

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

CHRISTMAS EVE
HYMNS FOR THE OF NATIVITY

Apolytikion of Christmas Eve

“As she carried in her womb what she conceived without seed, Mary went to Bethlehem with elder Joseph to enroll, for they were of the house and the lineage of David. The time arrived for her to give birth to her Child; but then there was no place in the inn for them. Therefore, the manger served as a luxurious royal palace for the Queen. And Christ the Lord is born, to raise the image which was formerly fallen.”

Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

— Matthew 1:20-21

Christmas Eve:

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

[Ελληνικά](#)

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

[Ελληνικά](#)

CHRISTMAS EVE Altar Donations

Altar candles: In memory of our beloved Mom & Yiayia Mary Vasilow†, from Chrissy, Tony, Louis, Angel, Kate, George, Mary, John, Chris, and Sophia

AGAPE FUND Christmas Collection

Holy Trinity Outreach and Pastoral Ministries for

Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological School

The meaning of Christmas is about the welcoming of Christ into the world and of God's presence in human history. The Greek Orthodox Theological School in Brookline, MA prepares men and women to serve the Church in America and to proclaim the Orthodox Faith to all people. Tonight's Outreach and Pastoral Fund is taken to help Hellenic College and Holy Cross. Your gift will be used to strengthen our School and those whose intention

is to serve the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Please make checks payable to: Holy Trinity GOC with "Holy Cross" in the memo.

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!



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

- Luke 2:8-10

Christmas Morning Readings

Morning Gospel:	<u>St. Matthew 1:18-25</u>	<u>Ελληνικά</u>
Epistle Reading:	<u>Galatians 4:4-7</u>	<u>Ελληνικά</u>
Gospel Reading:	<u>St. Matthew 2:1-20</u>	<u>Ελληνικά</u>

CHRISTMAS DAY Altar Donations

Altar Candles: In memory of Louis and Demi Chergotis

Vigil Light in memory of Andrew Andrews

Large Candles in memory of Kimon Zades



*Sacraments
and Rites*



Liturgical Schedule

Saturday, December 24, **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**, Orthros, 5:30 PM;
Divine Liturgy, 6:30 PM

Sunday, December 25, **The Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**,
Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, January 1, **The Naming of the Lord on the Eighth Day and St. Basil the
Great**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Thursday, January 5, **Eve of Theophany**; Royal Hours of Theophany, 8:30 AM;
Divine Liturgy & Lesser Blessing of the Waters, 10:00 AM

Friday, January 6, **Holy Theophany**; Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy & Greater
Blessing of Waters, 9:30 AM

Saturday, January 7, **Synaxis of John the Baptist**; Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy,
9:30 AM

Sunday, January 8, **Sunday after Theophany**; Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30
AM

On the Incarnation

God is the God of truth. Every word that God spoke through the prophets has come true. When the Logos of God was incarnate in our Lord Jesus Christ, then all the prophecies that referred to Him were revealed to people of faith. Taking flesh on earth, the Lord reconciled heaven and earth, drawing heaven down to earth and raising earth to heaven, and placing all things under Him.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Christ is born; glorify Him! Christ comes from heaven; go out to meet Him. Christ descends to earth; let us be raised on high! Let all the world sing to the Lord; let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad, for His sake who was first in heaven and then on earth. Christ is here in the flesh; let us exult with fear and joy – with fear, because of our sins; with joy, because of the hope that He brings us.



Once more darkness is dispersed, once more the light is created. Let the people that sat in darkness of ignorance now look upon the Light of knowledge. The things of old have passed away; behold, all things are made new. He who has no mother in heaven is now born without father on earth. The laws of nature are overthrown, for the upper world must be filled with citizens. He who is without flesh becomes incarnate; the Logos and Word puts on a body; the Invisible is now seen; He whom no hand can touch is handled; the timeless has a beginning; the Son of God becomes Son of Man – Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Light from Light, the Word of the Father comes to His own image, man. For the sake of my flesh, He takes flesh; for the sake of my soul, He is united to a rational soul, purifying like by like. In every way, he becomes man, except for sin. O strange conjunction! The Self-existent comes into being; the Uncreated is created! He shares in the poverty of my flesh that I may share in the riches of His Godhead.

