

# The Word

May 2025

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



## **Palm Sunday Evening- Bridegroom Service Homily By Bishop Ioannis**

Beloved in Christ,

Tonight we enter into the holiest and most sacred days of our Church year. We begin with what is known as the **Bridegroom Service**, the Matins of Holy Monday, celebrated on Palm Sunday evening. And at the center of this service, we are given one of the most tender, mysterious, and powerful images of our Lord Jesus Christ: **Christ as the Bridegroom**.

Not a bridegroom of earthly romance. Not a figure of sentimental love. But the Bridegroom of the Church, the Bridegroom of the soul. The One who, with unsearchable humility and infinite love, offers His very life for His Bride—you, me, the Church.

This haunting line, sung again and again during these services, calls us into watchfulness:

"Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching."

Christ comes at the middle of the night—when all is still, when many are asleep, when the world slumbers in darkness and sin. And He comes not in wrath, but in love. He comes,

like in the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25), seeking those whose hearts are burning with longing, whose lamps are filled with oil—the oil of faith, love, and repentance.

Tonight's Bridegroom is the One who rode into Jerusalem with palm branches waving—but who now walks the road of suffering. He is both **King** and **Lover**. And He is seeking His Bride.

The Church Fathers often speak of the relationship between Christ and the Church as a marriage. St. Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:

**"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her."**

This is not poetic metaphor. This is the mystery of salvation.

Christ is not content to remain at a distance. He joins Himself to His people with a bond deeper than anything on earth. He takes on flesh, becomes man, and allows Himself to be betrayed, crucified, buried—all to redeem, purify, and wed His Bride.

But unlike earthly marriages, where the bride prepares for her husband, it is here the **Bridegroom who prepares the Bride**. He washes her with His Blood. He adorns her with mercy. And even when she—when we—wander and betray Him, He

pursues us.

This is not a cold or abstract love. This is the burning, divine love of God who longs for communion with His creation.

St. Paisios of the Holy Mountain, a man truly aflame with love for Christ, once said:

"Christ is not a judge who punishes us. Christ is a Bridegroom who loves us. And when you love someone, you are always watching for them. That's what watchfulness means—to be waiting with love."

Too often, we approach Holy Week as a series of long services, or as a time to "be better Christians." But St. Paisios reminds us: it is not about performance, it is about **relationship**.

The Bridegroom is not checking our records; He is seeking our hearts. He longs for us to stay awake, to meet Him in prayer, in tears, in silence, in love.

Paisios also said that many souls are asleep, not because they are evil, but because they do not know **how deeply they are loved**. Tonight, we are reminded that the Bridegroom knocks gently on the door—not to scold us, but to wake us to love.

St. Porphyrios once said:

*continued on page 2*



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

May Services		
Date	Service	Time
Sunday, May 4	The Myrrh-Bearing Women	8:30 am
Sunday, May 11	The Paralytic	8:30 am
Sunday, May 18	The Samaritan Woman	8:30 am
Wednesday, May 21	Sts. Constantine and Helen	8:30 am
Sunday, May 25	The Blind Man	8:30 am
Thursday, May 29	Holy Ascension	8:30 am

*continued from page 1*

“When you fall in love with Christ, everything changes. You become light. You live in another world. You live with joy.”

This is what the Bridegroom service invites us to experience—not guilt, not fear, but **love**. A transfiguring, illuminating love that changes how we see everything.

Porphyrios often said that holiness does not come through pressure, but through falling in love with Christ. That is why we fast, why we pray, why we go through these long and beautiful services—not to earn anything, but to make space for love to grow.

When we behold the icon of Christ the Bridegroom—crowned with thorns, clothed in a purple robe, mocked by soldiers—we are not meant to see defeat. We are meant to see **the God who loves us to the end**. This is the Lover of mankind, who conquers through surrender, who reigns from the Cross, and who enters even death to win us back.

The entire journey of Holy Week is a **wedding procession**. On Holy Thursday, the Bridegroom will offer the bridal feast—His own Body and

Blood. On Great and Holy Friday, He will go to the Cross, the wedding bed where He will pour out His life for the salvation of the world. And on Pascha, He will rise from the dead, the Bridegroom leaping from the tomb to greet His Bride with the cry: **“Rejoice!”**

So tonight, we must ask ourselves: Are we watching? Are we ready? Do we long for Him?

