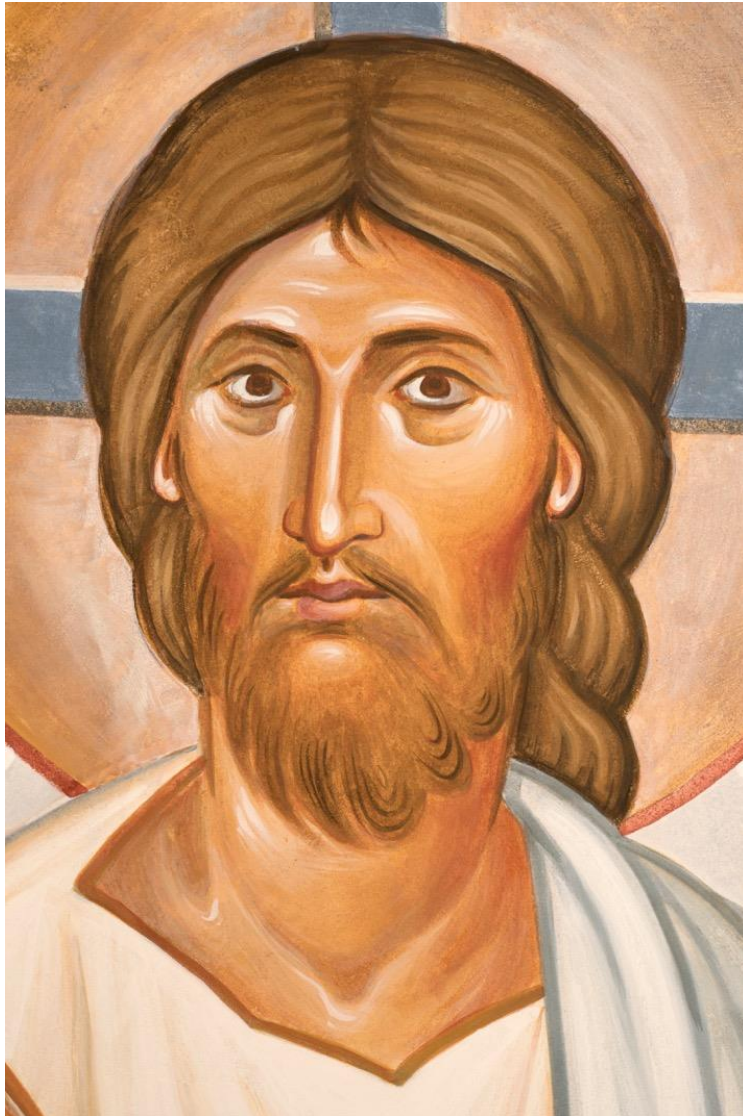


# Sunday of the Canaanite



Our Lord

Sunday, February 18, 2024

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

Live streaming services - 908.233.8533 - [www.holytrinitywestfield.org](http://www.holytrinitywestfield.org)

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis, Parish Priest

On the Eighteenth Day of the month, we commemorate: Our Holy Father St. Leo the Great, Pope of Rome; St. Agapetos the Confessor, Bishop of Sinai; St. Flavian the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople

*Click links for Scripture Readings*

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. Luke 24:1-12</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 6:16-18;7:1</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Matthew 15:21-28</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

Fourth Tone Ηχος Δ´

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** *“The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His 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:** *“A protection of Christians unshamable,\* Intercessor to our Holy Maker, unwavering,\* please reject not\* the prayerful cries of those who are in sin.\* Instead, come to us for you are good;\* your loving help do bring to us,\* who are crying in faith to you:\* hasten to intercession\* and speed now to supplication,\* as a protection for all time,\* Theotokos, for those who honor you.”*

#### Liturgical Schedule

Friday, February 23, St. Polycarp of Smyrna; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM  
Sunday, February 25, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM  
Sunday, March 3, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

#### Sacraments and Rites

**40-Day Blessing:** On Saturday, February 17, we were blessed to have the churching of Georgios Stagias, son of Apostolos and Athena Stagias.

**Memorial:** Your prayers are requested Sunday morning, February 18, at the memorial service for Antonio Pistola†, 1 year. Eternal be his memory.

**Funeral:** On Friday, February 16, the funeral service for Sylvia Halvas† was held. Eternal be her memory.

#### Partaking of Holy Communion

Receiving Holy Communion is a clear and visible sign of unity in faith. Please know that Holy Communion can only be received by those who are baptized and confirmed in the Orthodox

Church. Additionally, all Orthodox Christians must prepare themselves through prayer and fasting before approaching the Chalice.

### Welcome Visitors

We welcome all those visiting our parish today and are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are looking for a friendly spiritual home, we invite you to become part of the Holy Trinity 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.

