

# The Word

## June & July 2026



*“And the Word became flesh & dwelt  
among us, full of grace & truth.”  
~John 1:14*

Dear Stewards and Faithful of Nativity of Christ,

I wish to sincerely thank all of you for the incredible honor and love you showed my family in celebrating our 10th anniversary serving Nativity of Christ.

Over these past ten years, it has been a tremendous blessing and joy to walk together with you in faith, worship, ministry, and fellowship as we all strive to grow closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Your prayers, encouragement, generosity, and love have sustained my family and me throughout this journey, and we are deeply grateful.

Since His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos assigned me to Nativity of Christ, I have continually felt blessed by his support and prayers. It was especially meaningful to have His Grace Bishop Ioannis present to read a congratulatory message on his behalf, further expressing the love and care our hierarchs have for their clergy and faithful.

I am also profoundly grateful for the mentorship, guidance, wisdom, and brotherly support of Fr. Constantine Efstathiou throughout these past ten years. His encouragement and example have been a tremendous blessing to me both personally and pastorally.

It was especially meaningful that our Office Administrator, Rebekah

Harmon, was present for Sunday’s celebration, as she has faithfully been by the side of this parish throughout my entire ministry here. Her humble and dedicated service provides tremendous support not only to me personally, but to our entire parish family.

Likewise, our parish is blessed to have such a talented and devoted Ministries Director in Eleni Kelley. Her hard work, creativity, thoughtful leadership, and attention to detail continually strengthen every ministry of our parish, and her loving efforts were clearly reflected throughout Sunday’s beautiful celebration.

I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Parish Council President, Nonda Kozas, and the entire Parish Council for their faithful leadership, stewardship, and service to our community. Additionally, I thank all of our ministry leaders and volunteers who work tirelessly to cultivate vibrant ministries that nurture, inspire, and care for parishioners of all ages. The beautiful presentations and thoughtful gifts from the Greek School, Sunday School, Welcome Ministry, Dance Program, and Philoptochos were all deeply touching and meaningful to our family.

Finally, I must especially thank my Presvytera Stephanie and our children for their unwavering love, sacrifice, patience, and support as we

strive together to serve this beloved parish. Yet the reason they are able to support me, is because they themselves have always felt supported and loved by all of you. From the very beginning, you welcomed us not simply as clergy, but as family. For the past ten years, you have embraced us, prayed for us, encouraged us, and allowed us to become part of your lives. Likewise, you have become a significant part of ours.

The incredibly generous gift of a family trip to Disneyland is truly overwhelming and humbling. Beyond its generosity, we are deeply moved by the thoughtfulness and love behind such a beautiful gesture. It will provide our family with precious time together and memories we will cherish for years to come. We feel so honored and humbled that you chose to celebrate this milestone in such a loving and meaningful way.

My prayer is that our Lord will continue to bless our parish community and guide all of us to cultivate sincere and authentic relationships with Him. Thank you again for this tremendous honor and for the love you continually show our family.

May God continue to bless us all always.

With love in Christ,  
Fr. John

# June & July Services

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All services will be streamed.

[Stream Services Here](#)

## June & July Services

Date	Service	Time
Sunday, June 7	All Saints	8:30 am
Sunday June 14	2nd Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Sunday, June 21	3rd Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Wednesday, June 24	Nativity of St. John the Baptist	8:30 am
Sunday, June 28	4th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Sunday, July 5	5th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Sunday, July 12	6th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Sunday, July 19	Holy Fathers	8:30 am
Monday, July 20	Elias the Prophet	8:30 am
Sunday, July 26	8th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Monday, July 27	St. Panteleimon	8:30 am

## Building on Our Faith Initiative

### May 3

On Sunday, May 3, our Orthodox fundraising consultant, Jerry Minetos, shared the detailed findings of the Planning Study in a presentation to the parish. His message was overwhelmingly positive, and he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to present such encouraging results for the future of our parish.

Steve Rouman, representing the Steering Committee, followed with next steps. Jerry Minetos will immediately begin preparations for a fundraising campaign. Simultaneously, the construction documents will be further refined until their submission to the City of Novato.

We invite you to review both presentations by visiting our parish website. Please reach out to the Steering Committee with any additional questions.



