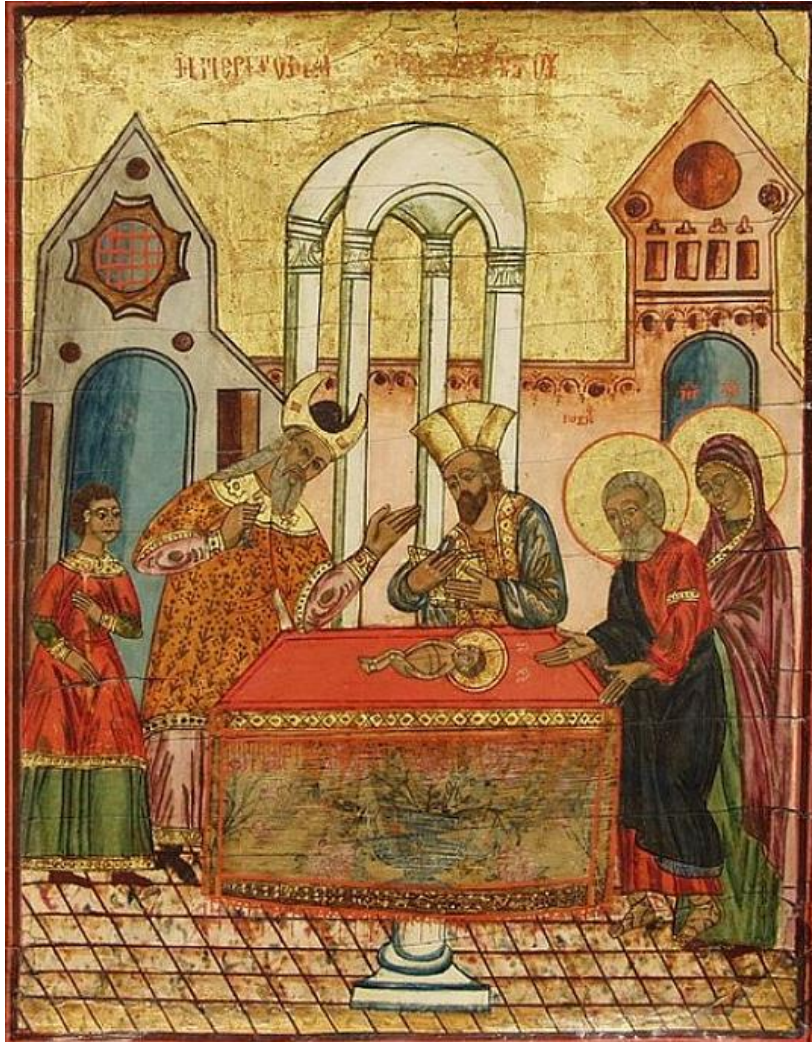


# Sunday before Theophany



Naming of our Lord on the Eighth Day

Sunday, December 31, 2023

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

Live streaming services - 908.233.8533 - [www.holytrinitywestfield.org](http://www.holytrinitywestfield.org)

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis, Parish Priest

On the Thirty-first Day of the month, we commemorate: Apodosis of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; St. Melania the Younger, Nun of Rome; The Martyr and Presbyter St. Zoticus of Rome, Patron of Orphans

*Click links for Scripture Readings*

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. John 20:11-18</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">2 Timothy 4:5-8</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Mark 1:1-8</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

Plagal First Tone Ηχος Πλ. Α΄

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** *“To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.”*

**Apolytikion of the Feast:** *“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 gives \* birth to the Super-essential. \* To the Unapproachable, \* earth is providing the grotto. \* Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. \* Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. \* He was born for our salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.”*

### *Liturgical Schedule*

Monday, January 1, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 9:30 AM

Friday, January 5, **Paramoni of Theophany**, Orthros and Royal Hours of Theophany, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Waters, 10:30 AM

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

Sunday, January 7, **Synaxis of St. John the Baptist**, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Wednesday, January 10, **St. Gregory of Nyssa**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, January 14, **Sunday after Theophany**, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

### **Altar Donations**

**Altar Candles:** For the well-being of Vasiliios Mavridis.

### **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.

In observance of New Year's Day, the church office will be closed on January 1 and January 2.

