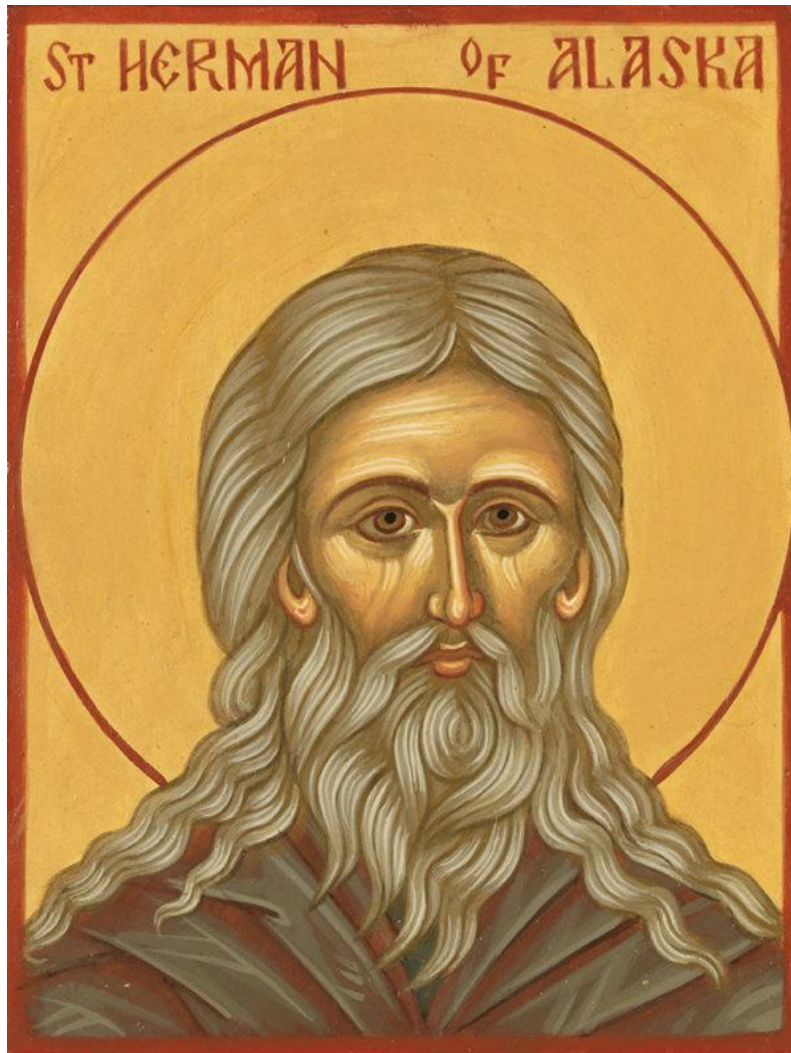


# ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA

December 14, 2025

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
908.233.8533 [www.holytrinitywestfield.org](http://www.holytrinitywestfield.org)  
Live streaming services

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizi, Parish Priest

The Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ; The Holy Martyrs Sts. Thyrsos, Leucius, and Kallinicos of Asia Minor, and Sts. Philemon, Apollonius, and Arian of Alexandria

## Second Tone

Ἦχος Β΄

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. Luke 24:12-35</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">Colossians 3:4-11</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Luke 14:16-24</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**Apolytikion:** “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 the Holy Forefathers:** “By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.”

**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

Wednesday, Dec. 17, **St. Dionysios of Zakynthos**, Orthros, 8:45 AM;

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, December 21, Sunday before the Nativity, Orthros, 8:15 AM;

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Monday, December 22, **St. Anastasia the Great Martyr**, Orthros, 8:45 AM;

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Wednesday, December 24, **Paramoni of the Nativity**, Great Hours, 8:30 AM; Vesperal

Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

Wednesday, December 24, **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**, Orthros, 6:30 PM;

Divine Liturgy, 7:30 PM; Christmas Pageant, 9:00 PM

### Altar Donations

**Altar Candles:** In memory of Andrew Philippou†; **Vigil Light:** In memory of Andrew Philippou†; **Large Candles:** In loving memory of our sons John Dillon, Jr.† and Edward J. Dillon†; **Prothesis Candles:** In loving memory of our sons John Dillon, Jr.† and Edward J. Dillon†

### Welcome Visitors

The parish of Holy Trinity welcomes those visiting our community. 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. Visit the Philoxenia/Fellowship table in the Bouras Center after service to meet parishioners and enjoy our Fellowship Hour.