Or have our lamps gone out? Have we filled our lives with distractions, anxieties, and idols that steal our love from the One who alone can fulfill it?

Now is the time to awaken. The Bridegroom comes not with condemnation, but with mercy. Even now, we can rise, trim our lamps, and prepare our hearts.

Let us respond to Christ the Bridegroom in practical ways this week:

- **Attend the Bridegroom services** with attentiveness and open hearts.
- **Read the Gospels** of Christ’s Passion slowly and prayerfully.
- Fast not only from food, but from

distractions—social media, idle talk, judgment, self-pity.

- **Run to Confession**, where the Bridegroom clothes us in the garment of forgiveness.
- And above all, **fall in love again with Christ**—in prayer, in tears, in quiet joy.

Brothers and sisters, we were made for this love. The soul’s deepest longing is to be united with Christ. And Christ’s longing is to be united with us.

Let us not leave Him waiting.

Tonight, the doors of the wedding chamber are opening. Let us enter with reverence, with repentance, and with love. Let our hearts cry out, like the hymn says:

“I see Thy bridal chamber adorned, O my Savior, but I have no garment that I may enter. O Giver of Light, make radiant the garment of my soul, and save me.”

May Christ our Bridegroom find us watching. May our lamps be burning. And may our hearts be awakened by the fire of His divine love.

Amen.

# ***Beyond 50 Update***

***Connect • Engage • Grow***

With the official approval of the Novato City Council, Nativity of Christ begins its efforts to complete the large capital projects through three tracks: Communication, Building, and Fundraising. Our Building Committee has been formed to offer their oversight and expertise to the process of completing the remaining large capital projects: Elevator, Narthex Gateway, Enlarged Dome, and Small Hall. Each of these committee members bring their unique professional perspective and parishioners should feel encouraged to approach them with any questions about this exciting endeavor!

## ***NOC BUILDING COMMITTEE***



Steve Rouman  
PC President



Eileen Gordon  
AIA - Architect



John Hunter  
AIA - Architect



Christ Kamages  
FAIA - Architect



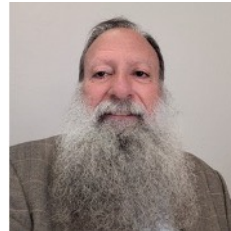
Nick Eftimiou  
Construction



Bryan Hall –  
Construction



Patrick Fuss  
Engineer



Ed Keller  
Engineer



Nonda Kozas  
Engineer

Since its first meeting, the Building Committee, and the team at CJK Studios, created a list of qualified contractors. A comprehensive package of the capital projects was sent to each contractor to understand their desire to participate in the projects and to provide their qualifications. The overall goal is to find the best contractor that is capable, qualified, cost effective, and value driven as a dedicated team member to build all of Nativity's capital projects. Procuring a general contractor at this stage will enable their involvement with CJK Studios to complete construction documents and all of the necessary steps with the City of Novato before construction begins. This "pre-selected" approach is a common practice and has been proven to be immensely successful.

Letters of inquiries were sent to the following contractors:

