

SUNDAY BEFORE THE HOLY CROSS



The Precious and Holy Cross

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
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Live streaming services <http://holytrinitywestfield.org/parish-news/>

REV. FR. PETER DELVIZIS, PARISH PRIEST

Forefeast of the Holy Cross; The Consecration of the Church of the Holy Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre) in Jerusalem; St. Cornelius the Centurion & Martyr; St. Hierotheos the Righteous of Iveron Monastery of Mount Athos +1745

Plagal of the First Tone Ηχος πλ. δ΄

Click links for Scripture Readings

Third Morning Gospel:	St. Mark 16:9-20	Εωθινόν Γ΄
Epistle Reading:	Galatians 6:11-18	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. John 3:13-17	Ελληνικά

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: *“Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful we both praise and worship Him, for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead through His all glorious resurrection.”*

Apolytikion of the Forefeast of the Cross: *“The life-giving Cross of Your goodness, which we the unworthy have from You as a gift, we present to You, O Lord, as an intercessor. Save our leaders and our nation and keep them in peace, through the Theotokos, O only One who loves humanity.”*

Apolytikion of the Consecration: *“You have made the earthly beauty of the holy tabernacle of Your glory to be like the majesty of the firmament on high, O Lord. Make it strong forever and ever, and accept our supplications that we unceasingly bring to You there, at the intercession of the Theotokos. For You are the life and resurrection of all.”*

Apolytikion of the Church: *“Blessed are You, O Christ our Lord and God, You who made all wise the fishermen Your Apostles, sending down upon them Your Spirit, which is Holy and through their work drawing the world into Your net, glory to You Who loves mankind.”*

Kontakion of the Consecration: *“The Church is shown to be* a many-lighted heaven* that doth shine a guiding light* upon all them that do believe;* wherein while standing, we cry aloud:* Do Thou Thyself now establish this house, O Lord.*

Altar Donations

Altar Candles in memory of our beloved friend Frieda Anast†, from Trinity Circle

Large Candles: in loving memory of Anastasios, John, and Evangelia Kiriakatis†

Artoclasia

For the health of the Kiriakatis families, Father Peter, Presvytera Victoria and all parishioners

Memorials

Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial service for Frieda Anast†, 40 days; and Katherine Panayi†, 40 days. Eternal be their memories.



Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, September 13, Great Vespers for The Holy Cross, 5:00 PM

Monday, September 14, **The Exaltation of the Precious and Holy Cross**, 8:30 AM;
Divine Liturgy with the procession of the Holy Cross, 9:30 AM

Sunday, September 20, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

The Exaltation of the Precious and Holy Cross – September 14

The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulcher of the Lord, and to build a temple to the pagan goddess Venus and another to Jupiter. Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifices to idols. Eventually after 300 years and by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulcher and the Life-Creating Cross were discovered and opened for veneration under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337). In 313, he had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized, and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were ordered stopped. Although he had signed the Edict, Emperor Licinius of the Eastern Roman Empire still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict of toleration extend also to the eastern parts and beyond. The Holy Equal of the Apostles, Emperor Constantine, gained victory over his enemies when he saw a vision of the Cross in the sky with “By this, conquer” written beneath.

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St. Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St. Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Although she was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. St. Helen gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the pagan statues in Jerusalem.

Searching for the Cross of the Resurrection, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search was unsuccessful. Finally, they directed her to the elderly Hebrew, Jude, who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord’s Body (March 6). In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched one body, the man came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.



Christians came in huge throngs to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St. Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying “Lord have mercy,” reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elderly Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Kyriacos and afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem. During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363), he accepted a martyr’s death for Christ (see October 28).

St. Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after her death. St. Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople where St. Constantine gave orders to build a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ in Jerusalem, including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. St. Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple; she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established.



Prayer List

Robert, Susan, Chris, George, Eleni, Marina, Jim, Jean, Elliott, Priscilla, Maria, Vincent, Patricia, Harry, Andrea, Peter, Edward, Aristotelis, Anna, Elizabeth, Anna, Angela, John, Stephanie, Michael, Victor, Floarea, Andy, Ramon, Augusta, Donald, Gloria, Charles, Anastasia, Christine, Deborah, Fotini, Bill, Joan, Rose, Ashleigh, Tom, Andrea, Marc, Barbara, Brendon, Ryan, George, Vasili, Theodora, Linda, Camille, Georgia, Olga, Angela, Nancy, Chuck, Peter, Joan, Augusta, Anastasios, Dorka, Elisabeth, Paula, Katie, Marien, Elizabeth, Kathy, Patty, Cynthia, John, Gary, Josephine, Costa, Alicia, Charles, Stavroula, Maroulla.

