

# THE GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST



Pascha, April 16, 2023

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
908.233.8533 [www.holytrinitywestfield.org](http://www.holytrinitywestfield.org)  
Live streaming services

Rev. Fr. Peter Delviziis, Parish Priest

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!  
ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

**“CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD  
BY DEATH HAS HE TRAMPLED UPON DEATH  
AND TO THOSE IN THE TOMBS  
HE HAS GRANTED LIFE.”**

**Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη!**

Christ is risen!

Christos Voskrese!

Christos a înviat!

Al-Mashīh-Qām!

Christe Agsdga!

Krishti u ngjall

**Ἀληθῶς Ἀνέστη!**

Truly, He is risen!

Voistinu Voskrese! - Russian

Adevārat a înviat! - Romanian

Haqqan Qām! - Arabic

Cheshmaritad agsdga! - Georgian

Vërtet u ngjall! - Albanian

In the Vigil	Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Mark 16:1-8</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
In the Liturgy:	Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">Acts: 1:1-8</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
	Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. John 1:1-17</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Agape Vespers:	Gospel Reading:	St. John 20:19-25	

**Apolytikion:** “Christ is risen from the dead by death has He trampled upon death and to those in the tombs he has granted life.”

**Kontakion:** “Into the grave You descended, Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of Hades and as victor You arose, O Christ our God. You proclaimed to the myrrh-bearing women a greeting of joy. You brought peace to your holy apostles and to the fallen You granted Resurrection.”



### Altar Donations

#### Holy Friday

**Altar Candles:** In Memory of the parents† of Themis and Gregory Ganifas

**Vigil Light:** In Memory of Deno, George, and Andrea Nicholas†

**Large Candles:** In Memory of Anthony and Zara Kyrioglou†

#### Holy Saturday

**Resurrection Candle:** In Loving Memory of Pericles Gianakis†

**Torch Candles:** In Memory of Theresa Kotsolios†

**Large Candles:** In Memory of Anthony and Zara Kyrioglou†

#### Agape Vespers

**Altar Candles:** In Memory of Ted and Mary Demetriou†

**Vigil Light:** In Memory of Helen Dimitry†

**Large Candles:** In Loving Memory of our beloved parents Spiro and Pauline Retsinas†

**Prothesis Candles:** In Memory of James N. Rentas†

### *Paschal Liturgical Schedule*

Saturday, April 15, Holy Saturday, Resurrection Vigil, 11:15 PM

Sunday, April 16, THE GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA, Orthros and Paschal Liturgy,  
12:00 AM

Sunday, April 16, AGAPE VESPERS, 11:00 AM

Sunday, April 23, Sunday of Thomas and Feast Day of St. George the Great Martyr,  
Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

### **Church Office Closed on Bright Monday**

Continuing the Paschal celebration, the Church Office will be closed on Bright Monday, April 17. It will reopen on Bright Tuesday at 9:00 AM.

**Religious Education:** Classes will resume on Sunday of Thomas, April 23.

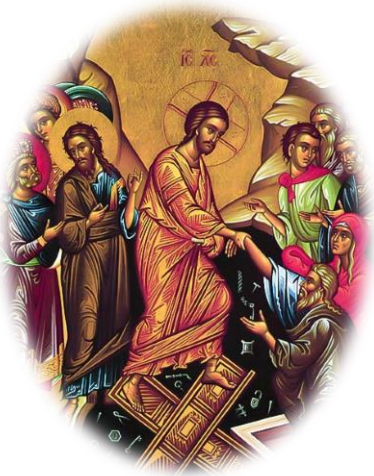
**Greek Education:** Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 18.

**“COME RECEIVE THE LIGHT FROM THE UNWANING  
(NEVER SETTING) LIGHT; AND GLORIFY CHRIST WHO  
HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.”**

In the late evening of Saturday night, the faithful come to church to proclaim the Resurrection of Christ. Pascha is the Feast of all feasts, and the Day of all days is about to be ushered in. The service begins with a vigil. By keeping watch and being ever attentive, the faithful joyously anticipate the proclamation that Christ is risen.