Cello & Maudru <https://cello-maudru.com/>

Centric General Contractors <https://www.centricgc.com/landing>

Descor Builders <https://www.descorbuilders.com/>

Diego Bros Inc. <https://diegobrosinc.com/>

GRA Associates <https://garrectorassociates.com/>

Grassi & Associates <https://www.grassiandassociates.com/>

Hadley General Contractors <https://hadleyconstruction.com/>

Kelly Pacific Construction <https://www.kellypacific.com>

McDevitt Construction <https://mcdevittconstruction.com>

Midstate Construction <https://www.midstateconstruction.com>

Plath and Company <https://plathco.com/>

Sonoma Marin Construction <https://sonomamarin.com>



# Stewardship

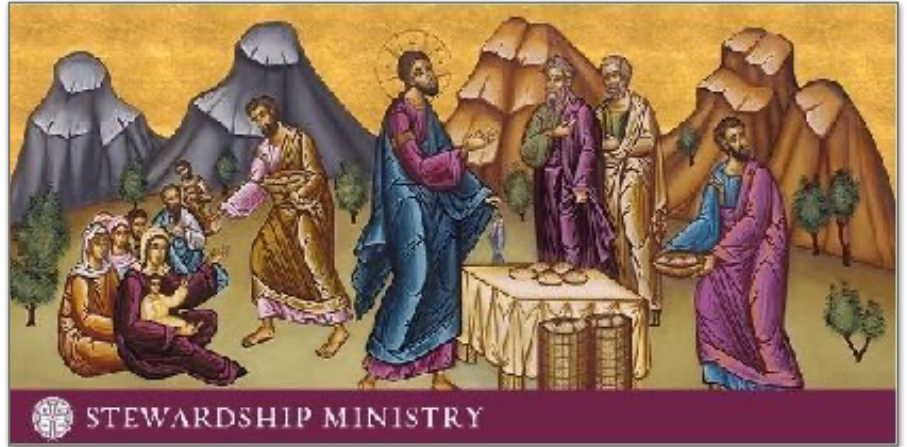
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## Stewardship

Stewardship is more than a financial obligation, it is a sacred expression of our relationship with God, a response of gratitude for all that He has given us. True stewardship calls us to offer our time, talents, and treasures back to God with love, humility, and joy. It states in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

We all have a unique role in the sharing our time, talents, and treasures whether singing in the choir, serving at the altar, preparing food, or offering financial gifts, every act of service strengthens the body of Christ. This month we all look forward to and prepare for the festival, where we welcome those near and far to experience our faith and culture. The festival is a beautiful demonstration of the tremendous impact we can all have when we work together and pour our time and treasure into a singular goal. Let us fully offer our hearts, our hands and our resources as faithful stewards of God's grace. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." As it states in Mark 10:45, "for when we give, we imitate Christ, the greatest Giver of all."

[2025 Stewardship Forms](#)



## Nativity of Christ Church Welcomes Our Newest Parishioners, Alec Klobuchar and Maria Pavlou.

We are so blessed to have them join our church community! Our parish is a place where faith, fellowship, and service come together and we look forward to helping them make connections within our church ministries and enjoying all the many events together with them.

WELCOME, Alec and Maria!



## Graduate Recognition in the Word

Do you have a student graduating? Please email the Church Office their name, the school they are graduating from, their next step, and a photo for our June Word.

Contributions are due May 15, 2025, to [office@nativityofchrist.org](mailto:office@nativityofchrist.org).



## Next Meeting

Our next meeting is on May 6. Please join us at church at 7 pm. We will also have a zoom meeting available. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83158313960?pwd=V0xTM0xEV3RMaFNZbGJ3Qy9CbNfJQT09>  
Meeting ID: 831 5831 3960 Passcode: phil

## Lenten project –Hygiene Kits!

The Philoptochos would like to thank all those who participated in the Lenten project. As a community we assembled 100 hygiene kits in less than a half hour. The kits were given to North Marin Community Center. Many hands made for light work. If you have an outreach project, please let one of the Philoptochos Board Members know and we'll be happy to give you support.

## Fellowship Hours

Once again, our Fellowship Hours have been a huge success. The Philoptochos board thanks all the members for stepping up to make this happen! Starting June, we do not have groups assigned, but we would love to continue to offer something to our parishioners. Please contact Irene Meehan or Angie Kozas if you would like to host a Fellowship Hour this summer. The Fellowship

Hours are simpler with just a pastry and a platter of fruit. After the festival, if you could please bring a cake or cookies that we could freeze, that way we'll have something throughout the summer.

## Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday luncheon was a wonderful time to gather and share fellowship with our fellow parishioners. Many thanks to Gigi, Dushan, and Marina Medan who spearheaded the kitchen team. Thanks also to Irene Meehan, Tony Kosmas, Vickie Hatos and all the wonderful servers who helped.

## Philoptochos Membership

A reminder – We continue to reach out and ask current members to renew their membership, and for those who are not members to please join us. We are at 75% of our membership goal! Thanks to all who have joined. We will continue to have membership forms available during Fellowship Hour. You can also pick up a form at the office.

