

# THE NATIVITY IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST



## CHRISTMAS 2024

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

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizio, Presiding Priest



**THE MORNING OF CHRISTMAS EVE  
VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT**

**THE PARAMONI OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST  
OUR RIGHTEOUS MOTHER ST. EVGENIA AND THOSE WITH HER.**

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!  
Χριστὸς γεννᾶται· Δοξάσατε!**

**CHRISTMAS EVE HYMNS FOR THE OF NATIVITY**

**C**ome, let us rejoice in the Lord as we declare this present mystery. The middle wall of partition is broken asunder; the flaming sword is turned back, the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life, and I partake of the Paradise of Delight, whence I was cast out before through disobedience. For the Identical Likeness of the Father, the Express Image of His eternity, taketh the form of a servant, and without undergoing change He cometh forth from a Mother that knew not wedlock. For that which He was, He hath remained, even true God; and that which He was not, He hath taken upon Himself, becoming man out of love for mankind. Unto Him let us cry: O God, Who art born of a Virgin, have mercy on us.

**W**hen the Lord Jesus was born of the holy Virgin, all things were enlightened. Yet while the shepherds were abiding in the field, while the Magi did worship, while the Angels sang praises, Herod was troubled. For God hath appeared in the flesh, the Saviour of our souls.

**T**hy Kingdom, O Christ God, is the Kingdom of all ages, and Thy sovereignty is in every generation and generation. Incarnate of the Holy Spirit and become man of the Ever-virgin Mary, Thou hast shined light upon us by Thy coming, O Christ God. O Light of Light, Effulgence of the Father, Thou hast made all creation radiant. Every breath praises Thee, the Express Image of the Father's glory. O Thou Who art, and hast ever been, and hast shone forth from a Virgin, O God, have mercy on us.

**W**hat shall we offer Thee, O Christ? for Thou hast appeared on earth as man for our sakes. Of all the creatures made by Thee, each offered Thee thanksgiving. The Angels offer Thee the hymn; the Heavens, the star; the Magi, their gifts; the shepherds, their wonder; the earth, her cave; the wilderness, the manger; and we offer Thee a Virgin Mother. O God, Who was before the ages, have mercy on us.

Old Testament Readings: Book of Genesis 1:1-13  
Prophecy of Isaiah 9:6-7  
Prophecy of Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4; 8-10

Christmas Eve:

[Epistle Reading: Hebrews 1:1-12](#)

[Ελληνικά](#)

[Gospel Reading: St. Luke 2: 1-20](#)

[Ελληνικά](#)

## **CHRISTMAS EVE Altar Donations**

**Altar Candles:** In Loving Memory of our beloved Mom & Yiayia Mary Vasilow†, from Chrissy, Tony, Louis, Angel, Kate, George, Mary, John, George, Chris, Chris, and Sophia;  
**Large Candles:** In Loving Memory of our beloved parents Spiro and Pauline Retsinas†;  
**Vigil Light:** In Memory of Ernest Ladas†; **Kandili:** For the health of Bill Tamasco

## **2024 AGAPE FUND - Christmas Collection**

### **Holy Trinity Outreach and Pastoral Ministries**

Being mindful of the spirit of Christmas and the need to proclaim the Gospel to all nations, tonight's AGAPE FUND will be taken on behalf of the Holy Trinity Outreach and Pastoral Ministries. Your offering is greatly appreciated and will benefit those who labor in the Vineyard of Holy Trinity and to those who enhance the liturgical experience of the church.

***For while gentle silence embraced everything and night at its own speed was half over; Your All-powerful Word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne, into the midst of a doomed land. – Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15***

When the time came for Your Advent on earth, the first census of the Roman world was conducted. Then it was that You began to record the names of those who would believe in Your birth. Such a decree was published by Caesar because the timelessness of Your eternal kingdom was revealed anew. And now, we in our turn, above and beyond a monetary tax, bring to You the wealth of Orthodox theology, O God and Savior of our souls.



