



# The Word

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

John 1:14

## Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ

*"The love of God is not taught. No one has taught us to enjoy the light or to be attached to life more than anything else. And no one has taught us to love the two people who brought us into the world and educated us. Which is all the more reason to believe that we did not learn to love God as a result of outside instruction. In the very nature of every human being has been sown the seed of the ability to love. You and I ought to welcome this seed, cultivate it carefully, nourish it attentively and foster its growth by going to the school of God's commandments with help of His grace."*

September 2013

~ Saint Basil the Great

Our natural relationship to God is one that is intrinsically a part of our design. To know, seek, and experience the love of God is the most natural state of being for all of mankind. As Saint Basil the Great articulates, the seed of this experience is natural, yet it must be cultivated so that we may maintain a healthy relation to God throughout the many stages of our lives -- the stages of life bring diversity, yet the one constant is our need to maintain connection to our benevolent God.

A Church's life cultivates our relationship to God, regardless of the stage of life, or how it is being experienced. Two chief experiences of the Church, which tend to and grow our relationship to God are:

- 1) The Worshiping Life of the Church
- 2) The Educational Life of the Church

First and foremost, Christianity maintains itself as a worshiping experience -- positioning ourselves to receive divine blessings through the Sacramental and Blessing services of the Church.

In order to adequately experience the worshiping life of the Church to the best of our ability, we must develop our intellectual understanding of the holistic experience of Christianity. Through God's design we learn each moment of our life. Through the experience of the Church, God's natural design is served by the offering of Educational Ministries. As we approach the Educational Life of the Church, I encourage the contemplation of two questions:

- 1) Am I currently an active participant in the worshiping life of the Church?
- 2) What is my current level of religious understanding/education?

The two questions are interconnected for Christians, and as I contemplate question #2 specifically, I think of the wise words of Socrates, "...as for me, all I know is that I know nothing."

We all can learn more!

At Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Christian Church, in the effort to offer a most accessible experience of Christian Education, a new parish education program is being offered to all faithful and friends - youth and adult alike!

September 8th, following the Divine Liturgy, a presentation will be offered to articulate the Nativity Parish Education Program, including program structures, premises and content. Also, please find introductory announcements in this edition of The Word monthly newsletter.

May we (re)commit to the worshiping life of the Church!

May we (re)commit to the educational life of the Church!

May our Lord bless our pilgrimage of faith to always cultivate the seeds of grace that He planted in our souls!

Fr. Luke

### *Feast Day of Our Panagia*

What a blessing it was to journey together with many Nativity faithful on the journey to the Virgin Mary's feast day, culminating with a Divine Liturgy on August 15, with the church almost filled!

Furthermore, thank you to our Cretan Association for providing the delicious luncheon on August 18, after the Divine Liturgy, in celebration of the Mother of God!

May our Panagia intercede on our behalf!

## September Services & Readings

Date/Time	Service	Epistle	Gospel
Sept 1 9:30 am	Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year	I Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 4:16-22
Sept 8 9:30 am	Nativity of the Theotokos Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross	Galatians 6:11-18	John 3:13-17
Sept 14 9:30 am	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	I Corinth. 1:18-24	John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30
Sept 15 9:30 am	Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross	Galatians 2:16-20	Mark 8:34- 9:1
Sept 17 9:30 am	Sts. Sophia, Faith, Hope & Love	II Corinth. 8:16-9:5	Luke 3:23-4:1
Sept 22 9:30 am	1st Sunday of Luke	II Corinth. 16:13-24	Luke 5:1-11
Sept 26 9:30 am	St. John, the Theologian	I John 4:12-19	John 19:25-27; 21:24-25
Sept 29 9:30 am	2nd Sunday of Luke	II Corinth. 1:21-2:4	Luke 6:31-36

## September Acolyte Schedule

All acolytes are asked to serve in September.