## Johnathans Place

We will be preparing dinner for Jonathan's Place on **Sunday, June 29**. Meet at the church ~2:30 pm to prepare the meal. We transport the meal to Johnathan's place in San Rafael and serve at 5:00 pm. For more information, please contact Gigi Medan at [gandd2@comcast.net](mailto:gandd2@comcast.net).



## ACADEMIC GIFT PROGRAM 2025

Calling all high school graduates and continuing college students!  
Don't miss out on the opportunity to apply for one of the \$1,000 academic gifts from the Nativity of Christ Philoptochos.

The application with grade and transcript requirements, as well as the written narrative and character reference instructions are available from the Church Office or by email request to Susan Stockton at [22pies@att.net](mailto:22pies@att.net).

Must be full-time with at least 12 units (8 units for graduate students) to apply.

**Recipients will be announced on Sunday, May 18.**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE** Sunday May 11, 2025

# Sunday School

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*You arose from the sepulcher in glory as God, and with yourself resurrected the world. And mortal nature extolled You as God, and death was obliterated, and Adam is dancing, O Master; and Eve, now redeemed from the bonds, rejoices crying out: O Christ, You are He who grants resurrection to all.*

Kontakion of Pascha



**Sunday School Meetings Dates:** May 4, 11, 18, and June 1- Promotion Sunday

## **Proclaiming the Good News**

How do we proclaim the good news of Christ's love, mercy, and forgiveness through His glorious Resurrection? We say for 40 days beginning on Easter, ***Christ is Risen!*** And the response? ***Truly He is Risen!***

And the greeting is truly universal. Click on this link to learn to say the Paschal greeting in many languages: <https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/paschal-greetings>.

## **June 1 Promotion**

### **Sunday**

This is a VERY important day for our students. As this day is the culmination of the Sunday School year, students will provide a presentation to the congregation. Please plan to attend, with your students, so that ALL students can participate and be recognized.



### **April 12**

A beautiful Liturgy, a delicious breakfast, and preparations for a glorious Palm Sunday. Truly a blessed beginning to our Holy Week!





# Highlights

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## Annunciation Celebrations

On Sunday, March 23, we were blessed with an outstanding presentation from our Sunday School children as we celebrated the Annunciation and Greek Independence Day program! A big thank you to everyone who put their effort into making this program so successful!



## Ladies Lenten Retreat

Saturday, April 5, was a beautiful day. Thank you to Mother Melania and all the Sisters who welcomed us with such open arms and loving hearts. Your hospitality, grace, and peace made the day truly priceless. Our gratitude is deep and abiding—thank you for blessing us with your presence and your prayers.



## Church Cleaning Day

On Saturday, March 29, the narthex was cleaned in preparation for Pascha. Among the many tasks: One hundred pounds of sand was added to the candle boxes, silver and brass were restored to brilliance, soot and wax were scraped and ironed away. Many thanks to Dina Camamis, Michele Manos, Kathy Marshall, Gigi Medan, and Irene Meehan for their efforts.



# Highlights

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## Hygiene Kits Lenten Project

On April 6, the hygiene kit line at church was a beautiful success! It was heartwarming to see young hands working beside wise ones, all united in service and love. In just a short time, we packed 100 hygiene kits that will go to those who need them most. But even more special than the number was the spirit in the room—laughter, teamwork, and shared purpose. Thank you to everyone who showed up with willing hearts and helping hands. Service projects like this remind us what church is truly about: faith in action.



## March VIPs

On Saturday, April 5, the VIPs had a fabulous luncheon as they celebrated the Annunciation, Greek Independence, and Vasiliki Tzafopoulos' birthday.

## Lenten Visits

Our Visitation Ministry made many Visits during Lent, including this visit with Evelyn Sarganis.





# March 30 Events

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## St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

We are Incredibly proud of our youth who presented thoughtful and inspiring messages during the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. May we all have such courage to learn and grow in our Orthodox Christian faith!



