Meatfare Sunday

Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.’

The Lord’s Prayer

February 19, 2023

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
Meatfare Sunday
On this Sunday, we commemorate the Last Judgment and Christ’s Impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind God, not only as the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds; Sts. Philemon, Apphia, Archippos, and Onesimus, Apostles of the Seventy; St. Philothea the Righteous Martyr of Athens

Third Tone Ηχος Γ

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: “Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world 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: “When Thou, O God, wilt come to earth with glory, and all things tremble, and the river of fire floweth before the Judgment Seat, and the books are opened and the hidden things made public, then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and deem me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O most righteous Judge.”

Altar Donations
An asterisk (*) indicates that a donation can be made in memory of a deceased loved one.

**Altar Candles** in loving memory of Demetrios (James) Genakos†

**Vigil Light** in loving memory of Demetrios (James) Genakos†

**Large Candles** in loving memory of Demetrios (James) Genakos†
Memorials: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial services for Demetrios (James) Genakos†, 40 days, and for Christos Kiriakatis†, 6 years; and Anastasios Kiriakatis†, 30 years. On Saturday, February 25, a memorial service for Haralambos Liberatos†, 40 days, will be held. Eternal be their memories.

40-Day Blessings: Today we are blessed to have two churchings. Aristotle John Arethas, son of Stefanos and Allison Arethas, and Sophia Charilaou, daughter of Vasilis and Eliana Charilaou, will be celebrated.

Liturgical Schedule
Saturday, February 25, 2nd Saturday of Souls, 9:00 AM
Sunday, February 26, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
Monday, February 27, Great Lent Begins, 5:00 PM Great Compline
Wednesday, March 1, Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 AM
Friday, March 3, Akathist Hymn, 6:30 PM

Fellowship Hour: Please join us in the Bouras Center after church for the Fellowship Hour which is being sponsored by Hellen Kiriakatis, in memory of Christos Kiriakatis† and Anastasios Kiriakatis†.

The Lord’s Prayer
In approaching the Lord to converse with Him, perhaps it’s best to begin with the words of the disciples, “Lord, teach us how to pray.” (Luke 11:1) The disciples looked upon the Lord as their teacher. Jesus was, first and foremost, a man of prayer. The disciples were inspired by His actions, as well as, His words.

Jesus shows His disciples how to pray by offering the most idyllic example of prayer: the Lord’s Prayer. We must view this prayer as a gift. Something of great value given to us by our Saviour. It is given so that we may use it, repeat it, contemplate it, and pray it in earnest. The uniqueness of the Lord’s Prayer is not only that it is a gift of Christ but also that it reflects, in spirit and content, the great themes of what Jesus taught and lived. From each of its petitions we can virtually outline the key themes of Christ’s ministry – the personal fatherhood and holiness of God, the proclamation of God’s kingdom and will, the concern
for daily human sustenance, the plea for forgiveness from God and from one another, as well as the entreaty for protection from temptations and deliverance from the wiles of Satan. In the words of Tertullian, a 2nd Century Christian teacher, the Lord’s Prayer is a “summary of the Gospel.” This is the model of prayer with Christ being its author. This is why it has enjoyed a position of prominence in the life and thought of Christians throughout the ages.

Consider the opening words, “Our Father”. With these two words, Jesus massively reorders the cosmic understanding of God. Prior to this, no one spoke of God in terms of a father. Only the Kings of Old Testament were allowed to call God father. For everyone else, God was unknown, distance, to be revered and feared at the same time. You addressed Him not as Father but as Lord, or God. Words that are less intimate. These two words (Our Father) offer us deep significance when asking whose Father is God actually? He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ from all eternity, yet the plural form indicates that He is also our Father. A son is distinguished and characterized as possessing the same qualities and traits as the Father. In other words, Christ is the embodiment of the Father. Shouldn’t the Son of God also be God (our children are human in nature, not some other creature.) John 10:30 indicates this: “I and My Father are one.”

We are sons through adoption, not by nature. And because we were adopted, we can now call God, Father. Through Christ and His Incarnation, God has become the Father of all. And just as God’s family is extended to us through adoption, our families must also be transformed to include all people. Our spiritual family cannot be limited by anything. Blood and DNA should not close off others from being part of our spiritual family. If love is only contained within the nuclear family, then we make an idol of the family. We must be extremely careful because too often we make idols of our family thinking “ours is the best or without compare. Jesus wants us to be part of His family and through Him and the heavenly adoption, we surpass blood ties and have risen spiritually, able to call God, OUR FATHER.

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Saturday of the Souls Divine Liturgies
Feb. 18, Feb. 25, and March 4

“Saturday of the Souls” (Ψυχοσάββατον) 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 them in death, we witness God’s ultimate power through Christ’s Resurrection. Please submit the names of your deceased loved ones so that they can be prayed for during these liturgies.
Kolyva

For Memorial Services, a special plate of boiled wheat, called kolyva, is brought to Church and presented to the Saviour. Symbolically, the kolyva represents the souls of those departed who are connected to the Resurrected Lord. The imagery of wheat and its connection to new life is introduced by Christ, “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” (John 12:24) These words of Christ become a comfort to us knowing that each of us must pass through the portal of death. Christ is risen from the dead and through the victory of His Resurrection the fruits of eternal life have been given to those who believe in Him. (Romans 5:8-11; 6:7-11)

During the Saturday of Souls, families are encouraged to bring small bowls of kolyva to church for the memorial prayers offered after liturgy. As always, trays of koliva can be purchased from the church, if you are unable to make them yourselves.