As the church is darkened, we are to view ourselves in Hades lying in our own tombs, a place of complete darkness. Darkness is a symbol of the tragic Fall, our separation from God, resulting in despair, hopelessness and death. The crowded church is also symbolic that Hades is filled with many people, all realizing that we are powerless to help one another. No person but Christ can shine His light upon us. With His presence comes an opening of the doors of darkness and a setting free of those held captive. Through God's tender mercy “with which Christ the Dayspring has visited us to give light to those who sat in darkness and the shadow of death,” a light unto eternal life has shined.

Liturgically, the moment of great anticipation suddenly arrives as a single light appears before us. Christ has defeated death and has overwhelmed the darkness bringing us hope and new life. As every candle is lit by a single light, the church is aglow with the flames of hope, and the darkness is no more.



By accepting the light, we proclaim Christ as our Lord and allow His warmth and radiance to be ours. The inner darkness of our souls caused by the stain of sin is overcome by Christ.

As each person receives the light from someone else, it is significant to consider its meaning. In life, we come to know Christ by the introduction from other people, be they parents, godparents, priests, friends, spouse, etc. Having taken the Holy Light from another, we must preserve the Holy Light lest it be extinguished. Our faith will never be extinguished if we make a personal pledge to allow Christ to be our God. We are stewards of all His gifts. Accordingly, we must preserve the virtue and goodness that have been entrusted to us.

Christ is risen. Truly, He is risen. May the Risen One bless you and give you His abundant mercy.

## CHRIST IS RISEN!



ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!  
ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

## TRULY, HE IS RISEN!

### SHARING THE HOLY LIGHT OF CHRIST

Representatives from the various ministries will help distribute the light of Christ. As this light is taken home, allow Christ, the Light Giver, to enter into your abode and the recesses of your heart. Parish Representatives: Archons; Peter T. Arbes, B. Theodore Bozonelis, Notis Kotsolios, Peter Tarhanidis; Parish Council, Penny Mavridis Sales; Philoptochos, Maria Kanaras; Head Acolyte, Nicholas Sikellis; Choir Dir., Kathryn Athanasoulas; Religious Ed. Dir., Catherine Kelly; Greek School PTO, Soula Campbell; TOTS, Valerie Comprelli; Trinity Circle, Avi Kiriakatis; YHT, Molly Love; JOY/HOPE, Kathy Petsinis.

# Prayer Request



Vasileos, Tina, Gabby, Fran, Dayvon, Sunitha, Neil, Gus, Dimitri, Freddy, Shane, Lula, Christina, Diego, Michael, Katie, Joe, Theo, Barbara, Nicholas, Athanasios, Clarita, Georgia, Savas, Christodoulos, Sophia, Savas, Maria, Michelle, Dorothy, Elizabeth, Steve, Clem, Christos, Dorothy, Bill, Thomas, John, Keti, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Keti, Georgia, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Gayle, William, Byron, John, Robert, Terry, John, Angela, Andrew, Dianna, Edward, Sue, Thomas, Andrea, Thomas, Alexandra, Ronald, Galina, Angela, Lubove, Despina, Maria, John, Paraskevi (Parri), Dianna, Stephanie, Edward, Brian, Janeen, Cathy, James, Christine, Andrea, Molly, Anastasios, Michael, Angela, Lauren, John, Effie, Stella, Denise, Mirka, Stamatia, Theresa, James, Antoinette, William, Angela, Tanner, Stefanos, Helen

Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered; let those who  
hate Him flee from before His face!

A sacred Pascha is shown to us today; a new and Holy Pascha;  
A mystic Pascha; an all-venerable Pascha;  
A Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer; a spotless Pascha;  
A great Pascha; a Pascha of the faithful;  
A Pascha which has opened to us the gates of Paradise;  
A Pascha sanctifying all the faithful.



