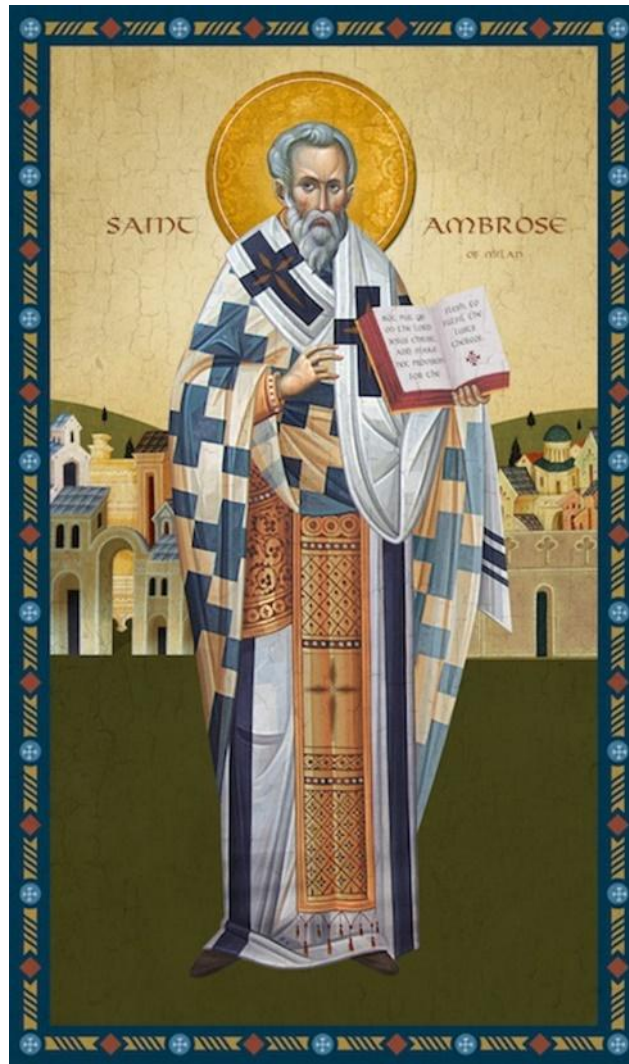


TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



ST. AMBROSE OF MILAN

December 7, 2025

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, New Jersey 07090
908.233.8533 www.holytrinitywestfield.org
Live streaming services

Rev. Fr. Peter Delviziis, Parish Priest

Our Holy Father St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan; The Holy Martyr St. Athenodoros of Mesopotamia; Our Righteous Father St. Gerasimos the Ascetic of Euboea; Our Holy Father St. Gerasimos the New

First Tone

Ἦχος Α΄

Morning Gospel:	St. Luke 24:1-12	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	Ephesians 5:8-19	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Luke 13:10-17	Ελληνικά

Apolytikion: “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* 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

Tuesday, December 9, **St. Anna @ Flemington**, 10:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Friday, December 12, **St. Spyridon the Wonderworker**, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, December 14, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Wednesday, Dec. 17, **St. Dionysios of Zakynthos**, Orthros, 8:45 AM;

