

The Word

March 2024

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



With the hiring of Eleni Kelly this past Fall, there have been an abundance of opportunities for parishioners to connect, engage, and grow. Friday nights out, packing lunches, Metropolis and Parish events, fundraisers, social gatherings...it's so much activity! There is a constant and consistent schedule of ministries on our calendar and yes, that is the goal.

However, Nativity of Christ is not a country club nor a community center. We are a Church because we first come together in God's house and worship our Lord Jesus Christ. The many ministry events are to merely enhance our already established community of worship.

Beginning on March 18, we embark on our journey through Great and Holy Lent through multiple weekly services. The ultimate meaning of this holy season is to make an unceasing effort to connect with our Savior and experience renewed

spiritual growth through worship services and personal discipline.

There is a constant and consistent schedule of worship services on our Liturgical calendar and yes, that is also the goal.

Mondays, Great Compline: a soothing and prayerful service focused on God's love and our spirit of repentance.

Wednesdays, Pre-sanctified Liturgy: an opportunity to receive the Eucharist in a unique and special way during the Lenten season.

Fridays, Salutations to the Theotokos: an inspiration for us to pray fervently to the Mother of God as we simultaneously prepare for the Annunciation.

Saturdays, Great Vespers: an evening prayer service which offers stillness in anticipation of the Divine Liturgy to receive Holy Communion.

Additionally, the Church also invites us to make a commitment in our personal lives.

Prayer: when we wake up, before we go to bed, before we eat, and throughout our day.

Fasting: to create a discipline of fasting from specific foods not simply in the form of a diet, but as an acknowledgement of our willingness to sacrifice for our Lord.

Almsgiving: to give generously to those in need through various acts of kindness.

Great Lent can be overwhelming, but living and experiencing the cross must be a part of our Christian existence. We can truly witness Christ's love and mercy when we trust and rely on Him in our lives. This Lenten season offers us the opportunity to grow in faith and show that we are committed followers to our Lord Jesus Christ.

March Services and Readings

Connect • Engage • Grow

All services will be streamed.
[Stream Services Here.](#)

Date	Service	Time	Date	Service	Time
Sun., Mar. 3	The Prodigal Son	8:30 am	Sat., Mar. 23	Saturday of Souls	8:30 am
Sun., Mar. 10	Judgement Sunday	8:30 am	Sat., Mar. 23	Great Vespers	5 pm
Sat., Mar. 16	Saturday of Souls	8:30 am	Sun., Mar. 24	Sunday of Orthodoxy	8:30 am
Sun., Mar. 17	Forgiveness Sunday	8:30 am	Mon., Mar. 25	The Annunciation	8:30 am
Sun., Mar. 17	Forgiveness Vespers	6 pm	Mon., Mar. 25	Great Compline	6:30 pm
Mon., Mar. 18	Great Compline	6:30 pm	Wed., Mar. 27	Presancitized Liturgy	6 pm
Tues., Mar. 19	Great Compline	6:30 pm	Fri., Mar. 29	2nd Salutations	6:30 pm
Wed., Mar. 20	Presancitized Liturgy	6 pm	Sat., Mar. 30	Great Vespers	5 pm
Thurs., Mar. 21	Great Compline	6:30 pm	Sun., Mar. 31	St. Gregory of Palamas	8:30 am
Fri., Mar. 22	1st Salutations	6:30 pm			

Flower Sponsorship

If you would like to sponsor lenten or paschal flowers, please contact Fr. John or the Church Office.

We need sponsors for:

- The Icon of the Mother of God 1st Salutations, 1st Friday of Lent
- The Icon of the Mother of God 2nd Salutations, 2nd Friday of Lent
- The Icon of the Mother of God 3rd Salutations, 3rd Friday of Lent
- The Icon of the Mother of God 5th Salutations, 5th Friday of Lent
- The Icon of the Bridegroom, Holy Sunday-Holy Tuesday
- Icon of the Mystical Supper, Holy Wednesday
- Flower Wreath for Crucifixion, Holy Thursday
- Epitafios, Carnations, and Rose Petals, Holy Friday/Holy Saturday
- Resurrection Icon, Pascha




Beyond 50

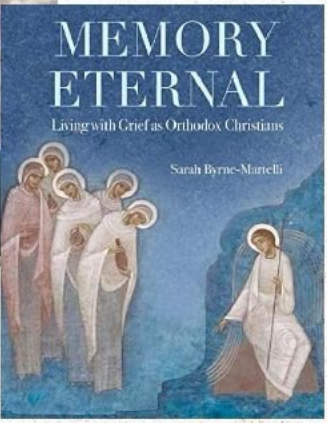
Connect • Engage • Grow

Grief connects us as a human race and even more intimately through our faith in the Resurrected Lord. Grief can be a tool to connect, engage, and grow in faith and fellowship, which is why Nativity is proud to host this year's Lenten Retreat with Sarah Byrne-Martelli. Please make every effort to join us April 13 and April 14. See more details below!

