

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



The Holy Mandylion

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 Delvzis, Parish Priest

August 16, 2026



Eleventh Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of the Translation of the Icon of the Face (Mandylion) of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ from the city of Edessa to the Queen City of Constantinople; The Holy Martyr St. Diomedes the Physician of Tarsus; Our Righteous Father St. Timothy of Evripos, founder of the Monastery of Penteli; Our Righteous Father St. Geramimos the New Ascetic of Kefalonia; The Holy New Martyrs St. Manuel and St. John.

Second Tone

Eleventh Morning Gospel

‘Ηχος β v

[St. John 21:1-14](#)

Epistle Reading: [1 Corinthians 9:2-12](#)

Bible p. 996

Gospel Reading: [St. Matthew 18:23-35](#)

Bible pp. 853

Apolytikion: “When you descended to the realm of death, You as life immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all radiant divinity. And when You from internal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead all the hosts of heaven’s powers did proclaim and cry out O life-giving Christ and our God we give glory.”

Apolytikion for the Holy Napkin: “We venerate Your immaculate icon, O good Lord, and entreat You to forgive our offenses, O Christ our God. By Your own choice you were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, to deliver us, whom You created, from our slavery to the foe. Therefore we cry to You with gratitude: You have filled all things with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world.”

Apolytikion of the Dormition [Kimisis]: “In giving birth, you did preserve your virginity; in your Dormition, you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated unto life, since you are the Mother of Life; and by your intercessions you redeem our souls from death.”

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 Dormition [Kimisis]: “The grave and death could not hold the Theotokos, who is unsleeping in her intercessions and an unfailing hope in her mediations. For as the Mother of Life she was translated to life by Him Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.”

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, August 23, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

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

Altar Donations

Altar Candles, Vigil Light, and Candili: for the health of Victor Ciobanu.

Large Candles: In loving memory of Genevieve Koulouthros†

Sacraments and Rites

Funeral: On Tuesday, August 11, the funeral for Janice Vlahakes† was held.

On Thursday, August 13, the funeral for Christos Vasilopoulos† was held.

Eternal be their memories.

Chrismation

Today we joyfully welcome and pray for Joaquin Aleberta Pantaleon Arriaga who, through Holy Chrismation, enters into the Orthodox Faith. His patron saint is St. Joachim. Sponsor is Jacob C. Nikolaou.

Welcome Visitors

Our parish welcomes those visiting our community today. Worshipping the Holy Trinity is the principal act of an Orthodox parish, especially on the Day of the Resurrection (Sunday). Our mission is to live the Holy Gospel and spread the Good News to those in our area. We are sanctified by God's grace through the holy Sacraments and glorify Him each moment of the day. We seek God's mercy, as we confess the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



The Holy Mandylion – August 16

The Transfer of the Icon of the Face (Mandylion) our Lord Jesus Christ “Not-Made-by-Hands” from Edessa to Constantinople, the Queen City occurred in the year 944. Eusebius, in his *History of the Church* (1:13), relates that when the Savior was preaching, Abgar was the ruler of Edessa. He was stricken with leprosy all over his body. Reports of the great miracles performed by the Lord spread throughout Syria (Mt.4:24) and even reached Abgar. Without having seen the Savior, Abgar believed in Him as the Son of God. He wrote a letter requesting Him to come and heal him. He sent his own portrait painter Ananias to Palestine with this letter and commissioned him to paint a likeness of the Divine Teacher. Ananias arrived in Jerusalem and saw the Lord surrounded by many people. He was not able to get close to Him because of the large crowd which had gathered to hear the Savior. Then he stood on a high rock and tried to paint Christ's portrait from afar, but this attempt was not successful. Then the Savior saw him, called him by name, and gave him a short letter for Abgar in which He praised the ruler's faith. He also promised to send His disciple to heal him of his leprosy and guide him to salvation. The Lord asked for some water and a cloth to be brought to Him. After washing His Face, He dried it with the cloth, and His Divine

Countenance was imprinted upon it. Ananias brought the cloth and the Savior's letter to Edessa. Reverently, Abgar pressed the holy object to his face and received partial healing. Only a small trace of the terrible affliction remained until the arrival of the disciple promised by the Lord. This was St. Thaddeus, an Apostle of the Seventy (August 21), who preached the Gospel and baptized Abgar and all the people of Edessa. Abgar attached the Holy Napkin to a board and placed it in a gold frame adorned with pearls. Then he placed it in a niche above the city gates. On the gateway over the Icon he inscribed the words, "O Christ God, let no one who hopes on Thee be put to shame."

