

Fourteenth Sunday of Luke



St. John the Hesychast

Sunday, December 3, 2023

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

Live streaming services - 908.233.8533 - www.holytrinitywestfield.org

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis, Parish Priest

On the Third Day of the month, we commemorate: The Holy Prophet Sophonias (Zephaniah); Our Righteous Father St. John, Bishop of Kolonia and Hesychast; The Holy Martyrs St. Agapios and Seleucos; St. Theodore, the Hieromartyr and Archbishop of Alexandria; The New Martyrs St. Angelis +1813.

Click links for Scripture Readings

Morning Gospel:	St. Luke 24:1-12	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	Ephesians 5:8-19	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	Luke 18:35-43	Ελληνικά

Plagal First Tone Ηχος Α΄

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: “Although Your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Saviour, and Your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, You rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise You: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.”

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 Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.”

Liturgical Schedule

Monday, December 4, **St. Barbara the Great Martyr**, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Wednesday, December 6, **St. Nicholas of Myra**, Orthros, 8:30 AM;

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, December 10, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Tuesday, December 12, **St. Spyridon**, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations

Altar Candles: In Memory of Andrew Andrews†; **Large Candles:** In Memory of Gus and Anthoula Exarhakos†

Sacraments and Rites

Memorials: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial services for Gus Exarhakos†, 44 years and Anthoula Exarhakos†, 1 year. Eternal be their memories.

Funeral: On Wednesday, November 29, the funeral service for Remila Christo† was held. Eternal be her memory.

Fellowship Hour: Please join us in the Bouras Center after church for the Fellowship Hour which is being sponsored by John and Felicia Karsos, in memory of Maria Karsos†.

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.



The Holy Prophet Sophonias (Zephaniah) - Dec. 3

Sophonias or Zephaniah was a native of Mount Sarabatha, from the tribe of Simeon. He lived and prophesied in the seventh century before Christ, at the time of Josiah, the pious king of Judah. Zephaniah was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah. Having great humility and a pure mind raised to God, he was found worthy of discerning the future. He prophesied the day of the wrath of God and the punishment of Gaza, Ashkalon, Ashdod, Ekron, Nineveh, Jerusalem and Egypt. He saw Jerusalem as a filthy and polluted, ... oppressing city.... Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; ... her prophets are light and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary; they have done violence to the Law (Zephaniah 3:1-4). Foreseeing the advent of the Messiah, he enthusiastically exclaimed: "Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem" (Zephaniah 3:14). This seer of mysteries entered his rest at his birthplace to await the General Resurrection and his reward from God.

St. John the Silent (Hesychast) – Dec. 3

John was a native of Nicopolis in Armenia and was the son of Enkratius and Euphemia. He was tonsured a monk at the age of eighteen and lived a strict and resolute life of asceticism, cleansing his heart by his many tears, fasting and prayer. After ten years, he was appointed bishop of Kolonia. By his example, he attracted his brother Pergamius and his uncle Theodore-both distinguished men at the imperial courts of Emperors Zeno and Justinian-to a God-pleasing life. Seeing the malice and intrigues of this world and his inability to put matters right, he abandoned his episcopal throne. He disguised himself as a simple monk and went to the Monastery of St. Sava the Sanctified near Jerusalem. There he remained unknown for many years, conscientiously and capably completing every task that the abbot ordered him to do. For this, St. Sava recommended to Patriarch Elias that he ordain him a presbyter. When the patriarch wanted to ordain John, he confessed that he already possessed the rank of bishop. Then St. John closed himself in a cell and spent years and years in silence and prayer. Afterward he spent nine years in the wilderness feeding himself only on wild vegetables, and then he returned to the monastery. He turned the faithful away from the heresy of

Origen and contributed greatly to the condemnation and elimination of this heresy. He clearly discerned the spiritual world and healed people from sickness. Having conquered himself, he easily conquered demons. Great in humility, might and divine wisdom, this servant of God entered peacefully into rest in the year 558 A.D. at the age of 104.

Holy Trinity Bookstore

The Holy Trinity Bookstore is open. Visit for Christmas cards and meaningful small gifts.