Joy Comes in the Mourning
Living with Grief as Orthodox Women



Sarah
BYRNE - MARTELLI



Online
Registration
Here


1st Annual
Lenten Womens Retreat

SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH 2024
9:30AM WELCOME
10:00AM PRESENTATION
12:00PM LUNCH/MEET & GREET


REGISTER WITH EKELLEY@NATIVITYOFCHRIST.ORG. TICKETS \$20

NATIVITY OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
1110 HIGHLAND DRIVE, NOVATO CA 94949

Fear not:
Encountering Christ
in our suffering
Join Us as We Continue Our Discussion
with Guest Speaker:



Sarah
BYRNE -
MARTELLI



Community Invite

SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH 2024
AFTER CHURCH SERVICE
NOON - 2:00PM
ALL ARE WELCOME

NATIVITY OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
1110 HIGHLAND DRIVE, NOVATO CA 94949

About Sarah

Sarah is an Orthodox Christian board certified chaplain and bereavement counselor, and has served in acute care and hospice since 2002. She currently serves as the Chaplain for the [Massachusetts General Hospital Division of Palliative Care](#). She is also a [Cambia Sojourns Scholar Leader](#), and devotes half of her time to spiritual care research.

She is endorsed by the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese and board certified, with subspecialty certification in hospice and palliative care, by the Association of Professional Chaplains/Board Certification Commission Inc. She is also the Secretary of the Board of the [Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion](#).

She attends [St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church](#) in Cambridge, MA, with her husband, Dr. Peter Martelli, and son Rafael. She holds a Doctor of Ministry from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School, and a Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Religion from Haverford College.

Stewardship

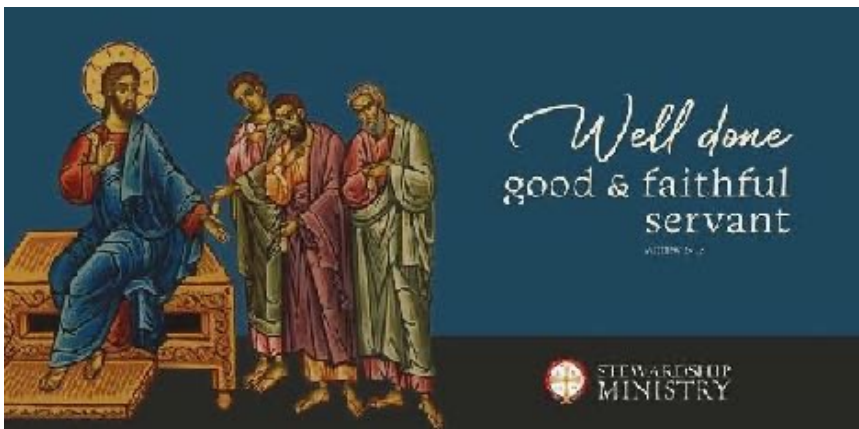
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Springtime Renewal and Rejuvenation

Spring is a time of great energy. It is the best time to renew our perspective on life, review God's purpose in our life, and praise God for all He has done for us. "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow," (Corinthians 3:7).

Spring is a time when we see nature coming back to life after the dormant winter months, and it reminds us that there is always a chance for new beginnings; a time for rebirth, renewal and awakening, and a time when we experience more light and illumination, reminding us that light will always return to earth.

This sense of hope can also inspire us to believe in ourselves and our ability to make positive changes and personal transformations in our lives. The symbolism of renewal and rejuvenation that is synonymous with the beginning of spring holds true to our state of mind. Let us take this time to assess where we are in our day-to-day routines and mindsets and recognize that God's presence is among us as He pours out His word like the spring rains.



[2024 Stewardship Form](#)

March Sack Meal Project for St. Vincent de Paul's Free Dining Room

Join us by giving back to our community. In 2023, Nativity of Christ lovingly made and donated over 1,700 sack meals.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

WHERE: NOC Kitchen

Please help us prepare 150 sack meals for the needy in our community.

We need four sandwich makers, four helpers to assemble the sack meals and two volunteers to take the meals to St. Vincent de Paul's Free Dining Room in central San Rafael. Sign-up is below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094AAAA72FAAFF2-48022995-march>

If you are unable to volunteer, but would like to contribute towards the meals, monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Please send checks to the Church Office with a note that the donation is for **Sack Meals**.

For questions, please contact Elaine Chyrklund (elainechyrklund@gmail.com) or Mary Kay Stratigos (mkstrato@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support. May we continue to pay our blessings forward and give glory to God through our service to those who are in need.