For many years the inhabitants had the pious custom of bowing down before the Icon whenever they went forth from the gates. Later, one of Abgar's great-grandsons, who ruled Edessa, fell into idolatry, and decided to remove the Icon from the city wall and to replace it with an idol. In a vision, the Lord ordered the Bishop of Edessa to hide His Icon. The bishop came by night with his clergy, lit a lambada before the Icon, and placed a ceramic tile in front of the Icon to protect it, and then he sealed the niche with bricks. As time passed, the people forgot about the Icon. But in the year 545, when the Persian emperor Chozroes I besieged Edessa and the city's position seemed hopeless, the Most Holy Theotokos appeared to Bishop Eulavios and ordered him to remove the Icon from the sealed niche, saying that it would save the city from the enemy. When he opened the niche, the bishop found the Holy Mandylion, and the lampada was still burning before the Icon, and an exact copy was produced upon the tile protecting the Icon. The Persians lit a huge fire outside the city walls. Bishop Eulavios carried the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands around the city walls, and a violent wind turned the flames back on the Persians. The defeated Persian army retreated from the city.

In the year 630 Arabs seized Edessa, but they did not hinder the veneration of the Holy Napkin, the fame of which had spread throughout the entire East. In the year 944, the emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitos (912-959) wanted to transfer the Icon to Constantinople, so he paid a ransom to the emir of the city for it. With great reverence the Icon of the Savior Not-Made-by-Hands and the letter which He had written to Abgar, were brought to Constantinople by clergy.

On August 16, the Icon of the Savior (Mandylion) was placed in the Pharos church of the Most Holy Theotokos. There are several traditions concerning what happened later to the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands. The Feast of the Transfer of the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands is observed along with the Afterfeast of the Dormition.



Save the Dates

October 4, 2026 – 60th Anniversary Luncheon

November 14, 2026 – 60th Anniversary Gala

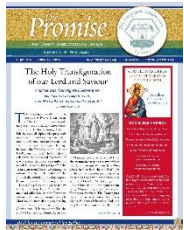
It's our Anniversary

Save the Dates...

In 2026, Holy Trinity celebrates 60 years of Orthodox witness and service. As a parish we will honor this milestone and the founders who with vision and faith established our beloved parish in 1966. The parish will host a grand celebration on Sunday, October 4, and we hope that you can join us for Liturgy and an Anniversary Luncheon. This will be followed by an evening gala and parish dance on Saturday, November 14. Details will be forthcoming but mark your calendars from now



Athena, Theodoti, Angela, Joanne, Nicholas, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Constance, Jeremy, John, Gregory, Gus, Thomas, Sean, Betty, Keela, Florence, Sandy, James, John, Athena, Stavroula, Dimetra, Donny, Dominique, Daniel, Elizabeth, John, Robert, Erin, Kevin, Sabrina, Luke, Bill, James, Ria, Eric, and Eupraxia,



The August Edition of *The Promise* is Now Available Online!
www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org/the-promise. Subscribe to Holy Trinity weekly emails providing news updates and announcements. Request at: HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org

2026 Stewardship Commitment and Online Giving

As you plan your summer vacation, please consider offering your Stewardship Pledge in advance before departing. It is critical that the Parish has 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 signup, visit the church website www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org and click on "Online Giving", then "Stewardship". On this page you can complete the "Stewardship Commitment Card" and/or make a donation by clicking "Secure Online Giving".

Religious Education Registration 2026-2027

Classes Begin September 6



The Religious Education Program at Holy Trinity, Westfield is offered to children in grades K -12. Pre-kindergarten is available for children who turn 4 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2026. Classes are held from September through June on Sunday mornings. Students are instructed in the teachings and traditions of Orthodox Christianity at an age-appropriate level by committed volunteers. Each class follows an established curriculum developed by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Department of Religious Education and participates in special projects that enhance their learning process. Religious Education students attend the Divine Liturgy with their families and are dismissed to their classrooms following Holy Communion.

