

Eleventh Sunday of Matthew



St. Moses the Ethiopian

August 28, 2022

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, Presiding Priest

On the Twenty-eighth Day of the month, we celebrate Our Righteous Father St. Moses the Ethiopian; The Holy Martrys St. Diomides and St. Laurence; The Holy Martyr St. Akakios the New; St. Anna the Daughter of Phanuel

Second Tone **Ἦχος β'**

Click links for Scripture Readings

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

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: *“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: *“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.”*



Sacraments and Rites



On Thursday, August 25, the funeral for †Rev. Fr. Theodore Sideris was held. Eternal be his memory.

Liturgical Schedule

Monday, August 29, Beheading of St. John the Baptist and Forerunner,

Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, September 4, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

St. Moses the Ethiopian – August 28

Moses lived in Egypt during the fourth century. In his youth, he was the slave of an important man, but after he committed a murder, his master was to kill him. Moses was a man of great inner strength and used his fortitude to escape his enslavement and sentence of death. In his newfound freedom, he chose the life of corruption and became a thief. Because of his tremendous physical strength and recklessness, the band of marauders whom he traveled with made him their leader. His group of brigands were feared because of their many evil exploits, including murders and robberies. People trembled at the mere mention of his name. This made Moses feel powerful. He began to delight in controlling the lives of other people through physical violence, fear and intimidation. Yet deep within Moses' soul, he knew this life was not good. He has become like the slave owner controlling lives using the same tactics of physical threat and domination. He also understood that, although a free man, he was still a slave to his own anger, greediness, and passions of the flesh.

Suddenly his conscience was filled with remorse and repentance for the crimes he had committed. It took enormous courage and mental strength to leave the band of robbers and this way of life but he was driven to find peace of soul. After leaving the band, he went to a monastery and gave himself entirely to obedience to his spiritual father and the monastic rule. He made great use of the teachings of St. Macarios, St. Arsenios and St. Isidore. Later, he withdrew to solitude in a cell, where he gave himself utterly to physical labor, prayer, vigils- and contemplating God. Tormented by the demon of lust, he confessed to his spiritual father, Isidore, and received from him the advice to fast as much as possible, and never to eat to excess. He ate just enough to take away his hunger but never a morsal more. When this proved to be of no help, he, at the elder's advice, began to keep night-vigils and to pray standing. Moses then took on the askesis of carrying water from a distant well for older monks. After six years of terrible striving, St. Isidore finally healed him miraculously of the lustful thoughts, imaginings, and dreams brought on by the terrible demons. Moses was ordained a priest in his old age. He founded a monastery of his own, and had seventy-five disciples, himself living to the age of seventy-five. He foresaw his own death, and one day told his disciples to flee, as barbarians were coming to attack the monastery and enslave them. When his disciples urged him to flee as well, he told them that he must perish in the attack, for he had himself at one time done violence, according to the words: "all they that take the sword shall perish by the sword" - Matt. 26:52. So he stayed, with six of his brethren. The barbarians came and ran them through with their swords, cutting them to

death. One of the brethren, hiding nearby, saw seven shining wreaths descend upon the heads of the seven new martyrs for Christ. The Holy Church celebrates our Righteous Father St. Moses the Ethiopian on August 28 the date of his repose and glorification.

“The sting of sin has completely blackened my heart, therefore with the tears of repentance make it completely pure, O Father, through your intercessions.” – Hymn from Orthros, Ode i



On The Meaning of Inner Light

“I have come as light into the world...”

“You are the light of the world.”

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven.” – Matthew 5:14-16

In order to “shine as lights in the world” and be “light in the Lord”, we must have light within us. This inner light shines from the souls and is touched by God. When Jesus was transfigured and “His face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light” – Matthew 17:2, it was because the inner Divine Light shone through Him. In the Orthodox Church, we sing in the exapostelarian hymn of the Transfiguration: “Today on Tabor in the manifestation of Thy light, O Word...we have seen the Father as Light and the Spirit as Light, guiding with light all of creation.”

