The Word

October 2025

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



"Wherever the bishop is, there let the people be; as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the whole church." — St. Ignatius of Antioch

On October 20, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Gerasimos of Kefalonia. The Metropolis of San Francisco also celebrates 20 years of His Metropolitan Eminence faithful and Gerasimos' dedicated service as our shepherd. This spiritual milestone serves as an opportunity to reflect upon the role and responsibility of the local hierarch as established from the time of the apostles.

From the earliest tradition of the Church, each local Christian community gathered around its bishop to celebrate the Eucharist to personify the whole and complete body of Christ. The Orthodox faithful, under the omophorion and leadership of the local hierarch, embodies the person of the bishop, who likewise embodies the person of Jesus Christ.

The bishop is the primary example of our faith and the center of the sacramental life of the Church. Through apostolic succession and the laying on of hands, the ministry of the bishop has direct continuity with that of the apostles. It is only through the blessing of the local hierarch that the priests distribute the and pray Baptism, sacraments of Chrismation, Confession, Unction, and Holy Communion. Meaning, the authenticity and truest expression Orthodox of sacramental faith is first given by the teaching and example of the local hierarch.

For 20 years and counting, the Holy Metropolis of San Francisco has been blessed with the spiritual leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, who has baptized, chrismated, and ordained the

faithful of this Metropolis. Through his leadership and spiritual discernment, the Metropolis has been blessed with an example of Jesus Christ as described by St. Ignatius.

On October 20, the "island of Kefalonia calls upon multitudes of Orthodox to sing praises of thanksgiving divine Gerasimos the great" (Kontakion of the Feast). May the Metropolis of San Francisco call upon the faithful to boldly proclaim during each Divine Liturgy as one body of Christ: "Above all, remember, O Lord, our Archbishop Gerasimos; grant that he may serve Your holy churches in peace; keep safe. honorable. healthy for many years, to rightly teach the word of Your truth."

We give glory to God for our spiritual teacher and shepherd and pray our Lord grant His Eminence many years of good health. Eis Polla Eti Despota!

1

All services will be streamed.

Stream Services Here



	October Services	
Date	Service	Time
Sunday, October 5	2nd Sunday of Luke	8:30 am
Sunday. October 12	7th Ecumenical Council	8:30 am
Tuesday, October 14	Paraklesis	11:00 am
Sunday, October 19	3rd Sunday of Luke	8:30 am
Monday, October 20	St. Gerasimos	8:30 am
Sunday, October 26	6th Sunday of Luke	8:30 am

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, November 9: Harvest Luncheon after Divine Services

Saturday, November 15: Annual Holiday Market & Yiayia's Attic 10 am - 4 pm

Tuesday, December 30: Name Day Great Vespers and Dinner

2026 Directory

We will be including a printed 2026 Parish Directory in the January Calendar mailing. If you have any changed contact information that you have not provided to the Church Office, please email us at office@nativityofchrist.org or call us at 415-883-1998 to update your information prior to **December 15**.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Fall Parish Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, October 26 after Divine Liturgy.

Word Mailing Team

Join us monthly as we fold and label the the Word newsletters. This month we are gathering Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 10 am. Questions? Email the Church Office.

office@nativityofchrist.org

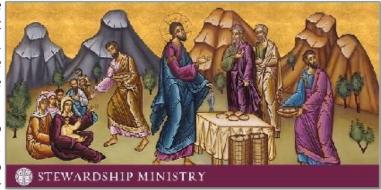
From Seeds to Harvest: The Joy of Stewardship

This time of year is often associated with the harvest, a period of gathering crops that symbolizes the culmination of hard work and dedication. Harvesting is a joyous occasion, where the fruits of one's labor are finally reaped. The more seeds sown, the more bountiful the harvest.

Stewardship can be compared to sowing seeds into God's house, collectively creating a great harvest. Our combined efforts in stewardship enable us to make a significant impact. It allows us to support various ministries, assist our community, and address the needs of the Church. If you are a steward, take a moment to reflect on the multiplied impact you are making. Together, our "seeds" have a greater effect.

We invite you to consider the impact you can make by sowing your stewardship gift to the Church. Our Lord reminds us in Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap."