Please complete the online form for each student at your earliest convenience!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in the Fall!

Click the link to register: <https://forms.gle/1vPQ1mudyGwBGP6B7>

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Pete Markos:
religiouseducation@htgocnj.org

Register via QR code:



Visit the church website for more information: www.holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/religious-education/

Greek School Registration 2026-2027



HOLY TRINITY GREEK SCHOOL

Registration is Open!

FAITH. LANGUAGE. CULTURE. COMMUNITY.
*Nurturing our children in the
Greek Orthodox tradition.*



TUESDAYS

BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 15TH

- Pre-K
- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade Beginners
- 1st Grade Advanced
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade

THURSDAYS

BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 17TH

- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade

2026-2027 GREEK SCHOOL TUITION

HOLY TRINITY STEWARDS

One student.....	\$520
Two students.....	\$850
Three students.....	\$1,050

NON-STEWARDS

One student.....	\$930
Two students.....	\$1,510
Three students.....	\$1,780



REGISTER TODAY!

Scan the QR code or visit the link
below to register and make your payment.

www.holytrinitywestfield.org





PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Payment can be made by Check
or via the website.

*Thank you for supporting
our Greek School!*



HOLY TRINITY
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



250 Gallows Hill Road
Westfield, NJ 07090
(908) 233-8533
www.holytrinitywestfield.org

Greek Dance Registration: <https://forms.gle/yiVX7AS6SBeQH3Z18>



GREEK DANCE

Registration!

Greek Dance lessons offered to all Holy Trinity youth in grades pre-k – 12th.



Led by Holy Trinity parishioner and member of Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey, **Ronnie Filippatos**.

DANCE REGISTRATION LINK:



<https://forms.gle/yiVX7AS6SBeQH3Z18>

HOPE/JOY (Pre-K–6th)

Instructor: **Ronnie Filippatos**

Lessons to be held on **Sundays** 



- PreK–1st: 11:45am – 12:15pm
- 2nd–6th: 12:15pm – 1:00pm
- 4th–6th (additional time): 1:00pm – 1:15pm

GOYA (7th–12th)

Instructor: **Nick Fourniadis** 



Lessons to be held on **Wednesdays** 

6:45pm – 9:15pm

COST:



HOPE/JOY (PRE-K–6TH)

1 dancer	\$250
2 dancers	\$400
3 dancers	\$500
4 dancers	\$550

GOYA (7TH–12TH)

1 dancer	\$350
2 dancers	\$600
3 dancers	\$700
4 dancers	\$750



PAYMENT OPTIONS



Please make payment directly to the church via Venmo @**westfieldgreekdance**



or via check payable to "Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church"



or via the Holy Trinity website "Online Giving", then locate the Greek Dance tile and follow instructions for payment.



♥ **Thank you!**

Nick Fourniadis and Ronnie Filippatos Fernandez
HTGOC Greek Dance Instructors ♥

45th ANNUAL
HOLY TRINITY GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, September 28, 2026

Echo Lake Country Club

515 Springfield Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

Registration Link: <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/community/golf-classic/>



Schedule

Practice/Driving Range	10:45 am
Lunch	11:00 am
Kapsimalis Putting Contest	11:30 am
Shotgun Start	12:30 pm
Cocktail Hour and Reception	5:00 pm

Sponsorship Opportunities

<i>Platinum Benefactor</i>	<i>\$ 10,000</i>
<i>Gold Benefactor</i>	<i>\$ 5,000</i>
<i>Silver Benefactor</i>	<i>\$ 3,500</i>
<i>Cocktail Hour Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 3,000</i>
<i>Lunch Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 2,000</i>
<i>Kapsimalis Putting Contest Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 1,500</i>
<i>Halfway House Beverage Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 1,000</i>
<i>Range Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 500</i>
<i>Hole Sponsors (18)</i>	<i>\$ 200</i>

Benefiting:

Windy25 Memorial Fund & Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Westfield

For information, please contact:

George Colonias
gcolonias@yahoo.com
908-294-7414

Stefanos Arethas
stefanos.arethas@gmail.com
301-518-6816

George Paras
gparas@parasandparas.com
201-681-5366

Visit the church website www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org for more information on the ministries offered at Holy Trinity. Click on the “Ministries” tab.



GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