Daniel, Elizabeth, John, Robert, Erin, Kevin, Sabrina, Luke, Bill, James, Ria, Eric, Joanne, Alexandra, Sophia, Nicholas, Panagiota, James, Mary, Chris, Janeen, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, John, Marina, George, Laura, George, Costa, Basil, Lemonia, Justin, Chris, Evangelia, Brennan, Egon, Marilyn, Tatanya, Robert, Elizabeth, George, Nicholas, Alexander, Vasilius, Danny, Bill, Lou, Foula, Eupraxia



### The December Edition of *The Promise* is Now Available Online!

[www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org/the-promise](http://www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org/the-promise). Subscribe to Holy Trinity weekly emails providing news updates and announcements. Request at: [HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org](mailto:HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org)

### Bookstore – Items for Christmas

Check out all the new items in the bookstore. There are wonderful stocking stuffer items that will make for a treasured gift. The Christmas table is set up with gifts that remind us of the joys that are associated with the Nativity of our Lord. Buy Christmas cards, icons, incense, etc.

### **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.

### **Saint Herman of Alaska – December 13**

Saint Herman came from a family of merchants of Serpukhov, a city of the Moscow Diocese. He had a great zeal for piety from youth, and at sixteen he entered monastic life at the Saint Sergius Hermitage. He transferred to the Valaam Monastery, which was widely scattered on the large islands in the waters of the great Lake Ladoga. In the second half of the 18th century the borders of Holy Russia expanded to the north. In those years Russian merchants discovered the Aleutian Islands which formed in the Pacific Ocean a chain from the eastern shores of Kamchatka to the western shores of North America. He founded the New Valaam Monastery on Spruce Island. There he lived for many years.

At the time of the Elder's passing, he ordered his disciple Gerasim to light a candle before the Icons, and to read the Acts of the Holy Apostles. After some time his face glowed brightly and he said in a loud voice, "Glory to Thee, O Lord!" He then ordered the reading to be halted, and he announced that the Lord had willed that his life would now be spared for another week. The following week, he again lit candles and had the Acts of the Holy Apostles read. Quietly, the Elder bowed his head in his cell. The space was filled with a sweet-smelling odor and his face glowed, and Father Herman passed! He died in blessedness at the age of 81.

The administrator of the colony Kashevarov had forbidden the burial of the Elder until his own arrival. He also ordered that a finer coffin be made for Father Herman, and that he would come as soon as possible and would bring a priest with him. But then a great wind came up, a rain fell, and a terrible storm broke. The distance from the harbor to Spruce Island is not great—about a two-hour journey—but no one would agree to go to sea in such weather. Thus it continued for a full month, and although the body lay in state for a full month in the warm house of his students, his face did not undergo any change at all, and not the slightest odor emanated from his body. One evening, above the village Katani (on Afognak) an unusual pillar of light which reached up to heaven was seen above Spruce Island. It was the illumination of St. Herman. Having witnessed the life of Father Herman glorified by his zealous labors, having seen his miracles, and the fulfillment of his predictions, finally having observed his blessed falling asleep, "in general, all the local

inhabitants," Bishop Peter witnesses, "have the highest esteem for him, as though he was a holy ascetic, and they are fully convinced that he has found favor in the presence of God."

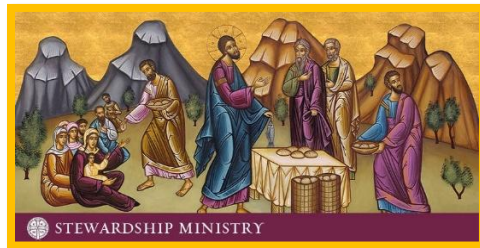
In 1842, five years after the passing away of the Elder, Archbishop Innocent of Kamchatka and the Aleutians, was near Kodiak on a sailing vessel which was in great distress. He looked to Spruce Island, and said to himself, "If you have found favor in God's presence, Father Herman, then may the wind change." It seems as though not more than fifteen minutes had passed, said the bishop, when the wind became favorable, and he successfully reached the shore. In thanksgiving for being saved, Archbishop Innocent himself conducted a Memorial Service over the grave of the blessed Father Herman.