Philoptochos

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Upcoming Events

Mar. 5: General Meeting

Mar. 18: Welcome Home Project
Sign-Up

Mar. 31: Meals for Jonathan's Place

Apr. 28: Palm Sunday Luncheon

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is a General Meeting on Tuesday, March 5. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm and will be a hybrid meeting. Join us at our church or online with Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83158313960?pwd=V0xTM0xEV3RMaFNZbGJ3Qy9CbNFIQT09>

Meeting ID: 831 5831 3960

Passcode: phil

Did you know...Philoptochos History

In July 1974 Turkey invaded Cyprus and 250,000 refugees fled their homes. Philoptochos across the U.S. went into action and sent aid to Cyprus in the form of food, clothing, blankets, and medical supplies. Many more activities were undertaken including a Foster Parent program for the displaced children of Cyprus.

Philoptochos established St. Photios Shrine as a national commitment. The shrine had been established in 1965 and was dedicated to the first Greek settlers who arrived in the New World. The shrine is in St. Augustine, FL. Every year our chapter sends a donation for the national commitment to the St. Photios shrine.

Philoptochos Membership

Last month we sent out the membership letters to the parish. If you are not a member, please consider joining us. Your membership contribution will ensure that we can continue to

support worthwhile organizations and institutions that advance our mission. In January the proceeds from the Christmas card were sent to the Retired Clergy Association and the Diaconate Program Scholarship fund at Hellenic College. Your support allowed us to donate a generous amount to both worthy causes. Thank you!

Supporting our Community

One of the missions of Philoptochos is to help those in need. What better way to help a family in need than to provide a comfortable, safe place to live. We are excited to partner with Welcome Home, a local Marin/Sonoma organization that can make this dream come true. With your support we will provide all the furniture and items that a family needs to start a new life. We would love your support, either hands-on or financially to make this happen. There will be an informational table at Fellowship Hour to further explain the project. A sign-up genius will be sent out for items that are needed. We will also need your support with the drop off and setting up of the apartment. We hope you will be as excited as we are to make this dream a reality.

Philoptochos provides dinner for the residents of Jonathan's Place on the fifth Sunday of any month that has five weeks. March 31 is the next opportunity for us to support Johnathan's Place. This Homeward Bound program is the only emergency shelter for adults in Marin County. If you would like to be involved in providing a meal or serving the meal, please contact Gigi Medan.

Palm Sunday Luncheon

Sunday, April 28

Join us for a traditional Palm Sunday meal including fish, rice, vegetable, dessert and wine

Adults – \$25

Students (7 – 15) – \$15

Children (6 and under) – Free



For reservations, please contact Cathy Selmi at cathyselmi@gmail.com or (415) 246-1760

Oratorical Festival

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Our Parish Oratorical Festival will be April 7 after morning liturgy.

JUNIOR DIVISION

(GRADES 7-9)

TOPIC 1: His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has earned the title of the Green Patriarch, and was named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World for His teachings about humanity's spiritual responsibility for taking care of God's creation — planet earth. His All-Holiness stands on the shoulders of Saints, who taught that the world is a gift from God, and that taking care of His creation is a way to connect with God. Explore and discuss the teachings of His All-Holiness and the Saints on the creation of the world. What are some of our practical responsibilities as stewards of our planet, and how does that enrich our lives as Christians?

TOPIC 2: Many of us have heroes to whom we look up. It may be an older brother or sister, an athlete, or a musician. We have heroes in our religious life, as well as people who inspire us to practice our faith. They teach us, usually by example, how we ought to live as Orthodox Christians. Select a Saint or person who has been the most influential in your spiritual life. Describe the particular and practical ways that influence has taken place.

TOPIC 3: On the Day of Theophany (January 6), we chant, "All those who were baptized in Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27). Discuss the meaning of this hymn and the obligations it places upon us as Orthodox Christians.

TOPIC 4: When reading the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-32), we learn about the various stages of repentance. What are they? How do they relate to the reversal of the son's journey away from the father? What does the father's reaction upon seeing his son teach us about our relationship to our Father in Heaven?

TOPIC 5: The Orthodox Church has a rich heritage of sacred hymns that "contribute radiant and poetic splendor to Orthodox worship," thus opening the way to God. Select your favorite Church hymn and talk about how it strengthens your faith.



SENIOR DIVISION

(GRADES 10-12)

TOPIC 1: Slandered without cause, convicted without a trial, exiled unjustly — this was the life endured by one of the greatest saints of our times — Saint Nektarios of Aegina. Forgiving others who hurt us that deeply and unjustly seems almost impossible. What can we learn from Saint Nektarios, whose life was about forgiving what some might call the impossible?