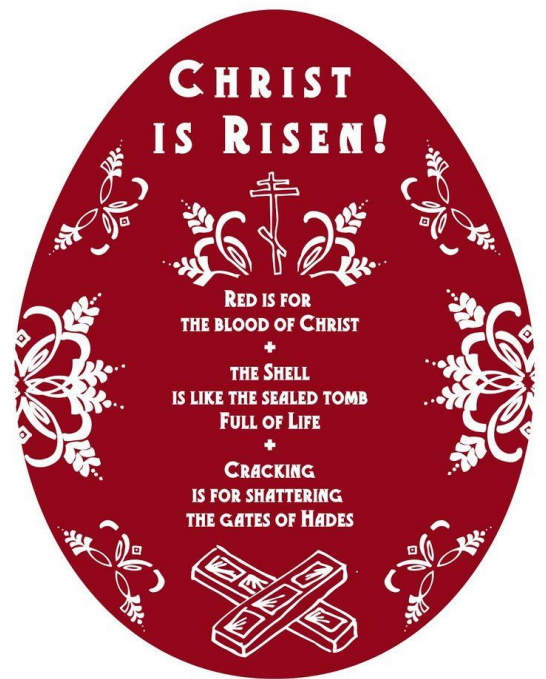
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
Now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.

It is the Day of Resurrection!  
Let us shine forth in splendor for the Festival,  
And embrace one another. Let us say,  
“O brethren, even to those who hate; let us forgive all things in  
The Resurrection, and thus let us exclaim:  
‘Christ is risen from the dead, trampling Death by death, and  
Bestowing life to those in the tombs.’”



## Paschal Eggs

There was a time when it was the custom for ancient people to place eggs on the graves of their loved ones. They believed that even as a little chicken is born alive out of the eggshell so their loved ones and friends would be born again out of the shell of their dead bodies. The egg was a symbol of their belief in a future life. Christianity borrowed this beautiful idea and made it the symbol of the Resurrection of Jesus. For us Christians, the Easter egg represents the sealed tomb in which the Body of our Saviour was placed after His Crucifixion.



Originally, only red was used in coloring Paschal eggs, signifying the sacred blood of Christ shed for our salvation. Gradually, other colors have also come into use in homes. At the conclusion of the Paschal liturgy, everyone receives a personal symbol of the Resurrection. The faithful, after having received a red egg, greet one another by striking them together. As they do so, the one whose egg is cracked (the broken seal of the tomb) says, "Christ is risen!" and the other replies, "Truly, He is risen!" The eating of eggs at Easter is symbolic also of the breaking of the long Lenten and Holy Week fasts since eggs are not permitted during this period.

## Special Gratitude

Gratitude is offered to those who made Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha a magnificent celebration. Many thanks are extended to our priest and visiting clergy, psaltes, choir members, acolytes, Parish Council, and Ladies Philoptochos; also to those anonymous donors who quietly spread the message of love through charitable acts; to those who prepared and made the Palm Crosses; to those who contributed at the Palm Sunday Fellowship Hour; to those who decorated the Kouvouklion and the interior of the church; to those who brought red Paschal eggs; the Holy Week readers; the Myrofores and their coordinators; the office staff; the many volunteers; the caretakers; and to the parishioners who work to assure that the week of Holy Week and Pascha is meaningful and spiritually uplifting.

## Paschal Donations

A deep and profound thanks is offered to those who donated towards Holy Week flowers, Kouvouklion flowers, palms, altar items, and other items used throughout Great Lent and Holy Week. The fresh arrangement of red roses that decorated the Bridegroom icon during Holy Week; the roses that were distributed following the Lamentation Service at the Epitaphios on Holy Friday evening; and the beautiful flowers decorating both the Paschal Banner and the icon of the Resurrection were all generously donated anonymously.

## Archiepiscopal Encyclical on Great and Holy Pascha



Prot. No. 84/2023

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America:

*Who will roll away the stone for us? (Mark 16:3)*

My beloved sisters and brothers in the Risen Lord,

We have finally arrived at the mystery of mysteries, and we approach the Tomb with the holy Myrrh-bearing Women. With them we ask: “Who will roll away the stone for us?” The guards have scattered, the garden is empty, and we have brought all our potions and ointments to complete His anointing for death. But He is the Anointed One – the Christ – and He has no need of any anointing. He has no need of the stone being rolled away in order to leave death behind. As the young man said to them when they went inside: “He is risen! He is not here!” So, then, why was the stone rolled away?

My beloved Christians, the stone is rolled away in every telling of the story, but not so that the Lord can emerge, but so that we might submerge. The tomb is opened so that we might enter and die to ourselves – to our egos and selfishness. And then we may say, as is chanted in the Paschal Liturgy: “Yesterday I was buried with you, O Christ; and today, I arise by Your Resurrection” (Ode 3). The tomb is our place of transformation. The tomb is the very center of our hearts, where we can fulfill the ancient saying: “If you die before you die, then you won’t die when you die.”

