the Divine Liturgy regularly and participate in the sacramental life of the Church, thereby setting an example for the Parishioners."

**(Uniform Parish Regulations, Part Three, Article 29, Section 1)**

## **ELECTIONS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

"A candidate for the Parish Council must be a member of the Parish for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the election, and must live his or her life in accordance with the Faith and canons of the Church."

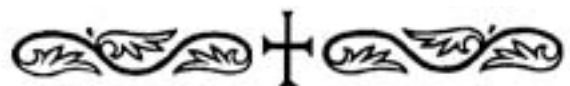
"All candidates shall attend a seminar conducted by the priest, prior to the election, at which the priest shall discuss and explain to the candidates the Uniform Parish Regulations, and the significance of the affirmation of office. At the conclusion of the seminar all candidates must sign a statement acknowledging that they understand the Regulations and will abide by them and the affirmation of office. If a candidate for the Parish Council does not attend a seminar and sign the statement, his/her name shall be deleted from the list of candidates."

**(Uniform Parish Regulations, Part Three, Article 25, Sections 2 and 3)**

## **PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING NOTICE**

Parish Assembly Meeting Sunday, November 24, following the Divine Liturgy and Religious Education classes. A complete nomination form and agenda are included on page 9 and page 10.

Before nominating or considering accepting nomination for service on the Parish Council, please read thoughtfully the foregoing guidelines set down by our Church and Archdiocese.







**Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church**  
1110 Highland Drive • Novato, CA 94949 • (415) 883-1998

**NOMINATION FORM**

The enclosed nomination form is sent to you for the purpose of nominating and/or placing your name into nomination for service on the Parish Council beginning January 2014. **All eligible nominees are required by the Uniform Parish Regulations to attend a Parish Council Seminar before their name can be placed on the ballot. Those unwilling to attend will be ineligible to run.**

Members of the parish eligible to nominate and/or to be nominated, and/or to place their names in nomination, are all men and women of the parish **who are practicing Orthodox Christians, sacramentally in good standing with the Church, and who have fulfilled, or are current with, their pledge for 2013. In accordance with our Parish By-Laws, to be considered current with their pledge, members must have paid a total amount on their pledge which is at least equal to one-twelfth (1/12) of their annual pledge times the number of months passed in the current calendar year. Also, to be eligible to vote at the assembly, members must have submitted their completed pledge card 30 days prior to the day of the parish assembly. In addition, those eligible to be nominated are parishioners who apply the tenets of the Orthodox Faith to their life and activities and attend the Divine Liturgy faithfully on Sundays.**

**DO NOT** nominate the following members of the Parish Council. Their term of service on the council extends through 2014.

**Peter Eliades**

**Pete Gikkas**

**Matina Seremetis**

**George Sotiras**

**Spiro Stratigos**

**Scott Walters**

\*\*\*\*\*

I wish to nominate the following members of our parish to serve on the Parish Council:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

Signature

All nomination forms must be submitted on, or before, Sunday, November 24, 2013. You may mail them or leave them at the church office.





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1110 Highland Drive • Novato, CA 94949 • (415) 883-1998  
**PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2013**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Election of Parish Assembly Chairman.
3. Approval of minutes of last Parish Assembly Meeting
4. Parish Ministries Reports:
  - A. Philoptochos
  - B. Youth Religious Education
  - C. Choir
  - D. Folk Dance
  - E. Greek School
5. Ministry Budget Report
  - A. Presentation and adoption of 2014 Proposed Ministry Budget.
6. Maintenance and repair status report.
7. Financial Stewardship Report - 2013
  - A. 2014 Stewardship Drive
8. New Business
  - A. Parish Council Term Limits -It has been proposed to amend Parish Bylaws to insert term limits for Parish Council service. A suggested framework for this proposal is the following: A Member may serve a maximum of two consecutive two-year terms on the Parish Council (without regard to any partial term he or she may be appointed or elected to complete). After service of two consecutive two year terms on Parish Council, a Member must step down from the Parish Council for a minimum of one year, after which he or she may again be elected to the Parish Council. A Member may serve an unlimited number of total terms on the Parish Council, subject to the above rules regarding consecutive terms."
9. Additional Parish Council Nominations from the floor.
10. Selection of Election Committee.

"The Board of Elections shall consist of no fewer than three (3) members elected at a Regular Parish Assembly within the same year as the election from among those who are not candidates for election to the Parish Council. [Immediate family members of candidates and incumbent Parish Council members are not eligible to serve on the Board of Elections.]" (Part Three, Article 32, Section 1)
11. Announcements from the Chair.
12. Adjournment
13. Closing Prayer

*"Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*  
Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:23-24 12:17

# Sacraments and Rites

## 40-Day Blessing

September 29 **Mattea Lula Kamages** and her mother, **Sherry Kamages**.

## Baptism

October 20 **Lucas James**, son of John & Erica Tzafopoulos. Sponsors were Ted & Vickie Kyriakos.

*“As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”*

## Funeral

September 27 **John Ivantcho**

*“May his memory be eternal.”*



## Memorals

October 6 **Kathryn Brandy, Spero Brandy and Aristides Stamulis**

October 20 **Charles Patrinnellis, and members of the Perivolaris and Kozas families**

*“May their memory be eternal.”*

Continued from page 5

has come forth from a spotless womb.

Since this heavenly birth cannot be described, neither does His coming amongst us in these days permit of too curious scrutiny. Though I know that a Virgin this day gave birth, and I believe that God was begotten before all time, yet the manner of this generation I have learned to venerate in silence and I accept that this is not to be probed too curiously with wordy speech.