TOPIC 2: Apostle Paul refers to Adam as the First Man, and Christ as the second Adam. The Fathers of the Church, especially Saint Irenaeus of Lyon, refer to Christ and Panagia as the second Adam and the second Eve. Why is the Most Holy Theotokos called the "Second Eve?" And why is Christ called the "Second Adam?" How do Christ and Panagia fulfill and go beyond their prototypes?

TOPIC 3: Christ says, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:1). He also says, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53). Explore the Orthodox teaching on the Eucharist by reading the prayers of the Divine Liturgy, the writings of one or more Church Fathers.

TOPIC 4: The number of natural disasters worldwide continues to increase, resulting in more communities destroyed and more lives lost. How would you respond to someone who questions why God allows natural disasters to happen when we know God can intervene at any moment? If God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving, how can He allow evil things to happen?

TOPIC 5: During the Divine Liturgy, before the Consecration of the Holy Gifts, we hear the priest say the following: "Your own of Your own we offer to You, in all and for all." What does this petition mean to you as an Orthodox Christian? Why is it important for us to focus on giving back out of the gifts we have been given by God?

March 24

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The Greek School is putting together a dramatization of the events leading up to the nation of Greece gaining its freedom and independence as well as celebrating the Holy Day of the Annunciation!



Come Join Us
Sunday, March 24, 2024
At Nativity of Christ Church
after Liturgy



Sunday School

March 24th

Sunday of Orthodoxy: Students - Bring your icon to church today! We are also celebrating the Annunciation/Greek Independence Day Celebration following Liturgy in the Fellowship Hall.

What is the Sunday of Orthodoxy, and how do we celebrate it?

The Sunday of Orthodoxy celebrates the triumph of the Orthodox faith over iconoclasm on the first Sunday of Great Lent in the year 843. We commemorate this day with a procession of icons around the church to show their importance as an integral part of our worship and our faith.

What is the Annunciation/Greek Independence and how do we celebrate it?

In honor of the Annunciation/Greek Independence Day of March 25, GEM and Sunday school students will proudly present a very special program that will take us back in time by re-enacting the story of the road to Greek independence. This performance will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24 after Liturgy.

If you are interested in volunteering and helping, please contact Chrissy Zotalis by email at greekschool@nativityofchrist.org or go to [Sign Up Genius](#) for more information on volunteering for this event.

Please Mark Your Calendars:

- April 27:** Lazarus Saturday Liturgy and Palm Cross Folding
- April 28:** Palm Sunday (Student Procession during Liturgy)
- May 3:** Holy Friday Retreat - 1:00 - 3:00 pm
- May 5:** Pascha (No Sunday School Today)
- May 19:** Promotion Sunday



