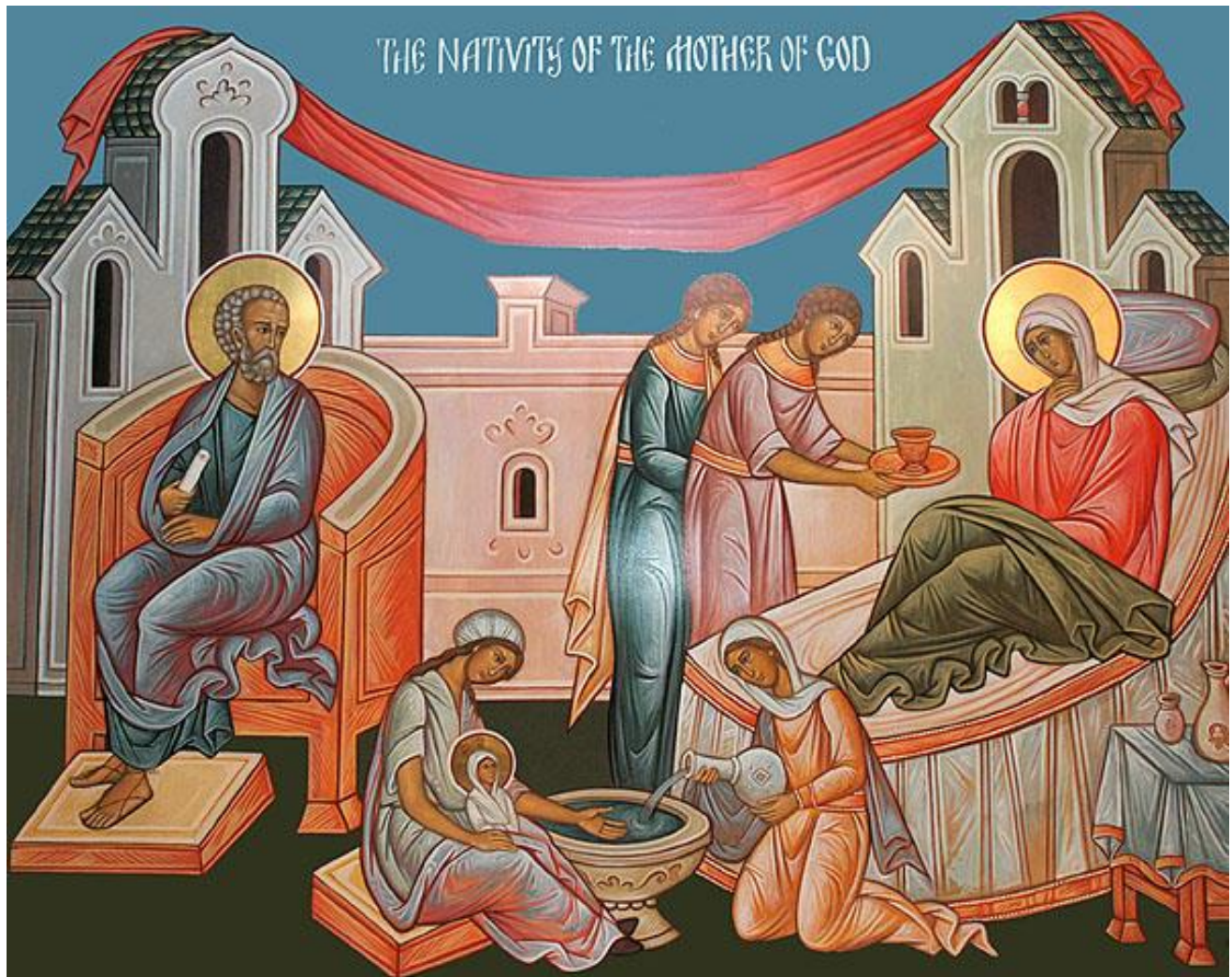


THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



The Nativity of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, New Jersey 07090
908.233.8533 www.holytrinitywestfield.org

Live streaming services <http://holytrinitywestfield.org/parish-news/>

REV. FR. PETER DELVIZIS, PARISH PRIEST

Commemoration of the Miracle in Colossae (Chonæ) Phrygia by the Archangel Michael; St. Andronikos the Martyr; St. Eudoxios, St. Zenon and St. Makarios the Martyrs; Sts. Faustus the presbyter; St. Macarius, St. Andrew and the monks Sts. Bibus, Kyriacus, Dionysius, Andronicus, and the holy women St. Andropelagia and St. Thekla; and also St. Theoctistos a skipper, and another Kyriacos a plebian, died by the sword.

