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

“I have you as Mediator with God who loves mankind. May He not question my actions before the hosts of the angels. I ask of you, O Virgin, hasten now quickly to my aid.” – Paraklesis to the Mother of God

Everyone in this world yearns and longs for a loving relationship with their mother. The love and nourishment shared between a mother and child from the womb creates an irreplaceable bond. Our mothers have a special place in our hearts. It is with this natural human understanding that the Church from its conception has also developed a rich and powerful relationship with the Mother of God.

The Virgin Mary at just the age of 15 made a commitment to adhere to God’s will and bore Christ into this world. From the time of His Nativity, the Ever-Virgin loved, nurtured and cared for her Son in a way that should inspire us to also yearn for a relationship with the Theotokos. The Church commemorates the Panaghia both as Christ’s mother, and as a significant motherly figure to us all. As an obedient and loving Son, Christ continues to listen to her, making our prayers to her extremely powerful as she intercedes for us through her intimate relationship with God.

Throughout the rich history and life of the Church, hymns, services and feast days have continued to be established out of respect and honor for the Mother of God. No feast day however receives such attention and celebration than the Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15. This feast commemorates her falling asleep and Christ receiving her soul in His Kingdom. In the Dormition icon, Christ is depicted holding a child that represents the innocence and purity of the soul of the Virgin Mary. Her example of patience, grace, purity, and faith continues to be an inspiration to Christians throughout the world.

In preparation for this feast, the Church calls us to fast and pray for the first two weeks of August. Every day, the Paraklesis service will be offered to honor her acceptance of bearing Christ into the world while also acknowledging her as our heavenly mother. She serves as “mediator” between us and God, constantly interceding for the salvation of our souls.

The above hymn from the Paraklesis service portrays the powerful and sacred role the Panaghia continues to play in our lives. As we soon prepare for the Dormition of the Theotokos in August, I pray we are all able to reflect upon the relationship we have with our own mothers, and how that can inspire us to also have an irreplaceable relationship with the Mother of God.
**July/August Services & Readings**

All Divine Services on Sundays and weekdays will begin with Orthros at 8:30am followed by the Divine Liturgy.

Please make every effort to attend these worship services on time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Feast Day</th>
<th>Epistle Reading</th>
<th>Gospel Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>5th Sunday of Matthew</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:</td>
<td>Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>6th Sunday of Matthew</td>
<td>Romans 12:6-14</td>
<td>Matthew 9:1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>St Marina</td>
<td>Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5</td>
<td>Mark 5:24-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>Great Vespers</td>
<td>Romans 13:1-10</td>
<td>Matthew 12:30-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>8th Sunday of Matthew</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 1:10-17</td>
<td>Matthew 14:14-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>St Paraskevi</td>
<td>Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5</td>
<td>Mark 5:24-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>9th Sunday of Matthew</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 3:9-1</td>
<td>Matthew 14:22-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Aug 5</td>
<td>10th Sunday of Matthew</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 4:9-16</td>
<td>Matthew 17:14-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Aug 6</td>
<td>Holy Transfiguration</td>
<td>II Peter 1:10-19</td>
<td>Matthew 17:1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Aug 19</td>
<td>12th Sunday of Matthew</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</td>
<td>Matthew 19:16-26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Paraklesis to the Most Holy Theotokos**

Parakleseis will be held during the first two weeks of August. Paraklesis services will be held on the following times and dates. Consult the August Calendar for an overview of all July and August Services.

**Paraklesis 9:30am: 8/2, 8/7, 8/9**

**Paraklesis 7pm: 8/1, 8/3, 8/6, 8/8, 8/10, and 8/13**
The Dormition of the Theotokos

Introduction
The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year. The Feast commemorates the repose (dormition and in the Greek kimisis) or “falling-asleep” of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord. The Feast also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos.

Biblical Story
The Holy Scriptures tell us that when our Lord was dying on the Cross, He saw His mother and His disciple John and said to the Virgin Mary, "Woman, behold your son!" and to John, "Behold your mother!" (John 19:25-27). From that hour, the Apostle took care of the Theotokos in his own home.

