

# Tenth Sunday of Luke



Conception of the Theotokos

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, New Jersey 07090

Live streaming services - 908.233.8533 - [www.holytrinitywestfield.org](http://www.holytrinitywestfield.org)

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizi, Parish Priest

On the Tenth Day of the month, we commemorate: The Holy Martyrs of Alexandria St. Menas, St. Hermogenes, & St. Evgraphos; St. Thomas the Righteous of Bithynia; St. Gemellos who was crucified

*Click links for Scripture Readings*

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. Luke 24:12-35</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">Ephesians 6:10-17</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">Luke 13:10-17</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

Second Tone Ηχος Β΄

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** “When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by Your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.”

**Apolytikion of St. Menas:** “When they had deadened burning impulses and movements\* of sinful passions by their self-control and virtue,\* then the Martyrs of Christ were given the divine grace\* of driving away the illnesses of the sick\* and working wonders, alive and after their death.\* Paradoxical miracle it is indeed, that naked bones\* should pour out cures abundantly.\* Glory be to our only God.”

**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:** “On this day the Virgin\* comes to the cave to give birth to\* God the Word ineffably,\* Who was before all the ages.\* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing\* the gladsome tidings;\* with the angels and the shepherds now glorify Him\* Who is willing to be gazed on\* as a young Child Who\* before the ages is God.”

### Liturgical Schedule

Tuesday, December 12, St. Spyridon, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, December 17, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Friday, December 22, St. Anastasia the Medical Healer, Orthros and Royal Hours, 8:30 AM

### Altar Donations

**Altar and Large Candles:** In Memory of Nicholas J.† and Anna K. Bouras†; **Vigil Light:** In Memory of Nicholas S. Pappas†; **Prothesis Candles:** For the Health of Bill Tamasco

### Sacraments and Rites

**Baptism:** On Saturday, December 9, the baptism of Ava (Sophia) DiPietro, daughter of Eric and Stephania DiPietro, was celebrated. The Godparents are John and Theresa Dimitrakis.

**40-Day Blessing:** On Sunday, December 10, we will be blessed to have the churching of Antonis William Sidiropoulos, son of Dimitri and Danielle Sidiropoulos.

**Memorials:** Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial services for Nicholas J. Bouras†, 10 years; and Anna K. Bouras†, 29 years. Eternal be their memories.

**Fellowship Hour:** Please join us in the Bouras Center after church for the Fellowship Hour which is being sponsored by the Bozonelis family, in memory of Nicholas J.† and Anna K. Bouras†.

### Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our parish. We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home, we hope that you will become part of our family. Fr. Peter would very much like to meet you. Please visit the Philoxenia/Fellowship table in the Bouras Center after services to meet parishioners and enjoy our Fellowship Hour.

Today we welcome His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios to Holy Trinity



### The Conception of the Theotokos - December 9



St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married St. Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time, St. Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as St. Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although she committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, she would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by St. Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by St. Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot.

In the icon Sts. Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward, and they contemplate the Mother of God, who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power.

There are also icons in which St. Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On St. Anna's face is a look of reverence. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women and thus she is the patron of pregnancy.

### **Special Christmas Gifts**

At Christmastime, you may desire to express your love for Holy Trinity by offering special gifts such as communion wine, festal icons, incense, charcoal, pew torch candles, daily Bible guides, holy water bottles, Poinsettia plants, and wreaths that can be donated in memory of or for the health of loved ones. Please call the church office. Thank you for your generosity. A special request is asked for the floral decoration of both the Nativity and Epiphany icons.

### **Holy Trinity Bookstore**

The Holy Trinity Bookstore is open. Visit for Christmas cards and meaningful small gifts.

### **2023 Parish Council Election Results**

Congratulations to the following candidates who were elected to the Parish Council to serve a two-year term (2024-2025): Leon Carayannopoulos; Christopher Daifotis; Chris Dombalis; Lauren Koniaris; George Koutsaftes; Stephen Ladas; Peter Pangis; Penny Mavridis Sales; Georgia (Gina) Sikellis; Dean Steele.