Let your inner light shine forth God’s glory in this world and let it illumine your soul.

Retirement Announcement

With indebted gratitude and great appreciation, the Parish of Holy Trinity wishes to thank Joy Daniledes for her nine years of dedicated service to the community. Joy is retiring from her administrative assistant position to pursue personal interests. We thank her for her many years of service and will miss seeing her every day. Joy will still bring us joy as she has promised to stay on as a volunteer.

Prayer Request



George, Cynthia, Patty, John, Keith, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Ket, Georgia, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Gayle, William, Byron, John, Robert, Connie, Donald, 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, Cloy, Mirka, Stamatia, Theresa, James, Matthew, Antoinette, William, Angela, Tanner, Stefanos, Helen, Katherine, Ashley, Angela, Nick, Lindsey, Alexandria, Evdokia, Chris, Zach, Notis, Erica, Christina, Fran, Joan, Hellen, Joseph, Cleopatra, James, Rosa, George, Kathy, Stephanie, Theresa, Dorothy, Shannon, Jeff, Jeffrey, Rowena, Craig, Paul, John, Marien, John, Vasilias, Hellen, Natalia, Angela, Thomas, Stavroula, Maroulla



Pardon our appearance as the church installs security bollards in front of the church and in the courtyard. The security bollards will protect the church from vehicle intrusion. The construction, which is being funded by a grant from the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, has started and will be soon be completed.



Religious Education Registration is Now Open. Please complete the online form for each of your children at your earliest convenience. The first day of classes is September 11 and there will be no classes on September 18 due to the Holy Cross Celebration in Asbury Park. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in the fall!

Link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/2022-23ReligiousEdRegistration>

Greek School Begins Tuesday 9/13 and Thursday 9/15



Holy Trinity Greek School will begin on Tuesday September 13 for grades Pre-K, K, 1st, 2nd and 4th and Thursday September 15 for grades 3rd, 5th, and 6th. Please register your children by clicking:

[Greek School Registration Form 2022-2023 Click here](#)

[PTO Form Click here](#)

Trinity Circle

Tuesday, September 13 Lunch/Meeting 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, welcoming everyone back to the new ecclesiastical year! We will also be celebrating Joy Daniledes retirement from Holy Trinity. Hope to see everyone that day for comradery and fellowship!

Capital Campaign

**How your donation is working...
and making improvements to the church.**

Parking Lot – Milling & Paving

- June - Paving of the church's parking lot in front and back of the church is completed. Paving took place in June. You can see first-hand how your donation to the Capital Campaign was used. Thank you for your contribution to this important campaign.

Church Dome

- Work on the dome and protective membrane that covers it from the elements is the next scheduled phase in the Capital Campaign.

Security Upgrades, Bollards

While part of a Grant from the State of New Jersey Homeland Security, these upgrade will help keep parishioners safe.

- August - Security bollards protect the church from vehicle intrusion. This is part of the State of New Jersey Homeland Security Grant.
- August - Technology upgrade, cameras, communication systems, locking mechanisms.



2022 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 sign-up 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”.

Join "TEAM HOLY TRINITY" in the 2022 OCMC Virtual Trek 4 Missions!
WE NEED YOU!

From August 8th to September 18th, Team Holy Trinity is accepting OCMC's challenge to be physically active by completing miles for missions and trekking through our community to raise funds for OCMC's missionary work.

Register at <http://secure.ocmc.org/goto/Westfield>, Click "Join a Team".
Team Name: Team Holy Trinity Westfield, NJ, Password: 250Gallowshill

If you prefer to support Team Holy Trinity by making a donation, click on the link above and follow the prompts. Thank you for your support!

*Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement for an in-person Trek 4 Missions event in September. Starting Line and Finish Line at Holy Trinity!



JOIN OCMC TO COMPLETE MILES FOR MISSIONS

Calling all walkers, runners, cyclists, fitness enthusiasts, and those who like to stay active! Join our parish this August and September to demonstrate our commitment to Christ's Great Commission by completing miles for missions!