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, let us not ask “who will roll away the stone for us?” Let us make the effort to roll it back ourselves! God will send His Angels to help us if we are struggling. But it is within the tomb of dying to ourselves, and dying to this world, that we are reborn in the Resurrection. The stone is heavy, laden with our sins and our heartbreaks, but God forgives all and asks us to do the same. Forgiveness is the power that lifts the stone and paves our way to love. There is a very real resurrection to be had in this life, which leads to life everlasting. The arising in our hearts of love, compassion, and mercy for everyone and everything is the sign that we are truly the children of the Resurrection. May this Pascha reveal to you this mystery of mysteries – this gateway to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

† ELPIDOPHOROS



Archbishop of America

ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ



**Metropolis of New Jersey to Honor Holy Trinity Parishioners – RSVP April 24**

On Monday, May 15, at the honorees Grand Banquet, parishioners from Holy Trinity will be honored by Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. We thank this year’s honorees who give selflessly of themselves to help benefit parish ministries: Mary Psomas-Senior Parish Member; Kristin Tencza-Steward of the Community; Peter Boutsikaris-Parish Council; Ellen Manos Athenson-Philoptochos; Stavroula Mergoupis-Greek Education Teacher; Pascali Kovalakis-Psalti; Iris Love-Youth Advisor; Molly Sophia Love-GOYA. The event will be held at the Venetian in Garfield beginning at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$125/person. For reservations call the church office by April 24.

## TOTS Playgroup – April 26

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, April 26, from 9:30-11:30 AM in the preschool room. Children 18 months-Pre-K are welcome with their caregiver (younger siblings welcome!). Bring water, sneakers and a snack. Contact Val Comprelli at [vcomprelli@gmail.com](mailto:vcomprelli@gmail.com) or 612-801-8608 to sign up or to ask any questions.

## Adult Greek Dance Class – April 28

Please join us on Friday, April 28, from 5-7:30 PM. Please register using the following link <https://tinyurl.com/u69b83b8> For more information contact Mary Carayannopoulos at [carayannopoulos@comcast.net](mailto:carayannopoulos@comcast.net) or 314-623-5493.

**Πασχαλινά κόκκινα αβγά**

Τα αβγά αποτελούν σύμβολο της δημιουργίας, της γέννησης και της ζωής και της ευημερίας. Βαμμένα κόκκινα, όπως το αίμα της θυσίας του Ιησού, αποτελούν αναπόσπαστο κομμάτι των παραδόσεων του Πάσχα. Το κόκκινο χρώμα συμβολίζει τη σταύρωση και την Ανάσταση του Χριστού.

Το βάψιμο των αβγών εθίστηκε να γίνεται κάθε Μ. Πέμπτη. Κάθε Πάσχα τα περισσότερα νοικοκυριά βάζουν τα αυγά σε κόκκινο χρώμα, όπως αρίζει η παράδοση αλλά και σε άλλα χρώματα πλέον όπως μπλε, κίτρινο, μοβ ή άλλους χρωματισμούς.

Δοξασίες ισχυρίζονται ότι η Παναγία φέρεται να είχε τοποθετήσει ένα καλάθι με αυγά κάτω από τον εσταυρωμένο, τα οποία βάφτηκαν με το αίμα Του. Ένας άλλος θρύλος αναφέρεται σε μια γυναίκα η οποία περπατώντας στο δρόμο κρατώντας ένα καλάθι με αυγά πληροφορήθηκε για την ανάσταση του Χριστού. Αδυνατώντας να το πιστέψει απάντησε πως κάτι τέτοιο θα μπορούσε να έχει συμβεί μόνο εάν τα αβγά που κρατούσε βάφονταν κόκκινα, όπως και έγινε.



# Upoming Parish Events

## Thursday. April 27

"ARISE"

The Ladies of Philoptochos – Fashion Show

Thursday, April 27, 2023 at Brooklake Country Club, Florham Park, NJ. 5:30 PM Cocktails & Raffles; 7:30 PM Dinner & Fashion Show by Emily's Boutique, Staten Island, NY. Please stop by the Philoptochos Table during the Fellowship Hour to learn more about ARISE!, how you can help, and donate.