## OCMC Missions Evening

On Sunday, March 30, Nativity of Christ hosted along with St. Seraphim, St. Nicholas, and Sts. Constantine and Helen churches a Vespers, Buffet Dinner, and Mission Program. Priests, deacons, and

laity from several Bay Area Orthodox churches joined us for this special Mission Awareness fundraising event to benefit the work of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). We were also graced by the presence of the Orthodox Church of America (OCA) Archbishop Benjamin.

Anastasia Barksdale and Father James Retelas presented the informative program and fielded questions about our missionaries around the world. A pleasant evening was enjoyed by everyone, praising God and learning how His Word is continuing to be spread to all. We appreciate the generosity of those in attendance.

Special thanks to Father John and Rose Hunter who led the other co-chairs, Floretta Burrows and Susan Siefkas (OCMC Ambassadors), to produce such a lovely event at our church. Our deepest appreciation to our Philoptochos members, the chanters, and the attending Parish Council members as well as the OCMC Ambassadors from other Orthodox churches who assisted with this special Mission Awareness program.





# Holy Week Highlights

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## Great Friday Retreat

On Great Friday our youth and children gathered for our annual Great Friday Retreat.



## Kouvouklion

On Great Friday we gathered to decorate our beautiful Kouvouklion. Led by Stassie Sideris and Nicole Meehan. Sophia Stathis and Katina Orologas created the stunning base. Kathy Marshall lent her artistry to the crown. Debbie Kokalis assisted on the inside corners and Karen Keller created the delicate jasmine garland. It truly takes a village, thank you to Ed Keller, Eleni Psaros, Erene Sotiras, Evi Smith, Floretta Burrows, Irene Meehan, Pat Kamages, and Tina Zachariou.



## Holy Pascha

Following our Agape Service, many parishioners joined together for an Easter Egg hunt and picnic on the back patio to celebrate this festive time of year.





# Upcoming Events

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NOC SUNDAY SCHOOL

## Promotion Picnic

SUN

1

JUNE

FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY & SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Enjoy Our Beautiful Patio for a BBQ Lunch!  
Hamburgers and Hotdogs on the Grill,  
Jump House, Ice Cream & More!

*Make sure to let us know you'll be there so we can provide enough food.  
RSVP Link in Your Ministry Monday Email.*



### NOC Ladies CRAFT NIGHT

For our final get together before summer, you're invited to a Protomaya craft night!

**Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 PM**  
\$10 per person.

Crafting along with dinner will be in the Small Hall  
RSVPs requested by April 27th  
Olivewood wreaths, silk flowers, and more will be provided.



**SONS** OF NATIVITY

Trailhead

**MAY 30TH**

6:30 PM - TRAILHEAD

127 SAN MARIN DRIVE, NOVATO 94945

## SACK MEAL PROJECT

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

### WHEN

Wednesday  
May 28

### WHERE

9-11AM  
NOC Kitchen

### VOLUNTEERS

4 Volunteers for  
Sandwich Making

### NEEDED

4 Volunteers for  
the Assembly Line

### SIGN UP HERE

<https://tinyurl.com/May025>

### CONTACT

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



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



# Upcoming Events

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Featuring  
**ELSA**

**NOC PATIO  
PLAYDATE**

1110 HIGHLAND DRIVE, NOVATO

**Saturday, May 3rd | 10 - 11 AM**

- + Nativity of Christ Invites you to our Patio Playdate featuring Elsa.
- + Enjoy Songs, Storytime, and Photos with Elsa!
- + Everyone is invited. Admission is FREE.
- + If you are interested in scheduling a tour of our Preschool during this time please contact our Director at [preschool@nativityofchrist.org](mailto:preschool@nativityofchrist.org).
- + Walk-In tours welcome as well!

For questions about our event email [Ministries@NativityofChrist.org](mailto:Ministries@NativityofChrist.org)

**NOC PATIO  
PLAYDATE**

**Saturday, May 31st | 10 - 11 AM**

1110 Highland Drive, Novato

Nativity of Christ invites you to our Patio Playdate featuring Windrush Farms, Farm Music Favorite, Farmer Arann!

- Bring your picnic blanket • Bring your favorite snacks

Bring the whole family & join us for a morning of interactive music!

