

The Word

August 2026

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



Metropolitan Apostolos Elected as New Archbishop of Canada!

Dear Stewards and Faithful of Nativity of Christ,

With profound joy, the faithful of Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church extends its heartfelt congratulations to His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos upon his unanimous election as the new Archbishop of Canada.

This blessed announcement holds special meaning for our parish family, as 10 years ago, His Eminence was not only Chancellor of the Metropolis of San Francisco, but also played an instrumental role in the life of the parish and my assignment to Nativity of Christ.

His wisdom, pastoral care, and steadfast commitment to the life of the Church was evident then, as it is now. It is therefore particularly meaningful that we witness the Holy Spirit guiding the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in entrusting him with this new and sacred responsibility.

As His Eminence begins this new chapter of arch-pastoral ministry, we offer our fervent prayers that our Lord Jesus Christ grant him abundant health, strength, wisdom, and many blessed years as he shepherds the faithful of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada with love, humility, and faithfulness.

Axios! Εἰς πολλὰ ἔτη, Δέσποτα!

In Christ,

Fr. John



August Services

Connect • Engage • Grow

All services will be streamed.

[Stream Services Here](#)



August Services		
Date	Service	Time
Saturday, August 1	Great Vespers	5:30 pm
Sunday, August 2	9th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Monday, August 3	Paraklesis	6:30 pm
Tuesday, August 4	Great Vespers	6:30 pm
Wednesday, August 5	Paraklesis	6:30 pm
Thursday, August 6	The Transfiguration	8:30 am
Friday, August 7	Paraklesis	6:30 pm
Saturday, August 8	Great Vespers	5:30 pm
Sunday, August 9	10th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Monday, August 10	Paraklesis	6:30 pm
Tuesday, August 11	Paraklesis	9:30 am
Wednesday, August 12	Paraklesis	6:30 pm
Thursday, August 13	Paraklesis	9:30 am
Friday, August 14	Great Vespers	6:30 pm
Saturday, August 15	Dormition of the Theotokos	8:30 am
Sunday, August 16	11th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Sunday, August 23	12th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Saturday, August 29	The Beheading of St. John the Baptist	8:30 am
Sunday, August 30	13th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am

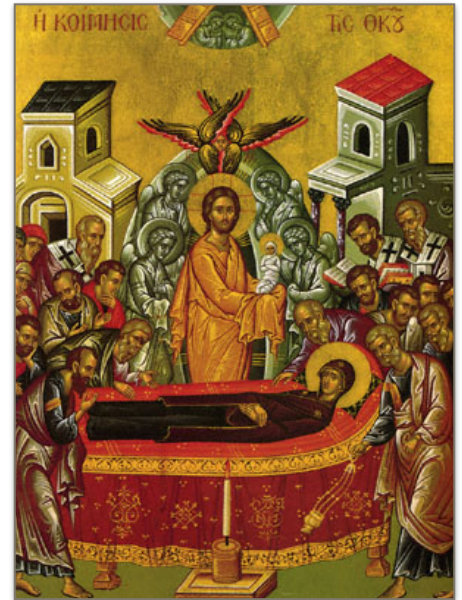
Stewardship

As summer begins to give way to autumn, the month of August invites us into a season of reflection, gratitude, and faithful living. For Orthodox Christians, August holds particular significance as we commemorate the Dormition of the Theotokos—a feast that calls us to honor her life of humility, trust, and devotion to God’s will. The Panagia faithfully stewarded every gift entrusted to her, offering her life in service to God with an open heart and unwavering faith. In Luke 1:38, “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered, “May your word to me be fulfilled,” remains a powerful example of what it means to receive God’s gifts with humility and respond with trust. Stewardship begins with this same spirit of surrender. The Panagia did not know what lay before her when she accepted God’s call, yet she embraced the uncertainty with faith, believing that God would accomplish His purpose through her. As we reflect on her example, we are reminded to consider our own stewardship to the Church with renewed gratitude, faithfulness, and trust in God’s provision.



The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God.



With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus’ Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying “Rejoice” to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.

These things has the Church received from the traditions of the Fathers, who have composed many hymns out of reverence, to the glory of the Mother of our God.