Pre-order "ARISE" Raffle Value Pak(s) and save on raffle tickets! Limited quantities are available. Stop by the Philoptochos table during the Fellowship Hour for order forms or contact Ellen Manos at [ebmanos@yahoo.com](mailto:ebmanos@yahoo.com) by April 23. Contact the Event Chair, Kassandra Romas, at [kromas22409@gmail.com](mailto:kromas22409@gmail.com) or 908-296-1586.



**SAVE THE DATE**

The Ladies Philoptochos Society  
Of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, NJ  
Cordially invites you to

# "ARISE"

Living the life of your Dreams

Thursday, April 27, 2023  
Brooklake Country Club  
139 Brooklake Road  
Florham Park, New Jersey

Reception and Raffles - 5:30pm  
Dinner and Fashion Show - 7:30pm

Fashions by 

Ladies Philoptochos Dinner and Fashion Show ... "ARISE"  
Save on Raffle Tickets!! Reserve Today !! Limited Quantities



*Over 80 Fabulous Raffle Gifts and several chances to be part of the 50/50 pool!*

**Pre-order "ARISE" Raffle Value Pak(s)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check Box and indicate quantity of Value Pak(s) you would like to pre-order:

**Value Pak # 1**  
  \* 12 Raffle Sheets  
\* 15 tickets for 50/50 Prize Raffle  
Cost \$165 [Value \$195]

**Value Pak # 2**  
  \* 6 Raffle Sheets  
\* 15 tickets for 50/50 Prize Raffle  
Cost \$95 [Value \$120]

**PAYMENT and PICK UP of Value Pak(s) at Brooklake Country Club Night of Event, Thursday APRIL 27<sup>th</sup> CONCIERGE TABLE**

Please drop off this Pre-Order form at the Philoptochos table during fellowship hour or email: Ellen Manos – [ebmanos@yahoo.com](mailto:ebmanos@yahoo.com) by April 23, 2023

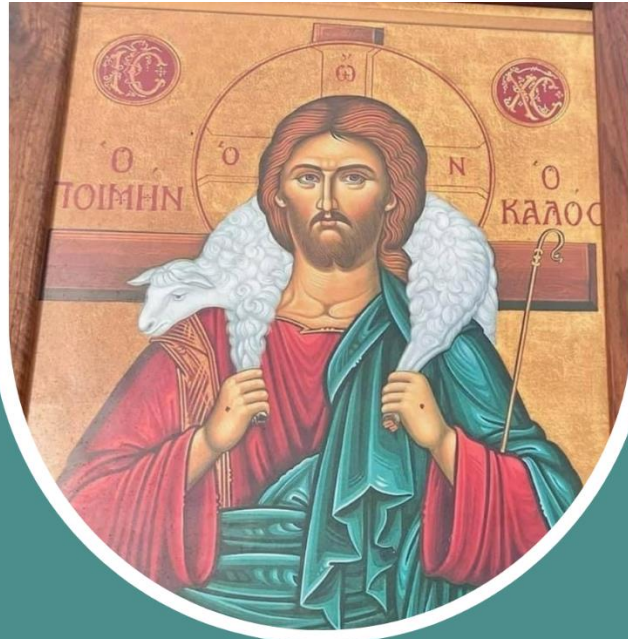
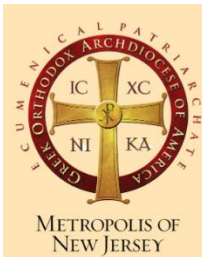
*You must have a paid entry ticket to the "ARISE" Dinner & Fashion Show to attend the cocktail hour.*

[NJ law prohibits payment of pre-orders prior to event]

**Thursday, July 16-22**

# **CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD**

Registration now open: Register here



# **CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD**



**Register here**  
<http://app.campdoc.com/register/cgsn>

**Chesapeake (Maryland) July 3-7**

Ages 8-18

Location: Camp Wo-Me-To, Jarrettsville, MD

**Virginia July 9-15**

Ages 10-18

Location: Camp Piankatank, Hartfield, VA

**New Jersey July 16-22**

Ages 8-18

Location: Camp Linwood Macdonald, Sandyston, NJ

**More Information**

<https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd>

