

Tenth Sunday of Luke



**Sts. Joachim and Anna The Parents of
The Panagia**

December 8, 2024

**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 Delvizi, Parish Priest

Forefeast of the Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos by St. Anna
Our Righteous Father St. Patapios of Thebes; Sts. Apollo, Tychikos, Sosthenes,
Cephas, Epaphroditos, Caesar, & Onesiphoros, Apostles of the 70

Grave Tone
Ἦχος Βαρύς

Morning Gospel:	St. Mark 16:1-8	<u>Ελληνικά</u>
Epistle Reading:	Ephesians 2:14-22	<u>Ελληνικά</u>
Gospel Reading:	St. Luke 13:10-17	<u>Ελληνικά</u>

Apolytikion: “By Your Cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrh-bearers’ sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy.”

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

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

Sunday, December 22, Sunday Before Nativity, **St. Anastasia the Great Martyr**, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations

Altar Candles: In memory of Barbara Manos †

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

Sacraments and Rites

Funerals: On Monday, December 2, the funeral for John N. Baboukis † was held. On Friday, December 6, the funeral for Derrick Arfanis † was held. Eternal be their memories.

Parish Council Elections – Sunday, December 8

Parish Council Elections will be held on Sunday, December 8, beginning at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy in the Bouras Center. The candidates are:

James Angelides; Peter Arbes; Stefanos Arethas; Peter Boutsikaris; George Colonias; Theodore Exarhakos; Anthony J. Karanikolas; Felicia Karsos; Peter Markos; Nicholas J. Pappas; Jon Quintanilla; Dimitri Sidiropoulos; Peter Tarhanidis.

By voting, the parishioner assumes the responsibility to fill all eleven vacant seats on the parish council. Therefore, 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.

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.

Get Weekly Emails by Subscribing - Subscribe to Holy Trinity weekly emails providing news, information, and weekly announcements by request at: HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org



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, Robert, Joanne, Vasileos

The Conception of the Theotokos – December 9

St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married St. Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time, St. Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as St. Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although she committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, she would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by St. Anna took place at Jerusalem. There are also icons in which St. Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On St. Anna's face is a look of reverence. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women and thus she is the patron of pregnancy.

Great Vespers will be held at St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church in Flemington at 6:00 PM, Sunday, December 8.

A Divine Liturgy will be held at St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church in Flemington at 9:00 AM, Monday, December 9.



Reading the Communion Prayers – Pages 60-63 in Liturgy Book

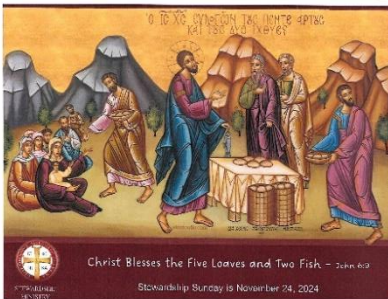
In Her wisdom, the Church provides beautiful prayers to read before receiving Holy Communion. These prayers are part of our Eucharistic preparation which also includes a complete fast in the morning (i.e., nothing by mouth) before receiving Holy Communion. As these prayers are read by the clergy in the 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.

Lessons on the Orthodox Faith – December 10 & 17

Catechism is provided not only for those who are looking to learn more about the Orthodox Church, which is the fullness of the Christian Faith, but is for anyone looking to deepen their knowledge about the Church established by Christ and His Apostles. Holy Trinity has held two Catechism classes and has scheduled the next two for Tuesday, December 10 and 17 at 5:00 PM at church. Please speak with Father Peter if you're interested in attending as part of the faithful or as one curious about the Orthodox Faith.

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.



2024 Angel & Mitten Tree

Please support this Holy Trinity Christmas tradition. We are collecting baby items: diapers size 3, 4, 5, & 6, wipes, new/unused clothing (NB-5t), new books for ages 0-5. We are also collecting new/unused mittens, gloves, hats, and socks. Drop-off deadline Sunday, December 22.

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

Sights and Sounds – Vocal Coach Needed

The GOYA is looking for a vocal coach for the Religious, Greek, and English singing groups in preparation for Sights and Sounds on March 1, 2025. Please reach out to Sophia Saketos 908-247-6048 if you are interested or if you know of anyone who could assist the GOYA.

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, December 18, 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 or 612-801-8608 to sign up or with any questions.

Greek School Registration is Now Open

Greek School registration is now open for all classes. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 PM - 6 PM. Classes began Tuesday, September 10, grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Beginners and 1st Advanced and Thursday, September 12, grades 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th. To register [click here](#).

Religious Education Classes Have Begun

Please complete the online form for each student at your earliest convenience. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in the Fall! Click the link to register: [Religious Education Registration](#) 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 but hold an interest to teach and learn by being a part of the Religious Education team! We are looking for Assistant Teachers and Substitutes! If interested, please contact Pete Markos at pmarkos307@gmail.com

Fourth Annual Philoptochos Bread Sale – Last Day to Order Sunday, December 8 Homemade Vasilopita from Agia Skepi Bakehouse!