Philoptochos

Connect • Engage • Grow

Philoptochos Meeting

Please mark your calendar! Be a part of our planning for the 2026-2027 year of giving. Our first meeting of the year is **Tuesday, September 1 at 7 pm** in the church conference room. **All are welcome!** If you can, please meet us at 5:30 at Panera, Vintage Oaks and let's catch up on our summer adventures. For those of you who cannot attend in person, here is the Zoom link to the meeting. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83158313960?pwd=V0xTM0xEV3RMaFNZbGJ3Qy9CbNFJQT09> Meeting ID: 831 5831 3960 Passcode: phil

For those of you who missed our June non-meeting luncheon, you missed a fun time and great food! Please come join us – we're a great group of people! Even at our short meetings!

Academic Gifts

On June 7, we were proud to announce the three recipients of our annual Academic awards of \$1,000. They are Sophia Passaris, Eleni Antonis, and Katia Antonis. Congratulations!

Jonathan's Place August 30

Grab an apron and come cook for those who need a good, healthy, hardy meal! We also need volunteers to help serve the meal, too. Please see the included flyer for more information. For information regarding the August 30 cooking and serving, please contact Gigi Medan at 707-529-7441.

Membership

We need YOU to renew or join Philoptochos! We are only successful when you are involved with your time, treasure, or talent. All Orthodox (or married to an Orthodox) women and men over 18 are welcome. **Please join and support our many charities!** Any questions, please call or text Susan Stockton at 707-365-8184.

Fellowship Hour

Although no longer a Philoptochos endeavor, but rather an act of hospitality by our parish, we are reaching out to request assistance with Fellowship Hours. Volunteers are needed to help maintain this tradition.

The goal is to keep the Fellowship Hours low-key so that everyone can enjoy each other's company. Hosting simply involves providing a platter of fruit and a platter of pastries. You would be responsible for making the coffee, setting the items on the table and taking the empty platters to the kitchen for the custodian to clean. Additionally, anyone attending is welcome to bring an item to share. Many hands make light work! Please contact Irene Meehan at 415-497-7674.



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
gandd2@comcast.net

Marni Greek Festival

Connect • Engage • Grow

2026 Festival Results

Booth	Friday			Saturday			Sunday			Grand Total		
	2025	2026	% Change	2025	2026	% Change	2025	2026	% Change	2025	2026	% Change
Admissions	\$0	\$0	NA	\$5,980	\$6,150	3%	\$5,845	\$5,668	-3%	\$11,825	\$11,818	0%
Village	\$7,812	\$ 8,538.00	9%	\$13,030	\$14,075	8%	\$8,704	\$12,307	41%	\$29,546	\$34,920	18%
Outside Bar	\$3,186	\$3,470	9%	\$11,419	\$13,357	17%	\$10,307	\$10,906	6%	\$24,911	\$27,733	11%
Kid's Zone	\$0	\$0	NA	\$1,199	\$1,134	-5%	\$937	\$727	-22%	\$2,136	\$1,861	-13%
Loukoumades	\$0	\$0	NA	\$3,177	\$2,961	-7%	\$3,332	\$2,803	-16%	\$6,509	\$5,764	-11%
Greek Coffee	\$396	\$577	46%	\$3,258	\$2,910	-11%	\$2,975	\$3,053	3%	\$6,629	\$6,540	-1%
Pastries	\$4,321	\$4,433	3%	\$9,059	\$12,979	43%	\$8,770	\$11,505	31%	\$22,150	\$28,917	31%
Inside Dining Hall	\$0	\$0	NA	\$38,012	\$34,923	-8%	\$37,252	\$34,398	-8%	\$75,264	\$69,321	-8%
Dell	\$596	\$618	4%	\$3,415	\$2,906	-15%	\$2,462	\$2,332	-5%	\$6,473	\$5,856	-10%
Wine Tasting	\$966	\$ 980.00	1%	\$3,093	\$3,339	8%	\$3,291	\$3,171	-4%	\$7,350	\$7,490	2%
Savory	\$1,850	\$2,203	19%							\$1,850	\$2,203	19%
Totals	\$19,127	\$20,820	9%	\$91,753	\$94,869	3%	\$84,020	\$87,050	4%	\$194,900	\$202,739	4%
Cash	\$4,333	\$ 5,244	21%	\$26,817	\$24,188	-10%	\$23,106	\$22,252	-4%	\$54,256	\$51,684	-5%
Credit	\$14,794	\$ 15,576	5%	\$64,937	\$70,681	9%	\$60,914	\$64,798	6%	\$140,645	\$151,054	7%