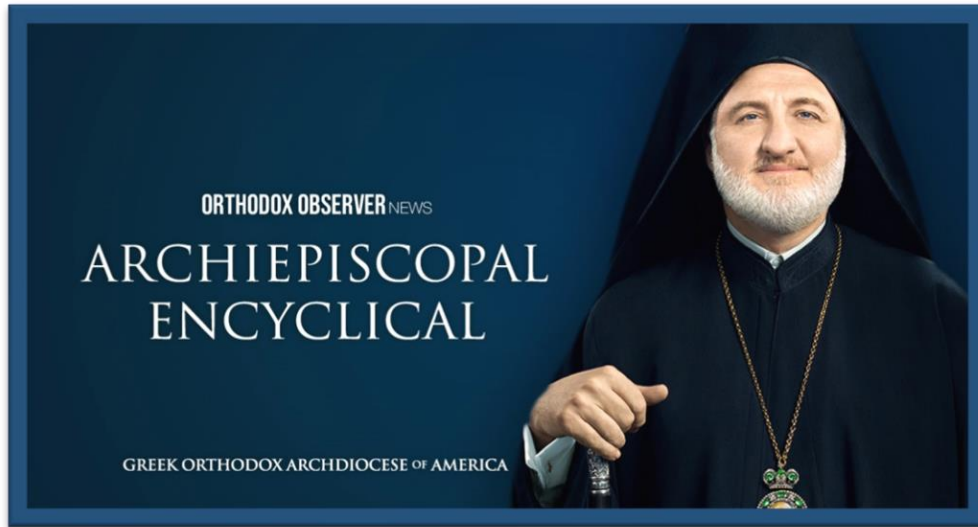
- St. Gregory Theologian

Why did the Son of God reveal Himself in this way, as a man? Because as a man Christ reconciled us with the Triune God, with the angels of God, with each other, and with the natural world around 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 office. Thank you for your generosity. A special request is asked for the floral decoration of both the Nativity and Epiphany icons.

Archiepiscopal Encyclical on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord



Christmas, December 25, 2022

“Behold, the virgin will conceive in the womb and bear a son, and they will call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted means ‘God is with us.’”

-Matin’s Gospel Reading for Christmas

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Truly, God is with us! This is the great truth of Christmas for the entire human family — namely, that God has entered our history, so as to share it with us and redeem it in order to reveal His purposes in us. The Nativity in the flesh of our Savior in Bethlehem is a universally recognized event among all the world’s cultures, even if such recognition sometimes misses the point. The holy days of celebrating the Birth of the Savior have become overrun with consumerist agendas, and many feel that the sanctity of the Feast has been diminished. But the holiness of the Nativity can never wane, because the Sun of Righteousness, Who has arisen upon the world, will never set again. Therefore, if a spirit of generosity is animated in this season even among unbelievers, we must give thanks. For the infusion of faith that we bring to the Feast of Christmas is a necessary tonic to the wave of gift-giving that oftentimes forgets the greatest Gift of all, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Indeed, my beloved Christians, it is from our faith in the One Who was Born in a Cave and Laid in a Manger for our salvation that the full meaning of Christmas is manifest. The Nativity in the little town of Bethlehem is perhaps the most generous act that has ever happened in the history of the world. God humbled himself, as Saint

Paul says in Philippians: “He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, born in the likeness of humankind. Being found in human configuration, He humbled Himself, became obedient unto death, even death by the cross” (Phil. 2:7-8).

God emptied Himself so that we might be filled, made complete and whole. God offers Himself to the exhaustive experience of humankind (save sin), even unto death, so that we might have a path to life and, indeed, to life eternal. The gift of our Lord to creation reveals a bounty that humankind is still trying to comprehend. In fact, it is the ministry of the Church to demonstrate this tremendous love of God for all His creation in everything we say and do.