## September Candle Duty Schedule

Sept 1	Alex Slenkin, George Sotiras and Tony Kosmas
Sept 8	Chris Siefkas, Rose Hunter and Nick Livanos
Sept 15	Bruce Corcoran, Pete Gikkas and George Kokalis
Sept 22	Peter Eliades, George Georgeson and Scott Walters
Sept 29	Alex Slenkin, George Sotiras and Tony Kosmas

## The Word

Monthly Newsletter

published by

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**September 2013**



In this Issue:

Message from Father.....	1
Services & Readings.....	2
Acolyte and Candle Duty Schedules.....	2
Parish Activities & Ministries .....	3
Nativity Religious Education.....	3-5
IOCC Dinner.....	6
September Calendar.....	7
Gyros Luncheon.....	8
Community News & Events.....	9
Area Festivals.....	9
Minoans Information.....	10
Sacraments & Rites.....	11
Stewardship 2013.....	11

### 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
- Elaine Cunningham
- Fr. Constantine Efstathiou
- Alexandra Edrich
- Fr. Haralambos Fox
- James Kolyvas
- 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 church office.**



# Parish Activities & Ministries

## Philoptochos

The Philoptochos would like to thank Debbie Kokalis for successfully leading us for the past two years. I feel blessed to have been elected as President of the Philoptochos. I am looking forward to working with the Board to make it an exciting year and to continue our philanthropic endeavors. We are always looking for new ideas. Please try to attend one of the meetings.

### **Pennies & Prayers**

Pennies and Prayers canisters have been turned in, and we are happy to announce that we were able to send over \$700 to the Metropolis in support of the Commission for Orthodox Missions and Evangelism (C.O.M.E.), which establishes new missions and the growing of the Orthodox Faith throughout the West. Thank you for your continued support of this worthy organization.

### **Coffee Hour**

Now that summer is winding down and we're getting back into our normal routine, I would like to thank everyone who helped keep our fellowship hour going. Thank you to Paraskeve Karavolos for hosting a delicious luncheon for Presbyteria Kay's birthday and for St. Paraskeve's name day, to John and Dolly Kosturos for all the muffins, and to Carol Economy for keeping the coffee hour going during the summer.

Hosting a coffee hour is a wonderful way to stay in touch, honor a loved one, celebrate a birthday, anniversary, name day or just come together as a family. Coffee will be prepared for you and put on the serving table. We will also provide juice and Oreos for the children. So all you have to do is bring some goodies, plate them, and put them on the serving tables...Easy!

If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour, please contact Debbie Kokalis at 367-5252. She will be happy to schedule your date. If you are unable to host a coffee hour, any food donations are much appreciated. Just drop off your food item before church.

### **Upcoming Events**

We will sponsor a Gyros Luncheon on Sunday, September 15 (see flyer on page 8). Cost is \$6 per Gyro, and the proceeds will benefit the philanthropic activities of the Philoptochos Society.

### **September Outing**

On Sunday, September 22, we will be attending the Glendi Ethnic Food Fair in Santa Rosa at St. Seraphim Orthodox Church. (This is Bonnie's church.) We will be leaving after church and carpooling there. If you are interested in carpooling, please let Irene Meehan know at 892-8653 or imeehan715@hotmail.com.

### **Fall Conference**

The Fall Philoptochos Spiritual Conference will be held on September 27-29 at Saint Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, Ca. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Irene Meehan for more information.

### **Birthdays**

The following Philoptochos members have birthdays coming up in September: Mary Kay Stratigos (9/3), George Tacticos (9/6), Pat Destein (9/9), Connie Captanian (9/12), Anna Cordellos (9/14) and Matina Seremetis (9/28). Happy Birthday to all of you!! And many, many more.....