**CHRISTMAS DAY - DECEMBER 25**  
**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND GOD**  
**AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

On December 25, we commemorate the Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. On this day we also commemorate the Adoration of the Magi.

On this day we also commemorate the Shepherds who saw the Lord.

To Him be glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

### **Apolytikion of the Nativity**

“Your birth O Christ our God did shine upon the world. And through the light of wisdom illumined the universe. And to those who held the stars in worship did through a star learn to worship You the Sun of Righteousness and came to know You the Light from on high. Glory to You, O Lord!”

### **Entrance Hymn**

“Before the Morning Star, from the womb, I have begotten You. The Lord has sworn and will not repent. You are a priest forever after the order of Melchisedek. Save us, O Son of God, who was born of the Virgin we sing to You, Alleluia.”

*Εκ γαστρὸς πρὸ Ἑωσφόρου ἐγέννησά σε· ὤμοσε Κύριος καὶ οὐ μεταμεληθήσεται. Σὺ εἶ Ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς, Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθεὶς, ψάλλοντάς σοι· Ἀλληλούϊα.*



### **Christmas Morning Readings**

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#"><u>St. Matthew 1:18-25</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ελληνικά</u></a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#"><u>Galatians 4:4-7</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ελληνικά</u></a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#"><u>St. Matthew 2:1-12</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ελληνικά</u></a>

### ***Liturgical Schedule for Christmas and Epiphany***

Sunday, December 29, Sunday after the Nativity, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Wednesday, Jan. 1, Naming of the Lord/St. Basil the Great, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Friday, Jan. 3, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Royal Hours of Epiphany, 9:30 AM

Sunday, Jan. 5, Paramoni of Theophany, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM and Blessing of the Waters

Monday, Jan. 6, Holy Theophany, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM with Greater Blessing of the Waters

Tuesday, Jan. 7, Synaxis of St. John the Baptist; Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

In observance of Christmas Day, the office will be closed on December 25.

**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.

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST - December 25**

When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son (Galatians 4:4) to save the human race. And when nine months were fulfilled from the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel had appeared to the Most-holy Virgin in Nazareth, saying, “*Rejoice, thou that art highly favored ... behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son*” (Luke 1:28, 31), at that time there went forth a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the people of the Roman Empire should be taxed. In accordance with this decree, everyone had to go to his own town and be registered. That is why the righteous Joseph came with the Most-holy Virgin to Bethlehem, the city of David, for they were both of the royal lineage of David. Since many people descended on this small town for the census, Joseph and Mary were unable to find lodging in any house, and they sought shelter in a cave which shepherds used as a sheepfold.

In this cave, on the night between Saturday and Sunday, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, the Most-holy Virgin gave birth to the Saviour of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. Giving birth to Him without pain just as He was conceived without sin by the Holy Spirit and not by man, she herself wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, worshiped Him as God, and laid Him in a manger. Then the righteous Joseph drew near and worshiped Him as the Divine Fruit of the Virgin's womb. Then the shepherds came in from the fields, directed by an angel of God, and worshiped Him as the Messiah and Saviour. The shepherds heard a multitude of God's angels singing: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14). At that time three wise men arrived from the east, led by a wondrous star, bearing their gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. They worshipped Him as the King of kings and offered Him their gifts (Matthew 2). Thus entered the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when Herod, a foreigner, was reigning. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind, which could not be performed by His servants.