Along with the biblical reference in Acts 1:14 that confirms that the Virgin Mary was with the Holy Apostles on the day of Pentecost, the tradition of the Church holds that she remained in the home of the Apostle John in Jerusalem, continuing a ministry in word and deed.

At the time of her death, the disciples of our Lord who were preaching throughout the world returned to Jerusalem to see the Theotokos. Except for the Apostle Thomas, all of them including the Apostle Paul were gathered together at her bedside. At the moment of her death, Jesus Christ himself descended and carried her soul into heaven.

Following her repose, the body of the Theotokos was taken in procession and laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane. When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days after her repose and desired to see her body, the tomb was found to be empty. The bodily assumption of the Theotokos was confirmed by the message of an angel and by her appearance to the Apostles.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Dormition
The commemoration of the Dormition of the Theotokos and the preparation for the Feast begin on August 1 with a period of fasting. A strict fast is followed on most of the days (no meat, dairy, oil, or wine), with the exceptions of fish on the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) and the day of the Dormition. Oil and Wine are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays.

On the weekdays before the Feast, Paraklesis services are held in most parishes. These consist of the Great Paraklesis and the Small Paraklesis, both services of supplication and prayer for the intercessions of the Theotokos.


Continued on next page
Icon of the Feast

The Icon of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos shows her on her deathbed surrounded by the Apostles. Christ is standing in the center looking at His mother. He is holding a small child clothed in white representing the soul of the Virgin Mary. With His golden garments, the angels above His head, and the mandorla surrounding Him, Christ is depicted in His divine glory.

1. Christ, appearing in His Glory, stands in the center of the icon cradling the soul of His Mother, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (see detail right). The posture of the Apostles direct attention toward the Theotokos. On the right Saint Peter censes the body of the Theotokos. On the left Saint Paul bows low in honor of her.

2. The Apostles bow their heads in reverence to the Theotokos as Saint Peter censes her body. Together with the Apostles are several bishops and women. The bishops traditionally represented are James, the brother of the Lord, Timothy, Heirotheus, and Dionysius the Areopagite. They are shown wearing episcopal vestments. The women are members of the church in Jerusalem.

3. The Apostle Paul bows in honor of the Theotokos.

4. Also in attendance to pray for the Theotokos were several Bishops. In front of the bed of the Theotokos is a candle that helps to form a central axis in the icon. Above the candle is the body of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. Standing over His mother is Christ holding her most pure soul. Above Christ the gates of heaven stand open, ready to receive the Mother of God.

5. The Theotokos lies in the center of the icon surrounded by the Apostles and a candle in front of her bed (see detail left). This great Feast of the Church and the icon celebrates a fundamental teaching of our faith—the Resurrection of the body. In the case of the Theotokos, this has been accomplished by the divine will of God. Thus, this Feast is a feast of hope, hope in Resurrection and life eternal. Like those who gathered around the body of the Virgin Mary, we gather around our departed loved ones and commend their souls into the hands of Christ. As we remember those who have reposed in the faith before us and have passed on into the communion of the Saints, we prepare ourselves to one day be received into the new life of the age to come.

We also affirm through this Feast as we journey toward our heavenly abode that the Mother of God intercedes for us. Through Christ she has become the mother of all of the children of God, embracing us with divine love.
Parish Council Update

Ways to Contribute

Many of us will be enjoying the next few summer months spending time with family, traveling, relaxing and taking in the many blessings of the world. May your summer be filled with enlightenment and further thankfulness.

The Parish Council, with the guidance of Father John and the input of our ministries and committees, continue to work and prepare our campus for the beginning of the liturgical calendar year. We welcome you to take this time to help with your time, talents, and treasures.

Here are a few ways each of us can contribute to the Church, its ministries and the surrounding community.

1. Reach out to ministry heads to offer your time and talents. Step forward and help in a consistent role.
   - Contact the Church Office for contact information
2. Share community non-profits or causes that the parish can support as a parish. Please discuss with Father John or a Parish Council member.
3. Be a role model, mentor and give support to a member of our parish or community.
4. Donate directly to a ministry of the Church.