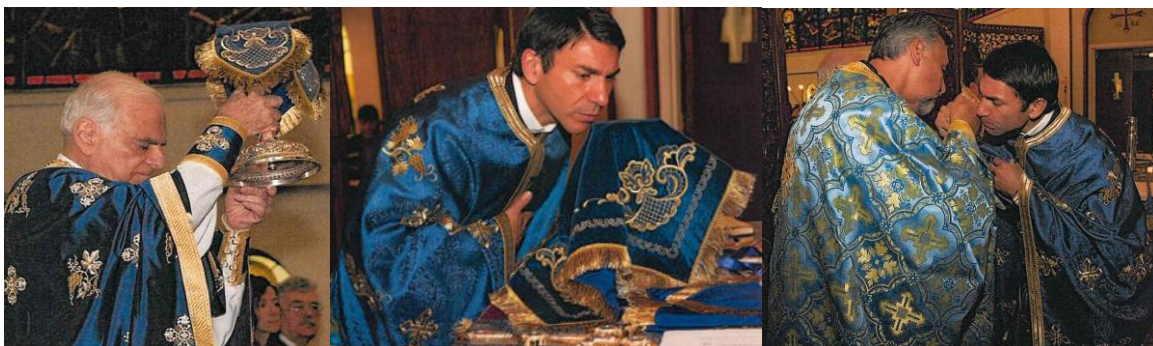
Parish Council Elections – Sunday, December 3

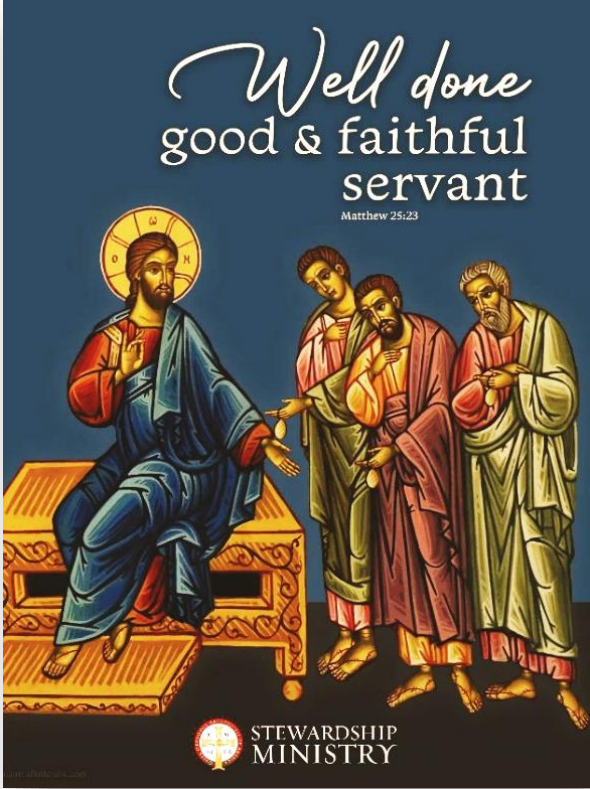
Parish Council Elections will be held on Sunday, December 3, after church services in the Bouras Center. The list of candidates presented at the Fall General Assembly are: Leon Carayannopoulos; Christopher Daifotis; Chris Dombalis; Lauren Koniaris; George Koutsaftes; Stephen Ladas; Peter Pangis; Penny Mavridis Sales; Georgia (Gina) Sikellis; Dean Steele

Reading the Communion Prayers

On 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



Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Billy, Molly, Leonedas, 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, Keti, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Keti, Georgia, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Gayle, William, Byron, John, Robert, John, Angela, Andrew, Dianna, Edward, Sue, Thomas

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.

Trinity Circle

Tuesday, December 5, Trinity Circle's Members Christmas Luncheon will be held at Galloping Hill Caterers from 11:30 AM - 3 PM. Join us for a fun day full of friendship and camaraderie!



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 with any questions.

TOTS Playgroup –December 13

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13, 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 or 612-801-8608 to sign up or to ask any questions.

GOYA Christmas Caroling – December 16

GOYA is visiting local nursing homes and private homes to share some holiday cheer. If you would like a visit during the afternoon of December 16, email goya@htgocnj.org or stop by the GOYA table during Fellowship Hour.

