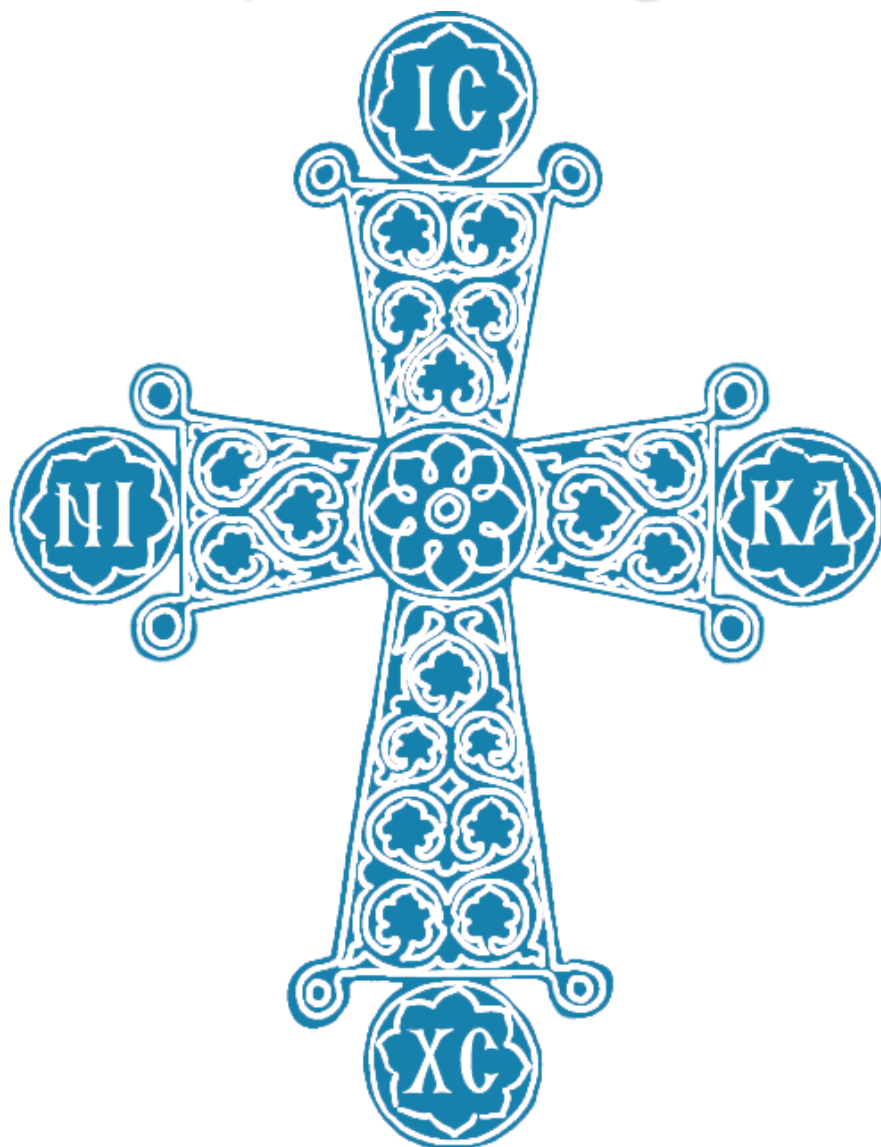


Sunday of the Prodigal Son



February 16, 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 Delvizi, Parish Priest

**St. Pamphilos the Martyr of Tyre & his Companions; Our Holy Father
St. Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople; The Righteous St. Marouthas**

First Tone

Ἦχος Α΄

Morning Gospel:	St. Matthew 28:16-20	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Luke 15:11-32	Ελληνικά

Resurrectional 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: “Foolishly, I sprang away* from Thy great fatherly glory,* and dispersed in wicked deeds* the riches that Thou didst give me.* With the Prodigal I therefore* cry unto Thee now:* I have sinned against Thee, O compassionate Father.* But receive me in repentance;* make me as one of* Thy hired servants, O Lord.”