Projects in Progress this Summer:

1. The lower back patio will be improved by leveling the grass, adding a band area off the patio dance floor, and adding code compliant rail. This project is donated thankfully by an anonymous parish member.
2. The Fellowship Hall wood floors will be resurfaced to original luster after 25 + years. To protect the floor from future damage, all chairs and table legs will have felt protector sleeves installed.
3. Kitchen flat roof area bids are being compiled and reviewed by the Maintenance & Capital Improvement Committee to make these areas water tight again.

Please consider contributing to a maintenance and/or capital improvement to help make our campus beautiful! Contact Father John to discuss possible present and future needs.

Parish House Loan Principal Payment Reduction

The Parish Council continues to be grateful to our parish for making it possible to reduce the principal balance from $542,000 at the end of July 2017 to less than $354,000 today. We are very pleased with our progress and plan to continue these reduction to the principal payments while maintaining strong reserves. Please contact Fr. John if you would like to donate additional funds to pay down the

Our Marin Greek Festival Charity Partner

Marin’s Best was presented with a $5,500 donation as our Festival Charity Partner this year. The Festival Committee and Parish Council thank you all for the hard work that allowed the Parish to support such a wonderful local organization that supports persons in Marin County who have developmental disabilities (D.D.).

Gyro Booth at Marin County Fair.

A big thank you to all who support and work hard to make this community event another success. The proceeds of this fundraiser continue to support our parish ministries.

A Lasting Gift for the Church

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.
June Dinner Meeting
Thank you to Irene Meehan for organizing our June Dinner Meeting. We had approximately 30 attendees. We enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Wild Fox and incredible fellowship.

Retreat at Holy Assumption Monastery
On June 23rd we spent the day with the nuns at the Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga. During our tour, we learned about the history of this Monastery and its connection to Fort Ross. There was also a detailed description of the icons and relics in the chapel with many dating back to the 14th Century. We assisted the nuns by preparing their newsletter for mailing. During our incredibly delicious lunch, Sister Melonia, Abbess of the Monastery spoke on the topic *One Christian Life, Two Ways to Live It: Marriage and Monasticism*. We are currently looking to schedule a private tour of the chapel at Fort Ross (day trip) and a trip to the Monastery in Dunlap (this would be an overnight trip).

Fellowship Hours
Memorial, anniversaries, birthdays and name days are just a few reasons to host a Fellowship Hour. Get together with your family and/or friends and bring items to go with coffee which will be prepared and placed on the serving tables. Juice and cookies are also provided. Another way to assist would be to bring an item for Fellowship Hour. This would be greatly appreciated.

4th Annual Holiday Bazaar
Our 4th Annual Holiday Bazaar will take place on Saturday, November 17. Exhibitor applications are being mailed this month. Our café was a huge success again last year and we are planning on adding more food items this year. We introduced Yiayia’s Attic last year and it was very successful. Please begin saving items for this booth and contact Kathy Marshall, our Yaiyia’s Attic Chair. This event is a joint fundraiser of the Parish Council and the Philoptochos, with the funds going to the Parish. We annually choose a charity partner and designate a portion of the profits to that partner. The 2018 partner will be announced in September.

Upcoming Philoptochos Dates
- **Tuesday, August 7**: General Meeting
- **Tuesday, September 4**: Board Meeting
- **Tuesday, October 2**: General Meeting
- **Saturday, November 17**: 4th Annual Holiday Bazaar

Please feel free to contact any Board Member with ideas or questions.

2017-2019 Philoptochos Board of Directors
- Rose Hunter, President
- Vicki Kalabokes, 1st Vice President
- Cindy Daifotis, 2nd Vice President
- Gigi Medan, Treasurer
- Stacey Weeks, Recording Secretary
- Susan Stockton, Corresponding Secretary
- Irene Meehan, Advisor

Board Members:
- Dina Camamis, Connie Captainian, Carol Economy
- Vickie Hatos, Karen Keller, Debbie Kokalis, Cathy Selmi, Stassie Sideris, Kay Simon and Nancy Slenkin
Steve Tussing Seminarian

Nativity of Christ Adopted Seminarian Graduates from Holy Cross

Congratulations Steve Tussing!

The San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos has every Parish in the Metropolis sponsor a student at Holy Cross. This program was started by Bishop Anthony of blessed memory.

