The Word

August 2025

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

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." – Pericles

My family and I just returned from Greece and the Archdiocesan ministry of Ionian Village. It was truly unforgettable and spiritually uplifting experience. I hope you all have been able to read my updates these last several weeks (sent through email and social media) that gave a glimpse into the rich experience awaiting us as Orthodox Christians.

Through Ionian Village, 190 high school campers opened their minds and hearts to deepen their understanding of their Orthodox faith. Coupled with archeological and historically significant cultural sites, these teenagers truly deepened their understanding of their divine purpose, while forging life-long friendships with like-minded peers from all over the United States.

This summer experience reemphasized what I learned sixteen years ago when I last







served as a counselor: Ionian Village enriches the lives of our youth be immersing them in a Christian environment and deepens their understanding and connection to God by blending our faith with our Hellenic heritage.

The prominent Athenian statesman, Pericles, offers a perfect example of Ancient Greece's foundation to Christianity. Christ did not come into this world to be engraved in stone monuments. Rather, to be woven into the lives of all those who believe in Him.

I thank all of you for your prayers continued and particularly thank Fr. Constantine Efstathiu providing liturgical services and attending to the pastoral needs of the parish in my absence. I look forward to continuing to share my experiences and pray we may continue the sentiments of Pericles by weaving our love for Christ into the lives of others.

In Christ,

Fr. John



All services will be streamed.

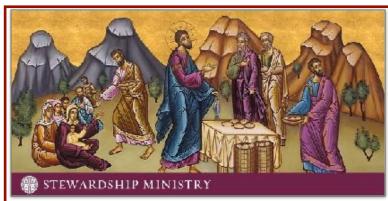
Stream Services Here



	August Services	
Date	Service	Time
Friday, August 1	Paraklesis	6:30 pm
Saturday, August 2	Great Vespers	5:30 pm
Sunday, August 3	8th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Monday, August 4	Paraklesis	6:30 pm
Tuesday, August 5	Great Vespers	6:30 pm
Wednesday, August 6	The Transfiguration	8:30 am
Wednesday, August 6	Paraklesis	6:30 pm
Thursday, August 7	Paraklesis	9:30 am
Friday, August 8	Paraklesis	6:30 pm
Saturday, August 9	Great Vespers	5:30 pm
Sunday, August 10	9th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Monday, August 11	Paraklesis	6:30 pm
Tuesday, August 12	Paraklesis	9:30 am
Wednesday, August 13	Paraklesis	6:30 pm
Thursday, August 14	Great Vespers	6:30 pm
Friday, August 15	Dormition of the Theotokos	8:30 am
Sunday, August 17	10th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Sunday, August 24	11th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am
Friday, August 29	The Beheading of St. John the Baptist	8:30 am
Sunday, August 31	12th Sunday of Matthew	8:30 am

Stewardship

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In the summer months, there is an abundance of fruits and vegetables we enjoy. They all started with a seed. The more seeds one sows, the larger harvest they will reap. Seeds are so small ,yet planted in the right soil and cared for, they will yield their intended produce.

I recall my parents in the summer months watering their garden almost daily, watching the fruit ripen to perfection, ready to be picked, and proudly bringing in from their garden ripe tomatoes, plums, and cherries. Our offering to God is often referred to as a seed, and there is no better place to sow your seeds than in God's house. In 2 Corinthians 9:8, "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." So during this time, while perhaps some of you may be reaping the benefits of your garden from seeds planted, let us not forget about sowing our seeds in God's house. When we give, we are investing in God's Kingdom, trusting Him to bring forth a harvest of righteousness, provision, and blessing.



The Transfiguration

Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure.

Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that "there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom (Matt. 16:28)."

He took His three foremost disciples and ascended Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and

Elias, as it were from heaven, whither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the Jordan at the Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and saying: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him (Matt. 17: 5)."

Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the

future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun (Matt. 13:43)." According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass 40 days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated 40 days before the Exaltation of the Cross.

Beyond 50 Update Connect • Engage • Grow

Selection of General Contractor: McDevitt Construction Partners

At their July meeting, the Parish Council unanimously approved a General Contractor for our Beyond 50 capital projects based on the recommendation of the recently formed NOC Building Committee. Through the efforts of the Building Committee (Ed Keller, Bryan Hall, John Hunter, Eileen Gordon, Patrick Fuss, Nonda Kozas, and Nick Eftimiou) and CJK Design, a wide-ranging slate of contractors was pursued (18 in total), ultimately leading us to a final list of three highly qualified providers - DesCor Builders, McDevitt Construction, and Thompson Builders Corporation. All three organizations provided company presentations along with conceptual budget estimates and each participated in a Zoom interview.

