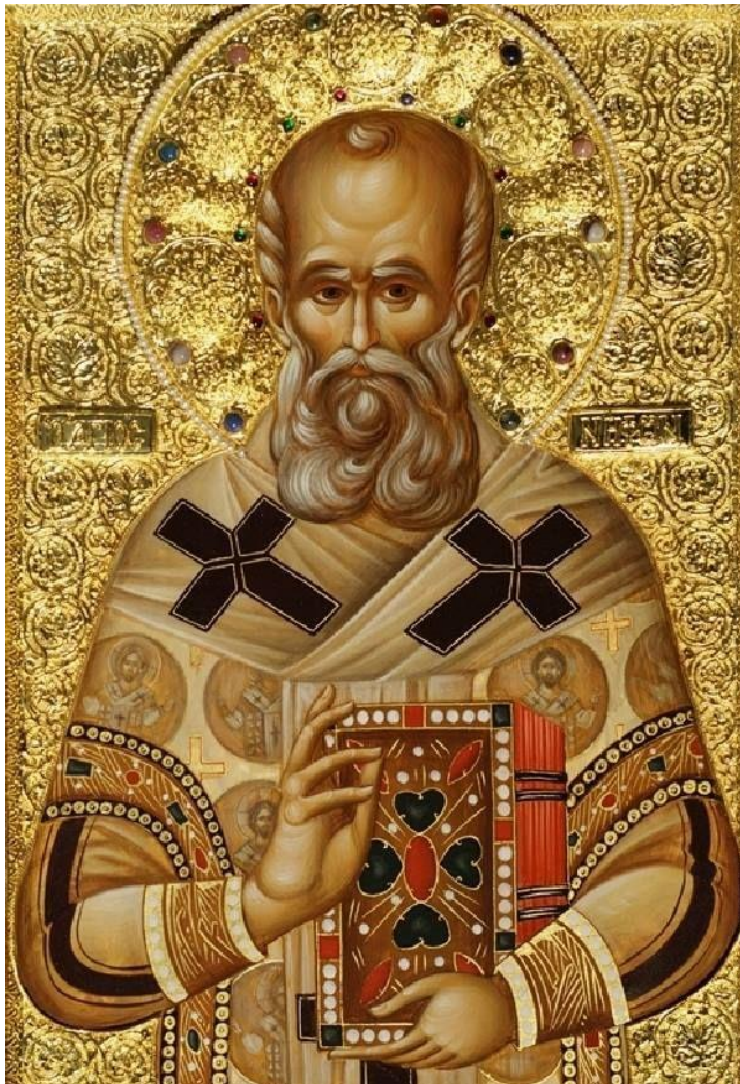


Seventh Sunday of Matthew



St. Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople

August 11, 2024

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

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizi, Parish Priest

Morning Gospel:	St. John 20:1-10	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	Romans 15:1-7	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Matthew 9:27-35	Ελληνικά

Apolytikion: *“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 Transfiguration: *“You were transfigured on the Mount, O Christ our God, revealing Your glory to Your disciples, insofar as they could comprehend. Illuminate us sinners also with Your everlasting light, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. Giver of light, glory to You.”*

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 Transfiguration: *“You were transfigured upon the Mount [Tabor], O Christ our God, and Your disciples, in so far as they could bear, beheld Your glory. Thus, when they see You crucified, they may understand Your Passion was voluntary, and proclaim to the world that You are truly the effulgence of the Father.”*

Liturgical Schedule

Monday, August 12, Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 9:00 AM

Tuesday, August 13, Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 6:30 PM

Thursday, August 15, Dormition/Kimisis of the Theotokos, Orthros, 8:30 AM;
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, August 18, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, August 25, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, September 1, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, September 8, Nativity of the Theotokos, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sacraments and Rites

Churching: Today a 40-day blessing of Eliana Marie Lioutas, daughter of Nikos and Kristen Lioutas, will be held.

Memorial: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial service for Vera Lawrence†, 1 year. Eternal be her memory.