Liturgical Schedule

Saturday, February 22, 1st Saturday of Souls, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Sunday, February 23, Meatfare Sunday, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Saturday, March 1, 2nd Saturday of Souls, 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Sacraments and Rites

Funeral: On Monday, February 10, the funeral service for Despina Anastasiou✝ was held. Eternal be her memory.

Churching: On Sunday a 40-day blessing of Athina Sophia Vasilow, daughter of Chris Vasilow and Sophia Manatakis, will be held.

Baptism: On Sunday the baptism of Ellie (Eleni) Sophia Durso, daughter of Nicholas Durso and Christina Philipou-Durso, will be celebrated. The Godmother is Vicki Zourzoukis.

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. Subscribe to Holy Trinity weekly emails providing news updates and announcements. Request at: HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org

Saturday of the Souls Divine Liturgies - Ψυχοσάββατα

March 9, 16, 23

“Saturday of the Souls” (Ψυχοσάββατο) are days that the Holy Church has specifically prescribed to pray for those who have taken their repose in the Lord. It is important to attend these liturgies to pray for the souls of your departed loved ones. By remembering our deceased loved ones, we witness God’s power of Christ’s Resurrection. Please submit the names of those who have taken their repose to Fr. Peter so that they can be commemorated during the Saturday of Souls Liturgies.

In observance of Presidents’ Day, the office will be closed on Monday, February 17.

IOCC Souper Bowl of Caring

Last Sunday’s collection in support of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) totaled \$1000. Thank you for your generosity for the IOCC collection and for the non-perishable food items that have been donated to the Westfield Soup Kitchen.



Anastasios, Vasilios, Danny, Bill, Lou, Foula, Eupraxia, Chris, Arlene, John, Ted, William, Theodora, Michael, Gioula, Nicholas, Hellen, Luba, Kevin, Janice, Elaine, Patty, Cynthia, Nicholas, Blace, Christos, Thomas, Rich, Robert, 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, Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Molly, Leonidas, David, Elizabeth, Tara, Lambros, Anne, Maria, Mikos, Arthur, John



The February Edition of The Promise is Now Available Online!

www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org/the-promise

Keep Yourself Clean

A person awoke one morning and looked out of his hotel window. The whole town seemed ugly and drab. Even the sunshine seemed too faint to relieve the gloom. He was depressed and saddened at what lay outside. A little while later he walked out of the hotel and instantly the whole picture changed. It was a bright and sun shiny day. The air was cool and clear and the town was actually quite pretty. He realized then where the fault lay. The window in the hotel room was so grimy and dirty that it made everything outside look dull. The fault was not in the day or in the town but in the dirty window.

G. B. Shaw said once, "Better keep yourself clean and bright; you are the window through which you must see the world." How often do we look out at other people through windows clouded by prejudice, jealousy and conceit. The result is that we see people not as they are but as they are distorted by our hatred. Heraclitus said once, "Eyes and ears are bad witnesses to those who have barbarian souls." How different it is to look out at other people through windows that have been cleansed by repentance and the love of Christ. Then we see in every person the image of God. Then we see every person not as we think he is but as he really is.

Sayings of the Church Fathers...

The abbot Makarius said, "If we dwell upon the harms that have been wrought on us by men, we amputate from our mind the power of dwelling upon God."

St. Mark the Ascetic says:

"Do not become the disciple of one who praises himself, in case you learn pride instead of humility."

"Do not grow conceited about your interpretation of Scripture, lest your intellect fall victim to blasphemy."

"Do not attempt to explain something difficult with contentiousness, but in the way which the spiritual law enjoins: with patience, prayer, and unwavering hope."

"A self-indulgent heart becomes a prison and chain for the soul when it leaves this life; whereas an assiduous heart is an open door."