As part of the selection process, the Committee evaluated each contractor on the following criteria:

- Credentials and Track Record
- Financial Stability
- Principal Participation
- Solid Non-Profit Base of Work/Familiarity and Experience
- Best Concept Budget and Understanding
- Energy and Spirit for Church and Project

Some additional areas of consideration were:

- Amount of upfront work for project understanding and insights (Most questions)
- Subcontractor Process (Outsourced versus Self-Perform)
- Location
- Right Size and structure to respond to NOC challenges

While all three Contractors scored high across many of the criteria, the Building Committee unanimously recommended McDevitt

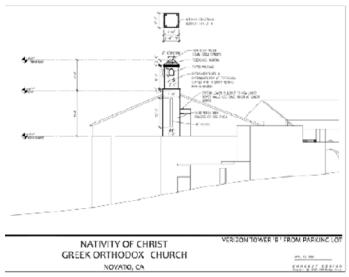
Construction. McDevitt not only meets all of the criteria, but they have demonstrated the most interest, have done the most due diligence, and have engaged with us through the highest levels of their organization.

The Parish Council, Building Committee, and CJK firmly believe that McDevitt will best meet NOC's needs and will add much to our efforts on all fronts. Nativity of Christ will now enter into a Letter of Intent with McDevitt and ultimately a formal contract. McDevitt will now provide a level of partnership and support critical for our success. Truly this marks an exciting next step in the process of completing our capital projects!

Verizon Construction

Immediately after the conclusion of the Festival, Verizon began preliminary construction for the installation of their new cell phone antennas. In the coming months, the most noticeable change will be the heightened cupola on our Large Hall. Please refer to the November 2024 Word on our website for a more detailed explanation of Verizon's presence at Nativity. This has been a long anticipated process and we continue to give thanks to Steve Rouman, Kimon Daifotis, and our IT consultant, Ian Johnson, for ensuring an advantageous position for our Parish.





Philoptochos
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Fellowship Hour

Summer Fellowship is in full swing. Thanks to all those who have contributed. A new fall sign-up sheet will be coming out soon.

Welcome to the New Board

President: Susan Stockton

VP: Gigi Medan

Treasurer: Vickie Hatos

Corresponding Secretary: Karen Keller Recording Secretary: Laurie Madias

Advisor: Cathy Selmi

Members at large: Jenny Walters, Nia Kosmas, and

Angie Kozas.

Thank you to Cathy Selmi, our outgoing President

for a job well done.

Philoptochos Membership

Another thank you to all who have joined this year. We are now at 88% of our goal. We will continue to have membership forms available during Fellowship Hour.

Ionathan's Place

Thank you to those who helped out for the dinner on Sunday, June 29. Our next dinner is scheduled for Sunday, September 7. For more information, please contact Gigi Medan at gandd2@comcast.net.



Father's Day

On Sunday, June 15, we celebrated Fathers during Fellowship Hour with delicious cake and sandwiches.



Sunday School

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Sunday School

Welcome families! We are looking forward to a new year of Sunday religious education for all youth! We want to be sure our records for your children and your family are current. **Please** take a few moments to **help us update our records by completing this** <u>Google</u> <u>Form</u>. It will only take a few minutes of your time.

Join us for our **opening day** of Sunday School classes on **August 17**, followed by the Panagia Picnic.

More information about Sunday School will be emailed to all families. Stay tuned.

August Class Days: August 17, 24, 31

Please click on this <u>link</u> for the full-year calendar for Sunday School.



June 1 Highlights Connect • Engage • Grow

Sunday, June 1

On June 1st, we celebrated our Sunday School students, graduates, scholarship recipients, Philoptochos affirmation of office, and had visiting authors read their lovely children's book.





















2025 August Word

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Hamburgers - Hotdogs-Salad - Drinks - Ice Gream!



RSVP For the Picnic Here





MINISTRIES FAIR AT NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Join us after Liturgy | Sunday, August 17th | 30 minutes before the BBQ begins

Meet the ministry leaders of Nativity of Christ!

This is your chance to connect with our dedicated ministry chairs, learn about the incredible work happening in our parish, and explore how you can get involved. Whether you're looking to serve, grow, or simply learn more, we'd love to see you there!