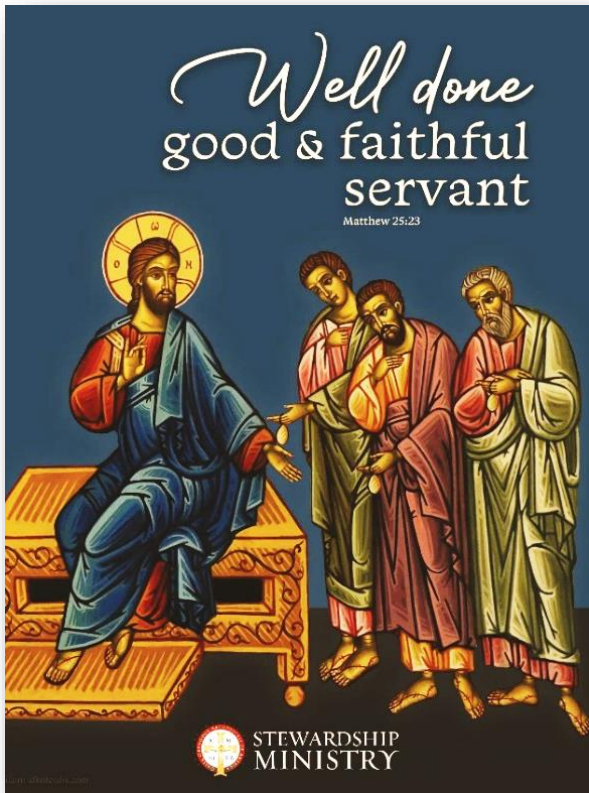
### **Metropolis of New Jersey Facebook Page**

His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos wishes to inform all that the Metropolis has created a new Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Facebook Page. Please visit and follow this page and share the link with fellow parishioners. [www.facebook.com/people/Greek-Orthodox-Metropolis-of-New-Jersey/](http://www.facebook.com/people/Greek-Orthodox-Metropolis-of-New-Jersey/)

### **Reading the Communion Prayers - Pages 60-63 of Divine Liturgy Book**

In Her wisdom, the Church provides beautiful prayers to say before and after receiving Holy Communion. These prayers are part of our Eucharistic preparation which also includes a complete fast in the morning (i.e., nothing by mouth) before receiving the Precious Gifts. As these prayers are read by the clergy in the altar, the faithful should join in at the same time by reading them silently. These Communion Prayers speak to us about faith and forgiveness; humility and cleansing of sins; and a feeling of unworthiness in the presence of the Almighty God. Finally, they reveal the benefits of receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. The conclusion of these prayers is seen in the priest who asks for forgiveness from his co-celebrants in the altar and then from the entire

congregation. In like manner, each of us must ask for forgiveness from our brethren before approaching the Holy Chalice.



*As Christian Stewards we are called to give back to God from the “first fruits” of our labor. We do this in large part by supporting Our Church, Our Spiritual Home. Each year during this time, I ask you to support our parish and her ministries in an intentional and meaningful way. We can do this by offering the first and the best of our fruits!*

The 2024 Christian Stewardship Cards have been mailed to all Stewards of Holy Trinity. If you did not receive it, please pick up a card from the church or call the church office to receive it by mail.

*Thank you for your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure!*

**Click here to complete your [2024 Stewardship Commitment Card](#) online.**



**HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090 • Tel. (908) 233-8533 • www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org



*“Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant”*

**2024 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD**

The operating expenses of our Church for the year 2024 are estimated to be \$939,200 (or an estimated \$2,200 per family).

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we pledge to contribute for Christ's work at Holy Trinity Church in 2024 a total amount of:

\$2,200    \$3,000    \$2,000    \$1,000    Young Adults (25-30) \$500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*For additional information on Legacy or Planned Giving including donations of property, stock, or other securities, please contact the church office (908) 233-8533 or email HolyTrinity@higocnj.org (see enclosed Stock/Security Donation Form)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Dependents \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Please bring your Commitment Card to Stewardship Sunday Liturgy, on Sunday November 19, 2023*

To vote or seek elective office in the administration of the parish in 2024, your signed Stewardship Commitment Card must be received by March 1, 2024

# Prayer Request



Meropi, Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Billy, Molly, Leonedas, David, Elizabeth, Tara, Lambros, Anne, Maria, Mikos, Arthur, John, Al, Jessika, Anastasia, Robert, Joanne, Constantine, Phyllis, 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, John, Angela, Andrew, Dianna, Edward, Sue, Thomas

## Altar Boys



Fr. Peter invites all boys ages 12 and older to commit to service in the altar. An acolyte plays an integral part in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and other services. Please speak to Fr. Peter to assist in this capacity. To serve the Lord in this way is a great privilege and honor.