### Church Office Closed – Monday, February 19

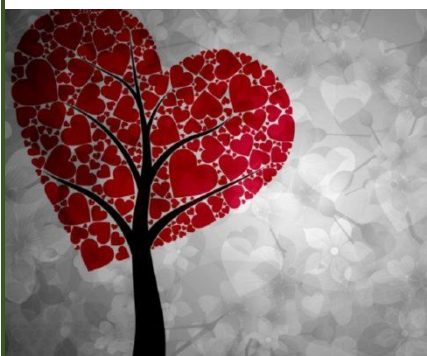
In observance of Presidents' Day, the church office will be closed tomorrow and will reopen Tuesday, February 20.

### New Bookstore Titles

Visit Holy Trinity Bookstore for informative books on the Orthodox faith. New titles arrived this week including: books on parenting, St. Nektarios composition on Christology, Patristic Theology by Father John Romanidis and many more. fascinating options.



### Is Valentine's Day an Orthodox Feast?



People of all ages look forward every year to Valentine's Day. A day of flowers, greeting cards, and lots and lots of chocolate. Kids especially view Valentine's Day as a "second Halloween" with all the sweet treats. We see stores, schools and homes decorated with hearts and cupids. Yet, do all these things signify what the day is all about?

In the year 486 AD, Pope Gelasius I established the Feast of St. Valentine on February 14. It was to honor St. Valentine of Rome who was martyred on that day in the year 286 A.D. St. Valentine of Rome was a presbyter who defied the imperial order of Emperor Claudius which stated: men who had not fulfilled their military obligations could not marry. The Saint married many couples who were barred from marriage per the imperial decree.

The details of Valentine's martyrdom are unclear; however, tradition holds that it was related to his defiance over the imperial decree. It was his connection to the sacrament of matrimony that inspired the late Medieval Western literary foundations which led to the secular celebration of what we now know as Valentine's Day. St. Valentine of Rome gave his life to sanctify and make whole the union of young couples through the blessing of God's love. This love is not "eros" which is physical and emotional (the basis of modern Valentine's Day) but rather "αγάπη" which is self-sacrificial and self-giving.

In the Orthodox Church, St. Valentine of Rome is celebrated on July 6.

Currently, the feast day of St. Valentine's Day has nothing to do with the achievements of the Saint. Instead of honoring his memory and the defense of marriage, the day has now become completely commercialized just like Christmas and its advertised image has nothing to do with the Feast itself.



In some ways, the images of cupids and hearts can be justified since they do represent the love and romance shared in marriage between a husband and wife. Indeed, St. Valentine of Rome died to safeguard the institution of marriage. Now while Christian marriage can be about romance it must go beyond this to espouse sacrificial love. It is for this reason that a couple is crowned in marriage, imitating the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Christ. It is also about sacrificial love in that the husband and wife are to be martyrs for the salvation of each other.

### **Reading the Communion Prayers - 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.

### **Metropolis of New Jersey Facebook Page**

His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos wishes to inform all that the Metropolis has created a new Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Facebook Page. Please visit and follow this page and share the link with fellow parishioners. [www.facebook.com/people/Greek-Orthodox-Metropolis-of-New-Jersey/](http://www.facebook.com/people/Greek-Orthodox-Metropolis-of-New-Jersey/)

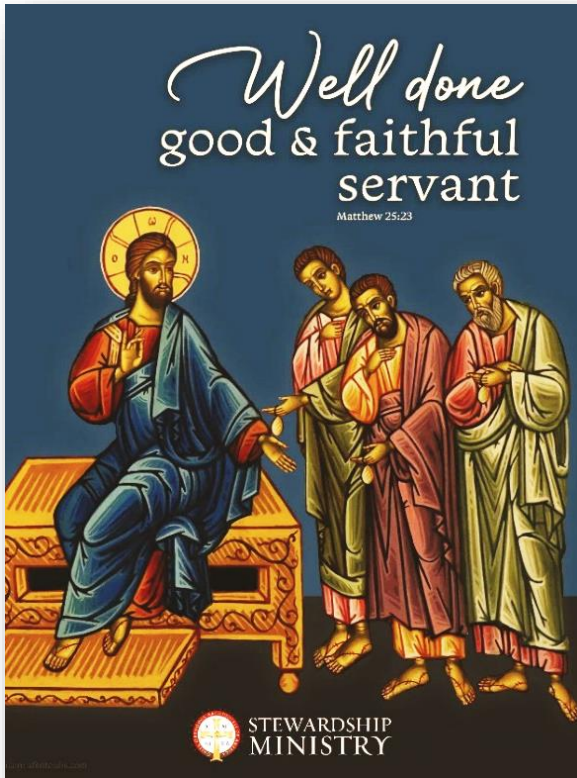
### **Currently 253 Stewards have pledged \$371,926**



Thank you to the parishioners who submitted their pledge cards and stewardship gifts. As of February, we graciously received 253 pledges in the amount of \$371,926. Please remember to submit your pledge card which will help us meet our operating budget of \$939,200. Consider inviting family and friends to come to visit and worship with us. Sponsor a new

steward and bring them into our Holy Trinity family.