Online Stewardship Form





St. Luke the Evangelist

This Apostle was an Antiochean, a physician by trade, and a disciple and companion of Paul. He wrote his Gospel in Greek after Matthew and Mark, after which he wrote the Acts of the Apostles, and dedicated both works to Theophilus, who, according to some, was Governor of Achaia. He lived some 86 years and died in Achaia, perhaps in Patras, the capital of this district. His emblem is the calf, the third symbolical beast mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), which is a symbol of Christ's sacrificial and priestly office, as Saint Irenaeus says.

<u>Apolytikion of Luke the Evangelist</u>

O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede to our merciful God, that He may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.



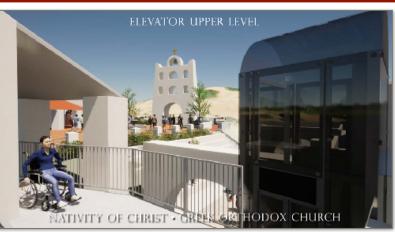
Beyond 50 Update

Connect • Engage • Grow

Roundtable Discussion

On September 7, a Roundtable Discussion was held, after t h e Divine Liturgy, to spur engagement and feedback from parishioners regarding our proposed Capital Projects. robust small group discussion at each table was moderated by a member of the Parish Council and/or the Building Committee. A transcript of Parish President, Steve Council Rouman's, introduction to the Roundtable appears below.

Thank you all for being here today. The goal of today's discussion is as advertised: to hear from all of you as we prepare to pursue our remaining approved capital projects. Every parish member is an important part of this process, and for those of you who feel as if there have been delays or lags in our communication, we want to thank you for your patience. We hope you've recognized our attempts to communicate every step of the way through monthly Word updates, and multiple workshops, discussions, and Parish Assemblies. That said, there has indeed been a





great length of time in delayed action because of the process involved in gaining approval from the City of Novato, which began in 2022 and didn't conclude until the Spring of 2025.

Now that we have city approval, we have been able to advance to the next critical stage of the process, which was our recent selection of a general contractor, McDevitt Construction. Now Christ Kamages, and his team at CJK, can begin to produce construction documents that will allow us to apply for building permits. Only when we receive building permits from the City of Novato will we be eligible to begin construction.

However, to be clear, construction cannot, and will not begin at Nativity, until a final Special Parish Assembly, open to all parishioners, approving the beginning of construction.

As for today, there are two primary objectives: 1. To learn something you didn't know, and 2. To vocalize your questions or concerns in a small group setting.

We understand that not everyone is comfortable sharing their thoughts on a microphone in front of a crowd. That's why we hope this more informal and intimate forum will help people feel more comfortable sharing.

Before we begin our breakout groups today, I would like to emphasize that perspective is important – let's be sure each person has the opportunity to speak. We want to hear from you, but we all want you to hear others as well.

For those of you who could not attend, a summary is being prepared for the community to review. We welcome hearing from all of our parish members during this next critical phase of our church's growth.

Philoptochos Connect • Engage • Grow

Philoptochos Meeting

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, October 7 at 7 pm. All are welcome! The meeting will be held in the church conference room and will also be available on Zoom. Please join us as we enter a busy time of the year and could use many hands to make light and fun work.

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83158313960?

pwd=V0xTM0xEV3RMaFNZbGJ3Qy9CbnFJQT09 Meeting ID: 831 5831 3960 Passcode: phil

Fellowship Hour

The Fellowship groups have started again. Thanks to everyone who is part of a group, without your support, this program would not be successful. If you have not joined a group and would like to, please contact Irene Meehan at imeehan715@gmail.com 415 -497-7674.



Fellowship Hour.

Philoptochos Membership

Thank you to all who have joined this year! We will continue to have membership forms available during the Fellowship Hour.

Ionathan's Place

Many thanks to our September 7 crew! The delicious meal would not

have been possible without the work and guidance of Gigi and her crew: Spyros, Lovish and Luna. Watch for our next meal preparation and serving opportunity on November 30.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October has been designated for women's health, most specifically breast cancer awareness. On October 19, we will have an information table with various pamphlets available during the

YiaYia's Attic

Saturday, November 15



Yiayia's Attic returns again alongside the annual Holiday Market.

Watch for the announcements for ways to volunteer, drop off days and times, and lists of new and gently used items and treasures we are looking to collect for our shop supporting Philoptochos and our charitable partners.