Let's build community, deepen faith, and make a difference together.



Summer Highlights Connect • Engage • Grow

Community Playdate

Our May 31, the local Novato mother's group was invited for a community playdate on our campus. It was a fantastic opportunity to welcome neighboring families to our grounds.





MGF Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

On Thursday, May 29, Parishioners who volunteered at our 2025 Marin Greek Festival gathered as we extended further appreciation to all the efforts that went into another successful Marin Greek Festival. Here's to MGF 2026!











Registrations for Fall

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1st grade through college/adult Wednesday evenings, Sunday afternoons

MINOAN DANCERS

Greek folk dance & choral ministry of Nativity of Christ



Scan for more info and to register

First rehearsal: Wednesday September 10th





New dancers, singers welcome! No experience needed!



GREEK SCHOOL- 2025-2026 School Year

Day/Time: Every Wednesday | 4:15 pm – 5:45 pm (1.5 hours)

Location: Nativity of Christ Church

Start Date: September 17, 2025

Tuition and enrollment due by August 31: (Registration open all

summer!)

To register, visit <u>Nativity of Christ's GEM page</u> and click on "Child Registration" located near the bottom-right of the page.



- \$520 for the school year.
- 10% sibling discount available (Books not included in the tuition).

Teachers: Chrissy Zotalis & Eirini Karatzaferi

Contact Information:

greekschool@nativityofchrist.org



Sack Meals

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Sack Meals

Our Sack Meals ministry for St. Vincent de Paul's kitchen continued over the summer. Here are scenes from two of the meal prep days.





SACK MEAL

PROJECT

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

WHEN

Monday August 25

WHERE

9–11AM NOC Kitchen

VOLUNTEERS

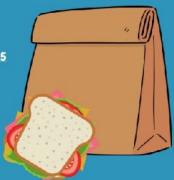
4 Volunteers for Sandwich Making

NEEDED

4 Volunteers for the Assembly Line

SIGN UP HERE

https://tinyurl.com/August025



CONTACT

Elaine Chyrklund at elainechyrklundegmail.com or Mary Kay Stratigos at mkstratoegmail.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

POP-UP GYRO FEST

SEPTEMBER 20TH & 21ST 11 AM TO 7 PM



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NATIVITY OF CHRIST. OR G/GYRO-FEST-TO-GO

\$3



Traditional & Authentic Every Time

Ionian Village Highlights Connect • Engage • Grow

In 1966, the Government of Greece offered the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America a 2,850 acre tract of land to be used exclusively as a camp facility for Greek-American young people. Since 1970, more than 20,000 campers have become part of a 55-year-old tradition dedicated to building "faith and friendships that last a lifetime" through Ionian Village.

This summer, Fr. John and his family were blessed to take part in this experience and shared a series of informative updates on the various locations visited these last several weeks.



The Chapel at Ionian Village

New Church of St. Gerasimos in Kefalonia



< Venerating St. Dionysios in Zakynthos

> Fr. John and George in the Ancient Olympic Stadium in Olympia >





< Campers and Staff at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Patras

Ionian Village Highlights Connect • Engage • Grow



Original icon by St. Luke the Evangelist



St. Nektarios in Aegina



The Parthenon in Athens



^ Kocolas Family in the Cave of St. Gerasimos in Kefalonia

Campers venerating the x-shaped cross of St. Andrew the Apostle in Patras >



Evening activity at the Amphitheater at Ionian Village

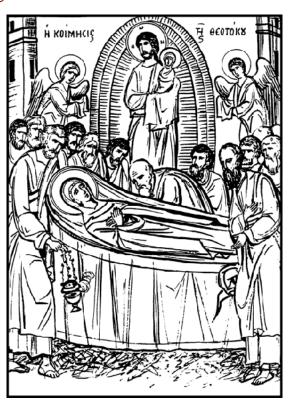


<u>August Name Days</u>

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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!