## **2026 Stewardship Campaign**

### **"Building Up the Body of Christ"**

We have commenced our annual 2026 Stewardship Campaign. We thank all Holy Trinity parishioners who always rise to the occasion to support our beloved parish. In 2025 we received 423 signed Stewardship Pledge Cards. For 2026, so far we have received 149 Pledge Cards. Our goal for 2026 is to increase the number of stewards. You can help us on our journey by submitting a signed pledge card. Together we can keep Holy Trinity a special home and spiritual center.



***Holy Trinity is my spiritual and cultural center –  
It is a place like no other, rooted in faith.  
It nurtures joy and a deep sense of purpose in giving.***

There was a certain man in the Old Testament named Nehemiah, who after seeing the crumbling walls of Jerusalem, called the people to "Rise up and build." Nehemiah knows he can't do it alone. He inspires the people, sharing his vision to rebuild. The people responded, "Let us rise up and build."

Spiritually, this story calls us to build using material that is beyond brick and mortar. As Orthodox Christians, we must use our faith to build up and make our parish stronger. Stewardship calls us to respond to the needs of the Church by using God's gifts faithfully. Together we can "rise up and build" lives that are holy and dedicated to God.

This call of Nehemiah to "rise up and build" invites us to become active members of the Church, the Body of Christ, to join in ministry and contribute according to our abilities. As Orthodox

Christians, we understand that Stewardship is a community effort in which everyone plays a role.

To date, the parish has funded our Metropolis, Archdiocese, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, several outreach initiatives, and continued support of our growing and vibrant ministries.

Pledge cards are available in the pews, at the Pangari and can be submitted online at <https://form.jotform.com/230346419533151> . The suggested pledge is \$2,200 per steward and \$500 for young adults. The pledge card includes an option to identify your interest in volunteering by ministry.

To be a steward in good standing means one is eligible to vote at parish assemblies & elections, and to run for the Parish Council - please submit your pledge card by the end of the year.

Yours in Christ,

Stewardship Committee



### **Religious Education**

Sunday School classes have resumed. We have opportunities available to make a difference in the lives of our youth through our faith! You do not need to be an expert on Orthodoxy and you do not need to have teaching experience. We are just looking for extra hands! We are looking for Assistant Teachers for the Pre-K class and the combined 9/10 grade class. If interested, please contact Pete Markos at [religiouseducation@htgocnj.org](mailto:religiouseducation@htgocnj.org)

### **Religious Education Christmas Program - December 14**

Please join us for a Stewardship opportunity to help with the Christmas Program, Dessert Reception and Santa, Sunday, December 14, in the Bouras Center following the Divine Liturgy! To help or bring a dessert, please [click here](#). We are grateful for your help to make this a successful and fun event for the students!

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

We are looking for students to participate in the Religious Education Christmas Pageant! This year's Christmas Eve Service is on Wednesday, December 24, at 7 PM! If interested, please complete this [Google Form](#).

### **Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale – Sunday, December 14**

Please visit the Philoptochos table during the Fellowship Hour. Enjoy our homemade baked goods with your Frappe, coffee, tea or other favorite beverage and/or take home to share with your family and friends. *Καλά Χριστούγεννα!*

### **Greek School Christmas Program – Thursday, December 18**

Come and enjoy the Greek School Christmas Program in the Bouras Center. The PTO will provide complimentary food and beverages.

### **Metropolis of New Jersey – Christmas Tree Lighting – Thursday, December 18**

His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos invites all the clergy and beloved faithful to the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Metropolis of New Jersey on Thursday, December 18, at 6 PM. We will gather with our spiritual father to sing Christmas Carols and enjoy refreshments and fellowship. Please let Fr. Peter know if you would like to attend.

### **Vasilopita Bread Pick Up - Sunday, December 21**

Pick up your order on Sunday, December 21, at the church. Please call/text Denise Eliopoulos 973-568-0938 with any questions.