Building On Our Faith: FAQs

As we work together to complete our remaining capital projects, a fundraising campaign began in June 2026 and will continue into the Fall. Regular updates on the campaign will be shared with the community through the WORD and weekly Thursday email communications. All parishioners are encouraged to visit the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\)](#) on Nativity's website. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to any committee member on the Steering Committee:

Steering Committee

Parish Council

Bill Adams, Chrisoula Capetanos, Paul Efstathiou,
Nick Eftimiou, Nonda Kozas, Angie Kozas, Kathy Marshall,
Giorgis Sotiras, Pete Stathis, Spiro Stratigos,
Karen Walters, Michael Yakumithis

Planning, Design, Construction

Nick Eftimiou, Eileen Gordon, Bryan Hall, John Hunter,
Christ Kamages, Ed Keller, and Nonda Kozas

Communication

Dina Camamis, Fran Corcoran, Kathy Marshall,
and Matina Seremetis

Fundraising and Finance

Chris Kalabokes, Steve Rouman, Tony Saris,
and Chris Seifkas



Sunday School

Connect • Engage • Grow

Sunday School Registration for 2026–2027

Be sure to register your child(ren) online using this [link](#) or by visiting the Education page on our website. Early registration helps our teachers plan for their classes over the summer.

Save the Dates

August 16 Panagia Picnic & Registration

For new families or those who have not yet registered—look for the registration table!

Welcome back on our First Day of Sunday School - August 23, 2026!

We are excited and blessed to have you with us as we look forward to the 2026–2027 Ecclesiastical Year.

Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful summer!

His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos with Sunday School circa 2016.



NOC JOY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
IN THE SMALL HALL



Harry Moulas, iconographer for Holy Trinity San Francisco, will lead a hands-on iconography workshop. Children will have the opportunity to paint their own icon and help create a collaborative mosaic icon for our community.



Junior Orthodox Youth (Joy) is a ministry that focuses our children to their Orthodox Faith



- Nurtures kids' relationship with Jesus Christ & the Church
- Equips our youth with the tools to navigate their faith journey
- Builds lifelong friendships

- Sunday, September 20
- Sunday, November 15
- Saturday, January 16
- Saturday, March 20
- Saturday, May 15

Kiddos
PreK - 6th Grade
Welcome!

JOY Ministry Leader: Niki Haris nicole.lharis@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Connect • Engage • Grow

Greek Experience Ministry

Registration for Greek School is now open, and we're excited to welcome students for the 2026–2027 year. We will be accepting registrations through the end of August.



Our program offers adult online classes as well as in-person children's classes every Wednesday at Nativity of Christ. We teach all levels of Greek — from beginner to advanced — and we look forward to another wonderful year of learning together.

Please stay tuned for upcoming announcements about the first day of school and class placement.

For any questions, feel free to contact us at greekschool@nativityofchrist.org, directed to Chrissy Zotalis, Greek School Director.

SUNDAY FUNDAY

SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13

FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY
AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Meet us at Josef Hoog Park!
Kids play. Parents connect. Fun for everyone!

SNACKS

SANDWICHES

REFRESHMENTS

For questions about event or how you can get involved, email:

MINISTRIES@NATIVITYOFCHRIST.ORG

MINOAN DANCERS

Greek Folk Dance & Choral Ministry of Nativity of Christ

pre-K through college/adult

Wednesday evenings • Sunday afternoons



Starting
Wednesday
September 9th



New dancers, singers welcome!
No experience needed!

More info
effiejf@me.com



Celebrating our 40th Anniversary in 2026 • www.minoans.com

Missions and Evangelization

A Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church 2026 Lenten project supported Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) missionaries, specifically Dr. Kristina Mantasasvili who serves in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She appreciates prayers and support, and provides below a brief update on some of her autumn (SF spring) activities.