Religious Education

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Watch and Study Group

March 13: Season 4, Episodes 3 & 4

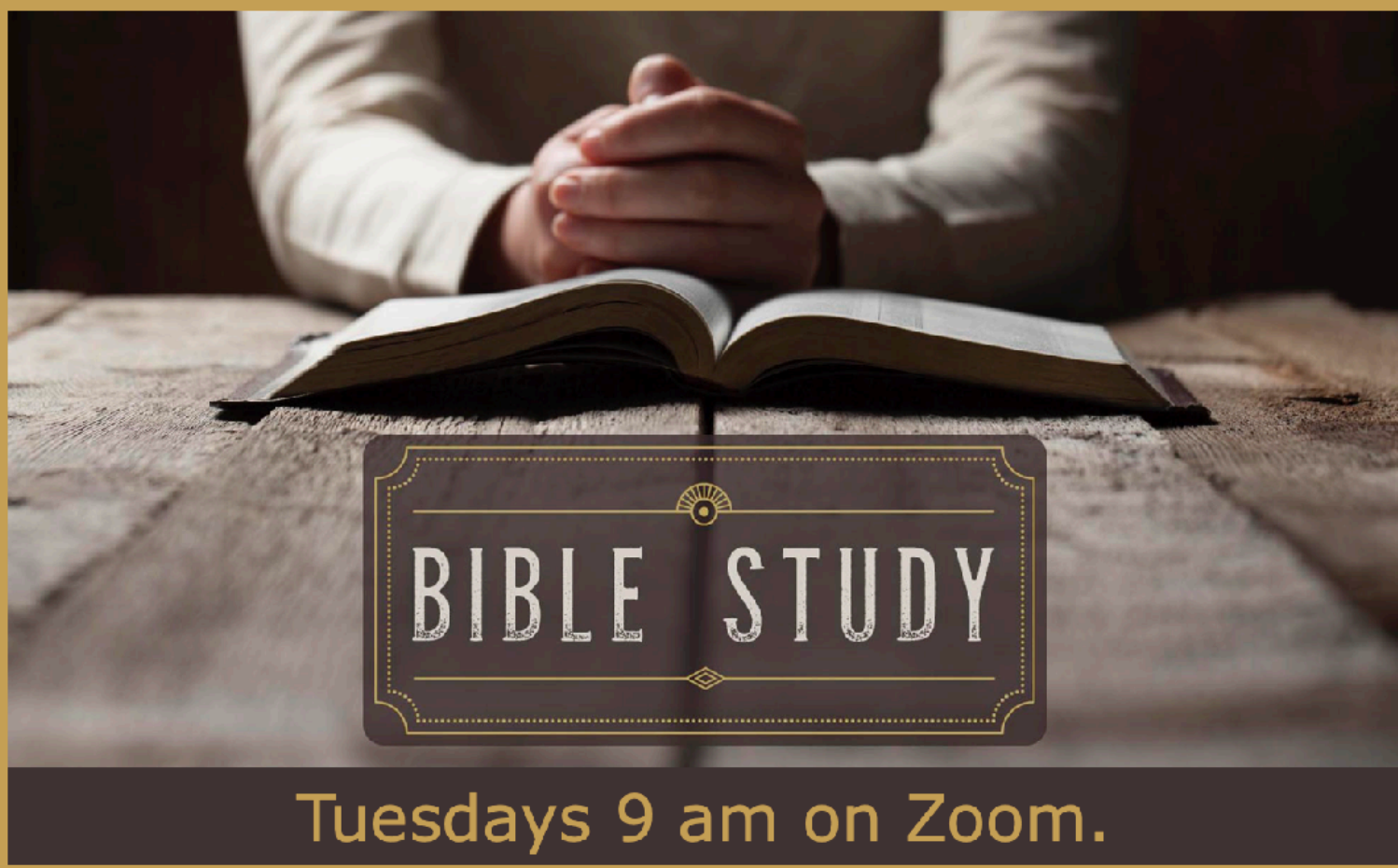
March 27: Season 4, Episodes 5 & 6

The CHOSEN

Discussion: 7:30 pm on Zoom

Join Fr. John through Zoom as we discuss the popular video series depicting the miracles and life of Jesus Christ.

(All episodes available for free online at www.angel.com)



BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays 9 am on Zoom.

Upcoming Fundraisers

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GYRO-FEST-TO-GO

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE NOC DANCE MINISTRY

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND & SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD

11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM

GYROS,
FRIES,
BAKLAVA &
GREEK
SODA

NATIVITY OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

JOIN US FOR FAITH, FOOD & "FUN" RAISING

MARIN GREEK FESTIVAL 2024

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

FRIDAY, MAY 24TH, 5PM TO 9PM

SATURDAY, MAY 25TH, 11AM TO 9PM

& SUNDAY, MAY 26TH, 11AM TO 8PM

GREEK CUISINE

CULTURE

MUSIC

DANCE

FAITH

FELLOWSHIP

& FUN



SAVE THE DATE

MARINGREEKFESTIVAL.ORG

Upcoming Events

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NOC LADIES

PICKLEBALL

Friday March 8th

• 6:30 PM in the NOC Gym •

No Experience Necessary
No Equipment Necessary
Tennis Shoes Recommended

• Hosted By Irene Meehan & Matina Seremetis •

RSVP to matinaseremetis@gmail.com

VIP Gatherings

All seniors are invited for our
monthly gathering after
Divine Liturgy.

March 7 at Noon

Please contact Vasiliki Tzafopoulos or
Erene Sotiras for more details.

TRIVIA

NIGHT

Friday March 1st
NOC FAMILY COMMUNITY EVENT
6:00 - 8:00pm NOC Small Hall

Bring Your Family
Bring Your Friends
Fun Trivia For All!!!

Hosted
by
Jenny
Walters

RSVPs Appreciated to jennifer.walters1415@gmail.com

SONS OF NATIVITY

Hosted by Pete Stathis

MARCH 15TH - 6:30 PM

RSVP

PETESTATHIS@COMCAST.NET

Upcoming Bay Area Events

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Bay Area GOYA Lenten Retreat

MARIN HEADLANDS

GRADES 6 - 12
MARCH 29 - 31

LOCATION
Golden Gate National Recreation Area, 1035 Fort Cronkite,
Sausalito, CA 94965

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW
organized by The Church of the Holy Cross
office.gjgoinholycross.org



SAVE THE DATE

Register Online at:
[annunciation.org/
elpida-lenten-retreat](http://annunciation.org/elpida-lenten-retreat)

Elpida

A Youth Ministry of the Annunciation
Cathedral in San Francisco

245 Valencia Street
San Francisco

415-864-8000
mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org
annunciation.org/elpida-lenten-retreat

SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH

Elpida's Lenten Retreat

Saints, Sacraments, and Stuffies

*Building Community through Faith with children in
Greek Orthodox Parishes all over Northern
California*

Grades TK-7th **Limited Spots!**

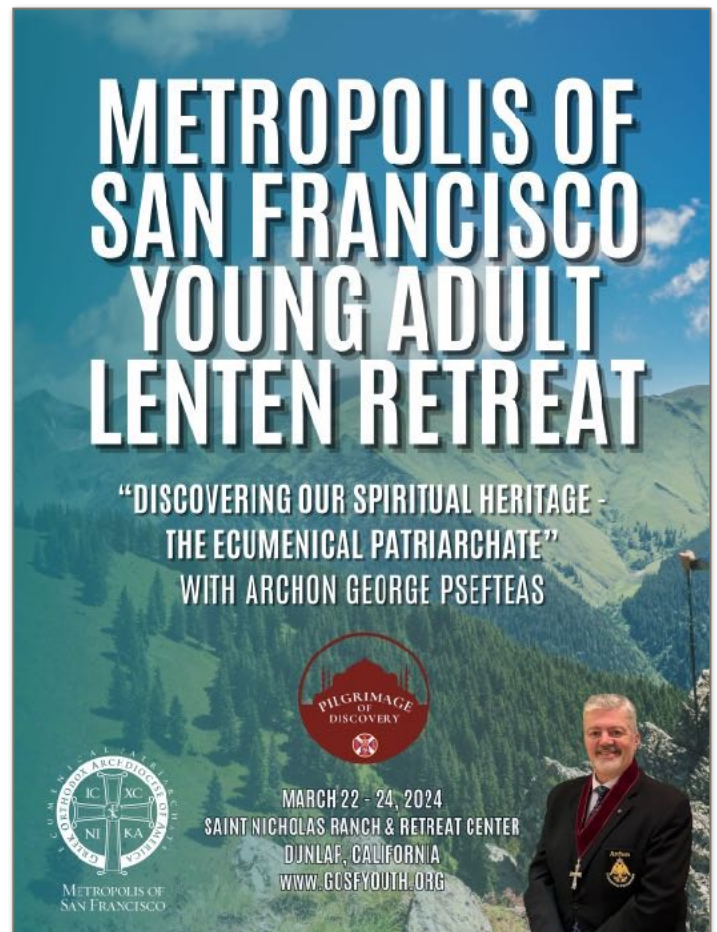


2024 SUMMER CAMP DATES:

SESSION 1: JULY 7 - 13
SESSION 2: JULY 14 - 20
SESSION 3: JULY 21 - 27

WWW.GOSFYOUTH.ORG

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
SUMMERCAMP
AT SAINT NICHOLAS RANCH



METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO YOUNG ADULT LENTEN RETREAT

“DISCOVERING OUR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE -
THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE”
WITH ARCHON GEORGE PSEFTEAS

PILGRIMAGE
OF
DISCOVERY

MARCH 22 - 24, 2024
SAINT NICHOLAS RANCH & RETREAT CENTER
DUNLAP, CALIFORNIA
WWW.GOSFYOUTH.ORG

Highlights from Recent Events

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2024 Community Crab Feed

The 2024 Community Crab Feed was another incredible event bringing together 300 people from both our parish and the greater community. Delicious crab, a robust silent auction and raffle, live music and energetic dancing truly made for a memorable evening.

Much appreciation to the Pan Cretan Chapter of Marin and Sonoma Counties for their hard work and support. This is a joint effort of the Parish and the Pan Cretan Chapter and proceeds from this event assists many of the ministries of our community. The Chapter has for several years supported our Parish Dance Ministry by underwriting a portion of the cost of the musicians that play for the Minoans at the annual Folk Dance Festival held on President's Day weekend. This year, President Tony Kosmas presented a grant for additional support.

Each year the Chapter also presents scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 to members' children who are college students. The 2024 recipient was Alexis Kamages.

We are thankful to the entire community for their support and may God always bless our fellowship with strengthened faith!



Ladies Night

The Ladies of NOC enjoyed a wonderful evening at Mantra Wines on February 9. Please join us for pickleball this month.



SONs Night

Food and drinks at Trailhead contributed to a great gathering of fellowship. Join us this month for basketball.



Highlights from FDF

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DANCE TO LIFE, THEME OF THE 1987 & 2024 FOLK DANCE FESTIVALS



The Minoans participated in their first Greek Orthodox "Dance to Life" Folk Dance Festival (FDF) in 1987, held in Anaheim. Ten dancers, six parents and two directors from Nativity participated, wearing homemade team shirts. Now, 37 years later, a new generation of Minoans returned to Anaheim, for another "Dance to Life" FDF with five performing groups, over 50 performers, five directors, an amazing parent support crew and six musicians from Greece.



those regions. Debuting this year were the Minoan Singers (elementary age) directed by Daphne Cummings and Stephanie Gikkas and the Little Minoans in the exhibition category. The Minoan Singers were invited to sing at the Clergy family brunch on Sunday morning following Divine Liturgy.