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.

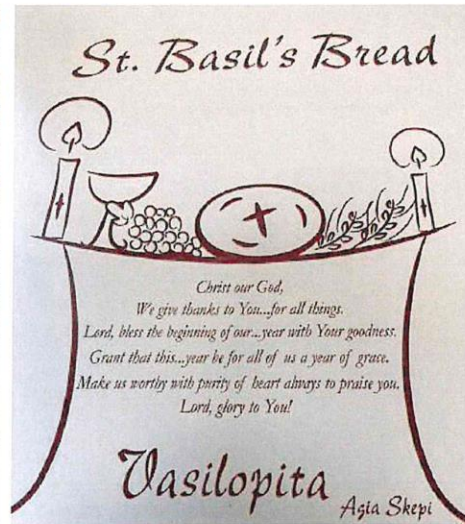
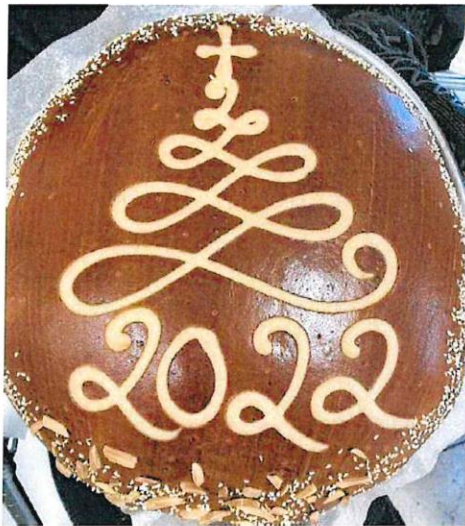
Greek Dance

Greek dance lessons will again be taught by Petro and Niko from Hellenic Roots. Classes will be held in the Bouras Center. Practice times TBD. Sign-up for GOYA (7th-12th grade): <https://tinyurl.com/yfvpxrr8> Sign-up for Joy/Hope (K-6th grades) coming soon. Please email goya@htgocnj.org (GOYA) or kathy@homesbykathyp.com (Joy/Hope) with any questions.

Third Annual Philoptochos Bread Sale to Benefit Saint Basil's Academy

Homemade Vasilopita from Agia Skepi Bakehouse! Order by December 3. Pick up at church December 17. \$25 each. To order, stop by the Philoptochos table during Fellowship Hour or Venmo @Denise-Eliopoulos. Questions? Text or call Denise at 973-568-0938.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity
is selling fresh baked Vasilopita from AGIA SKEPI BAKEHOUSE for
the New Year - all proceeds go to Saint Basil Academy



Large 2 lb bread packaged in a beautiful box-\$25

\$25 per loaf - order by Dec. 3rd - pick up at church Dec. 17th

**YOU CAN PLACE YOUR ORDER
with this form at the Philoptochos table @ church
or call/text Denise Eliopoulos 973-568-0938**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How many do you want? _____

Total Order Price - \$25 per loaf: _____

I will pay by:

Cash - Amount Enclosed: _____

Check # _____ **Payable to Ladies Philoptochos Society HTGOC**

Venmo @Denise-Eliopoulos

Annual GOYA Wreath and Grave Blanket Fundraiser – Orders Due December 3!

Order online via <https://tinyurl.com/4v7e34p2> or at the GOYA table during the Fellowship Hour on Sunday, December 3. Pick up is on December 7 during the Philoptochos Christmas Party or December 10 in the church courtyard.

GOYA Christmas Wreath and Grave Blanket Fundraiser!



Fresh Balsam Fir Holiday Wreaths with
Pine Cones, Berries and Red Velvet Bow

22" Wreath \$30 each
30" Wreaths \$40 each
36" Wreath \$50 each
2'x 2' Grave Pillow \$32 each

Order online <https://tinyurl.com/4v7e34p2> and pay by
Venmo @WestfieldGoya or at GOYA table. Checks can be
made payable to HTGOC YHT

Orders due by Sunday, December 3, 2023 and will be available for pick up on
Thursday, Dec. 7 during the Philoptochos Christmas Party and Sunday,
December 10th in the church courtyard.

