

SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS



The Precious and Holy Cross

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

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

REV. FR. PETER DELVIZIS, PARISH PRIEST

St. Eustathios the Great Martyr, his wife and two children; Our Righteous Father St. Eustathios, Archbishop of Thessoloniki; Our Righteous Father St. John of Xenon; St. Hilarion the New, Righteous Martyr of Crete

Plagal of the Second Tone Ηχος πλ. β΄

Click links for Scripture Readings

Fourth Morning Gospel:	St. Luke 24:1-12	Εωθινόν Δ΄
Epistle Reading:	Galatians 2:16-20	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Mark 8:34-38; 9:1	Ελληνικά

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: *“When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead, and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch You came unto the virgin woman bestowing the gift of life O You who rose from the dead. Lord we give glory to You.”*

Apolytikion of the Elevation of the Cross: *“Save, O Lord, Your people. And bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries of the faith. And protect Your people by Your precious Cross, Your Holy Cross.”*

Apolytikion of the Martyrs: *“Thy Martyrs, O Lord in their courageous contest for Thee* received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God.* For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants* and wholly destroyed the demons’ strengthless presumption.* O Christ God, by their intercessions, save our souls, since Thou are merciful.*

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 Cross: *“Thou Who wast raised up on the Cross of Thine own will,* O Christ our God, do Thou bestow Thy compassion* upon this, Thy new commonwealth named after Thee.* Gladden with Thy sovereign might* our most Orthodox hierarchs,* and vouchsafe them victory* over every false teaching,* and as Thy help in war may they possess* the weapon of peace, the Trophy invincible.”*

Altar Donations

Altar Candles, Vigil light, and Large Candles in memory of Maria Theofanous†, Demetra Kekis†, Anna Theofanous†, Polychronis Theofanous†, Louis and Rosita Padula†, Avoula and Henry Hofsass†, Theofanis Theofanous†, and all the departed members of the Theofanous family†

Prothesis Candles in memory of Maria Meletiου† and Demetrios Apostolou†

Liturgical Schedule

Saturday, September 26, St. John the Evangelist and Theologian, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, September 27, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM



**St. Eustathios the Great Martyr,
his wife and two children
September 20**

Eustathios was a great Roman general during the reigns of Emperors Titus and Trajan. Though he was a pagan, Placidus (for that was his pagan name) was a just and merciful man, similar to Cornelius the Centurion, who was baptized by the Apostle Peter (Acts 10). Out hunting one day, he pursued a stag. By God's providence, a cross appeared between the antlers of the stag and the voice of the Lord came to Placidus, directing him to go to a Christian priest and become baptized. Placidus was baptized, along with his wife and two sons. At baptism, he received the name Eustathios; his wife, Theopiste ("faithful to God"); and his sons, Agapitos and Theopistos.

After his baptism, he returned to the place where he had experienced the revelation of the stag and, kneeling, gave thanks to God that He had brought him to the truth. Just then, the voice of the Lord again manifested itself to him, foretold that he would suffer for His name, and strengthened him. Then Eustathios secretly left Rome with his family, intending to hide among the simple people and serve God in humble and unknown surroundings. Arriving in Egypt, he was immediately beset by trials. An evil barbarian abducted his wife, and both of his sons were seized by wild beasts and carried away. However, the barbarian soon lost his life, and the children were saved from the wild beasts by shepherds. Eustathios settled in the Egyptian village of Vadisis and lived there for fifteen years as a hired laborer.

Later barbarians attacked the Roman Empire, and Emperor Trajan grieved that he did not have the brave General Placidus, who had carried the victory whenever he fought. The emperor sent two of his officers to seek the great commander throughout the empire. By God's providence, these officers (who were once companions of Eustathios), came to the village of Vadisis, found Eustathios and brought him back to the emperor. Eustathios amassed an army and defeated the barbarians. On the way back to Rome, Eustathios found his wife and both sons. Meanwhile, Emperor Trajan had died and Emperor Hadrian was on the throne. When Hadrian summoned General Eustathios to offer sacrifices to the gods, Eustathios declined, declaring himself a Christian. The emperor subjected him and his wife and sons to torture. They were thrown to the wild beasts, but this did them no harm. Then they were cast into a red-hot metal ox. On the third day their dead bodies were removed, but they were unharmed by the fire. Thus,

this glorious commander rendered unto Caesar the things which were Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's (Luke 20:25), and took up his habitation in the Eternal Kingdom of Christ our God.

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 Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration.



Prayer List

Ann, Dacia, Tonya, 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.

Annual Fellowship Picnic

Please join us for our Annual Holy Trinity Fellowship Picnic outside in the Church parking lot on Sunday, September 27, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, and ending at 12:30 to accommodate virtual Sunday school at 1:00 PM. All food and drinks will be provided, maintaining current Covid safety standards. Please RSVP to HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org to request attendance to the Liturgy/and or picnic. Please keep in mind that attendance is still limited so reservations will be on a first come first serve basis. You will receive a confirmation by email.

OCMC Coin Box Sunday, September 20

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.

Philoptochos Fashion Show

SAVE THE DATE ~ The Ladies Philoptochos Dinner and Fashion Show “By the Sea” has been rescheduled to Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at the Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park.

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

The first half of the year has indeed tested us in ways unimaginable. Yet in Christ we always find victory. **Εν τούτῳ νικά!**

With the New Ecclesiastical Year and the coming of September, I invite you to attend church in person once again. If you’ve been to church recently, you’ll see many controlled measures implemented to keep you safe. The Parish Council has implemented many measures to help assure this. Over the past six months, we’ve learned to circulate under the Corona Virus threat. We feel a bit more at ease going to the grocery store and attending school, and pursuing other activities. That is why I invite you back to church knowing that one of the safest places to be is at your spiritual home. While the church surroundings will be familiar when you attend, our behavior during worship and our interactions with each other is different.

There are still state restrictions in that we cannot open to full capacity (there is a limit ~90 people). But knowing that you want to be here, we are still asking the faithful to register with the church office. 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.

Asking for our Lord the Physician of our souls and bodies, to bless us and banish away this terrible and evil entity, I remain yours in Christ, - Fr Peter