Fourth Tone Ηχος δ΄

Click links for Scripture Readings online

Second Morning Gospel:	St. Mark 16:1-8	Εωθινόν Β΄
Epistle Reading:	1 Corinthians 16:13-24	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Matthew 21:33-42	Ελληνικά

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: “When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished. To the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more, and Christ our God has risen from the dead and granted to the world His great mercy.”

Apolytikion of the Archangel: “O Chief Commander of the heavenly armies, * we the unworthy now entreat you in earnest, * to fortify us by your supplications to the Lord, * and shelter us beneath the wings of your spiritual glory, * guarding us who run to you and fervently entreat you: * As the Commander of the hosts on high, * rescue us faithful from dangers of every kind.”

Kontakion: “Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. O immaculate one, by thy holy nativity, which thy people, redeemed from the guilt of offences, celebrate by crying to thee: The barren woman giveth birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life.”

Altar Donations

Altar Candles and Large Candles: in memory of Sylvia Lucarelli†

Vigil Light in memory of Costas Pasis†

Sacraments and Rites

Baptisms: On Saturday, September 5, the baptism for Jackson Ford, son of Jason and Jessica Wacker Lohner, was celebrated; sponsor is Zachery Wacker.

On Sunday, September 6, the baptisms for Zacharias and Georgios, twin sons of Paul and Alyssa (Gentile) Salvesen, will be celebrated; sponsors are Thomas Andresakes and Andrea Roon.

Memorials: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial service for Sylvia Lucarelli†, 40 days; Costa Xarhoulakos†, 40 day; and Costas Pasis†, 6 months.

Eternal be their memories.

Liturgical Schedule

Tuesday, September 8, **Nativity of the Theotokos**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, September 13, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

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



Nativity of the Theotokos – September 8

In addition to the celebration of the Annunciation, there are three major feasts in the Church honoring Mary, the Theotokos. The first of these is the feast of her nativity which is kept on the eighth of September. The record of the birth of Mary is not found in the Bible. The traditional teaching which is celebrated in the hymns and verses of the festal liturgy is that Joachim and Anna were a pious Jewish couple who were among the small and faithful remnant—“the poor and the needy”—who were awaiting the promised messiah. The couple was old and childless. They prayed earnestly to the Lord for a child, since among the Jews barrenness was a sign of God’s disfavor. In answer to their prayers, and as the reward of their unwavering fidelity to God, the elderly couple was blessed with the child who was destined, because of her own personal goodness and holiness, to become the Mother of the Messiah-Christ.

The fact that there is no Biblical verification of the facts of Mary’s birth is incidental to the meaning of the feast. Even if the actual background of the event as celebrated in the Church is questionable from an historical point of view, the divine meaning of it “for us men and for our salvation” is obvious. There had to be one born of human flesh and blood who would be spiritually capable of being the Mother of Christ, and she herself had to be born into the world of persons who were spiritually capable of being her parents. The feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, therefore, is a glorification of Mary’s birth, of Mary herself and of her righteous parents. It is a celebration as well of the very first preparation of the salvation of the world. For the “Vessel of Light,” the “Book of the Word of Life,” the “Door to the Orient,” the “Throne of Wisdom” is being prepared on earth by God Himself in the birth of the holy girl-child Mary.

At Vespers the three Old Testament readings are “mariological” in their New Testament interpretation. Thus, Jacob’s Ladder which unites heaven and earth and the place which is named “the house of God” and the “gate of heaven” (Gen 28.10-17) are taken, to indicate the union of God with men which is realized most fully and perfectly—both spiritually and physically—in Mary the Theotokos, Bearer of God. So also the vision of the temple with the “door ‘to the East or Orient’” perpetually closed and filled with the “glory of the Lord” symbolizes Mary, called in the hymns of the feast “the living temple of God filled with the divine Glory”. The closed gate symbolizing her being Ever-Virgin. (Ezek 43.27-44.4). Mary is also identified with the “house” which the Divine Wisdom has built for himself according to the reading from Proverbs 9.1-11.

