SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

Our Holy Father St. Martinian

FEBRUARY 13, 2022

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

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis, Presiding Priest

Live streaming of services
Today begins the Triodion
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
On the thirteenth day of the month, we commemorate Our Holy Father St. Martinian; The Holy Apostles St. Aquila and St. Priscilla

First Tone Ἡχος αʹ

Click links for Scripture Readings

Morning Gospel: St. Matthew 28:16-20 Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading: St. Luke 18:10-14 Ελληνικά

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: “The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Jews and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred body. O Saviour, the third day You arose and unto all the world did You give life where by all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life. Glory to You our resurrected Christ. Glory unto Your Kingdom. Glory to Your dispensation O You alone who loves all.”

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: “Let us flee the Pharisee’s* conceited vaunting,* let us learn the Publican’s* humility, and cry with groans* unto the Saviour: Thou Who alone* art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us.”

Altar Candles February 14: in memory of Ioan Moldovan†
Our Holy Father St. Martinian - February 13

St. Martinian, who was from Caesarea of Palestine, flourished about the beginning of the fifth century. He struggled in the wilderness from his youth. After he had passed twenty-five years in asceticism, the devil brought a temptation upon him through a harlot, who when she heard the Saint praised for his virtue, determined to try his virtue, or rather, to undo it. Coming to his cell by night as it rained, and saying she had lost her way, she begged with pitiful cries to be admitted in for the night, lest she fall prey to wild beasts. Moved with compassion, and not wishing to be guilty of her death should anything befall her, he allowed her to enter. When she began to seduce him, and the fire of desire began to burn in his heart, he kindled a fire and stepped into it, burning his body, but saving his soul from the fire of Gehenna. And she, brought to her senses by this, repented, and, following his counsel, went to Bethlehem to a certain virgin named Paula, with whom she lived in fasting and prayer; before her death, she was deemed worthy of the gift of wonderworking. Saint Martinian, when he recovered from the burning, resolved to go to some more solitary place, and took ship to a certain island, where he struggled in solitude for a number of years. Then a young maiden who had
suffered shipwreck came ashore on his island. Not wishing to fall into temptation again, he departed, and passed his remaining time as a wanderer, coming to the end of his life in Athens.

Galina, Angela, Lubove, Despina, Maria, John, Paraskevi (Parri), Dianna, Stephanie, Edward, Brian, Janeen, Cathy, James, Christine, Andrea, Molly, Anastasios, Michael, Angela, Lauren, John, Effie, Stella, Guerline, Phyllis, Denise, Cloy, Mirka, Stamadia, Theresa, James, Matthew, Antoinette, William, Angela, Tanner, Stefanos, Helen, Katherine, Ashley, Angela, Nick, Lindsey, Alexandria, Evdokia, Chris, Zach, Notis, Erica, Christina, Fran, Joan, Hellen, Joseph, Angela, Cleopatra, James, Rosa, George, Kathy, Theresa, Dorothy, Shannon, Jeff, Jeffrey, Rowena, Craig, Paul, John, Marien, John, Vasia, Hellen, Natalia, Angela, Katherine, Patricia, Lily, Thomas, Brennan, Elvira, Bill, Alicia, Diane, Michael, Dorka, Stavroula, Maroulla

**Souper Bowl Sunday 2022 is coming!** Be a star and team up with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) in its annual Souper Bowl of Caring. Our parish can make a difference by joining Orthodox parishes throughout America to demonstrate your concern for people in need. Parishioners are asked to bring nonperishable food items to help stock local food banks. On Sunday youth members will take a monetary collection to help support the ministry efforts of IOCC.