### **Dates to Remember**

**Sep 5** Board Meeting, 6:30 pm

**Sep 15** Gyro Luncheon

**Sep 22** Coffee Hour Hosted by  
Greek School

**Sep/Oct** Holy Cross Luncheon TBD



## Folk Dancing

Greek dance rehearsals resume on September 4. Children in grades pre-K through 6th will meet 5:45-6:45 pm, grades 7 through 12 will meet 7:00-9:00 pm. College and adult dancers meet Tuesday evenings. Rehearsals are for elementary, high school and adult dancers interested in learning and performing Greek folk dances, no experience necessary to join (just a willingness to commit and have fun). Please contact Effie Fourakis for more information, 415-823-9433 or effiejf@me.com. See flyer on page 10.

## Greek School

Greek School will sponsor Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 22. Registrations will take place during that coffee hour.

Classes for children in grades K through 12 will begin Wednesday, October 2. If you have any questions, please contact Presb. Eleni.

## Nativity Parish Education Ministry

God has blessed us to learn every moment of our lives -- from conception, up to and through our death! The experiences of our life that embrace our learning nature are understood as *educational*. Nativity engages our learning nature through educational ministries, and we are pleased to announce the beginning of a new Educational Ministry!

The content of educational programs remains constant, regardless of age. That is, the total youth education curriculum will also be offered in the adult education curriculum -- taught at age-appropriate levels and pace.

## Youth Religious Education

The Youth Education program will be offered in the traditional time of Sunday School, beginning immediately after the children receive Holy Communion during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings.

### Classical Education Model

The Classical Education Model has successfully existed for thousands of years, educating figures from Socrates to Thomas Jefferson! Built upon the recognition of natural learning capacities, a tier system of education is offered based upon age.

- Tier 1: Memorization
- Tier 2: Analytical
- Tier 3: Abstract

Built upon Classical Education theory, Nativity of Christ youth education annual themes are structured to embrace natural learning capacities.

*Continued on Page 4*

## *The Three S's*

The development of Orthodox Christian identity is the most valuable product of the Nativity of Christ youth education experience.

Three cores are offered at each grade level,

Scripture

Services

Saints

through which to learn subject matter in each weekly lesson. These cores are central to Orthodox Christianity and through their development create a lens of Orthodox Christian identity for our youth to understand and define themselves.

### *Annual Theme Curriculum*

Each grade maintains an annual theme, which is broken into several unit themes comprised of weekly lessons. Due to current enrollment size of Nativity grade levels, grade levels are coupled, therefore annual themes will rotate by year in these classrooms.

#### **Pre-K / Kindergarten**

Pre-K & Kindergardeners will learn Christian principles through planned activities and fellowship. Parents are encouraged to communicate with staff as to how they may serve as teacher assistants.

#### **Grade 1 ~ Saints**

"The Holy Gifts for the holy people of God." First graders will learn the meaning and experience of 'holiness' through exposure to multiple individual and groupings of saints.

#### **Grade 2 ~ Feast Days**

Second graders will learn the Major Feast Days of the Church, along with several Minor Feasts. Through the study of the Church's feasts, exposure and insight is established into the life of Orthodoxy and its Scriptural foundation.

#### **Grade 3 ~ The Old Testament**

Third graders will learn the structure of the Old Testament, several Scriptural characters and the general messages delivered by God to mankind through His first testament.

#### **Grade 4 ~ The New Testament**

Fourth graders will learn the structure of the New Testament, several Scriptural characters and the general messages delivered by God to mankind through His second testament.

#### **Grade 5 ~ Church History**

Fifth graders will learn chapters of Church history through exposure to selected chapters of Christian experience, including: the Apostolic, Early Church, Byzantine, Persecution, and Modern eras.

#### **Grade 6 ~ The Divine Liturgy**

Sixth graders will learn the structure, practical and theological elements of the Divine Liturgy. Greater insight into weekly liturgical experience will become more significant in the growth of liturgical participation.

#### **Grade 7 ~ Ecumenical Councils**

Seventh graders will learn the chronology, participants and outcomes of the Church's Ecumenical Councils. Through this course of study, exposure to Christian theology is taught and made accessible.