"There are many differing methods of prayer. No method is harmful; if it were, it would not be prayer but the activity of Satan."

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP



Holy Trinity offers each of us rich opportunities to grow in our Orthodox Faith, celebrate our cultural heritage, and belong to a church that elevates each of us by seeing the image of God in our fellow parishioner.

Holy Trinity Is:

- The center of **WORSHIP**
- A place of **FELLOWSHIP** offering a sense of **BELONGING**
- My **SPIRITUAL** home
- A **FAMILY** of believers welcoming children and all people
- The hub of **CULTURAL** identity
- A place of **SUPPORT** and **ASSURANCE**

As you will agree, Holy Trinity is a place like no other. Like our home, it is the only place where these essential elements are brought together and experienced. Here we live our Faith, participate in fellowship events that create lasting friendships. We live as a spiritual family with God as our Father, and because of this it is natural for us to support the parish through Stewardship.

The best of Holy Trinity requires everyone's support. Please make sure that you submit your Stewardship Commitment by March 1 to ensure that you can vote in elections and seek elective office. To those who have already submitted a 2025 Stewardship Commitment, thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Complete your 2025 Stewardship Commitment online:

<https://form.jotform.com/230346419533151>

Religious Education

The Communion Breakfast held last Sunday was a tremendous success despite the snowy day. Thank you to all who joined us for fellowship, and to Steve Ladas and the kitchen crew. Many hands make for joyful work. We greatly appreciate Philoptochos for sharing their decorations and supporting the breakfast in so many ways. Lastly, we thank Bagel Chateau of Westfield for their generous donation.

Classes Have Begun - Click the link to register: [Religious Education Registration](#) We are looking for Assistant Teachers and Substitutes! If you are interested in teaching, you do not need to be an expert on Orthodoxy to join our Religious Education team! Please contact Pete Markos at pmarkos307@gmail.com

53rd Sights and Sounds - Saturday, March 1, 2025

Volunteers needed. Holy Trinity will host approximately 500 Greek Orthodox youth from across NJ to participate in this unique visual, literary and performing arts competition. An average of 150 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. Please contact Roula Ioannou 908-451-3005, Keli Leunes 917-816-6927 or email sightsandsoundsvolunteers@gmail.com if interested or for further information.

Qualified Judges needed. 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 ASAP: **Sounds**-Yiana Leichtling at 908-413-6213 or sightsandsoundsjudges@yahoo.com **Sights**-Ellen Manos-Athenson at 908-337-0775 or ebmanos@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE - 2025 Ladies Philoptochos Annual Dinner Fashion Show

This year's fashion show will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at Brooklake Country Club, in Florham Park, NJ. Fashions will be provided by Fashions by Leslie Patrizio. Invitations to this wonderful event will be forthcoming soon. For information, please contact Kassandra Romas, 2025 Fashion Show Chair, kromas22409@gmail.com

MISSION SUNDAY 2025

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21)

On Sunday, March 2nd, the parish of Holy Trinity will once again observe Mission Sunday. This Sunday reminds us that we too, like the Apostles, are sent to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people!

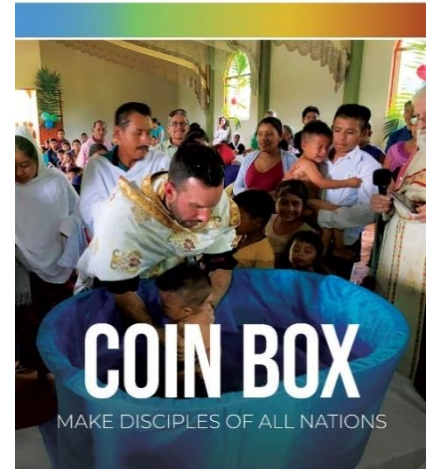
We have supported the following efforts over the past 8 years, giving almost \$8,000 through our annual Mission Sunday Coin Box collections!