Baptisms: On Monday, August 5, the baptism of Hudson James “Dimitrios” Leles, son of Dimitri Leles and Kathryn Zias, was celebrated. The Godfather is Alexander James Zias.
On Saturday, August 10, the baptism of Sofia Guastella, daughter of Peter and Gerri Guastella, was celebrated. The Godfather is Evan Jim Repousis.

Funerals: On Wednesday, August 7, the funeral for Carolyn Mitilenes† was held. On Thursday, August 8, the funeral for Ernest Ladas† was held. Eternal be their memories.

Welcome Visitors

The parish of Holy Trinity welcomes those visiting our community today. We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home, we hope that you consider becoming part of our family. Fr. Peter would very much like to meet you.

Singing the Liturgy During Summer Months

A beautiful opportunity occurs at the Divine Liturgy during the summer months in that the parish begins congregational singing. Our chanters lead the responses, and the faithful are encouraged to participate so that the church may be filled with the sweet sounds of spiritual hymns.

A banner with a warm, golden-brown background. The words "Prayer Request" are written in a large, white, cursive font. To the right of the text is a dark brown cross with a bright, multi-pointed starburst effect behind it. The background features a silhouette of rolling hills or mountains at the bottom.

Kevin, Janice, Elaine, Patty, Cynthia, Nicholas, Blace, Christos, Thomas, Rich, John, Robert, Phyllis, Lea, Mary, Mason, George, Chloe, Yolanda, Luke, George, Maria, Alexander, Athena, Demetra, Stavroula, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Pamela, John, Helen, Chris, Niko, Vicky, Dino, Stephanie, James, John, Theodora, Novlet, Chrysavgi, Alexandra, Sue, Marilyn, David, Basil, Laura, Marylee, Meropi, Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Billy, Molly, Leonedas, David, Elizabeth, Tara, Lambros, Anne, Maria, Mikos, Arthur, John, Al, Jessika, Anastasia, Robert, Joanne, Vasileos, Tina, Fran, Dayvon, Sunitha, Neil, Gus, Dimitri, Freddy, Shane, Lula, Christina, Diego, Michael, Katie, Joe, Theo, Barbara



Paraklesis to the Most Holy Theotokos

August 12, 13

The Paraklesis is a beautiful service that sings the praises of the Theotokos. Its composition is attributed to the monk Theophilos. The principal part of this service is to ask for the protection, guidance and comfort (paraklesis) of the Mother of God. We call upon the Panayia for intercession because she is the greatest of all the Saints. Having dedicated her life entirely to the pursuit of holiness and by being the Mother of Jesus Christ, she has acquired the favor of God. She now continually stands in watchful prayer asking her son and our God to grant us salvation. Her constant prayer is quite effective for our salvation because Christ is quick to listen to His mother's appeal (see the Wedding in Cana, John 2:1-12). The Panayia always seeks to help those who encounter misfortune by directing them towards Christ. "Do whatever He tells you," she told the servants at the wedding in Cana. Having run out of wine, a symbol of joy, the Theotokos brought the servants to Christ - the One Who bestows everlasting joy. The Lord said to His mother, "my time has not yet come," teaching us that the fullness of God's revelation would not come until after His Resurrection. The Theotokos, however, was eager for the attendants of this wedding banquet - who represent all people - to share in the joy that God had brought to her. By interceding to her son, thirty stone jars of water were turned into wine. Her plea was the catalyst that set into motion Christ's first miracle. We now plead to her to become, once again, the catalyst for our salvation.

St. Euplus the Holy Martyr - August 11

St. Euplus was a deacon in Catania, Sicily. Emperor Diocletian dispatched the Roman commander Pentagurus to Sicily to exterminate any Christians he found there. Pentagurus did not find a single Christian, for the few that were there hid from the persecutor and did not reveal themselves. Even so, someone accused St. Euplus of taking a book to secret Christians and reading to them. This book was the Holy Gospel. They soon brought him to court, hung that book around his neck, and led him to prison. After seven days of imprisonment and hunger, St. Euplus was given over for torture. While they were beating him with iron rods, St. Euplus mockingly said to the torturing judge: "O ignorant one, do you not see that, by God's grace, these tortures are like a cobweb to me? If you can, find other, harsher tortures, for all of these are as toys."