Our challenge for you is to commit your own personal "trek" by walking, running, and more to see how far you can go to "virtually" share the faith. During this event, we will track everyone's activity and raise funds to support the work of OCMC. Their goal is to reach a combined 25,000 miles representing the Gospel being shared around the world. We will host a LIVE walk/run as part of our Trek in September. Please stay tuned!

To join our parish team, go online using the information and link below. Questions? Please get in touch with Jeanie Arida at kjarida@aol.com!

Team Name Team Holy Trinity- Westfield, NJ
& Password: 250Gallowshill

Join our team, visit: <http://secure.ocmc.org/goto/Westfield>

IT'S EASY!



1
JOIN OUR TEAM



2
RAISE FUNDS



3
TRACK YOUR MILES

Scan the QR code & search for our team!



Τοῦ Οσίου Πατρός ἡμῶν Μωϋσέως τοῦ Αἰθίοπος 28 Αυγούστου

**Φήσεις τὸ ῥητὸν καὶ θανῶν, Μωσῆ μέλα.
«Ἄνθρωπος ὄψιν, καὶ Θεὸς τὴν καρδίαν».
Θάψαν ἐν εἰκάδι Μωσῆν ὀγδόη Αἰθιοπῆα.**

Ο ὀσιος Μωυσῆς ἦταν αγορασμένος δούλος κάποιου πλούσιου κτηματία. Εἶχε χαρακτήρα σκληρό και δύστροπο και καθημερινά δημιουργούσε πολλά προβλήματα, ὥσπου το αφεντικό του αγανάκτησε και τον πέταξε στον δρόμο. Ο Μωυσῆς βρήκε καταφύγιο σε μια ληστοσυμμορία και με την τεράστια σωματική του δύναμη δεν ἄργησε να επιβληθεί και να γίνει ο αρχηγός της.

Κάποτε, κυνηγημένος ἀπὸ τα ὄργανα της εξουσίας, για τα πολλά του εγκλήματα, πήγε να κρυφτεί βαθειά στην ἔρημο ὅπου ζούσαν οι πιο ονομαστοί ασκητές. Η συναναστροφή του με τους αγίους τον ἔκανε σιγά - σιγά να ημερεύσει. Τον επισκίασε η Χάρη του Θεοῦ, γιατί η μετάνοια εἶναι ὦρα Χάριτος, μαλάκωσε η καρδιά του, μετανόησε πραγματικά και ζήτησε την λύτρωση. Η αλλαγή του ἦταν ριζική και σε σύντομο χρονικό διάστημα ἔφτασε στα μέτρα των μεγάλων Πατέρων της ερήμου. Μετά το βάπτισμα αξιώθηκε να λάβει και την Χάρη της Ιεροσύνης.

Σε ηλικία 75 ετῶν ἔφυγε ἀπὸ την πρόσκαιρη αὐτή ζωή με τρόπο βίαιο και μαρτυρικό. Ειδωλοάτρες ληστές εισέβαλαν στο σπήλαιο που ασκήτευε και τον σκότωσαν με μαχαίρια. Και στο σημείο αὐτό επαληθεύθηκε, για ἄλλη μια φορά, ο λόγος του Χριστοῦ προς τον Απόστολο Πέτρο: «πάντες γὰρ οἱ λαβόντες μάχαιραν ἐν μαχαίρῃ ἀποθανοῦνται» (Ματθ. κστ, 52).