If you are interested in scheduling a tour of our Preschool during this time please contact our Director at [preschool@nativityofchrist.org](mailto:preschool@nativityofchrist.org).

Walk-In tours welcome as well!

Everyone is invited. Admission is FREE.

For questions about our event email [Ministries@NativityofChrist.org](mailto:Ministries@NativityofChrist.org)

**GYRO FEST**

**MAY 3RD & 4TH  
11 AM TO 7 PM**

NOW OFFERING DRIVE-THROUGH  
& PATIO SEATING  
WITH MUSIC & A VIEW!

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On the Spot**

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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
1110 HIGHLAND DRIVE  
NOVATO, CA 94949

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GYRO-FEST-TO-GO](http://NATIVITYOFCHRIST.ORG/GYRO-FEST-TO-GO)

**\$13**

**\$7**

**\$4**

**\$4**

**\$3**

ROTTLED  
WATER  
AVAILABLE  
FOR \$1

**Traditional & Authentic Every Time**

**SUNDAY  
Fun Day!**

May 4th

Following Divine Liturgy  
& Sunday School

Join us for Fellowship Hour. The Jumpy  
House will be out and we'll make  
Protomaya Wreaths!

# 2025 Marin Greek Festival

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Many hands will be needed throughout the upcoming month to set up and finalize preparations for our festival.

## Volunteers

First and foremost, **SIGN UP** to volunteer! We need **everyone** to sign up for at least one shift, if not more. If you need a list of chairs, please reach out to Irene Meehan, Volunteer Chair.

## Community Service Hours

Please contact a member of the Steering Committee or Anna Kozas if your school requires Community Service hours. We have many tasks available for students.

## Upcoming Food Prep Dates

Please check Monday Ministry Update emails for upcoming food prep dates. Please contact Ed Keller (415-320-9134) to assist with marinating the chicken and Bill Capetanios (707-318-6585) to assist with skewering the souvlaki.

## Set Up Dates

We need many hands to assist with setup. Please check Monday Ministry emails for dates/times. All booths need to be set up and ready for when the 2025 Festival opens at 5:00 p, on Friday, May 23rd!

**It takes a village & ours is incredible!**

## Steering Committee

**Bill Capetanios**

707-318-6585, [bcapetanios@gmail.com](mailto:bcapetanios@gmail.com)

**Nico Haris**

415-246-4189, [nicolas.haris@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolas.haris@yahoo.com)

**Rose Hunter**

415-497-8300, [kynegos@hotmail.com](mailto:kynegos@hotmail.com)

**George Sotiras**

415-717-4097, [gsotiras85@gmail.com](mailto:gsotiras85@gmail.com)

**Michael Yakumithis**

419-819-0037, [meyakumithis@gmail.com](mailto:meyakumithis@gmail.com)



WE'RE BACK  
WITH ONE OF  
MARIN COUNTY'S  
MOST BELOVED EVENTS!  
JOIN US ON  
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND,  
AS WE CELEBRATE  
50 PLUS YEARS  
SINCE OUR FIRST  
MARIN GREEK FESTIVAL  
IN 1972!



[nativityofchrist.org](http://nativityofchrist.org)

A percentage of proceeds to benefit



**MARIN GREEK FESTIVAL 2025**  
**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

GREEK CUISINE  
CULTURE  
MUSIC  
DANCE  
FAITH  
FELLOWSHIP  
& FUN

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

**VISIT OUR GREEK VILLAGE ON THE HILL**  
**&**  
**ENJOY THE GREEK WORLD AMBIANCE**

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**  
FRIDAY, MAY 23TH, 5PM TO 9 PM  
SATURDAY, MAY 24TH, 11 AM TO 9 PM  
SUNDAY, MAY 25TH, 11 AM TO 8 PM

## **DANCE**

TO THE MUSIC OF  
THE KYMATA BAND  
ALL WEEKEND

## **ENJOY**

GREEK WINES &  
AUTHENTIC GREEK DELICACIES  
FEATURED ALL WEEKEND

## **LISTEN**

TO RENOWNED SPEAKERS

## **LEARN**

ABOUT GREEK HISTORY,  
MUSIC, DANCE & FAITH

## **Directions:**

From Highway 101,  
take Ignacio Boulevard exit  
heading west.  
Follow signs to free parking\*  
at Pell Plaza,  
**500 Redwood Blvd,**  
where a shuttle will take  
you to the festival.