## YOUTH REGISTRATION

Holy Trinity offers numerous youth programs, including GOYA, JOY/HOPE, Greek Dance and TOTS.

GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) is the ministry to teenagers for the purpose of fellowship, worship, service, and witness. New members in grades 6-12 are welcome at any time. 6th graders may participate in Westfield only activities and 7-12th (ages 12-18) may participate in statewide activities. Activities include Christ Encounter Retreat, athletics, outreach, Greek dance, Sights & Sounds (performing and visual arts), and many others! Register at <https://tinyurl.com/53pp88nz>  
GOYA Advisors: Maria Tarhanidis, Mary Carayannopoulos, Sophia Saketos, Catherine Kelly, Andy Zotos, and Christine Skalkotos. Please contact an advisor or email [goya@htgocnj.org](mailto:goya@htgocnj.org) with any questions.

### **TOTS Playgroup –December 13**

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13, 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.

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### **Annual GOYA Wreath and Grave Blanket Fundraiser – Pick up Sunday, December 10**

Pick up your order Sunday, December 10, in the church courtyard. We thank you for your support.

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### **GOYA Christmas Caroling – December 16**

GOYA is visiting local nursing homes and private homes to share some holiday cheer. If you would like a visit during the afternoon of December 16, email [goya@htgocnj.org](mailto:goya@htgocnj.org) or stop by the GOYA table during Fellowship Hour.

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### **GOYA Sights and Sounds - Seeking Vocal Coach**

Stewardship opportunity of Time and Talent! We are looking for a vocal coach to work with the GOYA singing groups as they prepare for Sights and Sounds. If you can help, please contact Maria Tarhanidis at [mvtarhanidis@gmail.com](mailto:mvtarhanidis@gmail.com) or stop by the GOYA table.

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### **Third Annual Philoptochos Bread Sale**

Pick up your order of homemade Vasilopita from Agia Skepi Bakehouse at church on December 17. Proceeds to benefit Saint Basil Academy.

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### **Religious Education Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 24**

Stewardship opportunity to help with the annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday morning, December 24! To help, participate or volunteer, visit <https://forms.gle/QreKzrVfFo1JKrSH8>

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### **Joy/Hope and all Holy Trinity Youth**

Please join us for Holy Epiphany Divine Liturgy with Great Blessing of Waters on Saturday, January 6. We will meet in the Bouras Center at 10 AM and enter the church as a group for the service at 10:15 AM. After service, we will cut a vasilopita to ring in the New Year and make Valentine's Day Cards for our Holy Trinity Seniors. Please RSVP to Kathy at 201-344-4049 or at [joyhopehtgoc@yahoo.com](mailto:joyhopehtgoc@yahoo.com).

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### **Greek Dance**

Greek dance lessons will again be taught by Petro and Niko from Hellenic Roots. Classes will be held in the Bouras Center. Practice times TBD. Sign-up for GOYA (7th-12th grade): <https://tinyurl.com/yfvpxrr8> Sign-up for Joy/Hope (K-6th grades) coming

soon. Please email [goya@htgocnj.org](mailto:goya@htgocnj.org) (GOYA) or [kathy@homesbykathyp.com](mailto:kathy@homesbykathyp.com) (Joy/Hope) with any questions.

### Greek School Fundraiser – Tiropita, Spanakopita and Baklava Sale

Please visit the Greek School table in the Bouras Center during Fellowship Hour to place your order or visit <https://tinyurl.com/p9pv7zdf>. The deadline is Sunday, December 10. Orders will be distributed on December 17 and 19. See flyer for further details.