Your gifts to date have allowed our Parish to achieve 39.6% of our budget. Holy Trinity is blessed in that we do not have a mortgage as do many other parishes. This allows for a greater percentage of your Stewardship pledge to be utilized for ministry rather than given to the bank. As you can see, the parish has many thriving ministries, and we want every parishioner to be involved with our ministries.



*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@htgocnj.org (see enclosed Stock/Security Donation Form)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Dependents \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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



Helen, Chris, Niko, Vicky, Dino, Stephanie, James, John, Theodora, Novlet, Chrysavgi, Alexandra, Sue, Marilyn, David, Basil, Laura, Marylee, Meropi, Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Billy, Molly, Leonidas, 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, Ket, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich



## 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.

The February Edition of  
**THE PROMISE**  
Is Now Available




**HOLY TRINITY  
WESTFIELD**

**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](mailto:goya@htgocnj.org) with any questions.

### **TOTS Playgroup – February 28**

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, February 28, 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](mailto:vcomprelli@gmail.com) or 612-801-8608 to sign up or to ask any questions.

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### **Religious Education**

The Community Communion Breakfast was held Sunday, February 11, and was a tremendous success! We had record breaking attendance and all enjoyed fellowship and a delicious meal. Special thanks to Steve Ladas and his hardworking kitchen crew and the many hands that helped. Great appreciation to the Philoptochos for sharing their decorations and Village Supermarkets, Stop & Shop Watchung, and Bagel Chateau Westfield for their generous donations. Thank you also to our fellow parishioners that made donations towards the breakfast.

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### **The Holy Trinity Cultural Committee**

The Holy Trinity Cultural Committee would like to share Hellenic and Orthodox cultural events and exhibits from organizations and institutions available to all. **East Mediterranean Business Culture Alliance** webinar events on <https://www.youtube.com/@embca>

- February 25 - “Nostos and Citizenship for Hellenic Adoptees” Webinar Panel Discussion
- March 21 - “Ioannis Kapodistrias - Hellenic Governor and International Statesman” Live Panel Discussion at the Demos Center in Athens, Greece
- March 24 - “Hypatia of Alexandria “Martyr for Philosophy”” Webinar Panel Discussion

**The Metropolitan Museum of Art Exhibition Africa & Byzantium** is on view until March 3

- For a virtual tour of Africa & Byzantium watch now at: <https://youtu.be/NHIT9vq6mJU>

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### **Souper Bowl of Caring Special Collection –Sunday, February 18**

Score a souper bowl victory against hunger! Team up with IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) and GOYA to feed the hungry. Please bring nonperishable food items to help stock local food banks. Also, Sunday, February 18, GOYA youth members will have a monetary collection to help support the ministry efforts of IOCC. 41 million people struggle with hunger in the United States, including 13 million children. Your monetary donation and non-perishable food items can help change that. Let’s make this a super day of giving!

### **SAVE THE DATE - 2024 Ladies Philoptochos Annual Dinner Fashion Show**

It will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at Brooklake Country Club, in Florham Park, NJ. Fashions will be provided by Emily's of Staten Island. Invitations to this wonderful event will be forthcoming soon. For information, please contact Cassandra Romas, 2024 Fashion Show Chairman, [kromas22409@gmail.com](mailto:kromas22409@gmail.com)

# Sights and Sounds



**2024**

## **Sights and Sounds – Saturday, March 2**

Holy Trinity is hosting the 52nd year of Sights and Sounds on Saturday, March 2, when approximately 500 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. Please contact Roula Ioannou 908-451-3005 or Keli Leunes 917-816-6927. The email address is: [sightsandsoundsvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sightsandsoundsjudges@yahoo.com) or 908-413-6213; Sights: Ellen Manos-Athenson at [ebmanos@yahoo.com](mailto:ebmanos@yahoo.com) or 908-337-0775.

**Westfield GOYA**

**proudly presents the**

## ***2024 Sights & Sounds Showcase***



**Join us for a light lunch and show  
featuring the Westfield GOYA group and individual performances  
and displays of artwork**

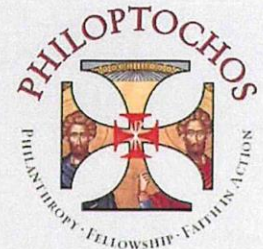
**Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 12 noon**

**Suggested Donation: \$5 per person or \$20 per family  
Venmo @westfieldgoya or  
Cash or Checks payable to HTGOC YHT at the door**

**PLEASE SIGN UP SO WE CAN GET AN ESTIMATED HEADCOUNT: <http://tinyurl.com/m86jft5b>**



GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



# WALKING WITH CHRIST

*First Seminarian Benefit Luncheon*



**St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church**  
35 N Malin Rd, Broomall, PA 19008

**March 16th**

**11 A.M.**

**2024**



Follow the QR code for Ticket Sales and Event Sponsorships. All Proceeds Will Benefit the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Seminarrians and Masters of Divinity Students

# Upcoming Parish Events

## SAVE THE DATE!

**April 14, 2024**

## GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE



### SAVE THE DATE

The Greek Independence Day Parade in New York will be held on

**Sunday, April 14, 2024**



**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 ✠**