August 8: St. Triantaphyllos

Rose Hunter

August 15: The Dormition of

the Theotokos

Peter Angelonides

Maria Baird

Mary Jane Constantin

Peter Efstathiu
Peter Friedman
Brenda Gavallos
Maria Gavallos
Debbie Georgeson

Diana Geron Eileen Gordon

Maia Marie Haritoudis Maria Hilakos Hanke Marilyn Hundley Mary Jorgensen Debbie Kokalis Despina Mancini Michele Manos

Cheryl Messner Maria Mezinis Peter Migale

Peter Misthos Pauline Oetzel

Despina Papageorge

Maria Pavlou

Gina Petracopoulos

Paige Marie Petracopoulos Presley Marie Petracopoulos

Thelma Petracopoulos

Maria Pezzuto Mila Rishwain Peter Salmas Maria Sotiras Pete Sotiras

Maria Spiliotis-Mantalvanos

Maria Stainbrook

Pete Stathis

Mary Kay Stratigos Peter Gabriel Thomatos

Maria Tsiplakos

Dessie Vartholomeos

Kendal Webber Marika Yakumithis Marian Zagorites

August 16: St. Stamatis

Stamatis Psaros

August 16: St. Beatrix
Beatrix Cummings

August 26: Sts. Adrian and

Natalia

Adriame Sklavos Natalie Zachariou August 30: St. Alexander

Alexandra Aaron Alexandra Bizani Alexander Brahman 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 Managis

Alexandria Manesis Alexandra Orologas Alexandra Pauletti

Alexandra Moeten Alex Paul Starling

Alex Tarazi

Alexandra Wiepking Ruairi Wiepking

<u> 2025 Stewardship Pledges (as of July 25, 2025)</u>

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Presiding Priest Fr. John & Pres. Stephanie Kocolas

Priest Emeritus Fr. Constantine Efstathiu

Pres. Evelyn Adams

Adams, Bill & Lisa Albanes, Joseph Allen, Justin & Sara Andronico, Frank Angelonides, Peter & Arlene Antonis, Chris & Keri Arango, Pat Argyres, Andreas & JoAnne Barry, Stephen & MaryLynn Samios-Barry Bechaka, Sonia Bertolina, Ronald & Elaine Bizani, Alexandra Blasingame, David & Katina Botaitis, Demetri Brzycki, Jeff & Trący Langly Burrows, Bill & Floretta Camamis, Dina Castro, Jeff & Joanna Capetanos, Bill & Chrisoula Cerecedes, Frank & Dawne Chester, Matthew & Katerina Chyrklund, Chris & Elaine Cordellos, Dennis Constantin, Gus & Mary Jane Contos, Jeff Corcoran, Bruce & Fran Cummings, Nathan & Daphne

Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie Demakas, George DesJardin, Kenny & Katia Doers, Guy Domenichelli, Daniel & Konstantina Efstathiu, Paul & Kristen Eftimiou, Nick & Jeanette

Cunningham, Kenneth &

Daifotis, Kimon & Cindy

Delfino, Ken & Carrie

Elaine

Degaitis, Julia

Curelaru, Viorica

Saris Eggleston, Philp & Angela EĬ-Far, Karim & Jasmin Fafoutis, Diane

Farmer, Tim & Eleni Flohr, Dave & Diane Fotinos, Vivian Fourakis, Vasilis & Effie Fradelizio, John & Georgia Franklin, Alexandra Friedman, Peter & Katina

Pantazes Fuss, Patrick Gagas, Charles & Claire Garton, Elena Gatzios, Yiannis &

Catherine Gavallas, Dennis

Gavallos, Victor & Brenda George, Ann

Georgeson, George & Debbie

Geron, Diana

Gikkas, Pete & Vickie Hatos

Gikkas, Stephanie Haginicols, Amalia Hajopoulos, Kathy Hall, Bryan & Paula

Plessas-Hall Hamill, John & Athanasia Hanis, Jim & Stella Haris, George & Georgia Haris, Nico & Nicole Harvey, Robert & Elaine Hawker, Nina

Hontalas, Chris & Susan Hontalas, Frank & Eve Hontalas, George & Amy

Hundley, Courtney & Marilyn

Hunter, John & Rose Iannios, Demetrios & Manulani

Iianas, Alex & Diana Kakleas, Jon Kalabokes, Chris

Kalabokes, Matthew & Elina Kamages, Alex & Sherry Kamages, Pat & Christ

Kambur, JoAnne Kanas, Nick & Carolynn Kavantjas, Diane

Keller, Ed & Karen Kelley, Stephen & Eleni

Klobuchar, Alec & Maria Pavolou

Kokalis, George & Debbie Kokalis, Nick & Lena Kosmas, Anthony &

Anthonia Kozas, Anna Kozas, Nonda & Nicole Kozas, Tom & Angie Kuvelis, Dean & Denise

