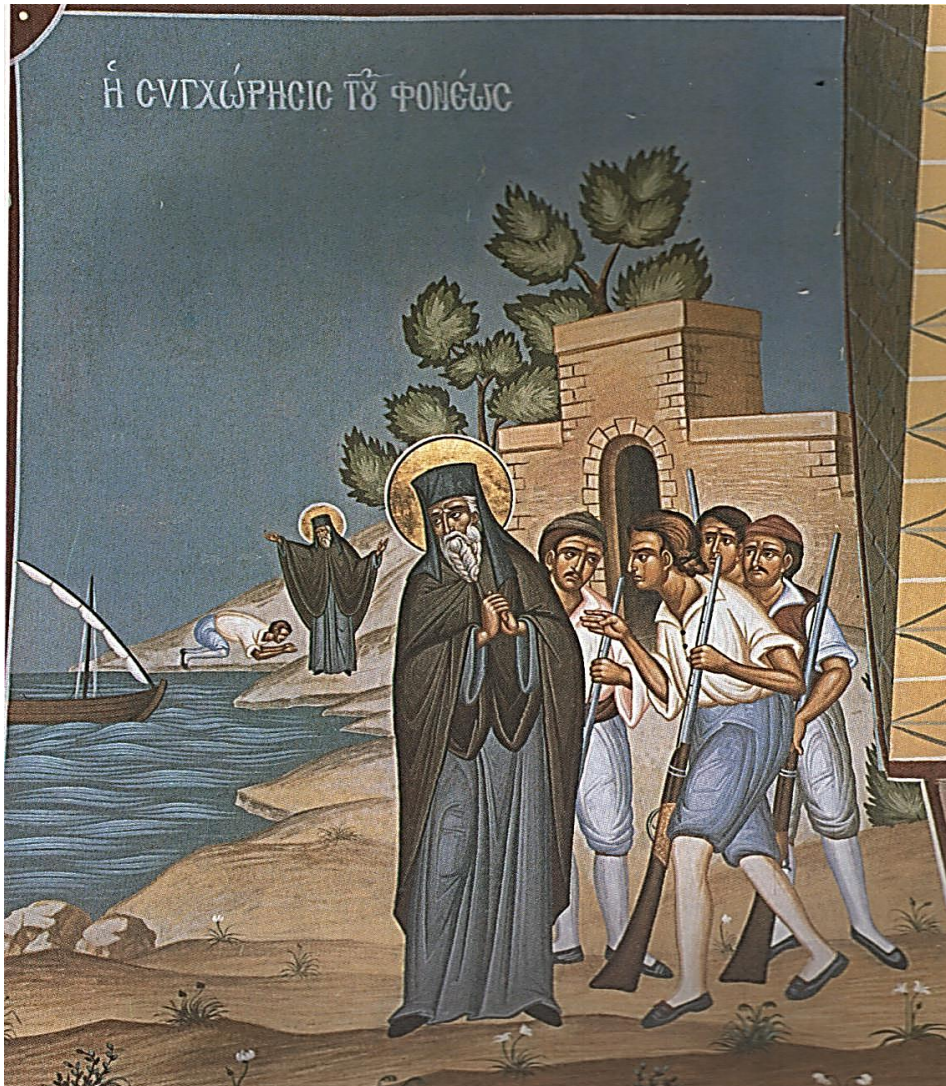


Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ



St. Dionysios of Aegina, The Saint who Forgives

Sunday, December 17, 2023

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

Live streaming services - 908.233.8533 - www.holytrinitywestfield.org

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvzizis, Parish Priest

On the Seventeenth Day of the month, we commemorate: The Holy Prophet Daniel; The Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias, & Misael; St. Dionysios, Bishop of Aegina and Wonderworker in Zakynthos (+1621)

Click links for Scripture Readings

Morning Gospel:	St. Luke 24:36-53	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	Colossians 3:4-11	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	Luke 14:16-24	Ελληνικά

Third Tone Ηχος Γ΄

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: *“Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.”*

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. Dionysios: *“To the offspring of Zakynthos and bishop of Aegina, * protector of Strophades Monastery, Saint Dionysios, * O believers, let us all with one accord * pay honor, and sincerely say to him: * “By your fervent prayers save us, who are observing your memory and who call to you: * Glory to Christ who glorified you; * glory to Him who made you marvelous; * glory to Him who gave us you to intercede for us.”*

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

Friday, December 22, **St. Anastasia the Medical Healer**, whose relics are deposited in the holy altar of Holy Trinity. Orthros and Royal Hours, 8:30 AM

Sunday, December 24, **Christmas Eve**, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Monday, December 25, **Nativity of our Lord – Christmas Day**, Orthros, 8:30 AM;
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, December 31, **Sunday Before Epiphany**, Orthros, 8:15 AM;
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations

Altar Candles: In Memory of Peter Genakos†; **Large Candles:** In Loving Memory of Alexios Haliasos†; **Vigil Light and Kandili:** In Loving Memory of Euterpe† (mother), Christos† (father), and Philip† (brother) Papatheodorou; **Kandili:** In Loving Memory of Evelyn Connant†; **Prothesis Candles:** In Loving Memory of Ted† and Mary† Demetriou

Sacraments and Rites

Memorials: Your prayers are requested Sunday morning at the memorial services In Loving Memory of Evelyn Connant†, 1 year; In Loving Memory of Mother, Euterpe Papatheodorou†, 5 years; In Memory of Myrofora Polyviou†, 8 years; Alexios Haliasos†, 3 years; George Constantine†, 20 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 Connant family, in loving memory of Evelyn Connant† and by Avi Kiriakatis and family, in loving memory of Euterpe (mother), Christos (father) and Phillip (brother) Papatheodorou†.