*To Him be eternal glory and praise! Amen.*

# Prayer Request

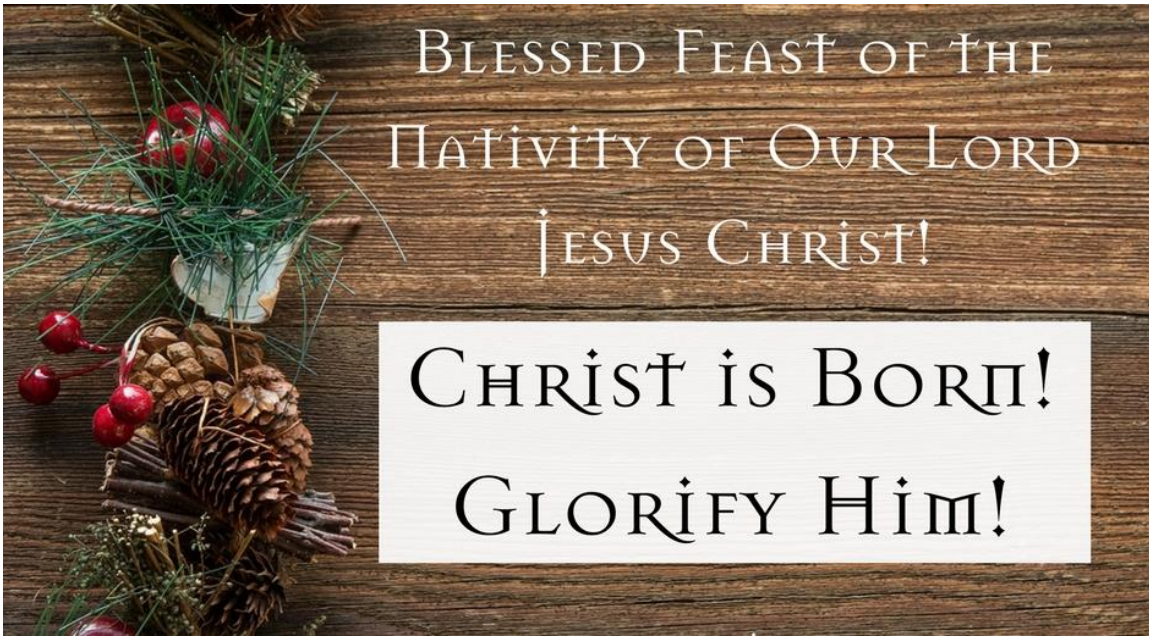


Danny, Bill, Lou, Foula, Eupraxia, Chris, Arlene, John, Ted, William, Theodora, Michael, Gioula, Nicholas, Hellen, Luba, Kevin, Janice, Elaine, Patty, Cynthia, Nicholas, Blace, Christos, Thomas, Rich, Robert, Phyllis, Lea, Mary, Mason, George, Chloe, Yolanda, Luke, George, Maria, Alexander, Athena, Demetra, 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

## **A Christmas Message from His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos**

“Heaven and Earth have been united today, now that Christ has been born. Today God has appeared on Earth, and Man has ascended to the Heavens.” Behold, the Incarnate Son and the Logos of God the Father, our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world is in our midst. God has descended to Earth so that He may raise Man to the heights of Heaven. The Lord has come to heal Man of his great wound. The Lord has come to save Man from sin, death, and the devil. The Lord has come to bring peace of Heaven to a troubled and distressed world.”

“With true repentance, with abundant humility, and with pure hearts, let us journey like the Wisemen of old, to Bethlehem so that we may greet the Newborn Jesus. Let us approach the great Mystery of the Incarnation of our Lord by participating in the Holy Sacraments of the Church, and in the joy of God. And let us pray with all our hearts that our Lord, who was born in a cave, may bring an end to demonic wars and grant peace to the hearts of all Mankind. Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2025!” — Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey



# CHRISTMASTIME IS HERE!



## 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 office. Thank you for your generosity.



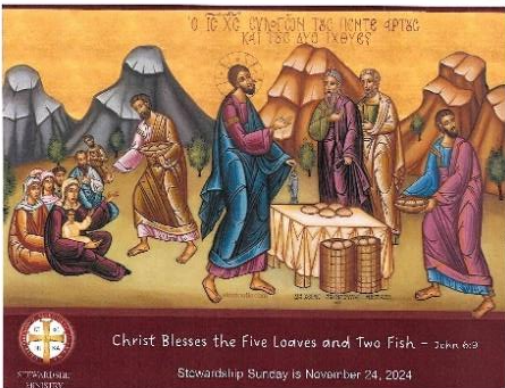
*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men!"*

*- Luke 2:8-10*



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY, BLESSED, AND  
HEALTHY 2025!  
CONSIDER OFFERING A GIFT  
TO HOLY TRINITY THIS  
CHRISTMAS...**

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. His Nativity and the joys associated with God's promise to bring a Saviour into the world create an overwhelming spirit of generosity within us. Let's direct that generosity towards God through our spiritual home. Spiritual gifts benefit Holy Trinity. A gift of love offered to the church is a tool teaching others the importance of Church.