\$25 per loaf. All proceeds to benefit Saint Basil's Academy. Visit the Philoptochos table during the Fellowship Hour to place your order by December 8. Pick up your order at the church on December 15. Call or text Denise Eliopoulos 973-568-0938 with any questions or for other methods of placing your order.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity is selling
AGIA SKEPI BAKEHOUSE Vasilopita for the 2025 New Year
Large 2 lb freshly baked bread packaged in a beautiful box \$25
All proceeds go to Saint Basil Academy



\$25 per loaf
order by Dec. 8 - pick up Dec. 15 at church

PLACE YOUR ORDER with this form at the
Philoptochos table on Sundays
or mail to:

The Ladies Philoptochos HTGOC
250 Gallows Hill Rd, Westfield, NJ 07090

IF YOU PREFER AN ELECTRONIC
ORDER/PAYMENT OPTION by check, credit
card, Apple Pay, Google Pay or PayPal, Venmo



Questions - 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

December 2024 Vasilopita Bread Sale

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of HTGOC is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization

Philoptochos Christmas Dinner/General Meeting – Last Day for Reservations – December 8

Please join us for our annual Christmas Dinner/General Meeting on Thursday, December 12, at 5:30 PM, in the Bouras Center. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 8. Reservations may be made during Fellowship Hour at the Philoptochos table or by contacting Marina LoAlbo 908-272-4341 or Phyllis Verenes 973-538-2236.



MERRY *Christmas*

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

CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY & “BOUTIQUES”

Thursday, December 12, 2024 | 5:30 pm Hors d'oeuvres & Shopping in the Bouras Center

(Brief General Meeting will follow)



Dinner catered by *Five Star Catering by Thomas*, Westfield, NJ
Cost: \$45.00 per person



Featuring

Christmas Boutique Bake Sale

•
Matijewels.com by MEM Designs - Melissa Martakis

•
Byzanthea - Helene Palatianos Quinn

•
Gina's Traveling Boutique - Gina Martin

•
George Psomas, Author of Children's book, "Manoli, The Greek Mouse"

•
Handmade Clay and All Things Sparkly by Dolores Chiara Phillips

•
Kiki Inguaggiato Art - Kiki Alexiou



*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 treasurerer@htphiloptochos.com*

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS DECEMBER 8TH

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

Annual GOYA Wreath and Grave Pillow Fundraiser – Last Day to Pick Up - December 8
 Our GOYA will again be selling Christmas wreaths and Cemetery Grave pillows as a fundraiser during the Christmas Season. Please stop by the GOYA table during Fellowship Hour for details. We appreciate your support in advance! Any questions, please contact Christine Skalkotos 847-830-1530.

GOYA Christmas Wreath and Grave Blanket Fundraiser!



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

- 16-18" Wreath \$30 each
- 24" Wreaths \$35 each
- 1 Bow Grave Pillow \$30 each
- 2 Bow Grave Pillow \$35 each



Order online <https://tinyurl.com/47y97uzt>

Payment Options:

1. Venmo @WestfieldGoya
2. Payment at Sunday Coffee Hour - GOYA table. Checks can be made payable to HTGOC YHT

Orders due by Sunday, December 1, 2024 and will be available for pick up on Thursday, Dec. 5 through Sunday, Dec. 8 directly from the church courtyard.

NAME _____

EMAIL/CELLPHONE _____

Quantity	Item	Price	Total Cost
	16-18" Wreath	\$20.00	
	24" Wreath	\$35.00	
	1 Bow 16" Grave Blanket	\$30.00	
	2 Bow 24" Grave Blanket	\$35.00	

Total Pieces Ordered _____ TOTAL DUE \$ _____
 Check # _____/Cash/Venmo

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Religious Education Christmas Program – Stewardship Opportunities

Stewardship opportunities are available to help with the Christmas Program, reception and Santa on Sunday, December 15, in the Bouras Center following the Divine Liturgy! If you can help or bring a dessert, please sign up by visiting [Religious Education Christmas Program](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054FAEAD28A5FD0-52140090-religious)



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

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, RECEPTION

& HOLIDAY FUN!

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 15, 2024

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LITURGY

IN THE BOURAS CENTER!

SIGN UP TO HELP OR BRING A DESSERT

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054FAEAD28A5FD0-52140090-religious>

2024 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 35th Annual Christmas
Gifting Program will benefit
Moms Helping Moms,
helping underserved
families in NJ**

We will be collecting:
Diapers – size 3, 4, 5 & 6
Wipes, Diaper Cream, Baby Wash
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. Place them under the Mitten Tree starting December 8th.

**DROP OFF DEADLINE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

Greek School Fundraiser

We are excited to announce that we will be working with Charleston Wrap again this year to raise funds for our beloved school. Last year, we were able to raise over \$600. Our goal this year is to surpass \$1000 to support our various school activities. Supporting this fundraiser is easy; people just log-in and shop!! Charleston Wrap offers high-quality gift wrap and beautiful gifts that are perfect for the holiday season. By participating in this fundraiser, not only will you be able to find great gifts for your loved ones, but you will also be supporting the Greek School.

HTOGOC Greek School PTO



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!

Our Organization ID:

27610



1. REGISTER

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

2. SHARE

INVITE 10 + friends and family to support our cause! Share a link to our sale using the **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!





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



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

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



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*