Listening to the Church

“A major focus of my ministry this year has been the development of a catechetical initiative for South America. To better understand local needs, we distributed questionnaires to clergy, youth, and families with young children throughout the Metropolis.

I have been deeply encouraged by the response. Nearly one hundred participants have already shared their perspectives, helping us identify both the strengths and the challenges of faith formation in our communities. These conversations are now

helping shape future catechetical and educational programs.”

One Year in Buenos Aires

“One milestone I am especially thankful for is reaching a B2 level in Spanish, which now allows me to communicate fluently. I remain deeply grateful to His Eminence Metropolitan Iosif, the clergy and faithful of the Metropolis, OCMC, and **all of you** whose prayers and support make this ministry possible.”

A Note About Donations

If you want to make a donation for Kristina, you can go online to the OCMC website under “Meet Our Missionaries,” select her specific page, and select “Support.” You can then choose the support you want to provide her. You can also make out a check and mail it to: Orthodox Christian Mission Center 220 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086. Please write “Missionary Kristina Mantasasvili” in the memo line.



St. John Chrysostom National Oratorical Festival

Eleni Passaris represented the Metropolis of San Francisco in the Junior Division. Eleni's thoughtful and inspiring presentation earned her Third Place!



Sack Meals

Parishioners gathered again on June 18 to prepare sack meals for the St. Vincent de Paul lunch program. Join us August 25 for our next sack meals project day. Sign up links are on Page 10. Donations are also accepted. Please put “Sack Meals” in the memo.

St. Nicholas Summer Camp

Connect • Engage • Grow

Dear Stewards and Faithful of Nativity of Christ,

I was blessed to spend July 13-17 at St. Nicholas Summer Camp alongside youth from throughout our Metropolis. Each year, I leave the Ranch encouraged by the faith, enthusiasm, and spiritual growth of our young people, and this year was no exception.

The theme of this year's camp was "Come and See," inviting campers to deepen their understanding of the Divine Liturgy. Through engaging discussions, lessons, and worship, it was inspiring to watch our youth discover the Divine Liturgy as not simply something we attend, but the place where we encounter the living Christ.

The week concluded with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Life-Giving Spring Monastery for the feast of St. Marina (read her life below). This feast holds special significance for my family, as it marks both Presvytera Stephanie's and my wedding anniversary, and our daughter Marina's name day. It is also commemorates my first Sunday serving Nativity of Christ 10 years ago. To remember these milestones while witnessing the spiritual renewal and deep friendships formed among the campers was a profound blessing.

I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the ladies of our Philoptochos and to the generous parishioners whose private donations have made it possible for every child from Nativity of Christ to attend St. Nicholas Summer Camp free of charge. Your generosity is an investment in the faith of the next generation, and its fruits are evident. As summer continues, I encourage each of us to seek our own moments of spiritual rejuvenation. Whether through prayer, attending the Divine Liturgy, reading the Scriptures, or simply finding quiet time with the Lord, may we all answer Christ's invitation to "Come and See," drawing ever closer to Him and allowing His presence to renew our hearts.

With love in Christ,
Fr. John Kocolas



Panagia Panigiri Sunday, August 16th



**Please let us know you will attend
with the RSVP Link in your Ministry Monday!**

MINISTRIES FAIR AT NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Join us at the Panagia Panigiri
Sunday, August 16th

Meet the Ministry Leaders of Nativity of Christ!

Discover the many ways to grow in faith, serve others, and connect
with our parish at our Ministry Fair.

Learn about ministries including:
Philoptochos, JOY, GOYA, Sunday
School, Choir, Greek Dance,
and more.

Come ask questions, and find where you can get involved.

There's a place for everyone.
We hope to see you there!

Sack Meal Project

For the St. Vincent de Paul's Free Dining Room

WHEN Tuesday, August 25	WHERE 9-11AM NOC Kitchen
VOLUNTEERS 9-11AM NOC 4 Volunteers for Sandwich Making	NEEDED 4 Volunteers for the Assembly Line

SIGN UP
TODAY!