Therefore, my beloved Christians, let us cry out: “Χριστὸς Γεννᾶται! Δοξάσατε! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!” with expectant hearts and open minds. Let us renew our generosity toward others in this season of giving, and accept the best that others can offer, inspired by their experience of the New-Born Babe of Bethlehem. Χριστὸς Γεννᾶται! Δοξάσατε

With paternal love in the Newborn King,

† *ELPIDOPHOROS*

Archbishop of America



Robert, Augusta, Donald, Connie, Terry, AJ Baker, Janeen, Cathy, James, Christine, James, Molly, Niko, Michael, Angela, Lauren, John, Effie, Stella, Guerline, Phyllis, Denise, Dianna, Cloy, Mirka, Stamatia, Theresa, James, Matthew, Antoinette, William, Angela, Tanner, Stefanos, Helen, Katherine, Ashley, Angela, Nick, Lindsey, Alexandria, Evdokia, Chris, Zach, Notis, Erica, Christina, Fran, Joan, Hellen, Joseph, Angela, Cleopatra, James, Rosa, George, Kathy, Stephanie, Theresa, Dorothy, Shannon, Jeff, Jeffrey, Rowena, Craig, Paul, John, Marien, John, Vasilia, Hellen, Natalia, Angela, Katherine, Patricia, Lily, Thomas, Brennan, Elvira, Bill, Alicia, Diane, Dianna, Michael, Nicholas, Pete, Ann, Amanda, Stephanie, Emma, Dorka, Stavroula, Maroulla



CHRISTMASTIME IS HERE!



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY, BLESSED, AND
HEALTHY 2023!
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.



Remember to send in your 2023 Stewardship Card!

With joy and in praise of God, we offer gifts and spiritual sacrifices to Him who bestows upon us life, love and His abundant mercy. With careful consideration of the needs of our parish, we bring to church our 2023 Stewardship commitment cards and offer them to the Lord as an expression of our attention, affection, and care for Holy Trinity. Please bring in or mail your commitment card to church by the end of the year.



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

"Giving Thanks: Eucharistic Stewardship"

2023 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

The operating expenses of our Church for the year 2023 are estimated to be \$885,000 (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 2023 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 _____

Cell Number (_____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*Please bring your Commitment Card to
Stewardship Sunday Liturgy December 4, 2022*

To vote or seek elective office in the administration of the parish in 2023, your signed Stewardship Commitment Card must be received by March 1, 2023.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

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, let us thank:

- Our liturgist and parish priest, our Proistamenos Father Peter Delvizi, and Father John Alexandrou who helps assist on Sundays and Special Feast Days.

-The Parish Council: Felicia Karsos, Parish Council President, and the entire Board.

-The Psalter & Reader: Pascalis Kovalakis, Anthony Pantagis, and Lia Lewis.

-The Choir Director and Organist: Kathryn Athanasoulas and Phyllis Verenes, and all members of the choir.

-The Acolytes: Christopher Sikellis, head acolyte, and the faithful young acolytes who serve at the altar.

-The Decorating Committee: Elise Savnik, Avi Kiriakatis, Marina LoAlbo, Despina O'Neill, & Ellen Manos. Special thanks to George Colonias, Notis Kotsolios, Beatriz and David Ramirez.

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

-Religious Education: Catherine Kelly, Director; Iris Love, Assistant Director; and the faithful teachers who share their love and knowledge of the faith with the students; Christmas Program: Catherine Kelly & Iris Love.

-CASA for Christmas: 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.

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

-To the Faithful and beloved Stewards of our Holy Church: your commitment and zeal add to your good works, generosity and acts of love.

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

**Η κατά σάρκα γέννησις του Κυρίου Ιησού Χριστού
25 Δεκεμβρίου**

**Θεὸς τὸ τεχθὲν, ἡ δὲ Μήτηρ Παρθένος.
Τὶ μείζον ἄλλο καινὸν εἶδεν ἢ κτίσις;
Παρθενικὴ Μαρίη Θεὸν εἰκάδι γείνατο πέμπτη.**

Στις 25 Δεκεμβρίου η αγία Εκκλησία μας γιορτάζει το μεγάλο και ανερμήνευτο γεγονός της κατά σάρκα γεννήσεως του Υιού και Λόγου του Θεού από την Υπεραγία Θεοτόκο.