#### GREEK SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Stock your freezers and pantry with classic Greek specialties and be ready for all your holiday dinner parties, while also supporting our Greek school! (supplied by Kontos Foods)

1. Spinach & Cheese Swirls \$15  
sold raw/frozen (5 pc, 8 oz per pc)
2. Cheese Swirls \$15  
sold raw/frozen (5 pc, 8 oz per pc)
3. Tray of Spanakopitakia \$30  
sold raw/frozen (48 pc, 1 oz per pc, 3 lb total weight)
4. Tray of Tiropitakia \$30  
sold raw/frozen (48 pc, 1 oz per pc, 3 lb total weight)
5. Tray of Classic Baklava-ready to serve (11 pc) \$12
6. Tray of Assorted Baklava-ready to serve (11 pc) \$12



Order Deadline: Sunday, December 10

Pick up: Sunday, December 17th (after church) or Tuesday, December 19th (after Greek school program)



THE PARISH COUNCIL,  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM  
AND JOY|HOPE



GRACIOUSLY INVITE ALL HOLY TRINITY  
PARISHIONERS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS TO OUR

*Christmas Program,  
Waffle Brunch  
and Holiday Fun!*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LITURGY  
IN THE BOURAS CENTER



## Philoptochos Community Christmas Card - 2023

We invite you to participate in this community expression of joy over our Lord's birth. Every member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church will receive a copy of the COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD imprinted with the names of those who have donated. This year we will donate the proceeds to St. Jude's Research Hospital (ASLAC) and Community Hope, Inc. Please sign up on-line or during the Fellowship Hour each week at the Philoptochos table. Please help us make this fundraiser a success! For more information, contact Sandy Boutsikaris 908-578-3341 or Christina Colonias 917-825-5986.



### HOLY TRINITY 2023 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Our dear Holy Trinity Parishioners, we invite you to participate in this community expression of joy over our Lord's birth. Philoptochos continues its philanthropic work to assist those in need, and we are counting on your support and generosity to enable us to fulfill our mission. This year we will donate the proceeds to St. Jude's Research Hospital and Community Hope, Inc. Please join your fellow parishioners by donating to our annual Christmas Card.

- COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT IN WITH YOUR DONATION.
- ALL DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

-----x-----x-----x-----x-----x-----x-----  
THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY  
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
250 Gallows Hill Road Westfield, NJ 07090-1109

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME(S) CLEARLY AND AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON THE "COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD."** If it is the same from last year, please indicate by writing "same as last year".



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 3, 2023**  
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: *LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY HTGOC*

For convenience in handling, you can make your payment by check, credit card, Apple Pay, Google pay or PayPal.



Include your information with the payment and how your family name(s) should appear.  
Contact Sandy Boutsikaris 908/578-3341 or Christina Colonias 917/825-5986 for more information.  
The Ladies Philoptochos Society – HTGOC is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

## Angel Tree Ornaments

Personalized ornaments for the Angel Tree are available for \$10. Proceeds to benefit Religious Education. Please contact Elise Savnik at 908-337-5046.

# 2023 Angel Tree

and

# Mitten Tree

Sponsored by Religious Education

**Please continue to sponsor these wonderful Holy Trinity Christmas traditions and help our local children in need.**

**The 34th Annual Christmas Gifting Program will benefit Moms Helping Moms helping underserved families in NJ**

We will be collecting:

Diapers

Wipes

New, unused baby clothes  
(0-5T Fall/ Winter only at this time)

New, unused books for ages 0-5

Other essential baby items  
(NEW items only)



### **The 34th Annual Mitten Tree**

What to Do?

1. Purchase new mittens, gloves, knit hats or SOCKS in adult and children's sizes.
2. Hang them on the Mitten Tree starting December 3rd.

**DROP OFF DEADLINE:  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

# Upcoming Parish Events

**Tuesday, December 12**



*His Eminence  
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey*

*Cordially Invites you to the*

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE  
LIGHTING &  
OPEN HOUSE**

*on*

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023  
6:00 - 9:00pm**

*At the  
Metropolis Headquarters  
215 E. Grove Street  
Westfield, NJ 07090*

# SAVE THE DATE!

**June 23-29, 2024**

## CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD

The Metropolis Summer Camp program will take place in the summer of 2024 from June 23-29. Registration will be forthcoming. This is an excellent opportunity for children to meet other Greek Orthodox and to learn about the faith in a protected environment.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD**

**CGS MD: JUNE 15-22**  
**CGS NJ: JUNE 23-29**  
**CGS VA SESSION 1: JULY 7-13**  
**CGS VA SESSION 2: JULY 14-20**

REGISTRATION INFO COMING SOON!

Faith! Fun! Fellowship!

@gomnj\_youth



www.nj.goarch.org/





**GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS**

**✠ AMEN ✠**