Kuvelis, Xenia Lagios, Shiela

Livadas, Carl & Stacy Drakousis Livanos, Nick & Patti Lucas, Matt & Fei Lynn, Thomas & Lucille Madias, Constantine &

Marti Madias, Theodore Malatras, John & Olivia

Mandanis, Marjorie Manesis, Alexandria Manos, Michele

Margaronis, Anastasi & Maya

Marshall, Philip & Kathy Mavromihalis, Steve & Vickie

Mayer, Paul & Diana Demetrulias Medan, Dushan & Gigi

Meehan, Nicole Meehan, Tom & Irene Mehas, Christine

Metallinos, Sophia Misthos, Eileen

Morales, Marlon & Andrea Morris, Susan

Morrissey, Lloyd & Anastasia

Pinoris

O'Connor, Wayne & Betty Zootis

Orologas, Julie Orologas, Katerina Panagotacos, James & Diane Pantazes, Christos & Jackie Papageorge, Christos &

Despina Papanikolaou, Marina Passaris, Michael & Meredith

Passaris, Teodoro & Eleni Pauletti, Jeff & Alexandra Perivolaris, Nick

Perivolaris, Sara Petracopoulos, George & Gina

Petracopoulos, Thelma Pineda, Andy & Matina Seremetis

Powers, Bill & Kiki Taft Psaros, Stamatis & Eleni Rishwain, Darron & Pamela Roland, George & Doris Rouman, Steve & Liz Ruffcorn, Oren & Joanna Sandoval, Irene

Saris, Anthony & Betty Scanagatta, Roman & Eleni Selmi, Cathy Selmi, Helen Sideris, Stassie Siefkas, Chris & Susan Silverberg, Jonathan &

Cristina Simon, Kay Slenkin, Nancy Smith, Evdokia Smyrni, Anna Soeten, Alexandra Sotiras, Erene Sotiras, George Sotiras, Maria Spiltiotis-Mantavanos,

Maria Stathis, Pete & Dina Stathis, Sophia Stavrinides, Nicholas Stavrinides, Thalia Stenros, Skip & Stella Stockton, John & Susan Stratigos, Nikolas Stratigos, Sophia

Stratigos, Spiro & Mary Kay Tacticos, George

Tangalakis, Odysseus & Joanna

Tarazi, Alex & Carla Tocmakidis, Pinelopy Touras, Antonios & Antonia Trapalis, Niovi

Triantafyllos, John & Laura Tzafopoulos, Vasiliki Vallas, James & Judith Vasileios, Vasilaros

Vasilopoulos, Nick & Eileen Gordon

Vlachos, Spiro & Argyro Vlahakos, Nick & Georgia Walters, Amalia Walters, Jennifer Walters, Scott & Karen

Weeks, Dan & Stacey Wiepking, Ruairi, & Alexandra Kremer

Yakumithis, Michael & Marika Zaccardelli, Dennis &

Kathryn Zachariou. Michael &

Constantina Zahariudakis, Dimitrios &

Charoula

			August 2025			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	퍔.	Sat
						Great Vespers 5:30 pm
					ratakiesis 0.30 piii	Great vesbers also bru
					Fast	Fast Days
8 th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:30 am	4 Paraklesis 6:30 pm	5 Great Vespers 6:30 pm	6 Divine Services- 8:30 am Transfiguration	7 Paraklesis 9:30 am	8 Paraklesis 6:30 pm	9 Great Vespers 5:30 pm
Liturgy 9:30 am			Paraklesis 6:30 pm			
			Fast Days			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9th Sunday of Matthew	Paraklesis 6:30 pm	Paraklesis 9:30 am	Paraklesis 6:30 pm	Great Vespers 6:30 pm	vine Services - 8:30 am Dormition of Theotokos	
Liturgy 9:30 am SS Teacher Meeting		Parish Council 7 pm			Office Closed	
			Fast Days			
17 10th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School Starts Ministry Fair	18	19 Bible Study 9 am	20	21	22	23
Panagia Panagin Picnic	3F	36	77	30	rasi Days	30
24 11th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School	25 Sack Meals 9 am	26 Bible Study 9 am	27 Mailing Team 10 am Fast Days	28	29 Divine Services- 8:30 am The Beheading of St. John the Baptist	30
31						
12th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:30 am						
Liturgy 9:30 am <i>Sunday School</i>						



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

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THE WORD August 2025