[maringreekfestival.org](http://maringreekfestival.org)





# May 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!



## **May 2: St. Zoe**

Zoe Zaphiris Fisher

## **May 5: St. Irene**

Eirini Karatzaferi

Irene Kocolas

Irene Meehan

Irene Sandoval

Erene Sotiras

Irene Starling

## **May 7: St. Mark**

Marko Perivolaris

## **May 9: St. Christopher**

Chris Chyrklund

Christopher England

Gary Fisher

Christopher Hillman

Chris Hontalas

Christopher Madias

Christopher Rizzuti

Chris Webber

Christopher Yatrakis

## **May 11: Sts. Methodios & Cyril**

Argyris Galanakis

Olympia Katelanis

## **May 12: St. Theodorus**

Theodore Rouman

## **May 15: St. Pachomios**

Daphne Russell

## **May 18: St. Julian**

Julia Degaitis

## **May 19: St. Patrick**

Patricia Kamages

## **May 21: Sts. Constantine &**

## **Helen**

Eleni Antonis

Elaine Bertolina

Gus Boosalis

Constance Camamis

Connie Captanian

Wyatt Konstantine Captanian

Elaine Chyrklund

Gus Constantin

Elaine Cunningham

Diana Demetrulias

Connor Efstathiu

Constantine Efstathiu

Diane Fafoutis

Helen Farmer

Robert Constantino Fisher

Costas Foster

Charles Gagas

Connie Grey

Nikki Griffith

Kostas Grigorakis

Constantine Haralambopoulos

Costa Haris

Helen Harris

Elaine Harvey

Constance Hillman

Eleni Karas

Dean Karnazes

Eleni Katelanis

Diane Kavantjas

Eleni Kelley

Elaine Keratzides

Lena Kokalis

Maximilian Lucas

Constantine Madias

Constantine Mavromihalis

Diane Panagotacos

Jason Panagotacos

Elaine Passaris

Eleni Rose Passaris

Constantine George

Petracopoulos

Dean Pogni

Eleni Sophia Psaros

Helen Psaros

Elena Reutovski

Dina Ron

Liz Rouman

Eleni Scanagatta

Helen Selmi

Constantin Serafimescu

Helen Soldatos

Alena Katherine Starling

Dean Stathis

Dina Stathis

Dina Varvitsiotes

Francesca Vrattos

Karen Walters

Dean Yioulos

Constantina Zachariou

## **May 26: St. Alexandros**

Alex Cunningham

## **May 29: St. Theodosia**

Olivia Teter

# 2025 Stewardship Pledges (as of April 18, 2025)

Connect • Engage • Grow

Presiding Priest  
Fr. John & Pres. Stephanie  
Kocolas

Priest Emeritus  
Fr. Constantine Efstathiou


Pres. Evelyn Adams

Adams, Bill & Lisa  
Albanes, Joseph  
Allen, Justin & Sara  
Andronico, Frank  
Angelonides, Peter & Arlene  
Antonis, Chris & Keri  
Arango, Pat  
Argyres, Andreas & JoAnne  
Bechaka, Sonia  
Bertolina, Ronald & Elaine  
Bizani, Alexandra  
Botaitis, Demetri  
Brzycki, Jeff & Tracy Langly  
Burrows, Bil & Floretta  
Camamis, Dina  
Castro, Jeff & Joanna  
Capetanos, Bill & Chrisoula  
Ceredes, 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  
Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie  
Demakas, George  
DesJardin, Kenny & Katia  
Doers, Guy  
Domenichelli, Daniel &  
Konstantina  
Efstathiou, Paul & Kristen  
Eftimiou, Nick & Jeanette Saris  
El-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  
Gavallos, Victor & Brenda  
George, Ann  
Georgeson, George & Debbie  
Geron, Diana  
Gikkas, Pete & Vickie Hatos  
Gikkas, Stephanie  
Haginicols, Amalia  
Hall, Bryan & Paula Plessas-Hall  
Hamill, John & Athanasia