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations

Vigil Light: In memory of Nicholas S. † and Spero † Pappas

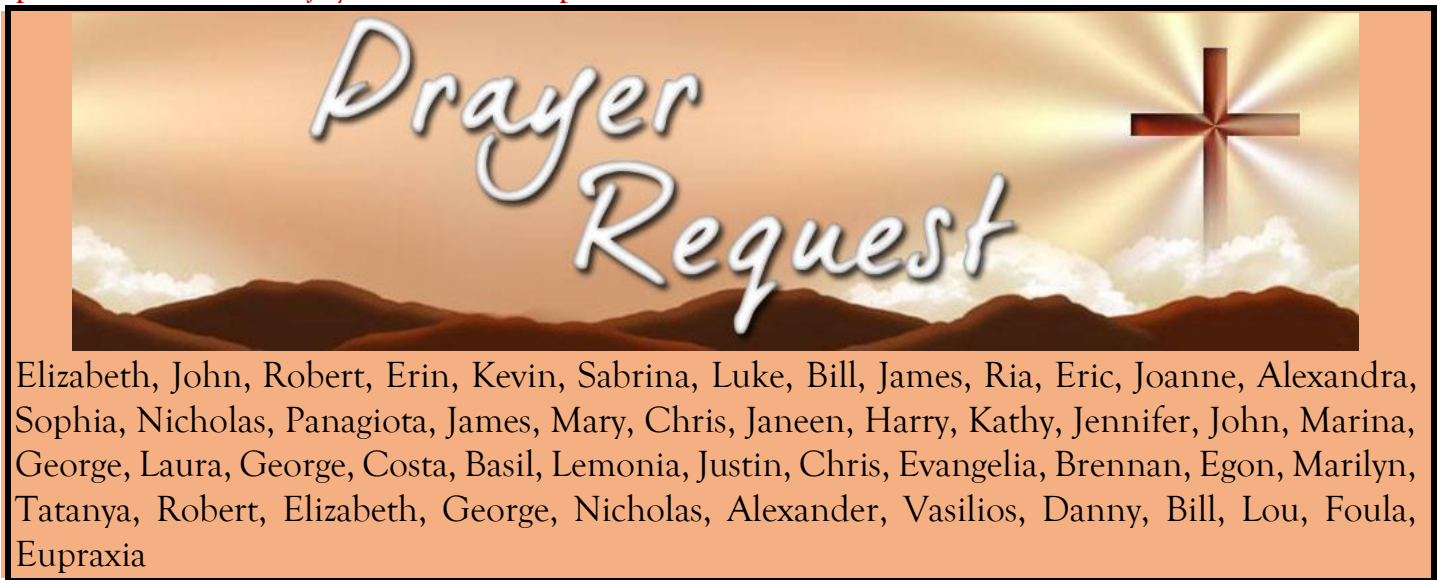
Sacraments and Rites

Baptisms: On Saturday the baptisms of Penelope Nikitas Kasiotis and Eleni Nikitas Kasiotis were celebrated. The Godparents are Ann and Emmanuel N. Kasiotis.

Memorial: Your prayers are requested Sunday morning at the memorial service for Nicke Musgrove†, 40 days. Eternal be her memory.

Welcome Visitors

The parish of Holy Trinity welcomes those visiting our community. Worshipping the Holy Trinity is the principal act of an Orthodox parish, especially on the Day of the Resurrection (Sunday). Our mission is to live the Holy Gospel and spread the Good News to those in our area. We are sanctified by God's grace through the holy Sacraments and glorify Him each moment of the day. We seek God's mercy, as we confess the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Visit the Philoxenia/Fellowship table in the Bouras Center after service to meet parishioners and enjoy our Fellowship Hour.



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

Bookstore - Items for Christmas

Check out all the new items in the bookstore. There are wonderful stocking stuffer items that will make for a treasured gift. The Christmas table is set up with gifts that remind us of the joys that are associated with the Nativity of our Lord. Buy Christmas cards, icons, incense, etc.

Parish Council Elections - Sunday, December 7

Parish Council Elections will be held Sunday, December 7, beginning at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy in the Bouras Center. The Board of Electors has compiled a list of twelve (12) candidates for the eleven (11) vacancies for the Parish Council Elections. The candidates are: *Leon Carayannopoulos; Christopher Dai Fotis; Chris Dombalis; Lauren Koniaris; George Koutsaftes; Stephen Ladas; Spiro Leunes; Penny Mavridis Sales; Peter Pangis; Dimitri Sidiropoulos; Georgia (Gina) Sikellis; Dean Steele.*

By voting, the parishioner assumes the responsibility to fill all eleven vacant seats on the parish council. Please remember that you must vote for eleven candidates. Any ballot will be deemed invalid that does not have eleven or has more than eleven names selected. For your convenience a picture board has been set up so that you can see the thirteen candidates who are running.

Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan – December 7

St. Ambrose was born in the year 340 AD of the Roman prefect family of Gaul (now France). After the death of the father of the family, Ambrose journeyed to Rome, where the future saint and his brother Satyrius received an excellent education. About the year 370, upon completion of his course of study, Ambrose was appointed to the position of governor (consular prefect) of the districts of Liguria and Aemilia, though he continued to live at Mediolanum (now Milan). In the year 374 Auxentius, the Arian Bishop of Mediolanum, died. This led to complications between the Orthodox and the Arians, since each side wanted to have its own bishop. Ambrose, as the chief city official, went to the church to resolve the dispute. While he was speaking to the crowd, suddenly a child cried out, "Ambrose for bishop!" The people took up this chant. Ambrose, who at this time was still a catechumen, considered himself unworthy, and tried to refuse. He disparaged himself and even tried to flee from Mediolanum (now Milan). The matter went ultimately before the emperor Valentinian the Elder (364-375), whose orders Ambrose dared not disobey. He accepted Holy Baptism from an Orthodox priest and, passing through all the ranks of the Church clergy (deacon, priest, bishop) in just seven days, on December 7, 374 he was consecrated Bishop of Mediolanum. He dispersed all his possessions, money and property for the adornment of churches, the upkeep of orphans and the poor, and he devoted himself to a strict ascetic life.

Ambrose combined strict temperance, intense vigilance and work within the fulfilling of his duties as arch pastor. Ambrose, defending the unity of the Church, energetically opposed the spread of heresy. Thus, in the year 379 he traveled off to establish an Orthodox bishop at Sirmium, and in 385-386 he refused to hand over the basilica of Mediolanum to the Arians. The preaching of Saint Ambrose in defense of Orthodoxy was deeply influential. Another noted Father of the Western Church, Saint Augustine (June 15), bore witness to this, having accepted Holy Baptism in the year 387 by the grace of the preaching of the bishop of Mediolanum. The saint combined strictness with an uncommon gentleness. Granted a gift of wonderworking, he healed many from sickness. One time in Florence, he resurrected a dead boy.

The repose of St. Ambrose, who departed to the Lord on the night of Holy Pascha, was accompanied by many miracles. He even appeared in a vision to the children being baptized that night. The saint was buried in the Ambrosian basilica in Mediolanum, beneath the altar, between the Martyrs Protasius and Gervasius (October 14). A zealous preacher and valiant defender of the Christian Faith, St. Ambrose received particular renown as a Church writer. In dogmatic compositions he set forth the Orthodox teaching about the Holy Trinity, the Sacraments, and Repentance: "Five Books on the Faith" (De

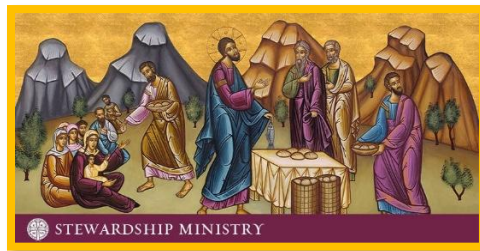
Fide); "Explication of the Symbol of the Faith" (Explanatio Symboli); "On the Incarnation" (De Incarnationis); "Three Books on the Holy Spirit" (De Spiritu Sancto); "On the Sacraments" (De Sacramento); "Two Books on Repentance" (De Paenitentia). In writings about Christian morality, he explained the excellence of Christian moral teaching compared to pagan moral teaching.



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. We have 423 Stewards who have signed 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



Religious Education

Sunday School classes have resumed. 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 religiuseducation@htgocnj.org

Religious Education Christmas Program - December 14

Please join us for a Stewardship opportunity to help with the Christmas Program, Dessert Reception and Santa, Sunday, December 14, in the Bouras Center following the Divine Liturgy! To help or bring a dessert, please [click here](#). We are grateful for your help to make this a successful and fun event for the students!

Religious Education Christmas Pageant – Wednesday, December 24

We are looking for students to participate in the Religious Education Christmas Pageant! This year's Christmas Eve Service is on Wednesday, December 24, at 7 PM! If interested, please complete this [Google Form](#).