Please visit: [ioc.org/souperbowl22](http://ioc.org/souperbowl22) for more information.
Women Go Red – Help Make America Go Red and Save Women's Lives

In support of Go Red, The Ladies Philoptochos Society of HTGOC has designated February 20 as Go Red for Women. Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women – and too many, particularly our youngest, most diverse women remain unaware. The past 2 years have taken a toll on our physical & mental well-being. The American Heart Association 2022 initiative is "Reclaim Your Rhythm" by making moves today that lead to healthier tomorrows. Making a commitment to your health isn't something you do alone, so we ask that everyone wear something RED on Sunday, February 13. Our Philoptochos Chapter will be accepting donations and all money collected will go to the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, one of the top clinics in the U.S. for Cardiovascular Research. Checks may be made payable to The Ladies Philoptochos of HTGOC and mailed to the church. Thank you for your support!

Philoptochos

Philoptochos Valentine's Bake Sale, Sunday, February 13....homemade treats for your special Valentine!

Save-the-date for a Spring Fling – "BLOOM!" Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Brooklake Country Club, Florham Park, NJ. 6:00 PM Cocktails & Raffles; 7:00 PM Dinner & Fashion Show by Emily's Boutique, Staten Island, NY

BLESSED

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ." Ephesians 1:3 NLT
The February 2022 edition of

The Promise

Is now available online
click here to view

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Trinity Circle
Tuesday, March 1 luncheon/meeting 11:00 - 2:00 PM - donated by Kassandra Romas, Penny, Elaine Anast & Maria Grafas in memory of their loved ones. Membership dues $15.00 per person.

Sights and Sounds – March 5
Holy Trinity is hosting the 50th year of Sights and Sounds on Saturday, March 5, at which approximately 400 Greek Orthodox Youth from across NJ participate in this unique visual, literary and performing arts competition. About 100 volunteers are needed. Volunteers also gain access to view performances of our talented youth! Please consider donating your time as a door monitor, morning and afternoon time slots are available. We will follow all NJ Covid guidelines. Please contact Roula Ioannou (908)451-3005 or Christine Skalkotos (847)830-1530. The email address is: sightsandsoundsvolunteers@gmail.com if interested or for further information.

Sights and Sounds is looking for qualified judges. Do you have colleagues, friends, relatives who are art or music teachers, professional artists, musicians? (Cannot be parishioners of Holy Trinity.) Please contact the following individuals: Sounds- Yiana Leichtling at sightsandsoundsjudges@yahoo.com or 908/413-6213; Sights- Ellen Manos-Athenson at ebmanos@yahoo.com or 908/337-0775. Please contact us ASAP.
SAVE 1
FEED 1

Donate in March and we’ll donate
to your local food bank.

BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, March 16, 2022
2pm – 8pm
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ

To schedule an appointment visit:
nybc.org/nidrive
Sponsor code: 16058
Or call/text Despina 917-244-8849 for an appointment.

Register online so we can donate on your behalf!
Go to nybc.org/save1feed1

New York Blood Center
800.933.BLOOD - nybc.org
#nybloodcenter
Holy Trinity will host its annual St. John Chrysostom Parish Oratorical Festival on Sunday, March 27, directly after Church. All are invited to attend and support our youth and celebrate afterward with a luncheon.

Religious Education students are encouraged to participate within the three divisions that make up the festival, Elementary Division (Grades 4-6), Junior Division (Grades 7-9), Senior Division (Grades 10-12). This event, which gives our young people an opportunity to speak about their faith in a loving and friendly environment, has proven a very rewarding experience for participants through the years.

Participants will need to register online as well as access this year's topics, guides, and tips on the Archdiocese website (www.goarch.org/en/oratorical), or by contacting our Parish Chairperson, Peter Tarhanidis at ptarhanidis@gmail.com.
Dear Parishioner,

As we close calendar year 2021, we want to provide an early opportunity to participate in our $750K Capital Campaign. The campaign, which was voted and approved at the Parish Assembly meeting on November 21, will formally launch in January 2022. The last time Holy Trinity conducted a capital campaign to fund major maintenance was over 20 years ago.