Nativity of Christ has sponsored Steve Tussing since 2015. Steve's home parish is St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Beaverton, Oregon. His wife Kathryn and four children, Vasilis, Susannah, Joseph, and Maria accompanied and supported Steve on his commitment to earn a Master's in Divinity.

His goal was to serve the Church and God. He hoped that his experience at Holy Cross would help him give insights of where God was leading him.

Our Church, through Philoptochos, sent him and his family gifts, cards, support, and encouragement these past three years.

We congratulate Steve on all his accomplishments. We look forward to a visit from Steve some time in the future so everyone in our parish can meet him.

We will be assigned a new student this Fall.

Sign up at www.escrip.com so a percentage of all purchases made at eScrip merchants will be donated to Nativity of Christ. Participating merchants contribute each time your families make a purchase. There are no receipts to collect or vouchers to buy. It is hassle free and every purchase counts! The Group ID for Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church is 500021821.

Did you know you can use AmazonSmile to support Nativity of Christ? Start your shopping at www.smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate
On Saturday, June 23rd, members of Nativity of Christ carpoled to the Holy Dormition Monastery in Calistoga. It was a spiritually uplifting day as the nuns of the monastery graciously hosted us through a worship service, tour of the monastery, delicious food, and an insightful message from the abbess, Sister Melania. There is now interest to visit and learn about the history of Fort Ross in Jenner, CA in the near future.
It was a great night for baseball, fellowship and fun! Nativity parishioners joined about 800 others from Bay Area parishes to cheer on the Oakland A’s for the win, led by the A’s mascot Stomper, wearing a fustanella. Highlights: combined performance by Bay Area dancers in the outfield, national anthem by Bay Area choir members, A’s Greek heritage hats with a Greek flag under the brim and “Take me out to the ballgame” played on a bouzouki.

GYRO Booth at the Marin County Fair

Sign up to help at our GYRO booth. We are in particular need on July 2 & 3. Here is the link to sign up as a volunteer, www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d44abaa2aa3f85-2018.
God endows each of us with personal gifts and Orthodox Christian Stewardship reminds us that these gifts are not our own; that we have a trusteeship over them and not an ownership. Stewardship means to give a portion of our time, talents and treasures back to God as a direct way of expressing our Thanksgiving to Him for these blessings.

Included in the newsletter is a list of members who have turned in their Stewardship Commitment form. If your name is not on the list then please take the time to make your offering today and enable our Church to continue to grow her ministries and to carry on her missions.

“A Rich Man is not one who has much but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever.” St. John Chrysostom

**Did you Know?**

The average Nativity of Christ stewardship pledge is $1,020?

Did you know that an average stewardship pledge of $2,100 would cover our entire operating budget? That’s just $40 a week!

As of May 31, 2018, $220,846 has been pledged for this year. Our 2018 budget is $256,000. If you have not yet made your pledge, please submit a Stewardship Card to the Church Office.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

Returns Tuesday, August 7 after the 9:30am Paraklesis service.
From our Director

While you’re catching some rays and enjoying the time off from school, remember to check in with God each day through prayer. Our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese offers several online and social media platforms designed for you to connect and reflect on our relationship with God.

Daily Epistle and Gospel readings are available at the online chapel link at www.goarch.org.

Soak up the Son is also at goarch.org under the library tab. This is a weekly program designed for you and your family to learn more about God and your Orthodox faith together, to reflect on Scripture, and to make prayer a habit. Here’s an example of some of the activities you can find for July in soak up the sun.

Weeks 6 through 8 discusses fasting daily for a set time from social media and focusing on Christ and the value of silence. It includes the unplugging challenge where you take time to step away from your computers televisions and personal devices daily and make time to connect with Christ and one another. There are discussion questions available on the site for post-unplugging debriefing.

Y2am.org Here you will find videos such as "Be The Bee" and "The French" which address everything from prayer to knowing God to personal relationships www.y2am.org.