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) is an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America that coordinates our missionary efforts by:

- Sending Missionaries and Mission Specialists – Currently, 20 OCMC missionary personnel and their families have been sent to bring people into the *fullness of life found in Jesus Christ* in Albania, Brazil, Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico, Romania, Tanzania, Tonga, and Uganda.
- Supporting Mission Priests – Almost 500 local priests, mostly in Africa, receive monthly financial assistance so that they might help their local people to *hear about Jesus Christ*.
- Supporting seminaries and training Church Leaders and Clergy – In Albania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Kenya, Tanzania, and elsewhere where the Mission Center sends missionaries and/or funds to help train future clergy and church leaders.
- Funding Missions Grants – Last fiscal year, approximately \$1.3 million in grants was approved for projects around the world so that the Church could bring the Good News to unevangelized people, support local Diocesan institutions and projects, especially with income generation, and share Christ’s love through projects that tend to the whole person.

Everyone is asked to participate in this year’s Mission Sunday by:

- Making sure you (or your children) take a Mission Coin Box and put spare change into the boxes during Great Lent in support of mission efforts around the world.
- Make a donation in support of Mission Sunday.
- *Pray for the missionaries serving throughout the world as they work to bring people into fullness of life found in Jesus Christ.*



Scan Code to Submit
Donations Online:



Holy Trinity Supports
The Light of the Cross

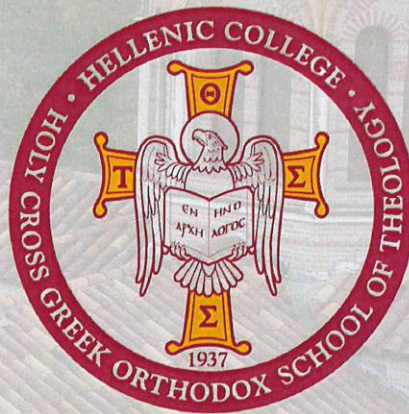
Help the Metropolis of NJ ensure the financial stability of Hellenic College/Holy Cross. The Parish Council together with Philoptochos will donate \$3,000 to this important Benefit Luncheon. If you would like to attend, please see Father Peter and peruse the flyer. Tickets are \$125/person.



THE LIGHT OF THE CROSS

*His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey
cordially invites you to the*

*Hellenic College and
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
Benefit Luncheon*



St. George Greek Orthodox Church
1200 Klockner Road, Trenton (Hamilton), New Jersey, 08619

March 29, 2025 | 11:00am | \$125
per ticket



Scan or Click for Ticket and
Sponsorship Information

TZ
PHO

Holy Trinity to March in the
2025 Greek Independence Day
Parade in NYC
March 30

For nearly 100 years, the Diaspora Hellenes in the Greater New York/New Jersey area have proudly celebrated Greek Independence Day by marching up the famed 5th Avenue in New York City. Mark your calendars and prepare to participate in one of the oldest parades held in NYC.

SAVE THE DATES

FOR

NEW YORK'S 2025

GREEK

INDEPENDENCE DAY

CELEBRATIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH – 4:00 PM – MS. GREEK INDEPENDENCE PAGEANT

MONDAY, MARCH 17TH – 5:00 PM - HELLASFM RADIOTHON

SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND – 1:00 PM - ATHENS SQUARE FLAG RAISING

SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD – 4:00 PM - GREEK INDEPENDENCE LECTURE

FRIDAY, MARCH 28TH – 11:00 AM - DOXOLOGY & BOWLING GREEN FLAG RAISING

SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH – 7:00 PM - GREEK INDEPENDENCE GALA

SUNDAY, MARCH 30 – 9:00 AM - HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY

11:00 AM - PRE-PARADE RECEPTION FOR SPONSORS

1:00 PM - GREEK INDEPENDENCE PARADE ON 5TH AVE



G R E E C E .

THE BIRTHPLACE OF DEMOCRACY AND
STRATEGIC PARTNER OF AMERICA!



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

February 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.