#### **Grade 8 ~ Sacraments**

Eighth graders will learn the nature and experience of God's grace through the study of the Church's Sacraments. Through this course of study, exposure to Christian theology is taught and made accessible.

#### **High School ~ Abstract Application**

High Schoolers will cultivate their Christian identity through abstract development of group conversation in the following areas: Sunday Epistle Readings, Sunday Gospel Readings, Liturgical Cycles and Modern Orthodox Experience.

## Activity Days

### Apprenticeship & Fellowship

Quality education programs from antiquity and today maintain a component and experience of apprenticeship. Christian experience is centered upon the innate relationship we have with God. This relationship then becomes manifest in the relationships we develop with one another -- altogether comprising the greater experience of fellowship. The Nativity Youth Education Program facilitates the experience and growth of both apprenticeship and fellowship, most especially on "Activity Days." The First Sunday of each month will be an "Activity Day" where under adult supervision, high school students will lead activities with all Pre K - Grade 8 students.

## Adult Religious Education

The Adult Education Program will be repeated twice weekly, once on a weekday morning, and once on a weekday evening -- in the effort to make the educational offering accessible to the majority of Nativity faithful and friends. In addition to everyone's personal Bible, all course materials will be provided.

### Wednesday 6 pm & Thursday 10 am

A new topic will be explored each month, all taught with emphasis in the topic's association to Scripture, Church Services, and Saints.

#### September ~ Saints

"The Holy Gifts for the holy people of God." Participants will learn the meaning and experience of 'holiness,' through exposure to multiple individual and groupings of saints.

#### October ~ Feast Days

Participants will learn the Major Feast Days of the Church, along with several Minor Feasts. Through the study of the Church's feasts, exposure and insight is established into the life of Orthodoxy and its Scriptural foundation.

#### November ~ Old Testament

Participants will learn the structure of the Old Testament, several Scriptural characters and the general messages delivered by God to mankind through His first testament.

#### December ~ New Testament

Participants will learn the structure of the New Testament, several Scriptural characters and the general messages delivered by God to mankind through His second testament.

#### January ~ Church History

Participants will learn chapters of Church history through exposure to selected chapters of Christian experience, including: the Apostolic, Early Church, Byzantine, Persecution, and Modern eras.

#### February ~ The Divine Liturgy

Participants will learn the structure, practical and theological elements of the Divine Liturgy. Greater insight into weekly liturgical experience will become more significant in the growth of liturgical participation.

#### March ~ Ecumenical Councils

Participants will learn the chronology, participants and outcomes of the Church's Ecumenical Councils. Through this course of study, exposure to Christian theology is taught and made accessible.

#### April ~ Sacraments

Participants will learn the nature and experience of God's grace through the study of the Church's Sacraments. Through this course of study, exposure to Christian theology is taught and made recognizable.

#### May ~ Orthodoxy in North America

Participants will learn a general history of Orthodoxy Christianity in the New World, and the present structures and experience of the Orthodox Christian Church in North America, specifically as directly connected to the Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Christian Church.





# PASSPORT *to* HOPE



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF

*Faith, Culture  
& Culinary Delights*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2013

HOSTED BY

NATIVITY OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SPECIAL EVENING IN CELEBRATION OF THE CULTURE OF THE BAY  
AREA'S ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF THE  
HUMANITARIAN AID AND DEVELOPMENT WORK OF  
INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES










# NATIVITY OF CHRIST

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

# SEPTEMBER

2 0 1 3

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Church Year Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  Youth Religious Education Teachers Meeting 11:30-12:30	2	3	4 •Folk Dance 5:45pm	5 •Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 pm	6 •Wedding 1:00 pm	7
8 Nativity of the Theotokos & Sunday Before the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  Parish Education Presentation following Divine Liturgy	9	10 •Parish Council 7:30 pm	11 •Folk Dance 5:45pm	12 •Folk Dance 5:45pm	13 7:00 pm Feast Day Vespers at Holy Cross Belmont	14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 
15 Sunday After the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Youth Religious Education Classes Begin	16 Philoptochos Gyros Luncheon following Liturgy	17 Saints Sophia, Faith, Hope & Love Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  Bible Study following Divine Liturgy	18 •Folk Dance 5:45pm •Adult Ed - Topic: Saints 6:00 pm	19 •Adult Ed - Topic: Saints 10:00 am	20	21 •Baptism 10:30 am •Baptism 2:00 pm
22 1st Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  • Youth Education follows Greek School Registration at Coffee Hour	23 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am • Youth Education follows	24 •Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	25 •Folk Dance 5:45pm •Adult Ed - Topic: Saints 6:00 pm	26 Saint John, the Evangelist  Divine Liturgy 9:30 am •Adult Ed - Topic: Saints following Divine Liturgy	27	28
29 2nd Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  • Youth Education follows	30	Oct. 1 •Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	2 •Greek School 4:00 pm •Folk Dance 5:45pm •Adult Ed - Topic: Feast Days 6:00 pm	3 •Adult Ed - Topic: Feast Days 10:00 am	4	5



# Gyro Luncheon

hosted by the  
Philoptochos Society

Sunday, September 15

\$6.00

immediately following the Divine Liturgy

*Proceeds to Benefit The  
Philanthropic Works  
of Philoptochos*







## 2013 Festival Results

The numbers are in (\$144,509 gross income), the bills are paid (\$71,974 in expenses) and we have good news for all. The net proceeds of this year's Festival are \$72,535. A check for \$3,625.00 has been sent to our Charity Partner, Homeward Bound, and the remainder is going into the parish operating funds.

Thank you to Festival Chairs, **Ed Keller** and **Mike Madias**, and to their Festival Committee for the many hours they contributed in planning and execution. In addition, a huge thank you to all who participated in many varying capacities behind the scenes and on the front lines.

Congratulations!



## Community News and Events

### **Feast Day Vespers Holy Cross Church, Belmont Friday, September 13 7:00 pm**

The parish of Holy Cross Church in Belmont will celebrate Vespers in honor of the Feast of the Holy Cross on **Friday, September 13, at 7:00 pm**. Everyone is encouraged to join them in this celebration of their Feast Day.

are 11 am - 11 pm on Friday, August 30; Noon - 11 pm on Saturday, August 31; and Noon - 10 pm on Sunday, September 1. Visit <http://annunciation.ca.goarch.org/foodfestival/> or call 916-443-2743 for additional information.

**Contra Costa Greek Food Festival** will be held at **St. Demetrios Church in Concord, Friday, September 14 through Sunday, September 16**. For information, call (925) 676-6967, or visit <http://www.stdemetrios.ca.goarch.org/>.

## Area Festivals

The **Belmont Greek Festival** will be held Labor Day weekend, **Saturday, August 31 through Monday, September 2**, at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 900 Alameda (corner of Ralston Ave.), in Belmont. For information, call (650) 591-4447, or visit <http://www.goholycross.org/>.

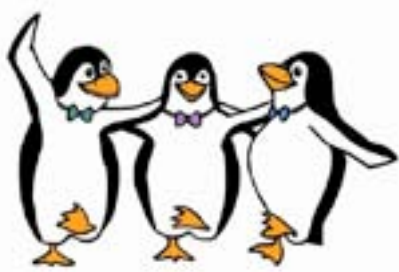
**Sacramento Greek Festival**, sponsored by **Annunciation Church**, will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center (400 J Street) on Friday - Sunday, August 30-September 1. Hours

**A Taste of Greece** at **Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco, Sept 20, 21 and 22**. Visit <http://www.annunciation.org/about/festival-2010/> or call 415-864-8000 for information.

