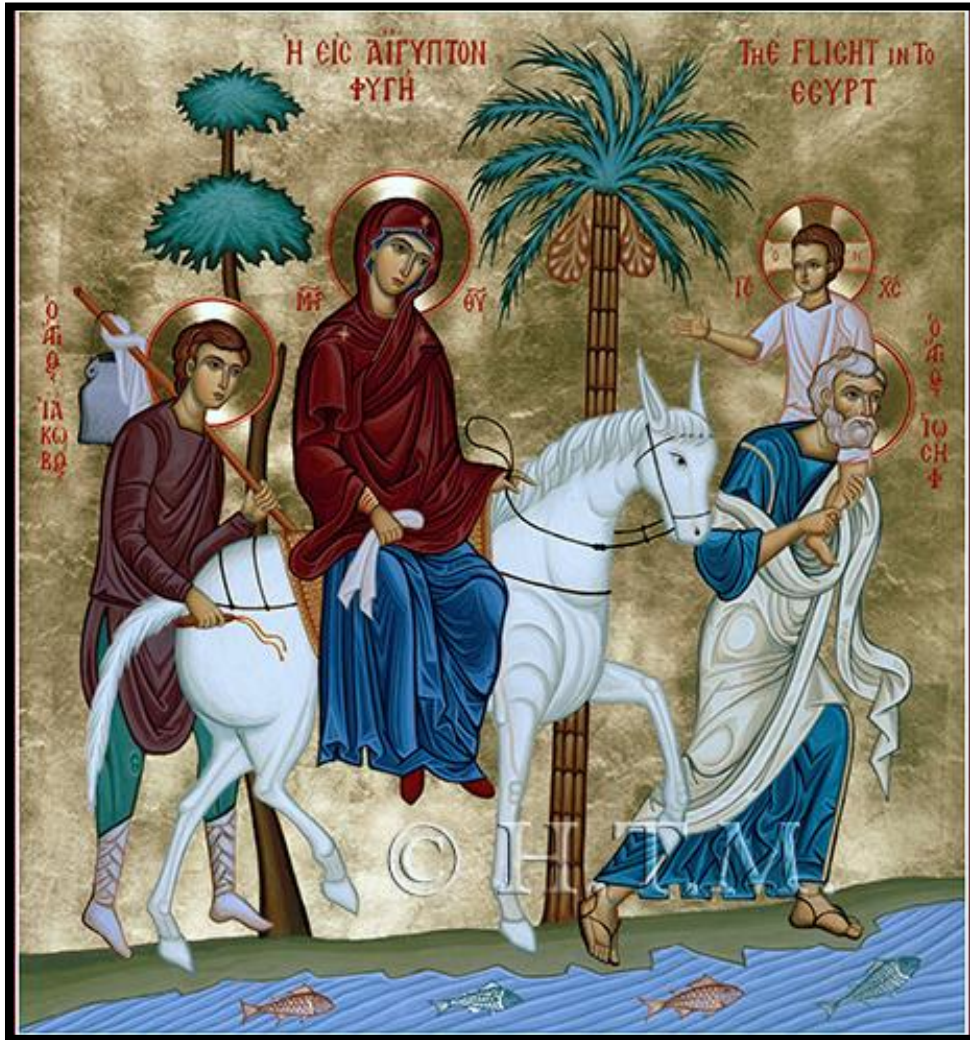


# SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY



THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT – MATTHEW 2:14

December 28, 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 Delvzizis, Parish Priest

Commemoration of St. Joseph the Betrothed, St. David the prophet, and St. Iakovos (James) the Brother of our Lord; Our Righteous Father St. Simon the Myrrhbearer, Founder of Simonopetra, Monastery of Mount Athos; The Holy Martyr St. Glycerios

### **Fourth Tone**

**Ἦχος Δ'**

<b>Morning Gospel:</b>	<a href="#">St. John 20:1-10</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
<b>Epistle Reading:</b>	<a href="#">Galatians 1:11-19</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
<b>Gospel Reading:</b>	<a href="#">St. Matthew 2:13-23</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**Apolytikion:** “The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.”

**Apolytikion of the Nativity:** “Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.”

**Apolytikion for the Ancestors of God:** “Annunciate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And you were warned by an Angel. Entreat Christ God to 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**

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

Sunday, January 4, **Sunday before Theophany**, Orthros, 8:15 AM;  
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Monday, January 5, **Paramoni of Theophany**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Royal Hours, 9:00 AM;  
Vespers Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM And Lesser Blessing of the Waters

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

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

## Altar Donations

**Vigil Light:** In loving memory of Constance Efthemios†

## Sacraments and Rites

**Memorials:** Your prayers are requested on Sunday at the memorial services for Constance Efthemios†, 6 months; and Myrofora Polyviou†, 10 years. Eternal be their memories.

## Fellowship Hour

Please join us in the Bouras Center after church on Sunday for the Fellowship Hour sponsored by Michael Drimones, in loving memory of Constance Efthemios†.

In observance of New Year's Day the office will be closed on Thursday, January 1.  
No Religious Education classes today. Classes resume January 4.

## Holy Trinity welcomes His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos

Our Christmas celebration is complete having His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos preside at Sunday's Divine Liturgy. We welcome our spiritual father and ask that he prays for the parishioners of Holy Trinity.



Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of New Jersey

## Archpastoral Visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

Hierarchical Orthros and Divine  
Liturgy.  
Sunday, December 28, 2025  
9:00 AM

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



# Prayer Request



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, Vasilios, Danny, Bill, Lou, Foula, Eupraxia



## Religious Education

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)

## 2026 Stewardship Drive is Underway

Please return your completed 2026 Stewardship cards by December 31. Holy Trinity is asking each family to contribute \$2,200/year and \$500 for Young Adults. Your pledge goes a long way.



## The Sunday After Christmas

The wise men from the East, having worshipped the Lord in Bethlehem, were directed by the Lord's angel to return to their homes by another way. Herod, that wicked king, planned to slaughter all the children in Bethlehem, but God saw Herod's intention and sent His angel to Joseph. The angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream and commanded him to take the young Child and His mother and flee to Egypt. Joseph did as commanded and took them first to Nazareth (Luke 2:39), where he arranged his household matters, and then, taking his son Iakovos (James) with them, went off to Egypt (Matthew 2:14). Thus, the words of the

prophet were fulfilled: "Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt" (Isaiah 19:1).

In old Cairo today, the cave where the holy family lived can be seen. Likewise, in the village of Matarea near Cairo, the tree under which the Most-holy Theotokos rested with the Lord Jesus, and a miraculous spring of water under this tree, can still be seen.

After having lived for several years in Egypt, the holy family returned to Palestine, again in response to a command of an angel of God. Thus, another prophecy was fulfilled: "Out of Egypt have I called my Son" (Hosea 11:1). Herod was dead and his wicked son Archelaus – a worthy successor of him in evil – sat on his bloodstained throne. Hearing that Archelaus was reigning in Jerusalem, Joseph returned to Galilee, to his town of Nazareth, where he settled in his own home. Herod's second son, Herod the Younger, who was somewhat less evil than his brother Archelaus, then reigned in Galilee.

When the holy family fled before Herod's sword to Egypt, robbers leapt out on the road with the intention of stealing something. The righteous Joseph was leading the donkey, on which were some belongings and on which the Most-holy Theotokos was riding with her Son at her breast. The robbers seized the donkey to lead it away. At that moment, one of the robbers approached the Mother of God to see what she was holding next to her breast. The robber, seeing the Christ-child, was astonished saying, "If God were to take upon Himself the flesh of man, He would not be more beautiful than this Child!" This robber then ordered his companions to take nothing from these travelers. Filled with gratitude toward this generous robber, the Most-holy Virgin said to him: "Know that this Child will repay you with a good reward because you protected Him today."

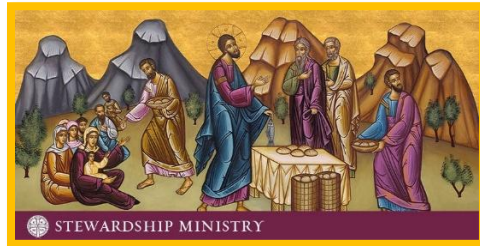
Thirty-three years later, this same thief hung on the cross for his crimes, crucified on the right side of Christ's Cross. His name was Dismas, and the name of the thief on the left side was Gestas. Beholding Christ the Lord innocently crucified, Dismas repented for all the evil of his life. While Gestas reviled the Lord, Dismas defended Him, saying: "This man hath done nothing amiss" (Luke 23:41). Dismas, therefore, was the wise thief to whom our Lord said: "Verily, I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43) Thus, the Lord granted Paradise to him who spared Him in childhood.



## 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

## 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)

## 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 @westfieldgreeksschool 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.

### **Philoptochos Stewardship and Vasilopita Luncheon - January 25**

Reservations are now open. Please join us immediately following Divine Liturgy. Sign up during the Fellowship Hour, by mail or email: [asst-treas@htphiloptochos.com](mailto:asst-treas@htphiloptochos.com) As a reminder, the luncheon is a fundraiser for St. Basil Academy and Archdiocese Youth and Young Adult Programs. Mary Carayannopoulos and Yiana Leichtling, co-chairs.



**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!**

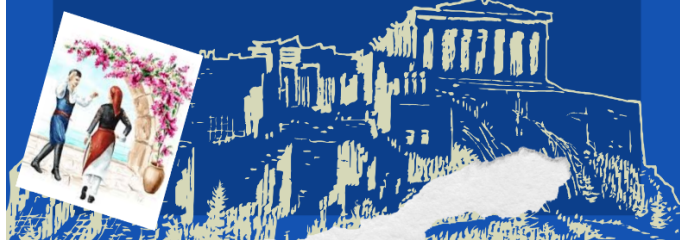
Practices will take place once a month in the  
Bouras Center

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

**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 17, 2026

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AT

## *Holy Trinity Family Dance*

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

JANUARY

SATURDAY | **17** | AT 6 PM  
2026

TICKETS

ADULTS \$100, TEENS 13-18 \$60, KIDS 3-12 \$40

TO PURCHASE VENMO @WESTFIELDGREEKSCHOOL OR BRING A CHECK TO THE GREEK SCHOOL  
TABLE AT COFFEE HOUR (MADE OUT TO HOLY TRINITY GREEK SCHOOL PTO)

INCLUDE YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME AND TICKET QUANTITY.

Westfield Greek School  
@WestfieldGreekSchool

*Thank you for supporting the  
Holy Trinity Greek School*



venmo

# 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

---

### 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



## **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.



**GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS**

**✠ AMEN ✠**