Christ Blesses the Five Loaves and Two Fish - John 6:9

Stewardship Sunday is November 24, 2024

**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.

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**  
**Χριστὸς γεννᾶται· Δοξάσατε!**

Christmastime at Holy Trinity requires many helping hands working in unison to present the faithful with a celebration that is joyful and spiritually uplifting. It is fitting for us to take a moment to thank those who minister and serve with love and devotion. With gratitude, we thank:

- Our liturgist and parish priest, our Proistamenos Father Peter Delvizis, and Father John Alexandrou.

-The Parish Council: Penny Mavridis Sales, Parish Council President, and the entire Board.

-The Psaltes & Reader: Pascalis Kovalakis, Anthony Pantagis, and Lia Lewis. -The Choir Dir. and Organist: Kathryn Athanasoulas and Phyllis Verenes, and all members of the choir.

-The Acolytes: all the faithful young altar boys who serve with dignity.

-The Decorating Team: Avi Kiriakatis, Elise Savnik, Debbie Koutsaftes, Marina LoAlbo, Despina O'Neill, Ellen Manos Athenson, and all who donated poinsettias and wreaths.

-The Office Staff: Diana Waltsak, Kathy Genakos; and the Office Volunteers.

-Religious Education: Pete Markos, Director; Maria Tarhanidis, Assistant Director; and the faithful teachers who share their love and knowledge of the faith with the students; Christmas Program: Pete Markos and Despina Apostolou.

-Angel and Mitten Trees: Lexi Kiriakatis and Elise Savnik, Coordinators, and the committee for their help; and the generous and loving parishioners of Holy Trinity who participate.

-The Ladies Philoptochos: Maria Kanaras, President, and the entire Board and members.

-The Greek School: Stavroula A. Mergoupis, Director, and all the faithful teachers.

-Elise Savnik, for organizing pastry packaging for the homebound throughout the year.

-To all the bakers who prepare the offering bread (prosphoro) for the Eucharist, and artoklasia. And all who donate cookies and pastries throughout the year.

-Building and Maintenance: Special thanks to George Colonias, Notis Kotsolios (of blessed memory), Beatriz and David Ramirez.

-To the Faithful and beloved Stewards of our church: your commitment and dedication help make Holy Trinity a family of believers. Your good works, generosity, and acts of love are greatly appreciated.

-Holy Trinity thanks all the parishioners for their faithful efforts to make Christmas special and a sacred time for sharing and praising our Lord.

**Trinity Circle** - Our Vasilopita Lunch/Meeting is Tuesday, January 7, 11 AM – 2 PM. Fr. Peter will bless our Vasilopita and give everyone a piece. We thank Despina O’Neill for donating the luncheon in memory of her son Derek and her husband Jim.

### **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, January 8, 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](mailto:vcomprelli@gmail.com) or 612-801-8608 to sign up or with any questions.



### **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**

**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](mailto:vcomprelli@gmail.com) or 612-801-8608) to sign up or to ask any questions.