No Religious Education classes on Sunday, December 31. Classes resume January 7.



### **The Circumcision and Naming of the Lord on the Eighth Day After His Birth - January 1**

The eighth day following His birth, the Divine Child was presented in the Temple and circumcised according to the Law existing in Israel since the time of Abraham. On this occasion, He was given the name Jesus, which the Archangel Gabriel announced to the All-Holy Virgin Mary. The Old Testament circumcision was the prototype of the New Testament baptism. The circumcision of our Lord shows that He received upon Himself the true body of man and not just seemingly, as was later taught of Him by heretics. Our Lord was circumcised because He also wanted to fulfill the entire Law which He Himself gave through the prophets and forefathers. In fulfilling the written Law, He replaced it with Baptism in His Holy Church as was proclaimed by the Apostle Paul: "For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation" (Galatians 6:15). In the cycle of the liturgical calendar of the Church, this Feast of the Lord's Circumcision has neither a Forefeast nor an Afterfeast.

## St. Basil the Great – January 1

Basil was born during the reign of Emperor Constantine. While still unbaptized, Basil spent fifteen years in Athens where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all other secular sciences of the time. His colleagues were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. In his mature years Basil was baptized in the River Jordan along with Euvlios, his former teacher. He was Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia for almost ten years and completed his earthly life fifty years after his birth. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a religious zealot, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God, fully deserved the title "Great." In liturgical services, he is referred to as the "bee of the Church of Christ which brings honey to the faithful and with its stinger pricks the heretics." Numerous works of this Father of the Church are preserved; they include theological, apologetical, ascetical and canonical writings as well as the Holy and Divine Liturgy named after him. This Divine Liturgy is celebrated ten times throughout the year: the First of January, his feast day; on the eve of the Nativity of our Lord; on the eve of the Epiphany of our Lord; all Sundays of the Honorable Fast [Lenten Season], except Palm Sunday; on Great and Holy Thursday and on Great and Holy Saturday. St. Basil died peacefully on January 1, 379 A.D., when he was translated into the Kingdom of Christ.



### Special Epiphany Gifts

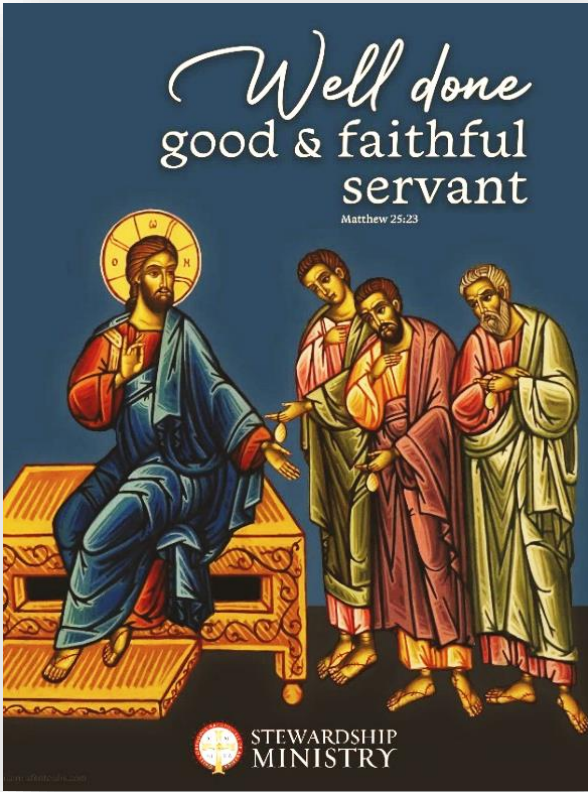
During Epiphany, you may desire to express your love for Holy Trinity by offering special gifts such as communion wine, festal icons, incense, charcoal, daily Bible guides, that can be donated in memory of or for the health of loved ones. Please call the office. Thank you for your generosity. A special request is asked for the floral decoration of the Epiphany icon.