Awards were presented on Sunday evening, starting with FDF scholarships. Eleni Antonis and Sophia Stratigos each received a \$1,000 scholarship recognizing their academic, sports and service achievements. Eleni is a high school senior, hoping

The weekend kicked off on Thursday with a service project organized by the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos to build bikes for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Our young performers worked hard to build their bikes and won an award for their Kefi. Opening Ceremonies and Agiasmos blessing were led by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and clergy that evening.



to pursue a career in medicine, and Sophia is a sophomore at UC Berkeley, studying architecture. A scholarship was also awarded to another FDF dancer, in memory of Elektra Fourakis.



The Minoan Singers received first place honors for their performance at FDF and the Minoan Dancers 1 (college/adult dancers), directed by Vasilis, Effie and Achilleas Fourakis were awarded the highest FDF honor, the Sweepstakes Award!

Dance and choral performances were held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Three competing Minoans dance groups presented dance sets from Crete and Thrace, accompanied by musicians from



March 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!



March 1: St. Evdokia

Evdokia Smith

March 2 St. Efthalia

Thalia Morales

March 17: St. Patrick

Pat Arango

Patricia Bonderud

Pat Destein

Patrick Fuss

Patti Livanos

Patrick Michael

March 19: Sts. Chrysanthos & Daria

Jeffrey Contos

Dareia Helena Cummings

March 25: The Annunciation

Eva Aaron

Angelo Angelopoulos

Angela Eggleston

Angela Farmer

Bryan Hall

Eve Hontalas

Evangelia Madias

Evan Meehan

Angi Psaros

Angie Sotiras

Ava Eleni Stanbrook

How to donate to the Nativity of Christ from your IRA if you are over 72

Using a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** is a great way for folks over 72 with an IRA who need to withdraw funds to meet a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to contribute to Nativity's Beyond 50 campaign or Stewardship fund. The money you contribute to Nativity using a QCD is not included in your adjusted gross income on your tax return, which is a better option than listing the donation as a simple charitable contribution. According to the IRS:

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is generally a nontaxable distribution made directly by the trustee of your IRA (other than a SEP or SIMPLE IRA) to an organization eligible to receive tax deductible contributions. You must be at least age 72, when the distribution was made. Also, you must have the same type of acknowledgment of your contribution that you would need to claim a deduction for charitable contribution.

A Lasting Gift for the Church – (Planned Giving)

A bequest or gift through your will is one of the simplest ways to make a lasting gift to the Church. Please consult your financial advisor for advice. A suggested wording: *I hereby bequeath the sum of \$_____ as a charitable bequest to the Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church of Novato (Tax ID23-7122395) to be used for charitable purposes of the Church.*

2024 Festival Baking Volunteers Needed

Many hands make light work. Please stop by when you are able - even an hour really helps. Unless noted, we start at 9 am and wrap up around 1 pm. No experience needed. Lunch will be provided.



Friday, March 8 - Galaktoboureko

Saturday, March 9 - Galaktoboureko
(after Saturday of Souls service)

Friday, March 22 - Diples

Friday, April 19 - Koulouria

Any questions, contact Matina Seremetis at 415-297-7501 or MatinaSeremetis@gmail.com