➔

**SCAN
ME!**


CONTACT
 Elaine Chyrklund at elainechyrklund@gmail.com
 or Mary Kay Stratigos at 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



Email Irene Meehan if you are
not already on a Fellowship Hour Team.
imeehan715@gmail.com

Sign Up For A Fellowship Hour Team

- Fellowship teams include 4-5 individuals.
- Each team participates twice per year.
- Teams bring two food items to share.
- Teams help set up the coffee table & lay the food out for parishioners.
- After fellowship hour, teams clear the coffee table and the food tables.

*Our Fellowship Hour thrives on
shared participation.
Be part of a group and help make it happen!*



THE MINOAN DANCERS ARE TURNING 40!



WOMEN'S GREEK DANCE SYMPOSIUM

BRINGING WOMEN TOGETHER FOR A
CELEBRATION OF GREEK FOLK
DANCE TRADITIONS

FEATURING THE DANCE STYLES OF
CRETE | EPIROS | MACEDONIA | PONTOS
& TRADITIONAL FOLK SINGING

September 26 • 9:30am - 4:30pm

4 Decades of Dedication
4 Opportunities to
Celebrate



September 27 • starting at 11:30am



**MORE INFORMATION, TICKETS AND REGISTRATION AT
WWW.MINOANS.COM OR SCAN THE QR CODE**



The Saints Are Among Us

Connect • Engage • Grow

The Saints Are Among Us

Last month, I was blessed to witness two extraordinary young women from our parish whose lives reminded me that the saints are not simply figures from the past, but living members of the Body of Christ.

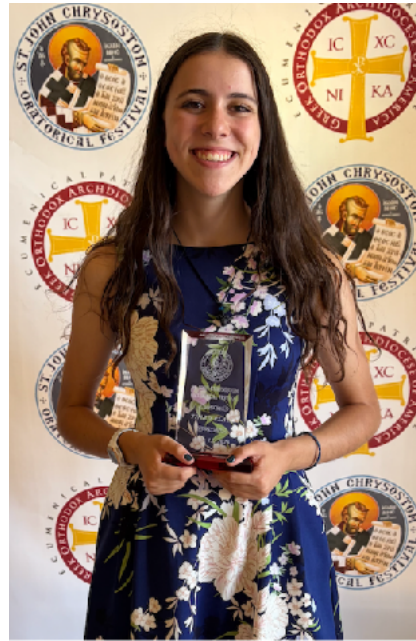
I traveled to Southern California to attend the National Oratorical Festival, where our own Eleni Passaris represented the Metropolis of San Francisco in the Junior Division. She chose the topic: *Choose a saint who was a child or young person. How did their faith shape their life, and what can we learn from them?* With remarkable poise and eloquence, Eleni spoke about St. Sophia and her three young daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love. Their unwavering devotion to Christ remained steadfast even in the face of martyrdom. Eleni's thoughtful and inspiring presentation earned her Third Place!

That same day, I returned home to celebrate the high school graduation of Katia Antonis, whose journey has been one of remarkable courage.

Diagnosed with cancer at just five years old, Katia has endured physical challenges that most of us cannot imagine. Yet through every trial, she has demonstrated perseverance, strength, and an abiding trust in God. Throughout her life, she has looked to the Church and to her patron saint, St. Katherine,

for encouragement and hope.

As I reflected on these two young women, my thoughts turned to our own sacred space at Nativity of Christ. At every Divine Liturgy, the icons of St.



Sophia and her daughters stand beside the icon of St. Katherine. For years, these holy women have stood together in our church, silently bearing witness to the victory of Christ. Today, however, I see them with new eyes.

I could not help but think that this was no coincidence.

Through Eleni and Katia, the Lord reminds all of us that the saints are not distant historical figures remembered only on feast days. They are alive in Christ. As we proclaim at every Divine Liturgy, we join "with the Cherubim and all the saints" in offering praise to God. Heaven and earth are united in worship.

In Eleni's witness to the courage of St. Sophia and her daughters, and in Katia's steadfast perseverance with the prayers of St. Katherine, we are reminded that icons are not merely religious artwork adorning our walls. They are windows into heaven, constantly reminding us that we are "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1).