Hanis, Jim & Stella  
Haris, George & Georgia  
Haris, Nico & Nicole  
Harvey, Robert & Elaine  
Hontalas, Chris & Susan  
Hontalas, Frank & Eve  
Hontalas, George & Amy  
Hunter, John & Rose  
Iannios, Demetrios & Manulani  
Jianas, Alex & Diana  
Kalabokes, Chris  
Kalabokes, Matthew & Elina  
Kamages, Alex & Sherry  
Kamages, Pat & Christ  
Kambur, JoAnne  
Kanas, Nick & Carolyn  
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 Teter  
Mandanis, Marjorie  
Manesis, Alexandria  
Manos, Michele  
Marshall, Philip & Kathy  
Mavromihalis, Steve & Vickie  
Mayer, Paul & Diana Demetrulias  
Medan, Dushan & Gigi  
Meehan, Nicole  
Meehan, Tom & Irene  
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  
Slenkin, Alex & Nancy  
Smith, Evdokia  
Smyrni, Anna  
Sotiras, Irene  
Sotiras, George  
Sotiras, Maria  
Spiliotis-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  
Tangelakis, Odysseus & Joanna  
Tarazi, Alex & Carla  
Tocmakidis, Pinelopy  
Touras, Antonios & Antonia  
Trapalis, Niovi  
Triantafyllos, John & Laura  
Tzafopoulos, Vasiliki  
Vallas, James & Judy  
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

# May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>4</b> <b>The Myrrh-Bearing Women</b> Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am <i>Sunday School</i> <i>Sunday Funday</i> Gyro Fest to Go 11 am -7 pm	<b>5</b> Metropolis Clergy Laity	<b>6</b> Metropolis Clergy Laity Philoptochos General Meeting 7 pm	<b>7</b> Metropolis Clergy Laity MCF - Fasolakra and Gigantes - 9 am Minoans Dance Practices <i>Fast Day</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> MCF - Diples - 9 am <i>Fast Day</i>	<b>10</b> NOC Community Playdate 10 am Gyro Fest to Go 11 am -7 pm
<b>11</b> <b>The Paralytic</b> Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am <i>Sunday School</i> Mother's Day	<b>12</b> MCF - Korobiehes - 9 am	<b>13</b> Bible Study 9 am Parish Council 7 pm	<b>14</b> Minoans Dance Practices <i>Fast Day</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> MCF - Baklava - 9 am <i>Fast Day</i>	<b>17</b> Festival Set Up 9 am
<b>18</b> <b>The Samaritan Woman</b> Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>19</b> Festival Preparations	<b>20</b> Bible Study 9 am Festival Preparations Great Vespers at Vallejo	<b>21</b> Divine Services- 8:30 am Sts. Constantine and Helen Minoans Dance Practices Festival Set Up Evening <i>Fast Day</i>	<b>22</b> Festival Set Up Day	<b>23</b> Marin Greek Festival 5 pm-9 pm <i>Fast Day</i>	<b>24</b> Marin Greek Festival 11 am-9 pm 
<b>25</b> <b>The Blind Man</b> Orthros 8:30 am Liturgy 9:30 am Marin Greek Festival 11 am-8 pm	<b>26</b> Memorial Day Festival Clean Up Office Closed	<b>27</b> Bible Study 9 am	<b>28</b> Sack Meals 9 am Great Vespers at Oakland <i>Fast Day</i>	<b>29</b> Divine Services- 8:30 am Holy Ascension Mailing Team 10:30 am MCF Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 5:30 pm	<b>30</b> Jonathan's Place Dinner Sons Night at 6:30 <i>Fast Day</i>	<b>31</b> NOC Community Playdate 10 am





Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church  
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MAY 2025

**MARIN GREEK FESTIVAL 2025**  
**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**  
FRIDAY, MAY 23RD, 5 PM TO 9 PM  
SATURDAY, MAY 24TH, 11 AM TO 9 PM  
& SUNDAY, MAY 25TH, 11 AM TO 8 PM

GREEK CUISINE  
CULTURE  
MUSIC  
DANCE  
FAITH  
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