The Gospel reading of Matins is the one read at all feasts of the Theotokos, the famous Magnificat from Saint Luke in which Mary says: “*My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden, for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed*” (Lk 1.47). The epistle reading of the Divine Liturgy is the famous passage about the coming of the Son of God in “the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of man” (Phil 2.5-11) and the Gospel reading is that which is always read for feasts of the Theotokos—the woman in the crowd glorifies the Mother of Jesus, and the Lord Himself responds that the same blessedness which his mother receives is for all “who hear the word of God and keep it” (Lk 11.27-28). In her, the Blessed Theotokos, we see someone who has both heard God’s words and kept them to their fullest. That is why she is called, “most blessed among women.”



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.

Youth Page

On Sept. 6th we celebrate the Miracle of Archangel Michael



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Q Y F W F S W O R D R R K M
M C O Y G C Y W G O K S C R
L Q T B Y D H L T K A Z T M
W B C J E K N C N F D N N F
K A R D Z D E H E E V K A R
D G R F Q T I G C D V N V N
K N L C O D U E R Q V A R P
P A T R H A Q E N Y F V E Z
C I P L R A D F W T V N S H
Z D T D W A N B D E F E N D
R R G T E D P G R L Q M R P
J A O L V J T Y E F Z C H R
L U O G T N B M N L W R L M
X G D L E C N I R P R X X B

ARCHANGEL

DEFEND

GOOD

GUARDIAN

HEAVENLY

LEADER

OBEDIENT

PRINCE

PROTECTOR

SAFEGUARD

SERVANT

SWORD

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE MIRACLES OF THE HOLY ARCHANGEL MICHAEL – Sept. 6



Near Hierapolis, in Phrygia, there was a place called Chonae ("plunging"), and in that place there was a spring of miraculous water. When Apostle John the Theologian, accompanied by Philip, preached the Gospel in Hierapolis, he looked upon that place and prophesied that a spring of miraculous water would open up there, from which many would receive healing, and that the great Archangel of God Michael would visit that place.

Soon afterward, this prophecy was fulfilled: a spring of water burst forth and became widely known for its miraculous power. A pagan in Laodicea had a daughter who was mute, which caused him great sorrow. Archangel Michael appeared to him in a dream and told him to take his daughter to the spring, where she would be cured. The father immediately obeyed, brought his daughter to the spring, and found many people there seeking deliverance from various infirmities. These people were all Christians. The man asked how he should seek healing, and the Christians told him: "You must pray to the Archangel Michael, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The man prayed in this way, gave his daughter a drink of this water, and the girl began to speak. The pagan, his daughter and his whole household were baptized. He also built a church over the spring dedicated to the Archangel Michael.

Later, a young man named Archippus settled there and lived a life of austerity, in fasting and prayer. The pagans did many malicious things to Archippus, for they did not like the fact that this Christian holy place emanated such spiritual power and attracted so many people to it. The pagans, in their wickedness, rerouted the nearest river in order to flood the church and the spring. By the prayers of Archippus, the holy Archangel Michael opened a fissure in the rock beside the church, and the river's water plunged into it. This is how that place was saved and why it was called Chonae, or "of the plunging," for the river's water that plunged into the open fissure. St. Archippus labored in asceticism there until the age of seventy, and peacefully reposed in the Lord.

A Prayer to Archangel Michael

O Holy Archangel of Christ, holy guardian and protector of my soul and body, forgive me everything offensive thing I have done in my life. Protect me from all influence and temptation of the evil one. May I never more anger God by any sin. Pray for me to the Lord, that He may make me worthy of the grace of the All-Holy Trinity, and of the Most Blessed Theotokos, and of all the saints. Amen.

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.

As you plan your summer get-aways, 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 during the summer months 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.](#)

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 13TH

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.

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.

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.

Ariana Tarhanidis - Goya President Fairwell message.
August 2020

Remember back in March, when time was moving as slow as molasses and the uncertainty of what was to come in the months ahead convinced us summer 2020 was doomed? Flash forward to the present; I hope everyone has enjoyed the beautiful summer weather and practiced social distancing while we slowly continue to ease towards getting back to our pre-quarantine routines.

As this is my final message, I would like to take a moment to reflect and share my gratitude for leading this exceptional GOYA. I am proud of what we have accomplished under these distressed times. I am humbled by being around a community that is so supportive and will help me and my fellow seniors in our future endeavors. Congratulations again to the new Board Members and Outreach Committee. I wish you all the best next year and I am excited to see what you will accomplish. I hope to see our GOYA flourish under new leadership next year, and continue to build on the foundation of the GOYA mission.

In Christ,
Ariana