A reflection for this summer: We talk much in Sunday School about God being Love. We know He loves us. We know in his infinite love for us he sent Christ who died for us and rose to show us there is nothing to fear. We all have our challenges and struggles but we don’t let those setbacks and disappointments paralyze us. Instead through prayer and faith we push forward. Check out the relevance of this passage from Romans. We know that struggle produces perseverance, perseverance produces character and character produces hope. And hope does not put us to shame because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. (Romans 5:4 - 5).

And later in the same book of the New Testament we are reminded: Christ is with us, who can be against us ? (Romans 8 : 31).

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay strong in the faith! Happy Summer!
Christina Thomatos
Sunday School Director

Sunday School Teacher Needed

Interested in substitute or team teaching Sunday school this year? Please email Fr John or Sunday School Director Christina Thomatos.

Sunday School Key Dates

Sunday School meets weekly on most Sundays from September through June following Holy Communion.

Sunday, Sept. 16: First day of Sunday School. Sunday School families are sponsoring Fellowship Hour.
Please bring a plate of fruit, drinks, tray of sandwiches cut in quarters or plate of cookies to share for the fellowship hour. Please look for email with sign up genius link which will be available end of August.

Saturday, Dec. 15: Christmas Play Dress rehearsal and hall set up.


Sunday, June 2: Last Day of Sunday School and Sundae Sunday potluck luncheon.

2018-2019 Sunday School Registration

Please register your children for Sunday School by following this link.
https://goo.gl/forms/upvfmLhhpVtYOvJk1

Sunday School Corner
CHIAN SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

“AGIA MARKELLA”

~ Annual Summer Picnic ~

Sunday, July 22, 2018
Following the Divine Liturgy

Nativity of Christ Church
1110 Highland Drive
Novato, California 94949

$25.00 Adults - $10.00 Children under 12

Chicken, Pilafi, Fasolakia, Greek Salad, Bread, Dessert and Music for Dancing

For Tickets Contact:
Stamati Tsatsaronis (209) 988-3379
Nick Pries (408) 398-7070
Angie Kozas (510) 387-2057
Antonia Fikaris (510) 381-0723
Despina Poulos (415) 467-0819
Saint Markella lived in Chios sometime after the middle of the fourteenth century. Her parents were Christians, and among the wealthiest citizens. The saint’s mother died when she was young, and so her father, the mayor of the village, saw to her education. She had been trained by her mother to be respectful and devout, and to guard her purity. Saint Markella increased in virtue as she grew older, fasting, praying, and attending church services. She loved and respected her father, and comforted him in his sorrow. She told him she would take care of him in his old age, and would not abandon him.

As an adult, Saint Markella was loved by everyone for her beauty and for her spiritual gifts but the devil incited her father with an unnatural desire for his daughter. Markella’s father changed in his behavior toward her. Unable to understand the reason for this change, the saint went to her room and wept. She prayed before an icon of the Mother of God, asking her to help her father. One day, her father openly declared the nature of his feelings for her. Horrified, the saint tried to avoid him as much as she could.

A shepherd was tending his sheep near the beach one morning and he heard a noise and looked up. He saw a young woman with a torn dress running down the hill. She hid in a nearby bush, ignoring its thorns. Then he heard the sound of a horse approaching, and recognized the mayor of the village. He asked the shepherd if he had seen his daughter. He said that he had not seen her, but pointed to her hiding place with his finger. The mayor ordered Markella to come out of the bush, but she refused. Therefore, he set fire to the bush in order to force her out. She emerged on the side opposite her father, and ran toward the rocky shore, calling out to the Mother of God for help.

Markella continued to run and scrambled over the rocks, staining them with her blood. Hearing her father getting closer, she prayed that the earth would open up and swallow her. The saint sank to her knees, her strength all gone, and then a miracle took place. The rock split open and received her body up to the waist. Drawing his sword, her father seized her by the hair and cut off her head, throwing it into the sea. At once the calm sea became stormy, and large waves crashed to the shore near the murderer’s feet.

In later years, pious Christians built a church on the spot where Saint Markella hid in the bush. The spot where she was killed became known as “The Martyrdom of Saint Markella,” and the rock that opened to receive her is still there. The rock appears to be a large stone that broke off from a mountain and rolled into the sea. Soil from the mountain covers the spot on the side facing the land. On the side facing the ocean is a small hole, about the size of a finger. A healing water flows from the opening, which cures every illness. The flow of water is not due to the movements of the tide, because when the tide is out, there would be no water. This, however, is not the case. The water is clear, but some of the nearby rocks have been stained with a reddish-yellow color. According to tradition, the lower extremities of Saint Markella’s body are concealed in the rock.