May we never think of the saints as people who once lived. Rather, let us remember that they are alive in Christ and are often reflected in the faces

of those striving to live out their faith. If we have the eyes to see, we will discover that the saints continue to worship with us, pray for us, and encourage us on our journey toward His Kingdom.

Indeed, the saints are among us.

Loving Our Enemies

Connect • Engage • Grow

A personal reflection on the 52nd anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus.

By Steven Christoforou

Today marks the 52nd anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. The observance normally pairs with anger, political statements, and



nationalism.

Instead, I'd like to share a story that reveals the Kingdom in the midst of great pain.

My father was born in what is today Turkish-occupied land in northern Cyprus. About 20 years ago, I visited the island to reconnect with cousins, aunts, and uncles. One of my uncles offered to show us where my family was from: conquered land across a fortified border.

Crossing that border was intimidating: I'd never seen so many armed guards, so much razor wire.

Navigating the occupied territory seemed impossible: villages had been renamed, streets had been rerouted, all in an effort to erase the past.

But my uncle knew the landmarks: the rivers, the mountains, the rubble of demolished churches. He led us to some fields where, in the shadow of new developments,

the ruins of an old house still stood.

Barely...

A padlock still hung on the front door, but the roof was caved in by a mortar during the invasion.

It was the house my grandfather built with his own two hands.

The house in which my father was born.

As I looked upon this shadow of the past—a bare shadow, almost rendered invisible by decades of ethnic cleansing—I felt both sadness and rage.

"Surely this land could be taken back for its rightful owners," I thought. "This home can be reclaimed. Blood for blood."

Yet later that day, we drove to a different village and found the home of my great aunt. Her house had two stories and was, in fact, still occupied. We were all surprised to see it.

But we were stunned when my great aunt suddenly exited the car:



"I want to say hello."

I watched her slowly make her way to the front door. Nervous eyes watched her from behind locked windows: the eyes of children, fearful as a stranger

approached from enemies to the south.

Would this woman rage?

Call for justice?

Try to take the house back?

A woman answered my great aunt's knock. She opened the front door, just a crack at first. But within a few moments she stood out on the porch, smiling and chatting with the former owner of her home.

When my great aunt returned to the car, she explained what happened.

"I asked the woman if she liked the house. I told her it was very special to me, since it's where I raised my children. I shared a memory, then she did. There we were, two mothers, loving our children together. I invited her to my new home if she ever comes south."

I was stunned.

"Don't you want your house back?" I asked.

"Did you see the children looking at us with fear?" my great aunt responded. "That home is all they've ever known. How can I take it from them? My children were once refugees. How could I wish that on any child?"

There, on land contested by the nations of men, I experienced the Kingdom of Heaven. I saw what it means to love ones "enemies."

I saw what it means to not simply forgive, but bless.

I saw Christ in my great aunt.

She reposed several years ago. May we have her prayers.

August Name Days

Connect • Engage • Grow

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!