Katie, Joe, Theo, Barbara, Nicholas, Athanasios, Clarita, Georgia, Savas, Christodoulos, Sophia, Savas, Maria, Michelle, Dorothy, Elizabeth, Steve, Clem, Christos, Dorothy, Bill, Thomas, John, Keti, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Keti, Georgia, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Gayle, William, Byron, John, Robert, Connie, Donald, Terry, John, Angela, Andrew, Dianna, Edward, Sue, Thomas, Andrea, Thomas, Alexandra, Ronald, 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, Denise, Mirka, Stamatia, Theresa, James, Antoinette, William, Angela, Tanner, Stefanos, Helen, Katherine, Ashley, Angela, Nick, Lindsey, Alexandrea, Evdokia, Chris, Zach, Notis, Erica, Christina, Fran, Joan, Hellen, Joseph, Cleopatra, James, Rosa, George, Kathy
Welcome Visitors
Welcome all visitors to our parish. We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home, we hope that you will become part of our family. Fr. Peter would like very much to meet you. Please visit the Philoxenia/Fellowship table in the Bouras Center after services to meet parishioners and receive information about the parish.

Church Office Closed – February 20
In observance of Presidents’ Day, the church office will be closed on, Monday, February 20.

Philoptochos at Community FoodBank of NJ – February 24
Philoptochos will be volunteering at Community FoodBank of NJ in Hillside on Fri., Feb. 24, from 1–3 PM. Anyone interested in volunteering please reach out to Kristen Tenzca at kmt@asis-nj.com or Ellen Conti at eckou327@aol.com. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old. Volunteers 12 to 15 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Greek Dance for Everyone
Holy Trinity is happy to offer Greek dance classes for all ages. Joy/Hope (grades K-6th) classes meet on Sundays at 12 noon in Rm 107; GOYA (grades 7th-12th) classes are Sundays from 1:30 PM. The adult Greek dance class is off to a great start! Register using the following link Adult Greek Dance Class. Please stop by the GOYA table after church for more information or contact Mary Carayannopoulos (carayannopoulos@comcast.net)

Sights and Sounds – March 4
Holy Trinity is hosting the 51st year of Sights and Sounds on Saturday, March 4, at which 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 Christina Colonias 917-825-5986. 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.
Greek School Spanakopita & Tiropita Sale - February 26
We are planning a Greek School Fundraiser, Sunday, February 26. Take home some fresh baked delicious Spanakopita & Tiropita and support the Greek School PTO.

Greek Costume Donations
Our Greek School is looking for donations of Traditional Greek Costumes (Evzone & Amalia). If you have any costumes taking up space in your closets, we would love for you to donate them. Please email the Greek School at Greekschoolhtgoc@gmail.com or drop them off on Sundays at The Greek School Table.

2023 Stewardship Campaign Update

Currently 250 Stewards have pledged $349,148.

Your stewardship gifts provide a loving, caring, and welcoming environment where all belong and grow in the faith through worship, service, witness, and fellowship.

Thank you to the parishioners who submitted their pledge cards and stewardship gifts. If you have not submitted your 2023 Stewardship Pledge, please submit your pledge card by March 1 to be in good standing to vote at our annual Parish Assembly and run for the Parish Council.

Your gifts to date have allowed our Parish to achieve our annual Archdiocesan commitment, a gift to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, and support our growing and vibrant ministries. Thank you for your support!
Submit your stewardship card online: Stewardship Commitment Card

Easter Cemetery Palm Cross Sale
Kindly place your order with Marina LoAlbo at (908)272-4341, marinaloalbo@hotmail.com by Sunday, March 26. The Palm Cross is $11 each. Please pick up your order on Sunday, April 2, during the Fellowship Hour.
Trinity Circle
Bus Trip to the St. Nicholas Shrine – March 22
Trinity Circle is organizing a bus trip and luncheon to the St. Nicholas Shrine, in New York City, on Wednesday, March 22. The bus leaves at 10 AM and returns at 4 PM. The cost is $50 for Trinity Circle members; $75 for non-members. Kindly sign up with Kassandra Romas at (908)296-1586.

HTGOC Trinity Circle Bus Trip

SAINT NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH & NATIONAL SHRINE

Wednesday, March 22nd – 10 – 4 pm
Members $50 Non-Members $75

Bus leaves Holy Trinity parking lot at 10 am for guided tour with Fr. Andreas Vithoulkas, presiding priest of St. Nicholas Shrine, followed by lunch at SKINOS restaurant. Return to Holy Trinity approximately 4 pm.

For questions contact:
Kassandra Romas Avi Kiriakatis
908-296-1586 908-578-8570
kromas22409@gmail.com avikiriakatis@gmail.com

Name __________________________
Telephone ______________________
Number of seats __________________
Paid   Cash _______Check _______
The Spirit of Lent Concert
The Spirit of Lent Concert, made up of singers from many Greek Orthodox parishes, will return to Holy Trinity on Friday, April 7. It is an uplifting concert featuring Lenten Liturgical Hymns. This year’s director is our own Ryan J. Kiel, who grew up singing in the Holy Trinity Choir, alongside Director Emeritus, Kathryn Athanasoulas. Over the years, singers and audiences alike have come to see this event as a heartfelt preparation for the Great and Holy Week. Please attend, and feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. A Lenten reception will follow. A donation of $10 is requested, with free admission for students.
“ARISE”
The Ladies of Philoptochos – Fashion Show
On Thursday, April 27, this year’s Fashion Show will be held at Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park. Fashions presented by Emily's Boutique, Staten Island. Please stop by the Philoptochos Table during the Fellowship Hour to learn more about ARISE!, and how you can help, or donate. For information contact Kassandra Romas, event chair at kromas22409@gmail.com or 908-296-1586. For donations toward the gift raffle prizes, contact Nina Anastasiou 908-283-3424 or Christina Colonias 917-825-5986.
GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