

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



The Beheading of St. John the Baptist

August 24, 2025

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

On this day we commemorate St. Eutyches the Hieromartyr & Disciple of St. John the Theologian; St. Kosmas the New Hieromartyr & Equal-to-the Apostles of Aetolia; The Translation of the Relics of St. Dionysios of Zakynthos, Bishop of Aegina; The Translation of the Holy Relics of St. Saint Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow

Second Tone

Ἦχος Β΄

Morning Gospel:	St. John 21:14-25	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	1 Corinthians 9:2-12	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Matthew 18:23-35	Ελληνικά

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 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 Sts. Joachim and Anna: *“Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility’s stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality’s ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, “The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”*

Liturgical Schedule

Friday, August 29, Beheading of St. John the Baptist, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, August 31, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, September 7, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Welcome Visitors

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

Prayer Request



Nicholas, Ioanna, Panagiota, Adina, James, Mary, Chris, Janeen, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, John, Marina, Pete, George, Laura, George, Costa, Basil, Lemonia, Justin, Evangelia, Brennan, Egon, Marilyn, Tatanya, Robert, Elizabeth, George, Nicholas, Alexander, Vasilios, Danny, Bill, Lou, Foula, Eupraxia, Chris, Arlene, John, Ted, William, Theodora, Michael, Gioula, Nicholas, Hellen, Kevin, Janice, Elaine, Patty, Cynthia, Nicholas, Christos, Thomas, Rich, Lea, Robert

Singing the Liturgy During Summer Months

During the summer months, we have a beautiful opportunity to sing the hymns of the Divine Liturgy. Congregational singing adds to the service with your beautiful voices while also allowing you to learn the sacred hymns. Please use the blue Divine Liturgy books found in the pews for music.

The July/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

Communion Prayers

To help prepare yourself before receiving Holy Communion, Fr. Peter asks that you read the Communion Prayers silently as he reads them aloud. The prayers are found on pages 60-63. By following along and contemplating the words, you will gain awareness of the Eucharist and be led to repentance.

The first two prayers are about confessing the divinity of Christ and asking for forgiveness. We also affirm the physical realities of the Eucharist, namely that these gifts are truly the Body and Blood of Christ. The third prayer is the Communion Hymn for Holy Thursday, expressing faith and humility. The fourth and fifth prayers are petitions for cleansing the soul. The last two prayers express feelings of unworthiness and indicate the benefits of receiving the Holy Mysteries which consist of cleansing and purification. There is also reference to a “vesture” or our baptismal garment that we should endeavor to keep it clean or else we risk losing our intimate relationship with Christ. The bridal chamber is a metaphor of an inner sanctification and state of intimacy that we are called to share with Christ.

The Beheading of St. John the Baptist – August 29

The divine Baptist, the Prophet born of a Prophet, the seal of all the Prophets and beginning of the Apostles, the mediator between the Old and New Covenants, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, the God-sent Messenger of the incarnate Messiah, the forerunner of Christ's coming into the world (Isaiah 40:3; Mal. 3: 1); who by many miracles was both conceived and born; who was filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb; who came forth like another Elias the Zealot, whose life in the wilderness and divine zeal for God's Law he imitated: this divine Prophet, after he had preached the baptism of repentance according to God's command; had taught men of low rank and high how they must order their lives; had admonished those whom he baptized and had filled them with the fear of God, teaching them that no one is able to escape the wrath to come if he does not do works worthy of repentance; had, through such preaching, prepared their hearts to receive the evangelical teachings of the Savior; and finally, after he had pointed out to the people the very Savior, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (Luke 3:2-18; John 1: 29-36), after all this, John sealed with his own blood the truth of his words and was made a sacred victim for the divine Law at the hands of a transgressor.

This was Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch of Galilee, the son of Herod the Great. This man had a lawful wife, the daughter of Arethas (or Aretas), the King of Arabia (that is, Arabia Petraea, which had the famous Nabatean stone city of Petra as its capital. This is the Aretas mentioned by Saint Paul in II Cor. 11:32). Without any cause, and against every commandment of the Law, he put her away and took to himself Herodias, the wife of his deceased brother Philip, to whom Herodias had borne a daughter, Salome. He would not desist from this unlawful union even when John, the preacher of repentance, the bold and austere accuser of the lawless, censured him and told him, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife" (Mark 6: 18). Thus Herod, besides his other unholy acts, added yet this, that he apprehended John and shut him in prison; and perhaps he would have killed him straightway, had he not feared the people, who had extreme reverence for John. Certainly, in the beginning, he himself had great reverence for this just and holy man. But finally, being pierced with the sting of a mad lust for the woman Herodias, he laid his defiled hands on the teacher of purity on the very day he was celebrating his birthday. When Salome, Herodias' daughter, had danced in order to please him and those who were supping with him, he promised her ~ with an oath more foolish than any foolishness ~ that he would give her anything she asked, even unto the half of his kingdom. And she, consulting with her mother, straightway asked for the head of John the Baptist in a charger. Hence this transgressor of the Law, preferring his lawless oath above the precepts of the Law, fulfilled this godless promise and filled his loathsome banquet with the blood of the Prophet. So it was that that all-venerable head, revered by the Angels, was given as a prize for an abominable dance, and became the plaything of the dissolute daughter of a debauched mother. As for the body of the divine Baptist, it was taken up by his disciples and placed in a tomb (Mark 6: 21 - 29). The findings of his holy head are commemorated on February 24 and May 25.