Μετά τον Ευαγγελισμό της Παρθένου Μαρίας από τον αρχάγγελο Γαβριήλ και ενώ πλησίαζε ο καιρός να τελειώσουν οι εννιά μήνες από την υπερφυσική σύλληψη του Χριστού στην παρθενική της μήτρα, ο Καίσαρ Αύγουστος διέταξε απογραφή του πληθυσμού του ρωμαϊκού κράτους. Τότε ο Ιωσήφ μαζί με τη Θεοτόκο, ξεκίνησαν για τη Βηθλεέμ, για να απογραφούν εκεί. Έτσι ξεκίνησαν από την Ναζαρέτ και ύστερα από κοπιαστικό ταξίδι έφτασαν στην Βηθλεέμ, όπου επειδή είχε συγκεντρωθεί πλήθος κόσμου δεν κατάφεραν να βρουν κατάλυμα, παρά μόνο ένα φτωχικό σπήλαιο. Εκεί η Θεοτόκος γέννησε τον Κύριο Ιησού Χριστό και σπαργάνωσε σαν βρέφος τον Κτίστη των απάντων. Έπειτα Τον έβαλε επάνω στη φάτνη των αλόγων ζώων, διότι «έμελλε να έλευθέρωση ήμās από την αλογία», όπως χαρακτηριστικά γράφει ο Άγιος Νικόδημος ο Αγιορείτης. Από τότε, όλοι οι πιστοί χριστιανοί με χαρά ψάλλουν τον ύμνο των αγγέλων εκείνης της νύκτας: «Δόξα εν ύψιστοις Θεῶ και ἐπὶ γῆς ειρήνη, εν ανθρώποις ευδοκία» (βλ. Ευαγγέλιο Λουκά, Β' 1-20). Δόξα δηλαδή, ας είναι στο θεό, που βρίσκεται στα ύψιστα μέρη του ουρανού και στη γη ολόκληρη, που είναι ταραγμένη από την αμαρτία ας βασιλεύσει η θεία ειρήνη, διότι ο Θεός έδειξε την αγάπη Του στους ανθρώπους με την ενανθρώπιση του Υιού Του.

Να σημειώσουμε εδώ, ότι η γιορτή των Χριστουγέννων καθιερώθηκε για πρώτη φορά την 25η Δεκεμβρίου του 397 μ.Χ. επί πατριαρχείας Αγ. Ιωάννου του Χρυσοστόμου. Κατ' άλλους ο πατριάρχης Ιεροσολύμων Ιουβενάλιος, χώρισε τις δύο γιορτές των Φώτων και των Χριστουγέννων, οι οποίες παλιότερα γίνονταν την ίδια μέρα, δηλαδή την 6η Ιανουαρίου.

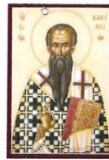
Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Church

15th Annual Family Dance

January 28, 2023
6-10pm
Galloping Hill Caterers
Adults: \$70 / Kids: \$30

Save
the Date

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity



VASILOPITA LUNCHEON
&
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



January 22, 2023

Immediately following Divine Liturgy, Bouras Center
Proceeds to benefit the Saint Basil Academy

RESERVED SEATING

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE BY JANUARY 11, 2023

ADULTS- \$20

CHILDREN 16 & under- \$10



Includes: Buffet Dinner, Salad, Mezethes, Wine & Dessert

Please mail, scan QR code or stop @ Philoptochos table to sign up

RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ # Adults _____ # Children _____

Amt Enclosed: _____ Check # _____ Cash _____

Checks Payable to: The Ladies Philoptochos Society of HTGOC

Send to: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 250 Gallows Hill Rd, Westfield, NJ 07091

When mailing, mark envelope "Attn: Vasilopita"

You may pay by Zelle, Yiana Leichtling at treasurer@htphiloptochos.com

(please include RSVP information with Zelle payment)

Debra Vlahakis & Kathy Maglaras, Co-chairs