## Stewardship in the Summer

Summer is a season filled with warmth, growth and beauty. The longer days and vibrant landscapes remind us of God's goodness and faithfulness. It is also a powerful time to reflect on stewardship, the responsibility God gives us to wisely manage our time, talents, and treasure. Every blessing and every opportunity is a gift from God. By honoring Him with our time, resources and lives we reflect His love to the world around us. In Matthew 5:16, it reminds us to "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Your faithful generosity to the church through your stewardship is a blessing that is sincerely appreciated. May you feel the warmth of the SON's rays this summer, and find rest and refreshment for your body, mind and spirit.



### SACK MEAL PROJECT

FOR THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S FREE DINING ROOM

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHERE</b>
Thursday, June 18	9-11AM NOC Kitchen
<b>VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
4 Volunteers for Sandwich Making	4 Volunteers for the Assembly Line

**SIGN UP HERE**

**CONTACT**

Elaine Chyrklund at [elainechyrklund@gmail.com](mailto:elainechyrklund@gmail.com)  
or Mary Kay Stratigos at [mkstrato@gmail.com](mailto:mkstrato@gmail.com)

Help prepare 150 sack meals for the needy in our community. If you are unable to volunteer, monetary donations are welcome. Cash or check payable to Nativity of Christ. Memo: Sack Meal

## Jonathan's Place VOLUNTEERS

MARCH 29, MAY 31, AUGUST 30 AND NOVEMBER 29

ANY # OF VOLUNTEERS WELCOME FOR FOOD PREP  
⌚ 2:30 pm, Church Kitchen, for meal preparation (~2 hours)

2-3 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SERVING  
⌚ 5:00 pm, Jonathan's Place, San Rafael, for meal serving (~1.5 - 2 hours)

**CONTACT**

Gigi Pappas Medan  
[gondid2@comcast.net](mailto:gondid2@comcast.net)

# Philoptochos

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## Greek Experience Ministry

We are so blessed to have completed another wonderful year of Greek School — truly one of our best yet. With increased staff support, higher enrollment, and more class offerings, our community continued to grow in all the right ways. Our in-person program met every Wednesday and included three classes: Preschool, Beginner Elementary, and Higher Elementary. We also offered three online Zoom classes for adults, giving learners near and far the chance to connect with the Greek language and culture.

Registration for the 2026–2027 school year will open in August, and classes will begin around September. Please keep an eye out for updates. Thank you to all our students, families, teachers, and volunteers for a wonderful year. Your dedication and enthusiasm make this program what it is.



# Sunday School

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## Sunday School Summer Blessing

Dear Parents and Families,  
As we enter this beautiful summer season, we wish you all a time filled with rest, joy, and precious moments together.  
May your days be blessed with peace, laughter, and God's grace.

Enjoy this time of break and renewal, knowing that our Sunday School will be here waiting for you when we return to our classrooms and homes at the end of the summer.

Wherever your travels may take you, we gently encourage you to attend an Orthodox church, staying connected in faith no matter where you are.

On behalf of all of our Sunday School,  
**God bless you** and have a wonderful summer!

WISHING YOU A SAFE, JOYFUL, AND BLESSED SUMMER!

THANK YOU!

FAITH  
HOPE  
LOVE

The graphic is a vibrant summer-themed collage. It features a tropical beach scene with a blue and white striped umbrella, a red chair, and a blue chair. In the background, there are mountains, a lake with a boat, and a sailboat. A basket of fruit sits on a picnic blanket. A signpost with arrows points to 'FAITH', 'HOPE', and 'LOVE'. A blue backpack and sneakers are also visible. The overall tone is bright and cheerful.

*May 16 Hike with JOY*

JOY wrapped up their first year with a hike to Buck Gulch Falls. The children enjoyed and reflected on the beauty of God's creation, and of course had fun! Thank you to all the families that made the JOY ministries first year a great success. Look out for more amazing JOY events for the upcoming school year!



*Metropolis*  
*Oratorical Festival*

We enthusiastically congratulate Eleni Passaris for receiving First Place honors in the Junior Division at the San Francisco Metropolis St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival! Eleni will now represent our Parish and the San Francisco Metropolis at the National St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival.

Congratulations Eleni!



*An Evening with Bishop Demetrios, author of Grace Unbound*

On May 14, we were blessed with Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos who spoke about his book, "Grace Unbound." It was a thought provoking presentation about the sanctify of life from the womb to the tomb. Thank you Steve and Liz Rouman for hosting such a memorable evening.