Οι δύο μεγάλες αρετές που τον κοσμούσαν ἦταν η αληθινή μετάνοια και η βαθειά ταπείνωση. Μέχρι την τελευταία του αναπνοή «ἔκλαιε πικρῶς» για τις αμαρτίες του και θεωρούσε τον εαυτό του κατώτερο ὄχι μόνον ἀπὸ τους ανθρώπους, ἀλλὰ και ἀπὸ αὐτήν την ἄλογη κτίση. «Η συναίσθησις της αμαρτίας ἡμῶν εἶναι μέγα δῶρον του Ουρανοῦ, μεγαλύτερον και της οράσεως των ἀγγέλων... Η μετάνοια εἶναι ανεκτίμητον δῶρον προς την ἀνθρωπότητα... Δια της μετανοίας συντελεῖται η θέωσις ἡμῶν. Τούτο εἶναι γεγονός ἀσυλλήπτου μεγαλείου» (Αρχιμ. Σωφρονίου, Οψόμεθα τον Θεόν καθὼς ἐστι, σελ. 40 και 46). Ο Μωυσῆς αξιοποίησε κατὰ τον καλύτερο τρόπο το ανεκτίμητο αὐτό δῶρο και ἔφθασε στην θέωση, στην ὄραση του Θεοῦ.

Ἀρκετὰ περιστατικά ἀπὸ τον βίο και την πολιτεία του φανερώνουν την ριζική

αλλαγή του τρόπου της ζωής του. Άλλωστε αυτό σημαίνει μετάνοια. Αλλαγή τρόπου σκέψης και τρόπου ζωής. Αξίζει να αναφέρουμε ένα από αυτά: «Κάποτε, τέσσερεις ληστές, παλιοί σύντροφοί του, μπήκαν στην καλύβα του για να την ληστέψουν, χωρίς να φαντάζονται ποιόν μπορούσαν να βρουν μέσα. Όταν τον είδαν σάστισαν. Εκείνος, με μεγάλη ευκολία, τους έπιασε, τους έδεσε και τους οδήγησε στην συνάθροιση των Γερόντων και τους ερώτησε να του πουν τί πρέπει να κάνει με τους ληστές, λέγοντας συγχρόνως: "Σε μένα δεν αρμόζει πια να τιμωρήσω άνθρωπον"» (Γεροντικόν, Εκδ. Ρηγοπούλου, σελ. 111). Όταν τα άκουσαν αυτά οι ληστές εξομολογήθηκαν, μετανόησαν και έγιναν Μοναχοί.

Άλλο χαρακτηριστικό περιστατικό που φανερώνει την ταπείνωση του Οσίου είναι και το ακόλουθο: «Την ημέρα που τον χειροτονούσε Πρεσβύτερο ο Πατριάρχης Αλεξανδρείας και μάλιστα την ώρα που του φορούσε τα ιερά άμφια του είπε φιλικά ότι έγινε λευκός σαν περιστέρι. Ο Μωυσής ερώτησε ταπεινά τον Πατριάρχη αν κρίνει από το εξωτερικό ή το εσωτερικό, επειδή και τα άμφια ήσαν λευκά. Ο Πατριάρχης θέλοντας να τον δοκιμάσει αν έχει πραγματική ταπείνωση, είπε κρυφά στους κληρικούς να τον διώξουν από το σκευοφυλάκιο. Έτσι, όταν παρουσιάστηκε εκεί μετά την θεία Λειτουργία, τον έδιωξαν βρίζοντας τον. Ο Μωυσής έφυγε αμέσως χωρίς καμιά αντιλογία. Ένας από αυτούς, που τον ακολούθησε κρυφά για να δει αν του κακοφάνηκε, τον άκουσε να μονολογεί μεμφόμενος τον εαυτό του: "Καλά σου κάνανε, σποδόδερμε μελανέ". Αφού δεν είσαι άνθρωπος, τί γυρεύεις με τους ανθρώπους;» (Γεροντικόν, σελ. 252 -253).

Η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία με τον τρόπο ζωής που προσφέρει μεταμορφώνει και μετασκευάζει τα τσακάλια και τους λύκους σε πρόβατα και αρνιά άκακα. Μεταβάλλει τους υπερήφανους σε ταπεινούς, τους πόρνους και μοιχούς σε σώφρονες, τους φονιάδες, τους τρομοκράτες και τους ληστές σε Οσίους.



GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