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

Greek School Registration

Greek School registration is ongoing. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 PM – 6 PM. Tuesday's grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Beginners and 1st Advanced, 2nd; Thursday's grades 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. Register at <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/greek-school/>

2025 GOYA Registration

<https://forms.gle/hAmPHc4bLkk9eN9F8>



Contact Sophia Saketos at 908-247-6048 or goya@htgocnj.org with questions.

The Holy Trinity, Y2AM (Youth and Young Adult Ministry)

We continued our outreach ministry of sending college care packages to our parish's college freshmen. This year, there are five freshmen from Holy Trinity who received care packages to show support and love as the students prepare for their first semester final exams. The care packages included a heartwarming letter from Fr. Peter, greeting cards from Goyans, homemade koulourakia baked by Avi Kiriakatis, chocolate covered pretzels by Elise Savnik, a student prayer and an icon of Jesus Christ. This is the 10th year of Y2AM spreading good cheer to our college freshmen and reminding them that their church loves and supports them always!

Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale – Sunday, December 7 and 14

Please visit the Philoptochos table during the Fellowship Hour. Enjoy our homemade baked goods with your Frappe, coffee, tea or other favorite beverage and/or take home to share with your family and friends. Καλά Χριστούγεννα!

Fifth Annual Philoptochos Bread Sale - Deadline Sunday, December 7

Homemade Vasilopita from Agia Skepi Bakehouse!

Each 2 lb. freshly-baked bread is packaged in a beautiful box for \$25. All proceeds go to Saint Basil's Academy. Place your order during Fellowship Hour at the Philoptochos table through December 7 or order/pay electronically via Venmo @Denise-Eliopoulos - last 4 digits phone # 0938. Pick up is December 21 at the church. If you cannot pick up on this date, your order will be in the freezer with your name on it to pick up at your convenience. Please call/text Denise Eliopoulos 973-568-0938 with any questions. Thank you!

Philoptochos Community Christmas Card 2025 – Deadline Sunday, December 7

We invite you to participate in this community expression of joy over our Lord's birth. Every member of HTGOC will receive the Community Christmas Card imprinted with the names of those who have donated. This year we will donate the proceeds to Alzheimer's of New Jersey and Community Personnel Services (a division of ECLC). You can sign up by scrolling down to the QR code in our flyer, on-line or during our Fellowship Hour each week at the Philoptochos

table. The due date is December 7. Please help make this a success! For information, contact Sandy Boutsikaris 908-578-3341 or Christina Colonias 917-825-5986. Thank you!

TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) – December 10

Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 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 612-801-8608 or vcomprelli@gmail.com to sign-up or with any questions.

36th Annual Angel & Mitten Tree – Deadline Tuesday, December 23

We are collecting baby items such as formula, diapers, wipes, new/unused clothing (NB-5t) for Moms Helping Moms. Please note that there is a high demand for formula this year (Enfamil and Similac preferred). We are also collecting new/unused mittens, gloves, hats, and socks. Drop off deadline Tuesday, December 23. Thank you for your generosity to this beloved Holy Trinity Tradition!

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 For general questions email 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. The remaining dates are: 2/19, 3/26, 4/23, 5/21.

Get Your GOYA FRAPPÉ

Support our GOYA Youth and enjoy a refreshing
Frappe!

\$5 for each frappe.

Cash or Venmo (@WestfieldGOYA)



Proceeds go towards
Holy Trinity's MDF trip!

MDF: Metropolis Music and Dance Festival



FRAPPE FOR PURCHASE AFTER LITURGY AT THE
BOURAS CENTER ON:

Sunday, December 7

Sunday, December 14

**2025 Angel Tree
and
Mitten Trees
Sponsored by Religious Education**

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

The 36th Annual Christmas Gifting Program will benefit Moms Helping Moms, helping underserved families in NJ.

We will be collecting:

GREAT NEED FOR FORMULA
(Enfamil and Similac preferred)
Diapers – size 4, 5, 6 & 7 and Pull-Ups
Diaper Cream
Baby Wash
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 36th Annual Mitten Tree

What to Do?

1. Purchase new mittens, gloves, knit hats or socks in adult and children's sizes.
2. Place them under the Mitten Tree starting December 7th.