The Parish Council has diligently considered the reliability, energy efficiency and risk to our church of key assets such as the church dome, heating and cooling systems, and parking lot. We are in the process of finalizing the details of these capital needs and will provide those details at our formal launch in 2022. The first and most urgent of these needs relates to the Church dome, which we intend to execute in early 2022. Our due diligence is complete and it was presented at the Parish Assembly meeting on November 21. Details are below.

This early launch of the $750K Capital Campaign to fund the church dome allows Holy Trinity donors to accelerate their charitable donations in 2021 calendar year. One tax efficient donation tool to consider is planned giving, which allows donors to contribute today’s value of invested stock shares and avoid paying taxes on realized gains on those shares while allowing the existing value to be realized as a tax deductible donation. For more details on planned giving please contact the church office.

The Christmas Season reminds us about the importance of giving. The Parish of Holy Trinity requires the good will of many donors to operate. We ask for your help as this important Capital Campaign begins. Through you the spiritual home of many can be properly maintained for us and for future generations.

2022 Church Dome Project Background - $220,000

The church dome was originally erected in 1974 and last refurbished in 1999. The warranty for the dome expired in 2020. A continuation of the warranty requires that the dome be refurbished. Maintaining the church dome is critical to the protection of the church, its sanctuary, and the contents, including valuable iconography, religious relics, and furnishings. This level of refurbishment, absent extraordinary circumstances, is required every 20 – 30 years, depending on various conditions. The church dome refurbishment will consist of applying a customized waterproof polymer membrane onto the dome, re-caulking all seams, and replacing expansion joints. This process requires skilled labor, scaffolding, and heavy machinery. The Parish Council has interviewed three reputable contractors and conducted a competitive bidding process, selecting the contractor and technology that provides the most appropriate and cost-efficient solution, all with the ability to provide an acceptable warranty.

As always, we thank you for your support and generosity.

To help maintain and refurbish the church dome, I/we pledge to contribute a total amount of:

☐ $10,000  ☐ $5,000  ☐ $2,000  ☐ $1,000  ☐ $500  ☐ Other ________

If you would like additional information regarding the church dome refurbishment or have other questions, please contact a Father Peter or a Parish Council member at the church office (908) 233-8533.

Name ____________________________ Signature ____________________________
Address __________________________
City ____________________ State ________
Zip Code ________

Date ____________________________
Email Address ____________________________
Home # ____________________________
Cell Phone # ____________________________

Please mail or email your Capital Raise Commitment Card to Holy Trinity @
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Rd.
Westfield, NJ 07090
Holytrinity@htoocij.org
Τελώνη και του Φαρισαίου

Η πρώτη Κυριακή του Τριωδίου είναι αφιερωμένη στην διδακτική παραβολή του Τελώνη και του Φαρισαίου, την οποία ο Κύριος διηγήθηκε, προκειμένου να διδάξει την αρετή της ταπεινώσεως και να στηλιτεύσει την έπαρση.

Ο ευαγγελιστής Λουκάς, με τρόπο λιτό, αλλά σαφέστατο, διέσωσε την παραβολή αυτή ως εξής:

«Εἴπε δὲ καὶ πρὸς τινὰς τοὺς πεποιθότας ἐφ’ ἐαυτοῖς ὅτι εἰσὶ δίκαιοι, καὶ ἐξουθενοῦντας τοὺς λαοὺς, τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· ἀνθρωποὶ δύο ἀνέβησαν εἰς τὸ ἱερὸν προσεύχασθαι, ὁ εἷς Φαρισαῖος καὶ ὁ ἐτερός τελώνης. ὁ Φαρισαῖος σταθεὶς πρὸς ἑαυτὸν ταύτα προσηθεύσετο· ὁ Θεός, εὐχαριστῶ σοι ὅτι ὑμεῖς λαῶν, ἠρπαγεῖς, ἀδικοὶ, μοιχοί, ἵτα ὡς οὗτος ὁ τελώνης νηστεύω διὸ τοῦ σαββάτου, ἀποδεκατῶ πάντα ὅσα κτόμαι. Καὶ ὁ τελώνης μακρόθεν ἐστῶς ὅτι ἠθελεν οὐδὲ τοὺς ὕφθαλμους εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν ἑπάρῃ, ἀλλ’ ἔτυπτεν εἰς τὸ στῆθος αὐτοῦ λέγων· ὁ Θεός, ἱλάσθητι μοι τῷ ἀμαρτωλῷ. Λέγω ὑμῖν, κατέβη οὗτος δεδικαιωμένος εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ ἢ γὰρ ἐκεῖνος ὅτι πᾶς ὁ ψυχὸν ἑαυτῶν ταπεινωθήσεται, ὁ δὲ ταπεινὸν ἑαυτὸν ψυχωθήσεται». (Λουκ.18,10-14).

Η τάξη των Φαρισαίων εκπροσωπούσε την υποκρισία και την εγωιστική αυτάρκεια καὶ έπαρσή. Τα μέλη της απόλυτα αποκομμένα από την υπόλοιπη Ιουδαϊκή κοινωνία, αποτελούσαν, λαθεμένα, το μέτρο σύγκρισης της ευσέβειας και της θηκής για τους Ιουδαίους. Αντίθετα οι τελώνες ήταν η προσωποποίηση της αδικίας και της αμαρτωλότητας. Ως φοροεισπράκτορες των κατακτητών Ρωμαίων διέπρατταν αδικίες, κλοπές, εκβιασμούς, τοκογυμνίες και άλλες ειδανείς ανομίες και γι’ αυτό τους μισούσε δικαιολογημένα ο λαός. Δύο αντίθετα τύποι της κοινωνίας, οι οποίοι εκπροσωπούσαν τις δύο αυτές τάξεις, ανέβηκαν στο ναό να προσευχηθοῦν. Ο πρώτος ο νομιζόμενος ευσεβής, έχοντας την αυτάρκεια της δήθεν ευσέβειας του ως δεδομένη, στάθηκε με έπαρση μπροστά στο Θεό και ἁρχίσετε να απαριθμεῖς τις αρετές του, οι οποίες ήταν πραγματικές. Τις εξέθετε προκλητικότατα εις τρόπον ώστε απαιτοῦσε από το Θεό να τον επιβραβεύσει γι’ αυτές. Για να εξαναγκάσει το Θεό ἐκανε καὶ ἄρθη σύγκρισή του με ἄλλους ανθρώπους καὶ ιδιαίτερα με τον συμπροσωπούμενό του τελώνη.
Αντίθετα ο όντως αμαρτωλός τελώνης συναισθάνεται τη δεινή του κατάσταση και με συντριβή και ταπείνωση ζητεί το έλεος του Θεού. Αυτή η μετάνοια του τον δικαιώνει μπροστά στο Θεό. Γίνεται δεκτή η προσευχή του, σε αντίθεση με τον υποκριτή Φαρισαίο, ο οποίος όχι μόνο δεν έγινε δεκτή η προσευχή του, αλλά σώρευσε στον εαυτό του περισσότερο κρίμα, εξαιτίας της εγωάθειάς του.

Οι Πατέρες της Εκκλησίας μας όρισαν να είναι αφιερωμένη η πρώτη Κυριακή του Τριωδίου στη διδακτική αυτή παραβολή του Κυρίου για να συνειδητοποιήσουν οι πιστοί πως η υπερηφάνεια είναι η αγιάτρευτη ρίζα του κακού στον άνθρωπο, η οποία τον κρατά μακριά από την αγιαστική χάρη του Θεού και πως η ταπείνωση είναι το σωτήριο αντίδοτο της καταστροφικής πορείας, που οδηγεί τον άνθρωπο η εγωάθεια.

GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

* AMEN *