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.



St. Dionysios of Aegina – Dec. 17

Saint Dionysios of Zakynthos, the Bishop of Aegina was born in 1547 on the island of Zakynthos. Though born into a noble family, he was determined to flee the world and set his mind upon heavenly things. He entered the monastery of Strophada, and after the prescribed time, he was clothed in the angelic schema by the abbot. Though young in years, he surpassed many of his elders in virtue, and was found worthy of ordination as a priest.

Although he protested his unworthiness, St. Dionysios was consecrated Bishop of Aegina. In that office he never ceased to teach and admonish his flock. He feared the praise of men, lest he should fall into the sin of vainglory, so he resigned his See and returned to Zakynthos.

In 1579 the diocese of Zakynthos was widowed (when a bishop dies, his diocese is described as “widowed”), and Dionysios agreed to care for it until a new bishop could be elected. After serving, he went to the Monastery of the Most Holy Theotokos Anaphonitria, twenty miles from the main village.

One night, a stranger murdered the saint’s brother Constantine, an illustrious nobleman. Fearing his victim’s relatives, the stranger, by chance or by God’s will, sought refuge in the monastery where Saint Dionysios was the abbot. When the saint asked the fugitive why he was so frightened, he confessed his sin and revealed the name of the man he had murdered, asking to be protected from the family’s vengeance. St. Dionysios wept for his only brother, as was natural. Then he comforted the murderer and hid him, showing him great compassion and love. Soon the saint’s relatives came to the monastery with a group of armed men and told him what had happened. He pretended to know nothing about it. After weeping with them and trying to console them, he sent them off in the wrong direction. Then he told the murderer that he was the brother of the man who was killed. He admonished him as a father and brought him to repentance. After forgiving him, St. Dionysios brought him down to the shore and helped him to escape to another place in order to save his life. Because of the saint’s Christ-like virtue, he was granted the gift of working miracles.

Having passed his life in holiness, St. Dionysios reached a great age, then departed to the Lord on Dec. 17, 1624. Not only are the saint’s relics incorrupt, but he is also one of Greece’s “walking saints” (St. Gerasimos and St. Spyridon). He is said to leave his reliquary and walk about performing miracles for those who seek his aid. In fact, the soles of his slippers wear out and must be replaced with a new pair from time to time. The old slippers are cut up, and the pieces are distributed to pilgrims. Through the prayers of Saint Dionysios, may Christ our God have mercy upon us and save us.

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.

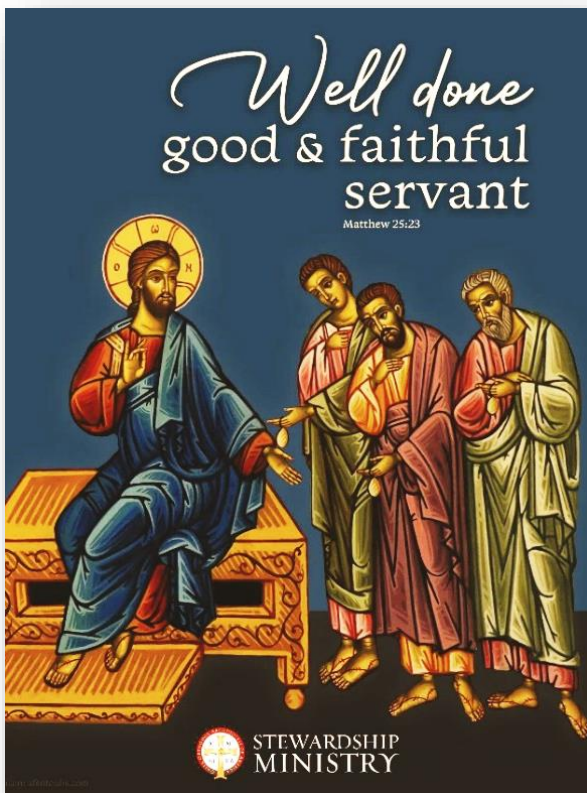
Metropolis of New Jersey Facebook Page

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/

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!

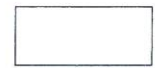
The 2024 Christian Stewardship Cards have been mailed to all Stewards of Holy Trinity. If you did not receive it, please pick up a card from the church or call the church office to receive it by mail.

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@htgocnj.org (see enclosed Stock/Security Donation Form)

Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Spouse's Name _____

Email Address _____

Names of Dependents _____

Telephone Number (_____) _____

Address _____

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

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Number (_____) _____

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



Laura, Marylee, 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, Ket, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Ket, 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 with any questions.

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 or stop by the GOYA table.

Third Annual Philoptochos Bread Sale – Pick Up December 17

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

Greek School Tiropita, Spanakopita and Baklava Sale – Pick Up December 17 or 19

Pick up your order on Sunday, December 17, after church at the kitchen window or on Tuesday, December 19, after the Greek school program.

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>

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.

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

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 ✠