<u>Sunday School</u>

Connect • Engage • Grow

St. Romanos

Did you know that we have a patron saint of music in the Orthodox Church? October 1 is the day we celebrate St. Romanos, the Melodist. St Romanos was a church musician who lived in the late fifth century and early sixth century in present day Syria. He wrote many, many hymns called kontakia and set them to music. One of his most well known kontakia, I Parthenos Simeron (Today the Virgin), was composed for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. This beautiful hymn tells us about the Panagia (Virgin Mary/Theotokos) making her way to give birth to Christ and how the entire world and heavens rejoice that Christ is born. To read more about the life of St. Romanos, click here.



October Class Days

October 5, 12, 19, 26

See you at 9:30 am for Liturgy and in class after Communion!

Check in with your children about what they are learning in class! And take a moment to introduce yourself to your child(ren)'s teacher too.

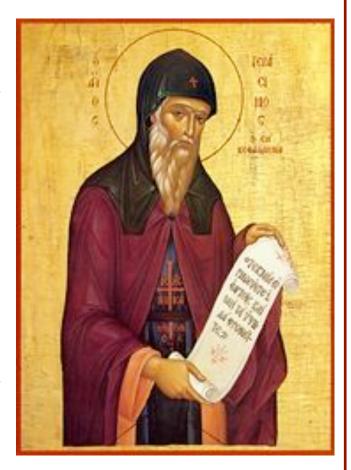
St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia

Reading

Saint Gerasimos was from the Peloponnesus, the son of Demetrius and Kale, of the family of Notaras. He was reared in piety by them and studied the Sacred writings. He left his country and went throughout various lands, and finally came to Cephalonia, where he restored a certain old church and built a convent around it, where it stands to this day at the place called Omala. He finished the course of his life there in asceticism in the year 1570. His sacred relics, which remain incorrupt, are kept there for the sanctification of the faithful.

Apolytikion of Gerasimos of Cephalonia

Let us the faithful praise the divine Gerasimos, who hath been newly revealed to us as a protector of the Orthodox, an angel in the flesh, and a God-bearing wonderworker. For he worthily received from God the unfailing gift of healing; he restoreth the ailing and healeth demoniacs. Wherefore, he poureth forth healings upon them that honor him.



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September Highlights Connect • Engage • Grow

Sunday Funday

The September Sunday Funday was at Josef Hoog Park. Young families of Nativity had wonderful fellowship and fun exploring the new play areas. Join us on campus October 5 for our next Sunday Funday.









RECENT MINOANS' PERFORMANCES









SAINT ANTHONY GREEK FESTIVAL, RENO, NEVADA

UPCOMING:

Castro Valley Greek Festival, Saturday, October 4 Saint George Rohnert Park Middle Eastern & Greek Festival, Sunday, October 5, 2pm

JOY -Prosforon Making Day Connect • Engage • Grow

<u>JOY</u>

Sunday, September 21, our Junior Orthodox Youth (JOY) gathered in our Small Hall to learn how to make prosforon by Sister Marie from Assumption Monastery in Calistoga. We thank Nicole Haris and all the parents for their assistance in a wonderful afternoon!





















September Highlights

Connect • Engage • Grow

VIPs

Our September VIPs luncheon Monday, September 8, to celebrate the Nativity of the Theotokos. Happy birthday to George Tacticos. Join us this month on October 20 after Divine Services.



Ladies Night

Friday, September 12, NOC ladies gathered at Active Culture for a wonderful time of fellowship. Join us Friday, October 10, for our next night out.

SONs

Our SONs enjoyed a wonderful gathering on Friday, discussing our important roles as husbands and fathers. Join us next month on Friday, October 17 at Mamita's restaurant!



September Fest to Go

The Minoan Dancers held their Fall Fest to Go September 20 and 21. Much fun was had while raising money for their dance program.







Upcoming Connect • Engage • Grow

JOY!