Aug. 8: St. Triantaphyllos

Rose Hunter

Aug. 15: Dormition of the Theotokos

Peter Angelonides

Maria Baird

Mary Jane Constantin

Peter Efstathiou

Peter Friedman

Brenda Gavallos

Maria Gavallos

Debbie Georgeson

Diana Geron

Eileen Gordon

Panayiotis Hanos

Panayiotis George Hanos

Maia Marie Haritoudis

Stamatia Haritoudis

Panagiota Hazard

Maria Hilakos Hanke

Courtney Hundley

Marilyn Hundley

Mary Jorgensen

Debbie Kokalis

Despina Mancini

Michele Manos

Cheryl Messner

Peter Migale

Peter Mithos

Pauline Oetzel

Despina Papageorge

Maria Pavlou

Gina Petracopoulos

Paige Marie Petracopoulos

Presley Marie Petracopoulos

Thelma Petracopoulos

Maria Pezzuto

Mila Rishwain

Peter Salmas

Maria Sotiras

Maria Spiliotis

Pete Stathis

Mary Kay Stratigos

Peter Gabriel Thomatos

Dessie Vartholomeos

Kendal Webber

Marika Yakumithis

Aug. 16: St. Stamatis

Stamatis Psaros

Aug. 16: St. Beatrix

Aug. 26: Sts. Adrian & Natalia

Natalie Zachariou

Adriane Sklavos

Aug. 30: St. Alexander

Alexandra Aaron

Alexandra Bizani

Alexis Captanian

Jolie Alexandra England

Alexandra Fradelizio

Alexandra Franklin

Alexis Gasparini

Alexander Grigorakis

Lexi Hall

Alex Jianas

Alex Kamages

Alexis Kamages

Alexandros Kuvelis

Alexander Madias

Alexandria J Manesis

Alexandra Orologas

Alexandra Pauletti

Alexandra Soeten

Alex Paul Starling

Alex Tarazi

Alexandra Wiepking

Ruairi Wiepking

2026 Stewardship Pledges (as of July 27, 2026)

Connect • Engage • Grow

Presiding Priest Fr. John & Pres. Stephanie Kocolas	Fourakis, Vasilis & Effie Fradelizio, John & Georgia Franklin, Alexandra Friedman, Peter & Katina Pantazes	Lendaris, George Leventis, Zack & Georgia Li, Robert & Stephanie Pappas Livadas, Carl & Stacy Drakousis	Siefkas, Chris & Susan Silverberg, Johnathan & Christina
Priest Emeritus Fr. Constantine Efstathiou	Frudakis, George & Darlene Fuss, Patrick Gagas, Charles & Claire Garton, Elena	Livanos, Nick & Patti Lynn, Tom & Lucille Picras- Lynn	Simon, Kay Smith, Evdokia Smyrni, Anna Soeten, Alexandra
Pres. Evelyn Adams	Gatzios, Yiannis & Catherine Gavallos, Dennis Gavallos, Victor D. Gavallos, Victor G. & Brenda George, Ann	Madias, Alexander & Robyn Madias, Constantine & Marti Madias, Michael & Laurie Madias, Theodore Manesis, Alexandria	Sotiras, Erene Sotiras, George Sotiras, Maria Spiliotis, Maria
Adams, Bill & Lisa Albanes, Joseph Alpogianis, Evangeline Angelonides, Peter & Arlene Antonis, Chris & Keri Antonis, Eleni Appling, Sam & Meghan Arango, Pat Argyres, Andreas & Joanne Barry, Stephen & Mary Barry- Samios	Georgeson, George & Deborah Geron, Diana Gikkas, Pete & Vickie Hatos Gikkas, Stephanie Gunder, Nicholas & Sidsel Haginicols, Amalia Hajopoulos, Kathy Hall, Bryan & Paula Plessas- Hall	Manos, Michele Marshall, Philip & Kathy Mavromihalis, Steve & Vickie Mayer, Jordan Mayer, Paul & Diana Demetruilas Medan, Dushan & Gigi Meehan, Nicole Meehan, Tom & Irene Meek, Gerald & Stamatia Meek, Jason Mehas, Christine Misthos, Eileen Morris, Susan Morrissey, Lloyd & Anastasia Pinoris	Starling, Eric & Irene Starling, James Stathis, Pete & Dina Stathis, Sophia Stavrinides, Nicholas Stavrinides, Thalia Stenros, Stuart & Stella Stockton, John & Susan Stratigos, Nikolas Stratigos, Sophia Stratigos, Spiro & Mary Kay Szyrnski, Gabriel & Jenny Walters
Bathie, Donald & Barbara Bechaka, Sonia Bertolina, Ronald & Elaine Botaitis, Demetri Bratsis, Haralampos & Stella Brzycki, Jeff & Tracy Langly Burrows, Bill & Floretta Camamis, Dina Capetanos, Bill & Chrisoula Captanian, Alexis Captanian, Ted & Connie Castro, Jef & Joanna Catel, Paraskevi Cerecedes, Frank & Dawne Chyrklund, Christopher & Elaine	Haralambopoulos, Costas & Ria Haris, Nicolas & Nicole Haritoudis, Stamatia Harris, Helen Harvey, Robert & Elaine Hawker, Nina Hays, Keven & Marina Medan Hazard, Jared & Pangioti Hontalas, Chris & Susan Hontalas, Frank & Eve Hontalas, George & Amy Hundley, Courtney & Marilyn Hunter, John & Rose Iannios, Demetrios & Manu Jianas, Alex & Diana Kalabokes, Chris & Susan Marie Mariam Kalabokes, Matthew & Elina Kaliontzakis, Emmanuel & Bessie Mitskaris	O'Connor, Wayne & Betty Zootis Orologas, Julie Orologas, Katerina Panagotacos, James & Diane Papanikolaou, George & Soula Papanikolaou, Marina Pappas, Evantheia Passaris, Michael & Meredith Pauletti, Jeff & Alexandra Pederson, Daniela Perivolaris, Nick Perivolaris, Sara Petracopoulos, Thelma Pineda, Andy & Matina Seremetis Pogni, Dean & Georgina Powers, Bill & Kiki Taft Psaros, Nick & Angi Psaros, Stamatis & Eleni Rishwain, Darron & Pamela Rodriguez, Ricardo & Demetra Vangelatos	Tacticos, George Tarazi, Alex & Carla Touras, Anthony & Antonia Trapalis, Niovi Triantafyllos, John & Laura Tsapakis, George & Maria-Alexandra Tzafopoulos, Vasiliki Valakitsis, Yianni & Eugenia Dracopolous Vallas, James & Judith Vasilopoulos, Nick & Eileen Gordon
Constantin, Gus & Mary Jane Contos, Jeff Corcoran, Bruce & Fran Cordellos, Dennis Crowley, Joseph & Andriana Cummings, Nathan & Daphne Cunningham, Kenn & Elaine Curelaru, Viorica Daifotis, Kimon & Cynthia Degaitis, Julia Delfino, Kenneth & Carrie Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie Desjardin, Kenny & Katia Diamond, Jason & Vickie Domencicelli, Daniel & Konstantina	Kambur, JoAnne Kambur, Nick & Karyn Kanas, Nick & Carolynn Katelanis, Olympia Keller, Edward & Karen Keller, Gregg Kelley, Stephen & Eleni Klobucher, Alex & Maria Pavlou Kokalis, George & Debbie Kosmas, Anthony & Anthonia Kozas, Anna Kozas, Nonda & Nicole Kozas, Tom & Angie Kuvelis, Dean & Denise Kuvelis, Xenia Lagios, Sheila	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	Vlachos, Anthoula Vlachos, Spirodon & Argyro Petsakos-Vlachos Vlachos, Yiannoula Vlahakos, Nick & Georgia Walters, Scott & Karen Weeks, Dan & Stacey Wiepking, Ruairi, & Alexandra Kremer Yakumithis, Michael & Marika Young, Jeff & Evangelia Madias Zaccardelli, Dennis & Kathryn Zachariou, Michael & Constantina Zahariudakis, Dimitrios & Charoula
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 Fourakis, Achilleas & Roula Athineos Fourakis, George & Sofia Nicklas			