The most astonishing thing about the rock is not the warmth of the water, nor the discoloration of the other rocks, but what happens when a priest performs the Blessing of Water. A sort of steam rises up from the water near the rock, and the entire area is covered with a mist. The sea returns to normal as soon as the service is over. Many miracles have occurred at the spot, and pilgrims flock there from all over the world.
**Thomas and Beverly Orr**

Beverly (Angiliki) grew up attending the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Akron, Ohio. She fondly recalls her Macedonian family going to church together for Anastasi services every year and joyously driving home singing Christos Anesti with candles in hand. Years later her family eventually moved and attended Annunciation in San Francisco on Valencia Street.

In 1968, Bev’s father, along with a dozen other families sought to form a Church in Marin. They had no priest, and no building to worship in, but through hard work and joy friendships, the Marin Church was formed. Starting a Church in Marin was her dad’s passion and she dearly loves and misses her father, Chris Christo, and her mother, Betty. The wonderful families of Nativity of Christ became her dearly loved, new family.

In 1980, Beverly met her husband Thomas Orr. They met in a restaurant in Tiburon, with Tom’s mother, and their first date was with Bev’s father! Bev had a son, Michael, who was 3 years old. In 1984 Tom and Beverly were married in Chicago during Tom’s family’s celebration of his mother’s 75th birthday. Their son, Kevin Thomas, was born in Mill Valley three years later. Michael was baptized by Father James Adams and Kevin was baptized by Fr. Constantine. Tom and Bev had their marriage blessed in 1996 after Tom and Bev had just returned from living in Brussels, Belgium for 5 years. Tom was employed by Network General Europe as their Managing Director as Tom’s background has always been in the computer industry, mostly international.

The Orr family truly had the “Big Fat Greek Wedding” experience with Michael marrying their future daughter-in-law Jennifer, in 2003. Mike and Jennifer were married in the Ascension Greek Church in Oakland and now have two beautiful children, Nicholas (12) and Addison Anastasia (10). Bev and Tom’s youngest son, Kevin Thomas, resides in Scottsdale, Arizona, with his new bride, Alexandra. They were married in Cabo San Lucas during a Hurricane last September 1, of 2017, or as their son Kevin likes to call it the “Orr-i-cane.”

Bev and Tom have been very blessed over the years. Bev still works in residential Real Estate at Pacific Union International in Napa, and Tom is retired from the computer industry but does Napa wine tours, occasionally.

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**Dimitrios and Haroula Zahariudakis**

Dimitrios Zahariudakis was born in Chania, Crete. When he was a young boy, he enjoyed helping the priest in the altar and when he grew up, he learned how to be a tailor. After working for some time, he left to work for tourist ships of the Sun Line. He later came to America and worked on the Royal Caribbean Line. His dream was to go to America and to do his own tailor shop in Novato. Dimitrios is proud to have served the Navy with a submarine team for 26 months and 10 days. He finished with exceptional conduct and recognition. Dimitrios was previously married and lived in Novato where he had two children. Presvytera Stella Bekris, who now lives in Castro Valley with her husband, Fr. Niko Bekris, and his son, George, who lives locally and works for PG&E.

Dimitrios’ wife, Haroula, was born on a small island in the Saronic Gulf, Poros. Haroula was predominantly with a large company that she left when she moved to Santa Rosa with Dimitrios. They met through the Church, got married, and fulfilled their dream by living in a new home in Santa Rosa. They are now greatly involved with their garden at home and enjoy shopping, traveling, and their life together. They attend services in Novato, Santa Rosa, and Castro Valley. They are very proud to live in beautiful California and to have been born from such beautiful islands. Living here reminds them fondly of their homeland and they are proud to be in a place that reminds them of Greece.
We thank all stewards who have committed to giving the “first Fruits of our labor.”
Our new website has launched. Visit www.nativityofchrist.org to see what’s new.