Holy Trinity Choir Director – Kathryn Athanasoulas

After decades of dedicated service, our beloved choir director Kathryn Athanasoulas has offered her resignation. Accepting her decision, Fr. Peter states that “one can find no greater advocate for church music than Kathryn. Her devotion has promoted, strengthened, steered, and sustained our liturgical tradition while always maintaining an intensely prayerful atmosphere. Her passion for this ministry is unparalleled.” Holy Trinity will celebrate her years of service in the coming months. We thank Kathryn for her love and eagerness to elevate church music.

Appointment of new Choir Director

Fr. Peter is pleased to announce the appointment of Anne Kernoski as the new choir director at Holy Trinity. Anne, an accomplished musician with many years of experience, holds a music degree from Kean University. She has dedicated her entire life pursuing excellence in music. She has directed the Holy Trinity choir since the beginning of the year, and we are blessed that she brings with her much enthusiasm and expertise. We look forward to September when the liturgical choir will be under her supervision.

Greek School Registration is Now Open

Greek School registration is now open for all classes. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 PM – 6 PM. Classes begin Tuesday, September 9, grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Beginners and 1st Advanced, 2nd; Thursday, September 11, grades 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. You can register at <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/greek-school/>

Religious Education Classes Resume on Sunday, September 7



The first day of classes is Sunday, September 7. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in Fall! Please complete the online form for each student at your earliest convenience. Click [Religious Education Registration 2025-2026](#) or scan the QR code to register.

Greek Dance lessons offered to Holy Trinity youth in grades Pre-K – 12th

Greek heritage and identity are important to us at Holy Trinity. Dance is a wonderful way to: preserve Greek traditions, meet other youth members, exercise and have fun, and learn a wonderful skill. Led by Holy Trinity parishioner and member of Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey, Ronnie Filippatos.

HOPE/JOY (Pre-K - 6th) Instructor: Ronnie Filippatos, lessons to be held on Sundays following religious education. 3 groups, exact times for each group to be determined once all are registered.

GOYA (7th - 12th) Instructor: Nick Fourniadis, lessons to be held on Wednesdays 7 - 9 pm.

Dance Fee:

HOPE/JOY (Pre-K - 6th): \$250 1 dancer, \$400 2 dancers, \$500 3 dancers, \$550 4 dancers

GOYA (7th - 12th): \$350 1 dancer, \$600 2 dancers, \$700 3 dancers, \$750 4 dancers

To Register click on the link: [Greek Dance 2025 - 2026](#). The deadline to Register is September 14, 2025.

Please make payment directly to the church via check payable to: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church or pay Online: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YQBS/home>. Select the "Youth Greek Dance Lessons" tile.

For questions, please contact Ronnie Filippatos ronnie.filippatos@gmail.com

Trinity Circle

Tuesday, September 9, lunch/meeting 11 AM - 2 PM, Bouras Center. Steve Xenakis' presentation will be "Alexander of Macedonia". Luncheon to be donated by Adina Toescu in memory of her loved ones.

44th Annual Holy Trinity Golf Classic - Save the Date!

Monday, September 29, 2025 at Echo Lake Country Club, 515 Springfield Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090. For more information or to register visit our website at <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/community/golf-classic/>

2025 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. Visit: 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".



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

Adult Choir for ages 18 to senior citizens



Angel Choir for boys and girls ages 8-12



Byzan "teens" for boys and girls

Ages 13-17

Email the Choir Director

akernoski@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



Religious Education Registration 2025-2026

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, 2025. Classes are held from September through June on Sunday morning. 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. The first day of classes is Sunday, September 7.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Pete Markos:

religiouseducation@htgocnj.org

Register via QR code:



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

September 9, 2025

Come Join Holy Trinity Greek School in Westfield!



Registration for all classes are open now!

2025-2026 Greek School Tuition

Holy Trinity Stewards

One student.....\$520

Two students.....\$850

Three students...\$1050

Non-Stewards

One student.....\$930

Two students.....\$1,510

Three students...\$1,780

Payments can be made at Holytrinitywestfield.org under Ministries:



[Greek School & PTO Registration](#)



[This QR is for PTO DUES only](#)

Classes will take place on **Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4:00pm-6:00pm**

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 Grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Beginner and 1st Advanced, 2nd and

Thursday, September 11, 2025 Grades, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th.

If you have an **important** conflict please reach out to Principal Stavroula Mergoupis at etsoutsani62@gmail.com

Tuition Assistance If you are experiencing financial difficulty with tuition, please feel free to reach out to Father Peter Delvizi in confidence at FrPeter@htgoenj.org



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Road
Westfield NJ 07090

September 29, 2025

44th ANNUAL

HOLY TRINITY GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, September 29, 2025

Echo Lake Country Club

515 Springfield Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090



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) & Tee Sponsors (18)</i>	<i>\$ 150 (each)</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

REGISTRATION FORM

To pay and register online: ["Online Giving"](#)

Name: _____

Company: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Players

Name: _____ Email _____

Name: _____ Email _____

Name: _____ Email _____

Name: _____ Email _____

Please Check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Golfer(s) \$450
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foursome(s) \$1,800
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sponsorship: Please indicate level below
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reception \$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	

To make your reservation, please complete this form and return it with your payment to or pay online:

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

250 Gallows Hill Road

Westfield, NJ 07090

Attention: Golf Committee

If paying by credit card, please complete the following and sign:

Name (as it appears on your card): _____

Master Card Visa American Express

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Month _____ Year Security Code # _____

Mailing Address for this credit card: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Total Enclosed or Authorized \$ _____

To pay and register online: ["Online Giving"](#)