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

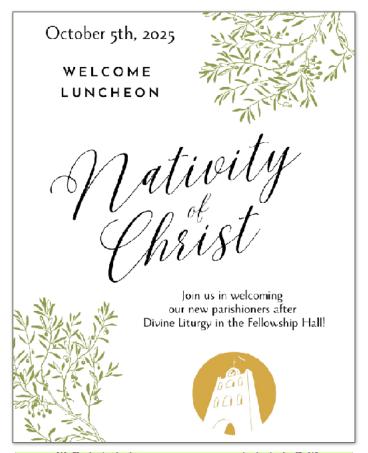


- · Nurtures kids' relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church
- · Equips our youth with the tools to navigate their faith journey
- Builds lifelong friendships

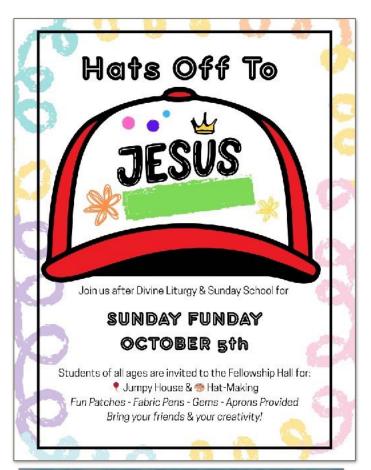
kiddos Prek 6th grade Welcome!

Contact: Niki Haris niccle.l.haris@gmail.com

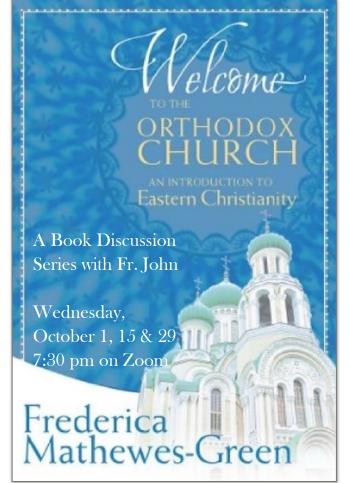














SACK MEAL

PPOJECT

WHEN

Wednesday October 29

VOLUNTEERS

4 Volunteers for Sandwich Making

SIGN UP HERE

https://tinyurl.com/ October025

CONTACT

Elaine Chyrklund at elainechyrklund@gmail.com or Mary Kay Stratigos at mkstrato@gmail.com FOR THE ST. VINCENT DE

WHERE

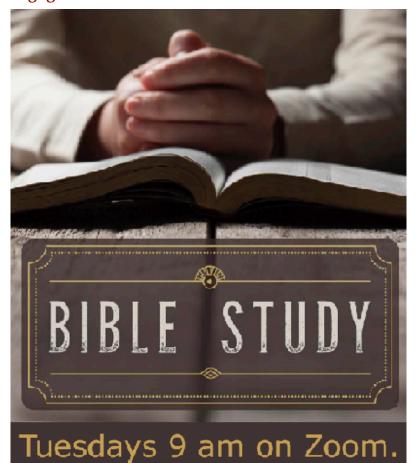
9-11AM NOC Kitchen

NEEDED

4 Volunteers for the Assembly Line



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









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!





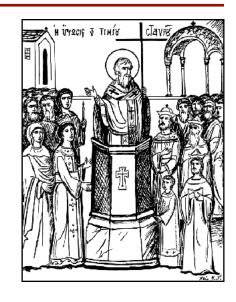


<u>October Name Days</u>

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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!



Oct. 10: St. Romanos Roman Scanagatta

Oct. 6: St. Thomas

Tom Karas Tom Lynn

Thomas Meehan Thomas Orr Tom Papageorge Scott Walters

Oct. 20: St. Artemios

Diana Jianas

Oct. 25: St. Demetrios

Demetri Botaitis Taryn Bryan Jim Cocoles

James Farmer
Demetrios Giannis

Demetria (Demi) Hall Jim Hanis

Trenton James Hanis Demetrios Iannios

Jim Kocolas

Dimitrios Kokalis

Jamie Lynn

James Panagotacos Luka Dimitri Pauletti

Jim Selmi Jim Thompson Dimitri Tsiplakos

Demetrius Tzafopoulos

James Vallas

Demetra Vangelatos Dimitrios Zahariudakis

Oct. 27: St. Kyriakos Domonik Mertens Oct. 29: St. Anastasia

Melina Porter

Oct. 30: St. Apollonia

Asli Dellinger

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 a 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.

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2025 Stewardship Pledges (as of September 24, 2025)

Connect • Engage • Grow

Presiding Priest Fr. John & Pres. Stephanie Kocolas

Priest Emeritus Fr. Constantine Efstathiu

Pres. Evelyn Adams Adams, Bill & Lisa Albanes, Joseph Alexander, Maria 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 Cunningham, Kenneth & Elaine Curelaru, Viorica Daifotis, Kimon & Cindy Degaitis, Julia Delfino, Ken & Carrie Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie Demakas, George DesJardin, Kenny & Katia Doers, Guy Domenichelli, Daniel & Konstantina Efstathiu, Paul & Kristen Eftimiou, Nick & Jeanette Eggleston, Philp & Angela

El-Far, Karim & Jasmin

Fourakis, Vasilis & Effie

Fradelizio, John & Georgia

Friedman, Peter & Katina

Farmer, Tim & Eleni

Flohr, Dave & Diane

Franklin, Alexandra

Fafoutis, Diane

Fotinos, Vivian

Pantazes

Fuss, Patrick Gagas, Charles & Claire Garton, Elena Gatzios, Yiannis & Catherine Gavallos, Dennis Gavallos, Victor & Brenda George, Ann Georgeson, George & Debbie Geron, Diana Gikkas, Pete & Vickie Hatos Gikkas, Stephanie Gunder, Nicholas & Sidsel Haginicols, Amalia Hajopoulos, Kathy Hall, Bryan & Paula Plessas-Hall Hamill, John & Athanasia Hanis, Jim & Stella Haralambopoulos, Costas & Haris, George & Georgia Haris, Nico & Nicole Harris, Helen Harvey, Robert & Elaine Hawker, Nina Hontalas, Chris & Susan Hontalas, Frank & Eve Hontalas, George & Amy Hundley, Courtney & Marilyn Hunter, John & Rose Iannios, Demetrios & Manulani Jianas, Alex & Diana Kakleas, Jon Kalabokes, Chris Kalabokes, Matthew & Elina Kamages, Alex & Sherry Kamages, Pat & Christ Kambur, JoAnne Kanas, Nick & Carolynn Kavantjas, Diane Keller, Éd & 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 Lendaris, George Leventis, Zack & Georgia Li, Robert & Stephanie **Pappas** Livadas, Carl & Stacy Drakousis Livanos, Nick & Patti Lucas, Matt & Fei Lynn, Thomas & Lucille Madias, Constantine &

Marti

Madias, Theodore Malatras, John & Olivia Teter Mandanis, Marjorie Manesis, Alexandria Manos, Michele Margaronis, Anastasi & Maya Marin, Doina Marshall, Philip & Kathy Mavromihalis, Steve & Vickie Mayer, Paul & Diana Demetrulias Medan, Dushan & Gigi Meehan, Nicole Meehan, Tom & Irene Meek, Gerald & Stamatina Meek, Jason 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 Sarantinos, Alexis 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

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 & Ioanna Tarazi, Alex & Carla Tocmakidis, Pinelopy Touras, Antonios & Antonia Trapalis, Niovi Triantafyllos, John & Laura Tzafopoulos, Demetrius & Cynthia 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

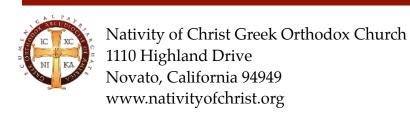
2025 October Word

Soeten, Alexandra

Sotiras, Erene

Sotiras, George

	31	30	Sack Meals 9 am Mailing Team 10:00 am GEM Classes Minoans Dance Practice Welcome to Orthodoxy 7:30 pm	28 Bible Study 9 am	27	26 6th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School Fall Parish Assembly
	6:30 pm-10 pm Fast Days		Minoans Dance Practice Fast Days	pipie otudy z ani	St. Gerasimos VIPs Luncheon	Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School Trunk or Treat
25 Great Vespers in Concord		23	Fast Days 22	21	20 Divine Services - 8:30	19 3rd Sunday of Luke
Narthex Clean Up Day at 8 am 2025 October Word	SON's Night 6:30 pm at Mamita		G linoar Velcon	Bible Study 9 am Paraklesis 11 am Parish Council 7 pm		Z th Ecumenical Council Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School
18	17	16	15	14	13	12
	Fast Days	·	Fast Days			Sunday Funday Welcome Luncheon
	Women's Night 6 pm at Blue Barn		GEM Classes Minoans Dance Practice	Philoptochos Meeting at 7 pm		2nd Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School
11	10	9	8	7	6	OI
	Fast Days		Fast Days			
Preschool Fair 10 am- Noon			GEM Classes Minoans Dance Practice Welcome to Orthodoxy 7:30 pm			
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Sat	Fri	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon	Sun
3		Ç1	October 2025			



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THE WORD October 2025