### 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/](http://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@higocnj.org (see enclosed Stock/Security Donation Form)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Dependents \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# Prayer Request



Sue, Marilyn, David, Basil, Laura, Marylee, Meropi, Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Billy, Molly, Leonidas, 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, Ketj, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Ketj, Georgia, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Gayle, William, Byron, John, Robert, John, Angela, Andrew



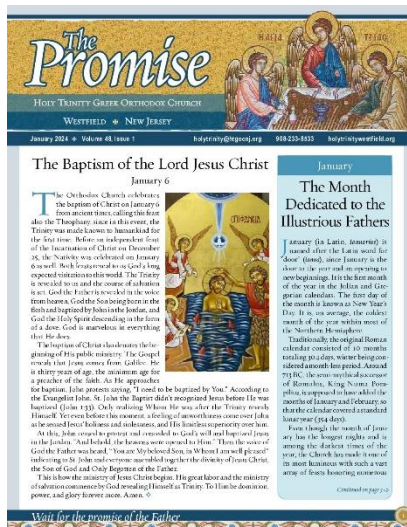
## Altar Boys

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.

## Parish Council

Having received ratification from the Metropolis of New Jersey of the December 3 parish council elections, we congratulate the following newly-elected individuals to the Parish Council: Leon Carayannopoulos; Christopher Daifotis; Chris Dombalis; Lauren Koniaris; George Koutsaftes; Stephen Ladas; Peter Pangis; Penny Mavridis Sales; Georgia (Gina) Sikellis; Dean Steele. They with the on-going members will comprise the Parish Council to serve a two-year term (2024-2025).

The January Edition of  
**THE PROMISE**  
Is Now Available





## 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](mailto: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](mailto:mvtarhanidis@gmail.com) or stop by the GOYA table.

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### Trinity Circle

Tuesday, January 2, lunch/meeting 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM with Vasilopita cutting by Fr. Peter and celebration of Angela & Clem Thomas 69th Anniversary!

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### 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](mailto:joyhopehtgoc@yahoo.com).

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### TOTS Playgroup - January 10

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, 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 at [vcomprelli@gmail.com](mailto:vcomprelli@gmail.com) or 612-801-8608 to sign up or to ask any questions.

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### Philoptochos Vasilopita Bread Sale

We have a few extra homemade Vasilopita from Agia Skepi available for \$25 each. All proceeds benefit Saint Basil Academy. If you would like one, please text or call Denise Eliopoulos at 973-568-0938.

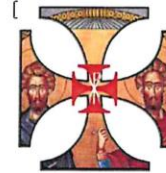
## Philoptochos Stewardship and Vasilopita Luncheon – January 21

Reservations are now open. Please join us immediately following Divine Liturgy. Sign up during the Fellowship Hour, by mail or text at 908-327-4295. As a reminder, the luncheon is a fundraiser for St. Basil Academy. Kathy Maglaras and Debra Vlahakis, co-chairs.

### *The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity*



## VASILOPITA LUNCHEON & STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



## January 21, 2024

*Immediately following Divine Liturgy, Bouras Center*

*Proceeds to benefit the Saint Basil Academy*

**THE ST. BASIL CHILDREN WILL BE JOINING US FOR THE LUNCHEON**

**PLEASE SUPPORT US!**

**OPEN SEATING**

**RESERVATIONS DEADLINE BY JANUARY 14, 2024**

**ADULTS- \$25/ CHILDREN 12 & under- \$20**

**Includes: Buffet Lunch, Salad, Wine & Dessert**

**Please mail or stop @ Philoptochos table to sign up  
Kathy Maglaras & Debra Vlahakis, Co-chairs**

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### RESERVATION FORM

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# Adults** \_\_\_\_\_ **# Children** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amt Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cash** \_\_\_\_\_ **Credit Card** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zelle** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zelle:** [treasurer@htphiloptochos.com](mailto:treasurer@htphiloptochos.com)

**Checks Payable to:** The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity

**Send to:** Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 Gallows Hill Rd Westfield, NJ 07091  
**When mailing, mark envelope "Attn: V"**

# Upcoming Parish Events

## SAVE THE DATE!

### February 11, 2024

#### **Community Communion Sunday** with breakfast in the Bouras Center to follow

All are encouraged to invite their godparents and godchildren and join in fellowship and faith in receiving Communion as a community.



*Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church*  
**February 11, 2024**

*Sponsored by Holy Trinity Religious Education*

**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 ✠**