After more of the same, they led the martyr of Christ to the scaffold. There St. Euplus opened the Holy Gospel and read from it to the people for a long time. Many converted to the Christian Faith. St. Euplus was beheaded in the year 304 A.D., and took up his habitation in the Kingdom of Heaven. His miracle-working relics repose in a village near Naples, called Vico della Batonia.

Our Holy Father St. Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople - August 11

St. Niphon was born in Greece. He was tonsured a monk in his youth and lived a life of asceticism, eventually making his way to Mount Athos. He practiced asceticism in various monasteries, remaining the longest in Vatopedi and Dionysiou. He was loved by all the holy Athonite fathers, as much for his rare wisdom as for his unusual meekness. He was consecrated Bishop of Thessaloniki against his will, and two years later he journeyed to Constantinople on business where he was elected to the vacant patriarchal throne. Eventually the Sultan banished him to Jedrene, where he lived in exile. The Wallachian [Romanian] Prince Radul besought him from the Sultan and named St. Niphon the

Archbishop of the Wallachian people. Then, because of Radul's transgressions, St. Niphon departed Wallachia and returned to Mount Athos, to the monastery of Dionysiou. There he lived a life of asceticism until his ninetieth year, when he took up his habitation in the Kingdom of God. He reposed in the year 1460 A.D. He composed the "Prayer of Absolution" read at the Burial Service:

O Lord Jesus Christ, by His divine grace, as also by the gift and power vouchsafed unto His holy Disciples and Apostles, that they should bind and loose the sins of men: For He said to them: Receive ye the Holy Spirit: whosoever sins you remit, they are remitted; and whosoever sins you retain they are retained. And whatsoever you shall bind or loose upon earth shall be bound or loosed also in heaven. By that same power, also transmitted to us from them, this my spiritual child, is absolved through me, unworthy though I be, from all things wherein as mortal he hath sinned against God, whether in word, or deed, or thought, and with all his senses, whether voluntary or involuntary; whether with knowledge or through ignorance. If he be under the ban or excommunication of a bishop, or of a priest; or hath sinned by any oath; or hath been bound, as man, by any sins whatsoever, but hath repented him thereof, with contrition of heart: he is now absolved from all those faults and bonds. May all those things which have proceeded from the weakness of his mortal nature be consigned to oblivion and be remitted to him: Through His loving-kindness; through the prayers of our Most-holy, and blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; of all the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, and all of the Saints. Amen.

On The Transfiguration

“He took (Peter, James and John) up to the mountain, that He might show them His kingdom, before they witnessed His suffering and death...so that...they might understand that he was not crucified...because of his own powerlessness, but because it had pleased Him of His goodness to suffer for the salvation of the world.”—St. Ephraim



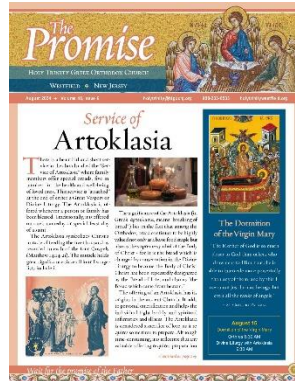
In Christian teachings, the Transfiguration is a pivotal moment, and the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place of the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus Himself as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth. Moreover, Christians consider the Transfiguration to fulfill an Old Testament messianic prophecy that Elias (Elijah) would return again after His ascension (Malachi 4:5-6).

“Let us not tire our attention with the furthest interpretations of the words of the Gospel. We shall believe thus, as those same ones have taught us, who themselves were enlightened by the Lord Himself, insofar as they alone know this well: the Mysteries of God, in the words of a prophet, are known to God alone and His is perpetual...purifying our spiritual eyes of worldly thoughts.