# May 17 Celebrations

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# High School Graduates

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**Katia Antonis** is graduating from St. Vincent De Paul College Prep. She will attend University of Nevada Reno.



**Christian Castro** is graduating from Novato High School. He will attend Arizona State University.



**Demitria Hall** is graduating from Tamalpais High School. She will attend Santa Barbara Community College.



**Trenton J. Hanis** is graduating from Lawson Academy. He will be attending college.



**Chloe Kamages** is graduating from Credo High School. She will attend UC San Diego.



**Sophia Passaris** is graduating from Homeschool/Napa Valley College. She will attend UC Santa Barbara.

# Graduates

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**Iakov Blasingame** is graduating from Good Shepherd Lutheran school. He will attend Pacific Grove High School.

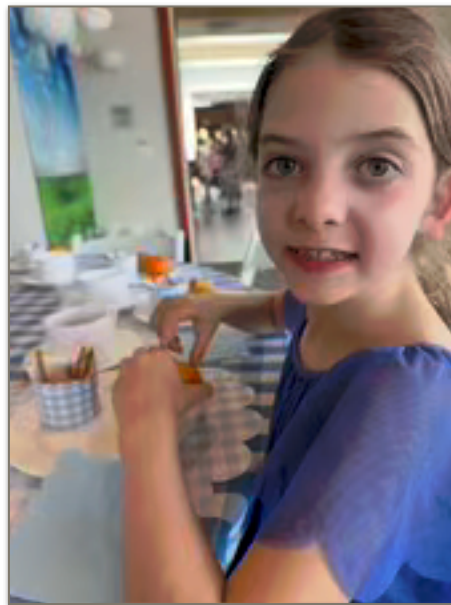
Congratulations to all of our graduates!  
May you always have the blessings of our Lord!



**Alexandra Hall** is graduating from Mill Valley Middle School. She will attend Tamalpais High School.



**Yianni Capetanos** is graduating from Good Shepherd Lutheran School. He will attend Good Shepherd Middle School .



**Zoe Fisher** is graduating from Reed School. She will attend Bel Aire Elementary School.



**Robbie Fisher** is graduating from Bel Aire Elementary. He will attend Del Mar Middle School.

# Recent Highlights

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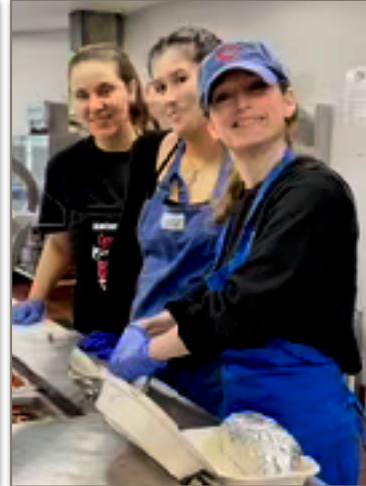
## Recent Minoan Activities

Performances at Sterling Vineyards in Calistoga...



SF Greek Independence Day Parade with Evzones from Greece

## May Gyro Fest to Go Highlights



## Ladies Night

NOC Ladies Line Dancing Night Out was a great night. Thank you to our incredible instructor Andy Crowley for being so incredible and patient! Everyone did great and had so much fun! We hope you all have a wonderful summer break and we can't wait to spend time together again in September!

# Marin Greek Festival

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## Thank You

Words cannot fully express our gratitude for your hard work at the 2026 Marin Greek Festival. Each of you played an essential role in making the 2026 Marin Greek Festival a success and we are truly blessed to have such an extraordinary team of volunteers. It is only through your commitment that we are able to host our Festival each year. Beyond your hard work, it is your spirit and warmth that truly stood out as we welcomed thousands of visitors to our Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church campus. You are the heart of this effort, and the reason that we are able to touch so many lives each year. Your willingness to give of your time and talents is inspiring, and we cannot thank you enough.

We hope that you know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. The impact you've made is lasting, and the memories created during the 2026 Marin Greek Festival will remain with us all. Thank you for being part of our Festival team and may the kindness you give so freely come back to you in abundance.