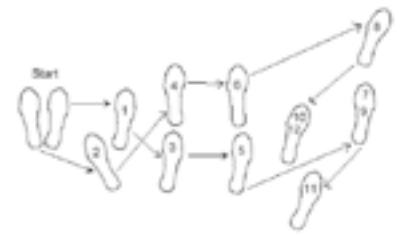
**The 24th Annual Glendi Ethnic Food Fair** will be held at **St. Seraphim/Protection of the Virgin Orthodox Church in Santa Rosa on Saturday and Sunday, September 21-22**. Go to [www.saintseraphim.com](http://www.saintseraphim.com) for more information.

*"The merciful person is he who gives to others what he has himself received from God, whether it be money, food, strength, a helpful word, prayer or anything else that he has through which he can express his compassion for those in need. At the same time he considers himself a debtor since he has received more than he is asked to give."*

St. Peter of Damascus



# MINOAN DANCERS FAQs



## Q: Why Greek dance?

A: Greek dancing is great exercise! Since most dances are done in a line, dancers of all different ages, abilities and experience learn to work together. And when they master a dance, they know they did it as a team.

## Q: Do you have to be Greek to Greek dance?

A: Not at all! A desire to learn and a commitment to rehearse is all that's needed.

## Q: I've never danced before, what if I can't get it?

A: That's why we rehearse every week and review, review, review.

## Q: What's so great about performing anyway?

A: Performing on stage, in costume swells self-confidence and it's easy because you're in a group and everyone relies on each other.

## Q: I've heard it's really expensive to be in the dance group.

A: Tuition is \$100/year for one dancer in a family and \$150 if there are two or more dancers in the family.

## Q: What about costumes?

A: The group provides costumes for all the dancers for \$50 per year rental fee.

## Q: Do I have to attend the Folk Dance Festival?

A: No, it's not a requirement to attend. Many dancers practice all year and choose to perform locally.

## Q: What is that Folk Dance Festival all about anyway?

A: FDF is a ministry of our Metropolis. It's held every February at a different location. It's a competition but mostly it's an opportunity for faith, fellowship, family, friends and fun.

## Q: What about fundraising?

A: Everyone's help is needed at the Gyros booth at the Marin County Fair in July.

## Q: How do I sign up?

A: Check the schedule below and come to your first rehearsal!



## FYI

The Minoan dance ministry fundraises to cover program expenses and provide scholarships



Some benefits of joining the Minoan dance ministry:

- Exercise
- Increased coordination
- Fellowship & friends
- Greek culture instruction

## Greek dance lessons start in September

Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup> for college/adults, 7:30 - 10 pm

Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup> for elementary and high school students:

Pre-K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students 5:45 - 6:45 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade students 5:45 - 6:45 pm

7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade students 7:00 - 9:00 pm

For more information, contact  
Effie Fourakis

415-823-9433 • [effiejf@me.com](mailto:effiejf@me.com)

# Sacraments and Rites

## 40-Day Blessing

July 14 **Luke**, and his mother, Erica Tzafopoulos. Proud father is John Tzafopoulos and grandparents are Nick & Vasiliki Tzafopoulos.

## Baptisms

March 2 **Nikos Constantinos**, son of Dean & Denis Kuvelas. Sponsors were Andrew & Panayiota Hatzis.

June 29 **Knox Daniel**, son of Daniel and Caterina Agaloula Callan. Sponsors were Laurie & Elias Haldezos.

August 11 **Theodora Maria**, daughter of George & Maria Tsiplakos. Sponsor was Sophia Evania Pantazes.

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

## Wedding

July 13 **Anthonia Papadakis** and **Tony Kosmas**. Koumbaro was George Adondakis.

*"You have set on their heads crowns of precious stones."*

## Artoclasia

July 21 In honor of St. Markella and for the health of the members of the **Agia Markella Chian Society**.