2020 Stewardship Commitment and Online Giving

The first half of this year has indeed been a struggle for each of us as we navigate both the intense storm caused by political division and the devastating effects of the Coronavirus. Our church is here to help us weather the storms of life and to help pilot us through the barren wilderness found in these tragic times.

We are counting on all our parishioners to help the church financially. You are asked to make your Christian Stewardship Commitment today. Doing so will help Holy Trinity through these difficult times of Co-Vid and unrest. By offering your stewardship, you'll ensure that the Parish will have ample financial resources so as not to encounter any cash flow problems. Your attention is appreciated. Our Online Stewardship Giving Program is a convenient way to automate your offering. To sign up for online giving, visit www.holytrinitywestfield.org, and look for the "Donate Now" button on the home page. [Or click here.](#)

Youth Coloring Page

“We venerate Your Holy Cross, O Christ!”



Registration for GREEK and SUNDAY SCHOOLS

This year Greek and Sunday Schools will have delayed openings. We are looking to begin classes the last week of September. The initial few weeks will be virtual classes with the intent to return to in-class teaching by mid-October. As we are still dealing with COVID-19, this is a fluid situation that requires constant monitoring. In order to gauge this year's classes and our approach towards teaching, when registration opens we need to know the numbers of children that will participate. More information about registration and Holy Trinity's procedures for in-class learning will be forthcoming next week.



OCMC Coin Box Sunday, September 13

Our parish has been faithful stewards in supporting the OCMC Coin Box Ministry. Please bring your Coin Box and leave in the appropriate OCMC box in the Narthex. You may also call the church office for drop off during the week or mail in a check made out to Holy Trinity with "OCMC Coin Box" in the memo. God bless you and thank you for your support of the OCMC worldwide ministries.

GOYA Clothing Drive and Canned Goods

Please SAVE the DATE. Due to the huge success and many inquiries to do this again, we will be having another Clothing Drive on **October 17, 2020**. The Clothing Drive (including bedding, blankets, curtains, sheets, towels, shoes and toys under 2 feet) will go to people who are in need. Spread the word and help us raise money for our Outreach initiatives. All items need to be brought to the church parking lot on October 17 during the hours of 9:30 AM - 10AM. We will also be collecting dry goods for families in need (i.e. all canned goods - soups, tuna and chicken, beans, rice, pasta and other meals on the go that can be easily heated). You can also leave these dry goods in our bin that will be outside the church office. Thank you in advance for your continued support of all our initiatives.

CoVid-19 Pandemic Update

Besides missing you, the dear flock of Holy Trinity, it is my hope that we are passing these unprecedented days with prayer and reflection so that we might remain calm and close to God in the face of the challenges presented to us by the Corona virus.

I want to insure you that Holy Trinity is taking steps to help stop the transmission of this virus by increasing the cleaning and disinfecting of the church. Additionally, steps are being taken to comply with governmental requests to limit public gatherings (social distancing).

A detailed plan for reopening the church for parishioners is available on the parish webpage. Please visit to read: "Parish Reopening Guidelines".

STREAMING DIVINE SERVICES

Live streaming of services can be viewed on the parish's Facebook page. These major services will be uploaded to the parish's YouTube channel. The most recent services can be viewed on the parish's website.

Parish Web Page: <http://holytrinitywestfield.org/parish-news/> This page contains all parish updates and the most recent divine services.

Facebook Page: Please click on the "Facebook" button on the parish web page or click <https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Trinity-Greek-Orthodox-Church-Westfield-NJ-397266127065207/>

Holy Trinity Reopening

"My brethren, count it joyous when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. Now let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." – James 1:2-4

It is with joy in our good and merciful Lord that I announce to you the opening of Holy Trinity for the faithful to attend the Divine Services effective immediately!

Over the last few months our faith has indeed been tested in ways unimaginable. Yet in Christ we always find victory. *Εν τούτῳ νικά!*

In anticipation of this reopening, over the last few weeks the parish has been working hard to implement procedures to keep both the parish and the faithful safe once you return. While the church surroundings will be familiar, our behavior during worship and our interactions with each other will be different.

While we cannot open to full capacity (there is a limit, ~90), and knowing that you, the faithful, want to be here, we are instituting a process for you to

petition to attend the services. It is important that you **Register and wait for confirmation to attend services.**

To Register, simply check the Liturgical Schedule to see when a service is offered. Then either call the church office or email a request to:

HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org

In your request, please mention the specific date and the number of people to attend. A confirmation will be forwarded to you, if space is available. Priority will be given to those who are attending a family memorial service. For your convenience, additional weekly Divine Liturgies have been added so that we can accommodate your desire to return to church.

When you receive a confirmation, you are asked to read the "[Parish Reopening Guidelines](#)". By attending the service, you affirm that you will adhere to these guidelines.