*The Steering Committee*



# Marin Greek Festival

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# Marin Greek Festival

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# June and July Name Days

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It is the practice of our Church to give the name of a Saint to a newborn child. By assuming the name of a Saint, we honor the Saint, and we also provide the new Christian with an example worthy of emulation. The Saint then becomes the patron of the child, and we pray that through the Saint's intercessions, God will guide and protect the child throughout the child's life. Each month, we will be acknowledging in our monthly bulletin those celebrating their name day.



If by chance we accidentally missed someone's name day, we ask that you please contact the Church Office so that we may correct our records. We extend our prayers to all those celebrating their name day this month and beseech our heavenly Father to grant them many years!

## June 8: St. Kalliope

Keri Antonis  
Claire Gagas  
Collie Page  
Kay Simon

## June 26: St. David

David Barbieri  
David Blasingame  
Dave Flohr  
Michael David Squires  
David Vossler

## June 29: St. Paul

Paul Efstathiou  
Paul Foster  
Peter Gikkas  
Paul Mayer  
Paula Plessas-Hall

## June 30: Synaxis of the 12

Lela Perivolaris

## July 1: Sts. Cosmas and Damian

Roula Fourakis  
Angie Kozas

## July 7: St. Kyriaki

Carrie Delfino  
Kelly Taft

## July 7: St. Odysseas

Odysseas Fourakis  
Odysseus Tangelakis

## July 10: St. Amalia

Amalia Haginicols

## July 13: St. Serapion

Sara Perivolaris

## July 15: St. Vladimir

William Burrows

## July 17: St. Marina

Marina Eggleston  
Marina Kocolas

Marina Medan

Marina Papanikolaou

Marina Pelagia Scanagatta

Megan Wright

## July 19: St. Macrina

Valentina Pajcini

## July 20: St. Elijah

Elianna Castro

Elias Thomas Michael

## July 22: St. Markella

Marti Madias

## July 24: St. Christina

Tristyn Bryan

Christine England

Christina Foster

Christina Misthos

Christina Rangoussis

Christina Thomatos

Chrissy Zotalis

## July 26: St. Paraskevi

Paraskevi Catel

Payton Lewis

## July 27: St. Panteleimon

Pantelis Bratsis

Alex Zaphiris

## July 28: St. Irene

Lydia Erin Dellinger

## July 29: St Kallinokos

Beatrix Io Cummings

## July 30: St. Julitta

Marina Lucas

## July 31: St. Joseph

Kenn Cunningham



# 2026 Stewardship Pledges (as of May 20, 2026)

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Presiding Priest Fr. John & Pres. Stephanie Kocolas	Fradelizio, John & Georgia Franklin, Alexandra Friedman, Peter & Katina Pantazes	Livanos, Nick & Patti Lynn, Tom & Lucille Picras- Lynn	Soeten, Alexandra Sotiras, Erene Sotiras, George Sotiras, Maria
Priest Emeritus Fr. Constantine Efstathiou	Fuss, Patrick Gagas, Charles & Claire Garton, Elena	Madias, Alexander & Robyn Madias, Constantine & Marti Madias, Michael & Laurie Madias, Theodore	Spiliotis, Maria Starling, Eric & Irene Starling, James Stathis, Pete & Dina
Pres. Evelyn Adams	Gatzios, Yiannis & Catherine Gavallos, Dennis Gavallos, Victor D.	Manesis, Alexandria Manos, Michele Marshall, Philip & Kathy Mavromihalis, Steve & Vickie	Stathis, Sophia Stavrinides, Nicholas Stavrinides, Thalia Stenros, Stuart & Stella
Adams, Bill & Lisa Albanes, Joseph Alpogianis, Evangeline Antonis, Chris & Keri Antonis, Eleni	George, Ann Georgeson, George & Deborah Geron, Diana	Mayer, Jordan Mayer, Paul & Diana Demetrulias	Stockton, John & Susan Stratigos, Nikolas Stratigos, Sophia Stratigos, Spiro & Mary Kay