**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](mailto:pmarkos307@gmail.com)



**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

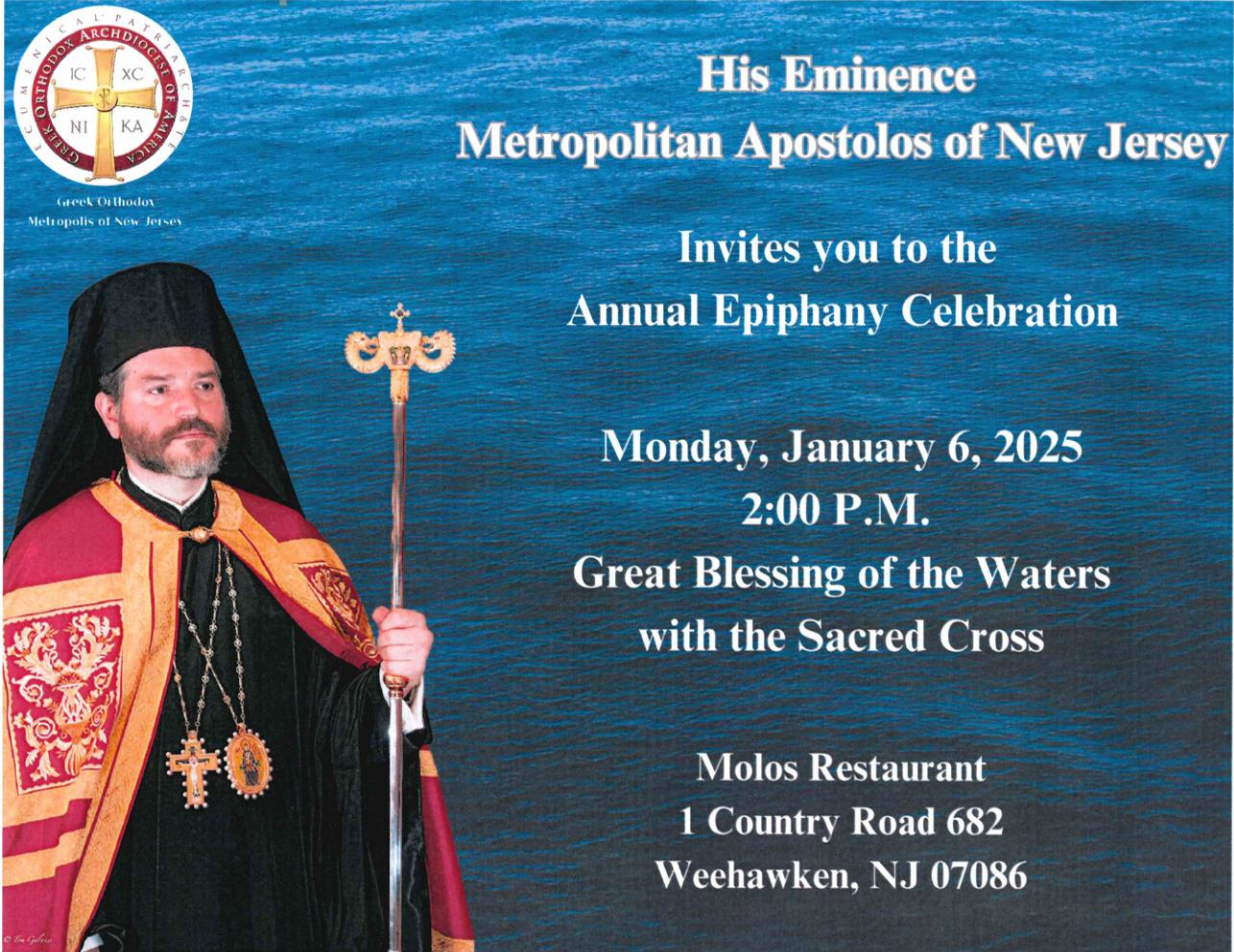


Byzan "teens" for boys and girls  
Ages 13-17

Email the Choir Director  
[kathanasoulas@hotmail.com](mailto:kathanasoulas@hotmail.com)

# Upcoming Parish Events

## SAVE THE DATE!



**His Eminence  
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey**

Invites you to the  
**Annual Epiphany Celebration**

**Monday, January 6, 2025  
2:00 P.M.**

**Great Blessing of the Waters  
with the Sacred Cross**

**Molos Restaurant  
1 Country Road 682  
Weehawken, NJ 07086**

## 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](mailto: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*



**GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS**

**✠ AMEN ✠**