### **36th Annual Angel & Mitten Tree – Deadline Tuesday, December 23**

We are collecting baby items such as formula, diapers, wipes, new/unused clothing (NB-5t) for Moms Helping Moms. Please note that there is a high demand for formula this year (Enfamil and Similac preferred). We are also collecting new/unused mittens, gloves, hats, and socks. Drop off deadline Tuesday, December 23. Thank you for your generosity to this beloved Holy Trinity Tradition!

### **Altar Boys**

Fr. Peter invites all boys ages 12 and older to commit to serve in the altar. An acolyte plays an important role in the ceremonial aspects of the Divine Liturgy. We want our children to remain in the church as they grow up. By committing and serving in this unique role, a deep respect is instilled. This shapes and deepens faith. Please see Fr. Peter for more information.

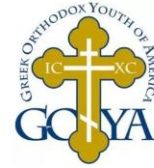
### **Angel Choir**

The Angel Choir has joined the Adult Choir on Sundays. Angel Choir practices are after Sunday School from 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM. Children should meet with the director for practice in church in the choir pews. Children ages 7-12 interested in joining the Angel Choir should attend Sunday's practice. For more information contact the church office or Choir Director, Anne Kernoski, [akernoski@gmail.com](mailto:akernoski@gmail.com)

### **Greek School Registration**

Greek School registration is ongoing. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 PM – 6 PM. Tuesday's grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Beginners and 1st Advanced, 2nd; Thursday's grades 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. Register at <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/greek-school/>

2025 GOYA Registration  
<https://forms.gle/hAmPHc4bLkk9eN9F8>



Contact Sophia Saketos at 908-247-6048 or [goya@htgocnj.org](mailto:goya@htgocnj.org) with questions.

**Trinity Circle - Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

Vasilopita Luncheon 11 AM - 2 PM donated by Marie Mastorakis in memory of Gus Zades.

**TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) - January 14, 2026**

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 14, 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 612-801-8608 or [vcomprelli@gmail.com](mailto:vcomprelli@gmail.com) to sign-up or with any questions.

**SAVE THE DATE - Holy Trinity Cultural Committee - January 15, 2026**

The Holy Trinity Cultural Committee invites all parishioners and friends to an evening with Iphigenia Kanara, Consul General of Greece in New York. More details to follow early January.

**SAVE THE DATE - Holy Trinity Family Dance - January 17, 2026**

Join us for a night of dancing, delicious food, and fun. The evening will feature a performance by our parish Greek dancers, children's activities, and a buffet dinner. Galloping Hill Caterers, Union, NJ, 6-10 PM. To purchase tickets, please Venmo @westfieldgreekschool and include your name and ticket quantity or visit the Greek School table during Fellowship Hour. Adults \$100; Teens (13-18) \$60; Kids (3-12) \$40. All proceeds will support the Holy Trinity Greek School. If you would like to donate a raffle item or sponsor prizes, email [liapapathomas@gmail.com](mailto:liapapathomas@gmail.com) For general questions, email [asfourmarissa@gmail.com](mailto:asfourmarissa@gmail.com)

**Adult Greek Dance Lessons, Thursday, January 22, 2026**

Lessons will be offered by Ronnie Filippatos Fernandez one Thursday per month, \$25 per class. The next lesson is January 22, 7 - 9 PM. We will enjoy some light drinks and appetizers while learning Greek dances. If interested, please send your name and phone number to [htgocgreekdance@gmail.com](mailto:htgocgreekdance@gmail.com). The remaining dates are: 2/19, 3/26, 4/23, 5/21.

# Get Your GOYA FRAPPÉ

Support our GOYA Youth and enjoy a refreshing  
Frappe!

\$5 for each frappe.

Cash or Venmo (@WestfieldGOYA)



Proceeds go towards  
Holy Trinity's MDF trip!

*MDF: Metropolis Music and Dance Festival*



FRAPPE FOR PURCHASE AFTER LITURGY AT THE  
BOURAS CENTER ON:

Sunday, December 7

Sunday, December 14

**2025 Angel Tree  
and  
Mitten Trees  
Sponsored by Religious Education**

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

**The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Gifting Program will benefit Moms Helping Moms, helping underserved families in NJ.**

We will be collecting:

**GREAT NEED FOR FORMULA**  
(Enfamil and Similac preferred)  
Diapers – size 4, 5, 6 & 7 and Pull-Ups  
Diaper Cream  
Baby Wash  
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 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Mitten Tree**

What to Do?

1. Purchase new mittens, gloves, knit hats or socks in adult and children's sizes.
2. Place them under the Mitten Tree starting December 7<sup>th</sup>.



If you have any questions, call Elise Savnik 908-337-5046

**DROP OFF DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**



**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

For more information, email Anne Kernoski, Choir Director:

[akernoski@gmail.com](mailto:akernoski@gmail.com)

[Click here to sign up](#)

*Come join us for  
Adult Greek Dance*

**Now offering Greek Dance  
Lessons for adults!**

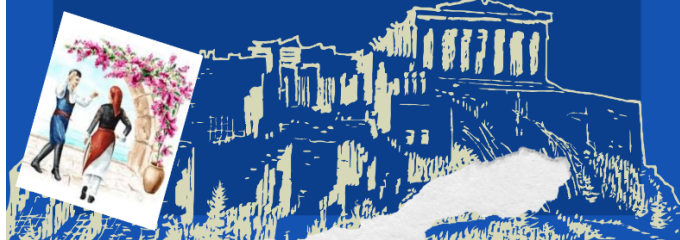
Practices will take place once a month in the  
Bouras Center

10/16, 11/20, 1/22, 2/19, 3/26, 4/23, 5/21

\$25/class

Scan here to sign up

Please contact the instructor  
Ronnie Filippatos  
for more information  
[HTGOCGreekDance@gmail.com](mailto:HTGOCGreekDance@gmail.com)



*join us for*  
**GREEK DANCE  
LESSONS**



COME BE A PART OF THE HOLY TRINITY  
GREEK DANCE GROUP!

Classes offered for grades  
PreK-12  
and adults as well!

Contact: Ronnie Filippatos Fernandez  
908-672-6203

[Htgocgreekdance@gmail.com](mailto:Htgocgreekdance@gmail.com)

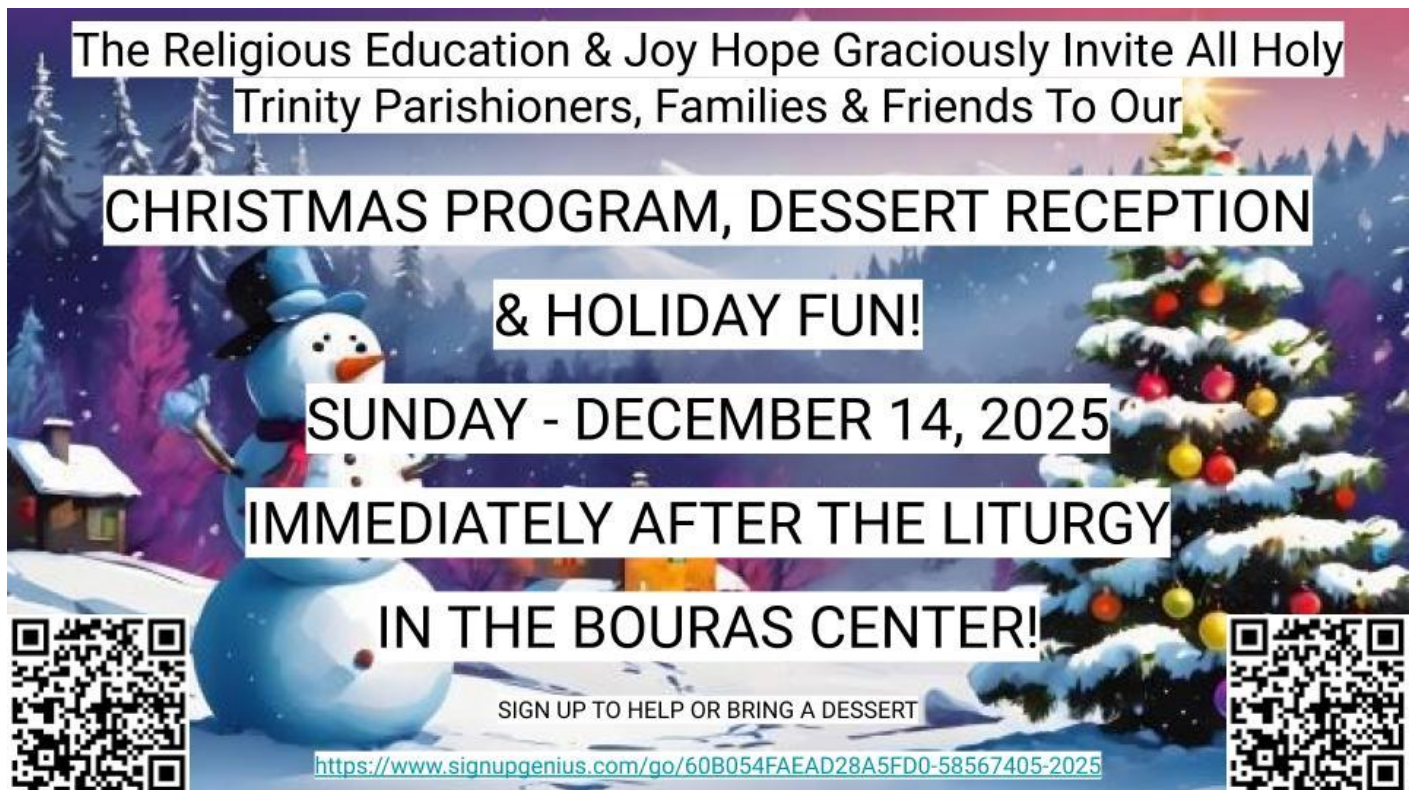


# Upcoming Events

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

## December 14, 2025

### Religious Education Christmas Program



The Religious Education & Joy Hope Graciously Invite All Holy Trinity Parishioners, Families & Friends To Our

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, DESSERT RECEPTION  
& HOLIDAY FUN!**



**SUNDAY - DECEMBER 14, 2025**

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LITURGY**

**IN THE BOURAS CENTER!**

SIGN UP TO HELP OR BRING A DESSERT

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054FAEAD28A5FD0-58567405-2025>



**January 15, 2026**



**Consulate General of Greece  
New York**

**Save the Date: January 15, 2026**

**The Holy Trinity Cultural Committee invites all parishioners  
and friends to an evening with**

**Iphigenia Kanara  
Consul General of Greece in New York**

**More details to follow in early January 2026**

# January 25, 2026

*The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity*



## **VASILOPITA LUNCHEON & STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**



**January 25, 2026**

*Immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Bouras Center*

*All proceeds to support St. Basil Academy and youth and young adult programs throughout the Archdiocese and in all Metropolises*

**ADULTS - \$30**

**CHILDREN 16 and under - \$20**

Includes Buffet Luncheon, Salad, Mezethes, Wine & Dessert

Please mail or stop by Philoptochos table to sign up

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### **RESERVATION FORM**

***Deadline by January 19<sup>th</sup> - Reserved seating for tables of 10***

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ # Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ # Children \_\_\_\_\_

Amt Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Ladies Philoptochos Society of HTGOC  
Zelle accepted: [treasurer@htphiloptochos.com](mailto:treasurer@htphiloptochos.com)

Send to: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090  
Attn: Vasilopita Luncheon

Mary Carayannopoulos & Yiana Leichtling, Co-Chairs

# 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](http://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](mailto: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@htgocnj.org](mailto:FrPeter@htgocnj.org)



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



## **T.O.T.S.- (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social)**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social (T.O.T.S.) of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is to provide an environment fostering fellowship and prayer for children aged 18 months to 4 years of age and their mother, father and/or caregiver. Children are encouraged to develop a sense of comfort and security in God's house while experimenting in independent and cooperative age-appropriate play under their caregiver's supervision. Concurrently, the toddler social enables these adults the opportunity to meet, pray, and socialize.

**TOTS meetings: Wednesdays, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM, Pre-K Room**

### **2026**

**January 14, 28**

**February 11, 25**

**March 11, 25**

**April 22**

**May 13, 27**

Bring water, sneakers and a snack. Contact Val Comprelli ([vcomprelli@gmail.com](mailto:vcomprelli@gmail.com) or 612-801-8608) to sign up or to ask any questions.