Appling, Sam & Meghan Arango, Pat Argyres, Andreas & Joanne Barry, Stephen & Mary Barry- Samios	Gikkas, Pete & Vickie Hatos Gikkas, Stephanie Gunder, Nicholas & Sidsel Haginicols, Amalia	Medan, Dushan & Gigi Meehan, Nicole Meehan, Tom & Irene Meek, Gerald & Stamatia	Szyrynski, Gabriel & Jenny Walters Tacticos, George Tarazi, Alex & Carla
Batbie, Donald & Barbara Bechaka, Sonia Bertolina, Ronald & Elaine Botaitis, Demetri Bratsis, Haralampos & Stella Brzycki, Jeff & Tracy Langly Burrows, Bill & Floretta Camamis, Dina	Hajopoulos, Kathy Hall, Bryan & Paula Plessas- Hall	Meek, Jason Mehas, Christine Misthos, Eileen Morris, Susan Morrisssey, Lloyd & Anastasia Pinoris	Touras, Anthony & Antonia Trapalis, Niovi Triantafyllos, John & Laura Tsapakis, Geoge & Maria-Alexandra
Capetanios, Bill & Chrisoula Captanian, Alexis Captanian, Ted & Connie Castro, Jef & Joanna Catel, Paraskevi Cerecedes, Frank & Dawne Chyrklund, Christopher & Elaine	Haralambopoulos, Costas & Ria	O'Connor, Wayne & Betty Zootis Orologas, Julie Orologas, Katerina	Tzafopoulos, Vasiliki Valakitsis, Yianni & Eugenia Dracopolous Vallas, James & Judith
Constantin, Gus & Mary Jane Contos, Jeff Corcoran, Bruce & Fran Cordellos, Dennis Crowley, Joseph & Andriana Cummings, Nathan & Daphne Cunningham, Kenn & Elaine Curelaru, Viorica	Haris, Nicolas & Nicole Haritoudis, Stamatia Harris, Helen Harvey, Robert & Elaine Hawker, Nina Hays, Keven & Marina Medan Hontalas, Chris & Susan Hontalas, Frank & Eve Hontalas, George & Amy Hundley, Courtney & Marilyn Hunter, John & Rose	Papanikolaou, George & Soula Papanikolaou, Marina Pappas, Evanthia Passaris, Michael & Meredith Pauletti, Jeff & Alexandra Pederson, Daniela Perivolaris, Nick Perivolaris, Sara Petracopoulos, Thelma Pineda, Andy & Matina Seremetis	Vasilopoulos, Nick & Eileen Gordon Vlachos, Anthoula Vlachos, Spirodon & Argyro Petsakos-Vlachos Vlachos, Yiannoula Vlahakos, Nick & Georgia Walters, Scott & Karen Weeks, Dan & Stacey Wiepking, Ruairi, & Alexandra Kremer
Doers, Guy Efstathiou, Paul & Kristen Eftimiou, Nick & Jeanette Eggleston, Philip & Angela E-Far, Karim & Jasmin Fafoutis, Diane Fisher, Gary & Alex Zaphiris Flohr, Dave & Diane Foster, Joanne Fotinos, Vivian	Iannios, Demetrios & Manu Jianas, Alex & Diana Kalabokes, Chris & Susan Marie Mariam Kalabokes, Matthew & Elina Kaliontzakis, Emmanuel & Bessie Mitskaris Kamages, Christ & Patricia Kambur, JoAnne Kambur, Nick & Karyn Kanas, Nick & Carolyn Keller, Edward & Karen Keller, Gregg Kelley, Stephen & Eleni Klobucher, Alex & Maria Pavlou	Pogno, Dean & Georgina Powers, Bill & Kiki Taft Psaros, Nick & Angi Psaros, Stamatis & Eleni Rodriguez, Ricardo & Demetra Vangelatos Roland, George & Doris Rouman, Steve & Liz Ruffcorn, Oren & Joanna Saldana, Mario & Jennifer Sandoval, Irene Sarantinos, Alexis Saris, Tony & Betty Scanagatta, Marina Scanagatta, Roman & Eleni Scanagatta, Valentina Sellas, Olga Selmi, Cathy Selmi, Helen Sideris, Stassie Siefkas, Chris & Susan Silverberg, Johnathan & Christina	Zachariou, Michael & Constantina Zahariudakis, Dimitrios & Charoula
Fourakis, Achilleas & Roula Athineos Fourakis, George & Sofia Nicklas Fourakis, Vasilis & Effie	Lagios, Sheila Lendaris, George Li, Robert & Stephanie Pappas Livadas, Carl & Stacy Drakousis	Simon, Kay Smith, Evdokia Smyrni, Anna	



Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church  
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THE WORD

June & July 2026