NAME _____

EMAIL/CELL PHONE _____

	Quantity	Total \$
22" Wreath- \$30 each	_____	_____
30" Wreath- \$40 each	_____	_____
36" Wreath-\$50 each	_____	_____
2'x2' Grave Pillow-\$32 each	_____	_____

TOTAL PIECES ORDERED _____ TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Check # _____ /Cash/Venmo

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Greek School PTO – New Fundraising Program

Greek School has partnered with “Charleston Wrap” to raise funds for Greek School’s favorite programs such as the Christmas Program, Greek Independence Program and Year End events. Purchase holidays gifts and Greek School will receive 40% of the profit from each item sold. Please visit <https://www.registercw.com/> and enter our organization ID: 27610 Complete your shopping by December 4. Contact katiegitas@gmail.com with any questions.

HTOGOC Greek School PTO



Our Organization ID:

27610

REGISTER. SHARE. SHOP. SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER

Check-off your holiday gift list today and help our important cause.
From holiday to hostess to corporate gifts and more,
our online store has something for every occasion – even if it's just for you!



#1 REGISTER

Register participant at www.registercw.com to access our handy invitation tools in the Participant Portal. Very important!

#2 SHARE

Invite friends and family to support! SHARE a link to the sale using the **TEXT & EMAIL** invitation tools. Don't forget to share on **SOCIAL MEDIA**, too!

#3 SHOP

Go online to **SHOP** and help us reach our GOAL today! With over 2,500 gift ideas there is something for everyone, including you!



Greek School Fundraiser – Tiropita, Spanakopita and Baklava Sale

Please visit the Greek School table in the Bouras Center during Fellowship Hour to place your order or visit <https://tinyurl.com/p9pv7zdf>. The deadline is December 10. Orders will be distributed on December 17 and 19. See flyer for further details.

GREEK SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Stock your freezers and pantry with classic Greek specialties and be ready for all your holiday dinner parties, while also supporting our Greek school! (supplied by Kontos Foods)

1. Spinach & Cheese Swirls \$15
sold raw/frozen (5 pc, 8 oz per pc)
2. Cheese Swirls \$15
sold raw/frozen (5 pc, 8 oz per pc)
3. Tray of Spanakopitakia \$30
sold raw/frozen (48 pc, 1 oz per pc, 3 lb total weight)
4. Tray of Tiropitakia \$30
sold raw/frozen (48 pc, 1 oz per pc, 3 lb total weight)
5. Tray of Classic Baklava-ready to serve (11 pc) \$12
6. Tray of Assorted Baklava-ready to serve (11 pc) \$12



Order Deadline: Sunday, December 10

Pick up: Sunday, December 17th (after church) or Tuesday, December 19th (after Greek school program)

Religious Education Christmas Program – Sunday, December 10

Stewardship opportunity to help with the annual Christmas Program, Waffle Brunch and Santa!!!
Sunday, December 10, in the Bouras Center. To help or donate, please go to:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054FAEAD28A5FD0-46080618-religious#/>



THE PARISH COUNCIL,
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
AND JOY|HOPE

GRACIOUSLY INVITE ALL HOLY TRINITY
PARISHIONERS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS TO OUR

*Christmas Program,
Waffle Brunch
and Holiday Fun!*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LITURGY
IN THE BOURAS CENTER

Annual Christmas Dinner Party & General Meeting – Reservations Due December 3!

You are cordially invited to join the FUN on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023 in the Bouras Center. Hors d'oeuvres & shopping with 10+ vendors begin at 6 PM with a brief General Meeting to follow. To make your reservation by December 3, please stop by the Philoptochos table during Fellowship Hour or contact Yiana Leichtling at 908-413-6213 or treasurer@htphiloptochos.com. A delicious dinner will be catered by Prestige Diner. Cost: \$42 per person Chair: Phyllis Verenes



MERRY Christmas

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity
cordially invites you to a

CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY & “BOUTIQUES”

Thursday, December 7, 2023 | 6:00 pm Hors d'oeuvres & Shopping in the Bouras Center
(Brief General Meeting will follow)