For with God we look not for the order of nature, but rest our faith in the power of Him who works.

What shall I say to you; what shall I tell you? I behold a Mother who has brought forth; I see a Child come to this light by birth. The manner of His conception I cannot comprehend.

Nature here rested, while the Will of God labored. O ineffable grace! The Only Begotten, Who is before all ages, Who cannot be touched or be perceived, Who is simple, without body, has now put on my body, that is visible and liable to corruption. For what reason? That coming amongst us he may teach us, and teaching, lead us by the hand to the things that men cannot see. For since men believe that the eyes are more trustworthy than the ears, they doubt of that which they do not see, and so He has deigned to show Himself in bodily presence, that He may remove all doubt.

Christ, finding the holy body and soul of the Virgin, builds for Himself a living temple, and as He had willed, formed there a man from the Virgin; and, putting Him on, this day came forth; unashamed of the lowliness of our nature.

For it was to Him no lowering to put on what He Himself had made. Let that handiwork be forever glorified, which became the cloak of its own Creator. For as in the first creation of flesh, man could not be made before the clay had come into His hand, so neither could this corruptible body be glorified, until it had first become the garment of its Maker.

What shall I say! And how shall I describe this Birth to you? For this wonder fills me with astonishment. The Ancient of days has become an infant. He Who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a manger. And He Who cannot be touched, Who is simple, without complexity, and incorporeal, now lies subject to the hands of men. He Who has broken the bonds of sinners, is now bound by an infant's bands. But He has decreed that ignominy shall become honor, infamy be clothed with glory, and total humiliation the measure of His Goodness.

For this He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His Word; taking my flesh, He gives me His spirit; and so He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me the treasure of Life. He takes my flesh, to sanctify me; He gives me His Spirit that He may save me.

Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.

Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle. He became Flesh. He did not become God. He was God. Wherefore He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven did not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infant's food from His Virgin Mother. So, the Father of all ages, as an infant at the breast, nestles in the virginal arms, that the Magi may more easily see Him. Since this day the Magi too have come, and made a beginning of withstanding tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star.

To Him, then, Who out of confusion has wrought a clear path, to Christ, to the Father, and to the Holy Spirit, we offer all praise, now and forever. Amen.

May our Lord, Who condescended to be born in a manger for our salvation, bless our journey to His Holy Feast!



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

Non-Profit Org.  
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Novato, CA  
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Change Service Requested

*Dated Material*

## SAVE THE DATE

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and the  
Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos joyfully invite  
you to attend

### "LIGHT THE PATH"

a Christmas Luncheon in support of

THE BISHOP ANTHONY  
PHILOPTOCHOS STUDENT AID  
ENDOWMENT FUND

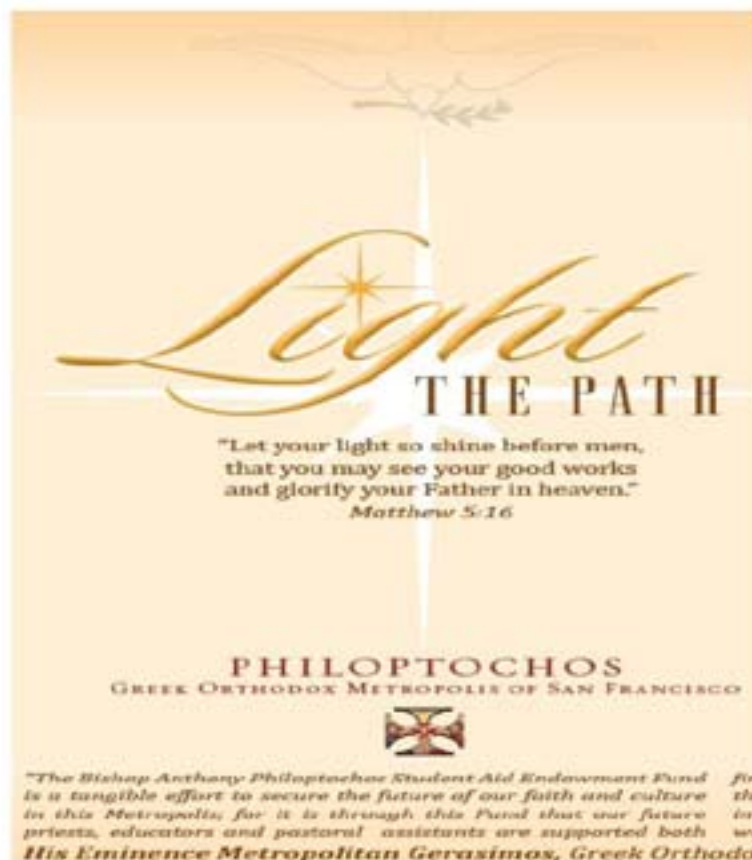
**Saturday, November 23, 2013**  
Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church  
Pasadena, California

**Saturday, December 7, 2013**  
Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church  
Novato, California

Christmas Entertainment  
And a presentation by one of our own Seminarians

A formal invitation will be forthcoming...


Call: 415-431-2600  
Email: [office@sfphiloptochos.org](mailto:office@sfphiloptochos.org)



**Light  
THE PATH**

"Let your light so shine before men,  
that you may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven."  
*Matthew 5:16*

**PHILOPTOCHOS**  
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO



*"The Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund is a tangible effort to secure the future of our faith and culture in this Metropolis; for it is through this Fund that our future priests, educators and pastoral assistants are supported both financially and morally in their education. From the beginning, the Metropolis Philoptochos has been the guardian angel of this important project. May our Lord grant His love and grace to all who labor and support the Student Aid Endowment Fund."*  
**His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco**