

Eleventh Sunday of Luke



St. Eleftherios the Hieromartyr

December 15, 2024

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

The Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ; St. Eleftherios the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Illyricum and his mother St. Anthia, the Martyr; St. Susanna the Martyr; St. Paul the New, who was an ascetic in the days of Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitos

Plagal Fourth Tone

Ἦχος Πλ. Δ΄

Morning Gospel:	St. Mark 16:9-20	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	2 Timothy 1:8-18	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Luke 14:16-24	Ελληνικά

Apolytikion: “From on high You descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the Cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our Life and Resurrection, Glory to You, O Lord.”

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 St. Eleftherios: “You were fully adorned with the sacred priestly robes. * You were dripping with streams of your own martyric blood. * In this state, you ran to Christ your Master, O blessed Saint * Eleftherios, destroyer of Satan; you are wise. * Therefore, cease not interceding * for us who loyally honor * your blessed contest of martyrdom.”

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

Sunday, December 22, Sunday Before Nativity, **St. Anastasia the Great Martyr**, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Tuesday, December 24, **Paramoni of the Nativity**, Great Hours, 8:30 AM; Vespers Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, 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 our beloved Mother, Yiayia, Euterpe† and our beloved Father, Grandfather, Christos† Papatheodorou

Vigil Light: In memory of Haris† and Andrew† Philippou

Large Candles: In memory of Haris† and Andrew† Philippou

Kandili: In memory of beloved brother, Phillip Papatheodorou†

Sacraments and Rites

Memorials: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial services in memory of Zoi†, 21 years, and Stefanos†, 3 years, Delfinopoulos; Ramila Fazllia Christo†, 1 year; Myrofora Polyviou†, 9 years; Despina†, 15 years, and Simeon† (Simos) Klimis, 1 year. Eternal be their memories.

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, we hope that you consider becoming 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.

Fellowship Hour: Please join us in the Bouras Center after church for the Fellowship Hour sponsored by Tony Delfinopoulos, in memory of Zoi† and Stefanos† Delfinopoulos.

Get Weekly Emails by Subscribing - Subscribe to Holy Trinity weekly emails providing news, information, and weekly announcements by request at: HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org



Eupraxia, Chris, Arlene, John, Ted, William, Theodora, Michael, Gioula, Nicholas, Hellen, Luba, Kevin, Janice, Elaine, Patty, Cynthia, Nicholas, Blace, Christos, Thomas, Rich, Robert, Phyllis, Lea, Mary, Mason, George, Chloe, Yolanda, Luke, George, Maria, Alexander, Athena, Demetra, Stavroula, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Pamela, John, Helen, Chris, Niko, Vicky, Dino, Stephanie, James, John, Theodora, Novlet, Chrysavgi, Alexandra, Sue, Marilyn, David, Basil, Laura, Marylee, Meropi, Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Molly, Leonedas, David, Elizabeth, Tara, Lambros, Anne, Maria, Mikos, Arthur, John, Al, Jessika, Anastasia, Robert, Joanne, Vasileos

St. Eleftherios the Hieromartyr - December 15

From a good tree comes good fruit. This wonderful saint had noble and greatly eminent parents. Eleftherios was born in Rome, where his father was an imperial proconsul. His mother Anthia heard the Gospel from the great Apostle Paul and was baptized by him. Having been left a widow early, she entrusted her only son for study and service to Anicetus the Bishop of Rome. Seeing how Eleftherios was gifted by God and illumined by the grace of God, the bishop ordained him a deacon at the age of fifteen, a priest at the age of eighteen, and a bishop at the age of twenty.

Eleftherios's God-given wisdom made up for what he lacked in years, and this chosen one of God was appointed Bishop of Illyria with his seat in Valona (Avlona), Albania. The good shepherd guarded his flock well and increased their number day by day. Emperor Hadrian, a persecutor of Christians, sent the commander Felix with soldiers to seize Eleftherios and bring him to Rome. When the raging Felix arrived in Valona and entered the church, he saw and heard the holy hierarch of God; suddenly his heart changed, and he became a Christian. Eleftherios baptized Felix and departed for Rome with him, returning joyfully as if he were going to a feast and not to trial and torture.

The emperor subjected the noble Eleftherios to harsh torture: flogging, roasting on an iron bed, boiling in pitch, and burning in a fiery furnace. But Eleftherios was delivered from all these deadly tortures by God's power. Seeing all this, Caribus the Roman eparch declared that he also was a Christian. Caribus was tortured and then beheaded, and so was Blessed Felix. Finally, the imperial executioners cut off the honorable head of St. Eleftherios. When his mother, the holy Anthia, came and stood over the dead body of her son, she also was beheaded. Their bodies were translated to Valona, where even today St. Eleftherios glorifies the name of Christ by his many miracles. He suffered during the reign of Hadrian in the year 120 A.D.

Eleftherios, saint of God, You did not conceal God's truth from men, but with God's truth you enlightened men and offered salvation to each and all. Let the Church of God rejoice; Let all of Illyria rejoice! Behold, God sent to her a wonderful man: Eleftherios, a true saint. His very name means "freedom": Eleftherios bears freedom. True freedom from the slavery of sin. True freedom does not exist without Christ. Let the town of Valona also rejoice. In her the relics of the saint repose: Miraculous relics that heal the sick, a flame from which the demons flee. Blessed is the mother who gives birth to a saint. St. Anthia, thrice blessed, now is comforted in the garden of Paradise, and gazes upon her son, Eleftherios.

O Eleftherios, pray for us,

That the gracious God may have mercy on us also.