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Great Vespers 5:00 pm
						Fast Days
2 <u>9th Sunday of Matthew</u> Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am	3 Paraklesis 6:30 pm	4 Paraklesis 9:30 am	5 Great Vespers 6:30 pm	6 Divine Services- 8:30 am Transfiguration	7 Paraklesis 6:30 pm	8 Great Vespers 5:00 pm
Fast Days						
9 <u>10th Sunday of Matthew</u> Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am SS Teacher Meeting	10 Paraklesis 6:30 pm	11 Paraklesis 9:30 am Parish Council 7 pm	12 Paraklesis 6:30 pm	13 Paraklesis 9:30 am	14 Great Vespers 6:30 pm	15 Divine Services- 8:30 am Dormition of Theotokos
16 <u>11th Sunday of Matthew</u> Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am Panagia Panagiri Picnic Ministry Fair	17	18 Bible Study 9 am	19 Fast Days	20	21 Fast Days	22
23 <u>12th Sunday of Matthew</u> Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School Begins	24	25 Bible Study 9 am Sack Meals 9 am	26 Fast Days	27 Mailing Team 10 am	28 Fast Days	29 Divine Services- 8:30 am The Beheading of St. John the Baptist
30 <u>13th Sunday of Matthew</u> Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School Jonathan's Place	31					



Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church
1110 Highland Drive
Novato, California 94949
www.nativityofchrist.org



Change Service Requested

THE WORD

AUGUST 2026