August 15 In honor of the Panagia and for the health of their family, offered by **George & Paraskevi Catel and Tony & Antonia Touras**

*"Those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing."*

## Memorials

June 2 Ted Madias, George Perivolaris and Marko Perivolaris

June 9 Lula Kamages

June 16 Estes (Steve) Smyrni

*"May their memory be eternal."*

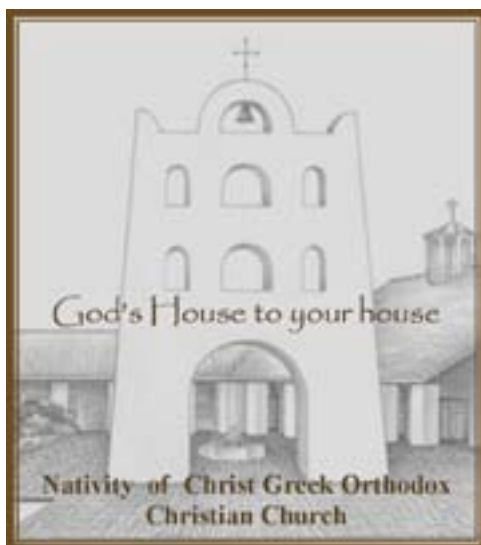
## Condolences

To Bill and Floretta Burrows on the recent passing of Floretta's aunt, **Ann Batanides**, who reposed at the age of 92; and to Dick & Connie Grey on the passing of Connie's sister, **Dora Johnson**, in San Rafael.

*"May their memory be eternal."*



## 2013 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



**"Τὰ σὰ ἐκ τῶν σῶν σοὶ προσφέρομεν κατὰ πάντα καὶ διὰ πάντα."**

"We offer to You these gifts from Your own gifts in all and for all."

In the Divine Liturgy the priest raises the bread and wine being offered to God, and announces to God that these gifts being offered to him, have been taken from the gifts that He has already given to us -- grapes (wine) and wheat (bread), both natural gifts from God grown in His earth! We then offer a portion of these gifts back to Him in the Divine Liturgy... for our own good! We offer God these gifts so that He may transform them into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, for our sanctification and healing of souls! So, to be clear -- in the Divine Liturgy, we take a small amount of what God has already given to us, and offer it back to Him, so that He can use it for our own good! This is the pinnacle experience and illustration of Stewardship offering! God has given us all that we have, either directly or indirectly -- yes, He gave you the ability and opportunity to develop your life, including your financial resources.

As in the Divine Liturgy, we are called to offer back to God a portion of what initiated from Him -- again, for our own good! When we offer responsible stewardship to God, He increases the grace that He extends to us... that is a good thing!

2013 Stewardship Update

August 19, 2013

### **Stewardship Commitments Received between 6/24/13 and 8/19/13**

Blasingame, David & Katina  
Lamerdin, Christopher & Victoria  
Meehan, Nicole  
Mouzakis, Robert  
Scott, Anthony & Renee  
Siefkas, Chris & Susan  
Vangelatos, Demetra

Number of Commitment Cards Received	253
Total Amount Committed	\$180,015
Budgeted Goal	\$205,000

### **Thank You**

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

We are almost 3/4 complete with the 2013 year--have you made a responsible offering back to God, from all that He has given you? Was it the most responsible offering that you can make? The good news is that it is not too late--complete or increase your 2013 Stewardship pledge to Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church today, and faithfully receive the continued grace that our Heavenly Father bestows upon us! Remember, each Divine Liturgy is the perfect illustration of Stewardship offering -- be a participant today!



Nativity of Christ  
Greek Orthodox Church  
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Permit No. 124

Change Service Requested

*Dated Material*

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## *Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14*

*Save, O Lord, Your people and  
bless Your inheritance; grant  
victory to the faithful against  
the adversaries of the Faith.  
And protect Your people by  
Your precious cross.*

*Troparion of the Exaltation  
of the Holy Cross*