Reading the Communion Prayers – Pages 60-63 in Liturgy Book

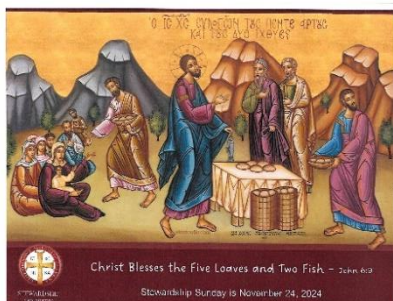
In Her wisdom, the Church provides beautiful prayers to read before receiving Holy Communion. These prayers are part of our Eucharistic preparation which also includes a complete fast in the morning (i.e., nothing by mouth) before receiving Holy Communion. As these prayers are read by the clergy in the 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.

Lessons on the Orthodox Faith – December 17

Catechism is provided not only for those who are looking to learn more about the Orthodox Church - the fullness of the Christian Faith - but is for everyone looking to deepen their knowledge about the Church established by Christ and His Apostles. The next scheduled class is on Tuesday, December 17 at 5:00 PM. Please speak with Father Peter if you're interested in attending as part of the faithful or as one curious about the Orthodox Faith.

2025 Stewardship Drive is Underway

2025 Stewardship Cards are currently being collected. Please submit your signed Stewardship Card by December 31. Holy Trinity is an active and welcoming parish of dynamic stewards. Together we participate and grow in our faith through these ministries which teach the Orthodox Faith and unite us in service to one another and the greater community. The Parish is asking each Steward to contribute \$2,200/family to help make our Stewardship effort successful.



Religious Education Christmas Program – Sunday, December 15!

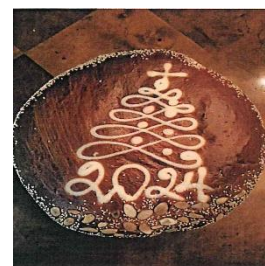
Please join us in the Bouras Center following the Divine Liturgy for our annual Christmas Program, reception, and visit from Santa!

Ladies Philoptochos Society Bake Sale – Sunday, December 15!

The Ladies Philoptochos Society is having their Christmas Boutique Bake Sale during the Fellowship Hour.



Fourth Annual Philoptochos Bread Sale
Pick up your orders Sunday, December 15!





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.

TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social)

It is a fun way to connect with other Orthodox families with small children. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 18, from 9:30 - 11:30 AM in the preschool room. Children 18 months-Pre-K are welcome with their caregivers (younger siblings welcome!). Bring water, sneakers, and a snack. Contact Val Comprelli vcomprelli@gmail.com or 612-801-8608 to sign up or with any questions.

Metropolis of New Jersey Open House and Christmas Tree Lighting – December 20

Parishioners of Holy Trinity are invited to the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Metropolis on Friday, December 20, at 6:00 PM located at 215 East Grove St., Westfield. His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos will welcome everyone as we sing Christmas Carols. A Lenten reception will follow.



2024 Angel & Mitten Tree – Drop-off Due Date: Sunday, December 22


Please support this Holy Trinity Christmas tradition. We are collecting baby items: diapers size 3, 4, 5, & 6, wipes, new/unused clothing (NB-5t), new books for ages 0-5. We are also collecting new/unused mittens, gloves, hats, and socks. Drop-off deadline Sunday, December 22.

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



Religious Education Classes Have Begun - Click the link to

register: [Religious Education Registration](#) We are looking for Assistant Teachers and Substitutes! If you are interested in teaching, you do not need to be an expert on Orthodoxy to join our Religious Education team! Please contact Pete Markos at pmarkos307@gmail.com



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

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, RECEPTION

& HOLIDAY FUN!

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 15, 2024

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LITURGY

IN THE BOURAS CENTER!

SIGN UP TO HELP OR BRING A DESSERT

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054FAEAD28A5FD0-52140090-religious>



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



***His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey***

*Cordially Invites all of the clergy and
the beloved faithful to the*

**ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING &
OPEN HOUSE**

on
Friday, December 20, 2024
6:00 - 9:00pm

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

2024 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 35th Annual Christmas
Gifting Program will benefit
Moms Helping Moms,
helping underserved
families in NJ**

We will be collecting:
Diapers – size 3, 4, 5 & 6
Wipes, Diaper Cream, Baby Wash
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. Place them under the Mitten Tree starting December 8th.

**DROP OFF DEADLINE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**



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

2024

September 25
October 9, 23
November 6, 20
December 18

2025

January 8, 22
February 12, 26
March 12 (Wed.), 28 (Fri.)
April 11, 25 (Fridays)
May 9, 23 (Fridays)

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



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

kathanasoulas@hotmail.com

Upcoming Parish Events

January 18, 2025

Holy Trinity Winter Wonderland Dance

Join us for a night of food, dancing, family, friends, and fun! There will be an open bar and a delicious buffet to enjoy. We will also have a performance by our Greek dancers and activities for kids throughout the night. Galloping Hill Caterers, Union, NJ. 6 - 10 PM.

Tickets: Adults \$100. Teens 13-18 \$60. Kids 2-12 \$40. To purchase please Venmo @westfieldgreeksschool and include your first and last name and ticket quantity.

**** Donations Needed ****

We kindly ask for raffle prize donations. All proceeds from the raffle will support the Greek School. If you are interested in donating an item, please email

asfourmarissa@gmail.com



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US

*Holy Trinity
Winter Wonderland
Family Dance*

**GALLOPING HILL CATERERS
1085 GALLOPING HILL ROAD, UNION NJ
THE CRYSTAL ROOM**

JANUARY

**SATURDAY | 18 | AT 6 PM
2025**

TICKETS

ADULTS \$100, TEENS 13-18 \$60, KIDS 2-12 \$40

*Thank you for supporting the
Holy Trinity Greek School*