Dinner catered by *Prestige Diner & Restaurant*, New Providence, NJ
Cost: **\$42.00** per person

Featuring

- Christmas Boutique Bake Sale
-
- Lovely Hand Knits by Cassandra Romas
-
- Books for Orthodox Christian Children - Author Christina Romas Connant
-
- Original Oil Paintings & Enhanced Reproductions by Avi Kiriakatis
-
- Framed Optix, LLC / Sunglasses - KJ Nies
-
- Take A Bough, LLC - Kathy Clingan
-
- Matijewels.com by MEM Designs - Melissa Martakis
-
- Byzanthea - Helen Palatianos Quinn
-
- Kiki Inguaggiato Art - Kiki Alexiou
-
- Gina's Traveling Boutique - Gina Martin

*Monetary donations will be taken for the YWCA of Union County.
Checks made payable to: Ladies Philoptochos Society of HTGOC.*

*Please stop by Philoptochos table during Fellowship Hour to make your reservation
or contact Yiana Leichtling at 908-413-6213 or treasurer@htphiloptochos.com*

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS DECEMBER 3RD

You may pay with Zelle, Yiana Leichtling at treasurer@htphiloptochos.com
(please include RSVP info with payment)

Philoptochos Community Christmas Card - 2023

We invite you to participate in this community expression of joy over our Lord's birth. Every member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church will receive a copy of the COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD imprinted with the names of those who have donated. This year we will donate the proceeds to St. Jude's Research Hospital (ASLAC) and Community Hope, Inc. Please sign up on-line or during the Fellowship Hour each week at the Philoptochos table. Please help us make this fundraiser a success! For more information, contact Sandy Boutsikaris 908-578-3341 or Christina Colonias 917-825-5986.



HOLY TRINITY 2023 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Our dear Holy Trinity Parishioners, we invite you to participate in this community expression of joy over our Lord's birth. Philoptochos continues its philanthropic work to assist those in need, and we are counting on your support and generosity to enable us to fulfill our mission. This year we will donate the proceeds to St. Jude's Research

Hospital and Community Hope, Inc. Please join your fellow parishioners by donating to our annual Christmas Card.

- COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT IN WITH YOUR DONATION.
- ALL DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
250 Gallows Hill Road Westfield, NJ 07090-1109

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME(S) CLEARLY AND AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON THE "COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD." If it is the same from last year, please indicate by writing "same as last year".



Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____

Donation Amount: _____

Cash: _____ Check #: _____

RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 3, 2023

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: *LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY HTGOC*

For convenience in handling, you can make your payment by check, credit card, Apple Pay, Google pay or PayPal.



Include your information with the payment and how your family name(s) should appear.
Contact Sandy Boutsikaris 908/578-3341 or Christina Colonias 917/825-5986 for more information.
The Ladies Philoptochos Society – HTGOC is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

Angel Tree Ornaments

Personalized ornaments for the Angel Tree are available for \$10. Proceeds to benefit Religious Education. Please contact Elise Savnik at 908-337-5046.

2023 Angel Tree

and

Mitten Tree

Sponsored by Religious Education

Please continue to sponsor these wonderful Holy Trinity Christmas traditions and help our local children in need.

The 34th Annual Christmas Gifting Program will benefit Moms Helping Moms helping underserved families in NJ

We will be collecting:

Diapers

Wipes

New, unused baby clothes
(0-5T Fall/ Winter only at this time)

New, unused books for ages 0-5

Other essential baby items
(NEW items only)



The 34th Annual Mitten Tree

What to Do?

1. Purchase new mittens, gloves, knit hats or SOCKS in adult and children's sizes.
2. Hang them on the Mitten Tree starting December 3rd.

**DROP OFF DEADLINE:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

Upcoming Parish Events

Tuesday, December 12



*His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey*

Cordially Invites you to the

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE
LIGHTING &
OPEN HOUSE**

on

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023
6:00 - 9:00pm**

*At the
Metropolis Headquarters
215 E. Grove Street
Westfield, NJ 07090*

SAVE THE DATE!

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 ✠