2024 Stewardship Pledges (as of February 26, 2024)

Connect • Engage • Grow

Presiding Priest Fr. John & Pres. Stephanie Kocolas	Gikkas, Pete & Vickie Gikkas, Stephanie Haginicols, Amalia Hajopoulos, Kathy Hall, Bryan & Paula Plessas-Hall Hamill, John & Athanasia Hanis, Jim & Stella Haris, Nico & Nicole Harvey, Robert & Elaine Hontalas, Chris & Susan Hontalas, Frank & Eve Hundley, Courtney & Marilyn Hunter, John & Rose Iannios, Demetrios & Manulani Jianas, Alex & Diana Kakleas, Jon Kalabokes, Chris Kamages, Christ & Pat Kanas, Nick & Carolyn Katelanis, Olympia Kefallinos, Vasiliki Keller, Ed & Karen Kelley, Stephen & Eleni Kokalis, George & Debbie Kozas, Anna Kuvelis, Dean & Denise Kuvelis, Xenia Lagios, Michael & Sheila Li, Robert & Stephanie Pappas Livadas, Carl & Stacy Drakousis Livanos, Nick & Patti Lucas, Matt & Fei Lynn, Tom & Lucy Picras-Lynn Madias, Constantine & Marti Madias, Theodore Manesis, Alexandria Manos, Michelle Mantalvanos, Maria & Alex Marshall, Philip & Kathy Mavromihalis, Stelio & Vasiliki Mayer, Paul & Diana Demetrulias McDonald, John-Michael & Johnnie Medan, Dushan & Gigi Meehan, Nicole Meehan, Tom & Irene Mehas, Christine Meredith, Kent & Elaina Metallinos, Sophia Michael, Patrick & Christina Misthos, Eileen Morris, Susan Morrisey, Lloyd & Anastasia Pinoris O'Connor, Wayne & Betty Zootis Oetzel, Bob & Pauline Orologas, Katarina Papageorge, Christos & Despina	Panagotacos, James & Diane Papanikolaou, George & Anastasia Papanikolaou, Marina Passaris, Michael & Meredith Passaris, Theodoros & Eleni Pauletti, Jeff & Alexandra Petracopoulos, Thelma Pineda, Andy & Matina Seremetis Powers, Bill & Kiki Taft Psaros, Stamatis & Eleni Rishwain, Darron & Pamela Roland, George & Roland Rouman, Steve & Liz Ruffcorn, Oren & Joanna Sandoval, Irene Saris, Tony & Betty Scanagatta, Roman & Eleni Selmi, Cathy Selmi, Helen Sideris, Stassie Smith, Evdokia Sotiras, Erene Sotiras, George Sotiras, Maria Stathis, Pete & Dina Stathis, Sophia Stavrinides, Nicholas Stavrinides, Thalia Stenros, Stuart & Stella Stockton, John & Susan Stratigos, Nikolas Stratigos, Spiro & Mary Kay Stratigos, Sophia Tacticos, George Tangalakis, Odysseus & Joanna Tarazi, Alex & Carla Thomatos, Denis & Christina Touras, Antonios & Antonia Triantafyllos, John & Laura Tzafopoulos, Vasiliki Tzagarakis, Martina Vallas, James & Judith Vasilopoulos, Nektarios & Eileen Gordon Vlachos, Spiro & Argyro Petsakos-Vlachos Vlahakos, Nick & Georgia Walters, Amalia Walters, Jennifer Wiepking, Ruairi, & Alexandra Kremer Yakumithis, Michael & Marika Zaccardelli, Dennis & Kathryn Zaferiou, Paul & Phyllis Zahariudakis, Dimitrios & Charoula
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March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Family First Friday at Trivia Night 6 pm <i>Fast Day</i>	2 Gyro-Fest-to-Go 11 am-7 pm
3 The Prodigal Son Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am <i>Sunday School</i> GEM at NOC Gyro-Fest-to-Go 11 am-7 pm	4 GEM Zoom	5 Bible Study 9 am Philoptochos General Meeting 7 pm	6 GEM Zoom <i>Fast Day</i>	7 VIPs Luncheon at Noon GEM Zoom	8 Festival Baking 9 am Ladies' Pickleball 6:30 pm	9 Divine Services 8:30 am Saturday of Souls Festival Baking 10:30 am
10 Judgement Sunday Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am <i>Sunday School</i> GEM at NOC	11 GEM Zoom	12 Bible Study 9 am Parish Council 7 pm	13 Sack Meals 9 am The Chosen 6:30 pm GEM Zoom <i>Fast Day</i>	14 GEM Zoom	15 Men's Basketball 6:30 pm <i>Fast Day</i>	16 Divine Services 8:30 am Saturday of Souls
17 Forgiveness Sunday Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am <i>Sunday School</i> GEM at NOC Forgiveness Vespers 6 pm	18 Clean Monday GEM Zoom Great Confession 6:30 pm Confession	19 Bible Study 9 am Great Confession 6:30 pm	20 Presanctified Liturgy 6 pm GEM Zoom <i>Fast Day</i>	21 Great Confession 6:30 pm	22 Festival Baking 9 am 1 st Salutations 6:30 pm	23 Divine Services 8:30 am Saturday of Souls Great Vespers 5 pm Confession
24 Sunday of Orthodoxy Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am <i>Family Worship</i> March 25 Program	25 Divine Services 8:30 The Annunciation of the Theotokos GEM Zoom Great Confession 6:30 pm Confession	26 Bible Study 9 am Mailing Team 10 am	27 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 am The Chosen 6:30 pm GEM Zoom <i>Fast Days</i>	28 GEM Zoom	29 2 nd Salutations 6:30 pm Bay Area GOYA retreat	30 Elpida Lenten Retreat Bay Area GOYA retreat Great Vespers 5 pm Confession
31 St. Gregory of Palamas Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am <i>Sunday School</i> GEM at NOC Jonathan's Place Meal Bay Area GOYA retreat			<i>Fast Days</i>			



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