If you have any questions, call Elise Savnik 908-337-5046

**DROP OFF DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

Joy/Hope Holiday Hang Out – Friday, December 12

Holy Trinity's Junior Orthodox Group (ages 5 - 11) participates in activities geared to bring the younger people of our parish together in a fun and educational way and to plant the seeds of giving back to the community through charity projects.



Joy/Hope
Holiday Hang Out

Join us for a fun filled night of decorating Christmas cards, making holiday crafts, and enjoying hot cocoa while watching Frosty the Snowman!

Pizza and drinks will be served!
Please bring a sweet treat to share!

Date: December 12, 2025
Time: 5:30pm to 8:30pm
Location: Bouras Center

RSVP to Marissa Asfour
at 201-841-5739



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

[Click here to sign up](#)

*Come join us for
Adult Greek Dance*

**Now offering Greek Dance
Lessons for adults!**

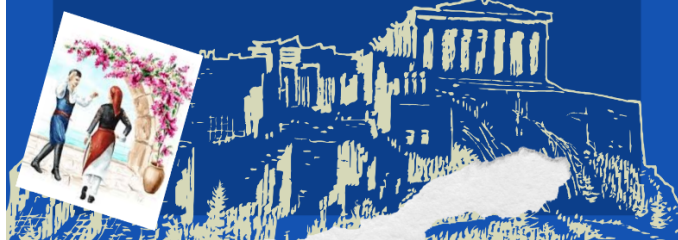
Practices will take place once a month in the
Bouras Center

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



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



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 now as a participant at www.registercw.com to access our handy invitation tools in the Participant Dashboard. Very Important!

2. SHARE

INVITE 10+ friends and family to support our cause! Share a link to our sale using TEXT & EMAIL invitation tools. Don't forget to share on SOCIAL MEDIA, too!

3. SHOP

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



Upcoming Events

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

December 7, 2025



HOLY TRINITY

2025 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 kindness, support, and generosity to help us make a difference together! Please join your fellow parishioners by donating to our annual Christmas Card to benefit *Alzheimer's of New Jersey* as well as *Community Personnel Services (a division of ECLC)* that assists the special needs community through education, employment assistance, and life skills development.

- COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT IN WITH YOUR DONATION.
- ALL DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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

I/We wish to add my/our name(s) to the Community Christmas Card.
PLEASE USE THE SAME WORDING AS LAST YEAR.

PLEASE CHANGE THE WORDING TO THE FOLLOWING:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Donation Amount: _____

Online: _____ Cash: _____ Check #: _____

RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY HTGOC**

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

December 14, 2025

Religious Education Christmas Program

The Religious Education & Joy Hope Graciously Invite All Holy
Trinity Parishioners, Families & Friends To Our

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, DESSERT RECEPTION
& HOLIDAY FUN!**

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 14, 2025

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LITURGY

IN THE BOURAS CENTER!

SIGN UP TO HELP OR BRING A DESSERT

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054FAEAD28A5FD0-58567405-2025>



Come Join Holy Trinity Greek School in Westfield!



Registration for all classes are open now!

2025-2026 Greek School Tuition

Holy Trinity Stewards

One student.....\$520

Two students.....\$850

Three students...\$1050

Non-Stewards

One student.....\$930

Two students.....\$1,510

Three students....\$1,780

Payments can be made at Holytrinitywestfield.org under Ministries:



[Greek School & PTO Registration](#)



[This QR is for PTO DUES only](#)

Classes will take place on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4:00pm-6:00pm

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 Grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Beginner and 1st Advanced, 2nd and

Thursday, September 11, 2025 Grades, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th.

If you have an **important** conflict please reach out to Principal Stavroula Mergoupis at etsoutsani62@gmail.com

Tuition Assistance If you are experiencing financial difficulty with tuition, please feel free to reach out to Father Peter Delvizis in confidence at FrPeter@htgocnj.org



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Road
Westfield NJ 07090



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

2025
December 10

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 or 612-801-8608) to sign up or to ask any questions.

