

# Sunday After the Nativity



The Flight into Egypt - Matthew 2:14

December 29, 2024

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 Delvizi, Parish Priest

Commemoration of St. Joseph the Betrothed, St. David the prophet, and St. Iakovos (James) the Brother of our Lord; 14,000 infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod in Bethlehem; Our Righteous Father St. Markellos, Abbot of the Monastery of the Unsleeping Ones; Our Righteous Father St. Thaddeus the Confessor; St. George, Bishop of Nicomedia, Poet of Asmatikons, Kanons, and Troparia

**Second Tone**

Ἦχος Β´

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. Luke 24:12-35</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">Galatians 1:11-19</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Matthew 2:13-23</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**Apolytikion:** “When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by Your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.”

**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*

Wednesday, Jan. 1, Naming of the Lord/St. Basil the Great, Orthros, 8:30 AM;  
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 the  
Greater Blessing of the Waters

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

### **Altar Donations**

**Altar Candles:** In memory of Helen Nicholas†

**Vigil Light:** In memory of Helen Nicholas†

**Large Candles:** In memory of Helen Nicholas†

**Kandili:** In loving memory of Louis† and Demetra† Chergotis

### **Sacraments and Rites**

**Funeral:** On Saturday, December 28, the funeral for Marie Combias† was held. Eternal be her memory.

**In observance of New Year's Day the office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1.**

No Religious Education classes on Sunday, December 29. Classes resume January 5.

### **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. Subscribe to Holy Trinity weekly emails providing news, information, and weekly announcements by request at: [HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org](mailto:HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org)

# 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

## The Sunday After Christmas

The wise men from the East, having worshipped the Lord in Bethlehem, were directed to return to their homes by another way as directed by the Lord's angel. 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.

---

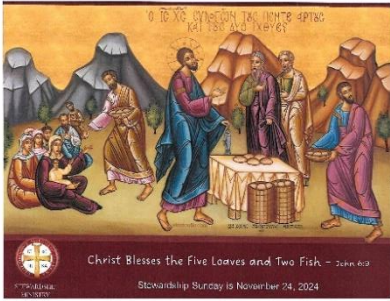
When the holy family fled before Herod's sword to Egypt, robbers leapt out on the road with the intention of stealing something. The righteous Joseph was leading the donkey, on which were some belongings and on which the Most-holy Theotokos was riding with her Son at her breast. The robbers seized the 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.



### **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.



### **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.

### **Joy/Hope**

On Friday, January 3, 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.

### **Trinity Circle**

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

**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)

### **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**

### **2024**

September 25

October 9, 23

November 6, 20

December 18

### **2025**

January 8, 22

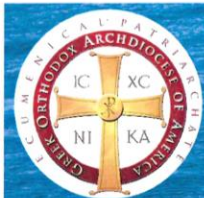
February 12, 26

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



Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of New Jersey



**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**



**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

**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 ✠**