Let us, considering the Mystery of the Transfiguration of the Lord in accord with their teaching, strive to be illumined by this Light ourselves and encourage in ourselves love and striving towards the Unfading Glory and Beauty, purifying our spiritual eyes of worldly thoughts and refraining from perishable and quickly-passing delights and beauty which darken the garb of the soul and lead to the fire of Gehenna and everlasting darkness.

Let us be freed from these by the illumination and knowledge of the incorporeal and ever-existing Light of our Savior transfigured on Tabor, in His Glory, and of His Father from all eternity, and His Life-Creating Spirit, Whom are One Radiance, One Godhead, and Glory, and Kingdom, and Power now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.” – St. Gregory Palamas

The August Edition of
THE PROMISE
Is Now Available



**2024 Stewardship Campaign Update –
Currently 344 Stewards have pledged \$486,951**

Thank you to the parishioners who submitted their pledge cards and stewardship gifts. As of May, we graciously received 344 pledges in the amount of \$486,951. Please remember to submit your pledge card which will help us meet our operating budget of \$939,200. Consider inviting family and friends to come to visit and worship with us. Sponsor a new steward and bring them into our Holy Trinity family. Your gifts to date have allowed our Parish to achieve 51.8% of our budget and to support our annual Archdiocesan commitment, a gift to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, and support our growing and vibrant ministries. Thank you!

Festival Baking - Saturday, August 10, 9AM

We will be making baklava and finikia (also known as melomakarona) on Saturday, August 10, at 9AM in the Bouras Center. Please join us!!! If you have any questions text Mary Carayannopoulos at 314-623-5493.

Religious Education Classes Resume - Sunday, September 8

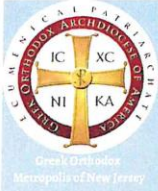
Please complete the online form for each student at your earliest convenience. The first day of classes is Sunday, September 8. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in the Fall! Click the link to register: [Religious Education Registration](#)



Greek School Registration is Now Open

Greek School registration is now open for all classes. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4PM – 6PM. Classes begin Tuesday, September 10, grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Beginners and 1st Advanced and Thursday, September 12, grades 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th.

To register [click here](#).



Metropolis of New Jersey Annual Holy Cross Celebration

Celebrated by His Eminence,
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

Sunday, September 15, 2024

- 8:00 AM Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy:
St. George Greek Orthodox Church 1033 W. Park Avenue Ocean, NJ
- Blessing of the Waters and Youth Dive for the Cross following the
Divine Liturgy: Deal Beach - 111 Ocean Ave., Deal, NJ
- Fellowship Picnic to follow for all at St. George Church in
Ocean, NJ



Upcoming Parish Events

SAVE THE DATE!

September 27-29, 2024

Save the Date

Westfield, NJ
GREEKFEST24
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

September 27, 28, 29

Friday 3 pm - 11pm	Saturday 11 am - 11 pm	Sunday noon - 5 pm
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 Be an active part of our 2024 Greekfest! Volunteer your time, talents & treasures. Everyone is needed to make it a success! Simply scan the QR code to sign up or contact Roula Ioannou and Kelly Leunes at htgreekfestvolunteers@gmail.com

GreekFest 2024 - September 27 - 29

OPA!! 2024 Westfield GreekFest will take place, September 27-29!! Come volunteer your talent and join the fun to make this our best festival yet. PLEASE sign up and support OUR community! [GreekFest Volunteers Sign-Up](#)

Contact Roula Ioannou or Keli Leunes at HTGreekfestivalvolunteers@gmail.com

Follow us [@NIGreekFest](#) on Instagram and [NI GreekFest](#) on Facebook to stay up-to-date on all things GreekFest!

Be sure to like and share our content!

www.njgreekfest.com  

September 23, 2024

**42nd ANNUAL
HOLY TRINITY GOLF CLASSIC**



Monday, September 23, 2024

Echo Lake Country Club

515 Springfield Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

For information, please contact the Golf Committee: George Colonias admin@htgocnj.org
908-294-7414; George Paras gparas@parasandparas.com 201-681-5366



GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