

# Meatfare Sunday



The Final Judgment – Matthew 25:31-46

February 23, 2025

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, New Jersey 07090

908.233.8533      [www.holytrinitywestfield.org](http://www.holytrinitywestfield.org)

Live streaming services

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizio, Parish Priest

On this Sunday, we commemorate the Last Judgment and Christ's Impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind God, not only Him as the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds; On this day we commemorate The Hiero-martyrs St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, and St. Proterios, Archbishop of Alexandria; St. Gorgonia the Righteous, sister of St. Gregory the Theologian; St. Damianos, the New Martyr of Mount Athos

### Second Tone

Ἦχος Β΄

Morning Gospel:	<u>St. Mark 16:1-8</u>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<u>1 Cor. 8:8-13; 9:1-2</u>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<u>St. Matthew 25:31-46</u>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**Resurrectional Apolytikion:** “When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by Your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.”

**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.”

### Liturgical Schedule

Saturday, March 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Souls, 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 2, Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Monday, March 3, Great Lent Begins, Great Compline, 5:00 PM

Tuesday, March 4, Lenten Vespers, 5:00 PM

Wednesday, March 5, Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 PM; Theosis, 8:00 PM

Friday, March 7, Akathist Hymn, 6:30 PM

## Altar Donations

**Kandili:** Thank God for Bob LoAlbo's good health.

## 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](mailto:HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org)

## Saturday of the Souls Divine Liturgies – Ψυχοσάββατον - March 1 & 8

“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.

## Akathist Hymn and Potluck Dinner

Every Friday night during Great Lent, after the celebration of the Akathist Hymn or Xairetesmoi, a Lenten potluck dinner will be served in the Bouras Center. This is a perfect way to practice the three pillars of Lent: a) prayer; b) fasting; c) almsgiving. Each parishioner is asked to bring a Lenten covered dish. (No meat, cheese, dairy, eggs, fish is not permitted. Shellfish and oil are permitted.) This year the following ministries will participate and help prepare the Bouras Center: March 7 – Parish Council; March 14 – Philoptochos; March 21 – GOYA; March 28 – Trinity Circle and Choir. In past years, this fellowship event has proven to be spiritually uplifting and well-received.



**The February Edition of The Promise is Now Available Online!**

[www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org/the-promise](http://www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org/the-promise)

## Theosis Class – The Screwtape Letters in Bookstore

In preparation for Theosis Class beginning on Wednesday, March 5, this year's book *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis is now on sale in the parish bookstore. This book is a satirical novel presenting a series of letters from the demon Screwtape to an apprentice imp. It provides insights into demonic strategies to corrupt and damn the human soul. During Lent, Orthodox Christians seek to overcome temptations and personal inadequacies that the devil throws at us. This book is interesting and just may help us with our Lenten journey towards Theosis.

# Prayer Request



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, Leonedas, David, Elizabeth, Tara, Lambros, Anne, Maria, Mikos, Arthur, John

## **The Sheep and the Goats**

Today's Gospel reading, St. Matthew 25:31-46, is a powerful reminder of judgment - our personal judgment before the Throne of God. We are often reminded that God has infinite mercy. This mercy is quickly given to those who seek it. But God, who sees and has knowledge of all things, knows the true seeker of His mercy simply by seeing the display of acts of mercy. If we abandon our fellow man by not extending mercy to them, then we shall be judged according to the standard of being merciless.

We must be aware that God is also a Judge, the Pantokrator, (Rev. 16:7) and all without exception shall stand before the terrible judgment seat of Christ. Today's Gospel reading is neither a parable nor an allegory, but a direct description of the final judgment. It describes Christ's Second Coming or Parousia. And unlike His first coming (Nativity), an event that was void of glory and full of dishonor and indignity, His Second Coming will reveal His supreme power. He will come with glory, escorted by the angels, and will enact the Final Judgment by dividing the saints from the sinners. No reward or condemnation will be given until each person is first judged. A person will be honored or punished based on careful examination. In this way, those who are punished will have no cause for complaint.

This passage contains many parabolic images with allegorical significance: shepherd, sheep, goats, and the separation of the herds to the right hand and to the left. The shepherd is equated with a king (v.34) who is Christ. "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep." - John 10:11. The sheep are those who follow the Shepherd and respond to Him accordingly. Those who follow the Shepherd will be rewarded. They will inherit the kingdom. Notice, they do not "receive" but "inherit" as one would his father's estate. Thus, the saints, through adoption, become the sons of God. These are those who showed mercy by feeding the hungry, offering drink, visiting strangers, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and those

imprisoned. The goats are those who failed to do so. He sends those on His left into the eternal fire that was prepared for the devil and his angels. The goats resemble demons who are without compassion and are cruelly and maliciously disposed toward us. God did not prepare this fire for humankind but “for the devil and his angels” (v.41). By acting mercilessly, these people turned themselves into devils. And thus, it is fitting that they who are of like mind should merit the same punishment.

Everything in this Gospel is direct apocalyptic scenery: the Son of man, His angels, the gathering of all nations, the reward and the punishment. St. Matthew makes it crystal clear that the criterion to be applied to the Last Judgment will be that of better righteousness and that righteousness is based on the praxis of love.



### **Inaugural Metropolis of NJ Music and Dance Festival**

Congratulations to our Religious Singing Group who were awarded 1st place in the Liturgical Choir competition in this past weekend's inaugural MDF (Metropolis of NJ Music and Dance Festival) held in Philadelphia. Special thanks to our coach, Catherine Kelly, and to our wonderful and generous Parish Council and Philoptochos. This would not have been possible without their support!

### **Trinity Circle**

Tuesday, March 4, lunch/meeting and friends getting together in camaraderie. Steve Xenakis will be presenting “Greek Proverbs and Their Meaning” and continue the stories series. Our luncheon is being donated by Kassandra Romas in memory of her beloved husband Christos; and Flora and Victor Ciobanu for everyone’s good health.

### **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](mailto:kromas22409@gmail.com)

## 53<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:sightsandsoundsjudges@yahoo.com) **Sights**-Ellen Manos-Athenson at 908-337-0775 or [ebmanos@yahoo.com](mailto:ebmanos@yahoo.com)



### Stewardship Updated

We are deeply appreciative of the 243 Stewards who have pledged their gifts as we work toward our 2025 budget goal of \$600,000. Our devotion and service to God and His Church are crucial to maintaining our spiritual home and continued support of our growing and vibrant ministries. If you haven't pledged yet, we invite you to join us! The suggested commitment is \$2,200 per steward and \$500 for young adults. Commitment cards are available at the Pangari and can be completed today! A Friendly Reminder - To ensure you're eligible to vote at parish assemblies and elections, and run for the Parish Council please submit your pledge by March 1. To those who have already submitted a 2025 Stewardship Commitment, thank you for your generosity and dedication to our parish!

# 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>

## MISSION SUNDAY – MARCH 2, 2025

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

On Sunday, March 2, 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!

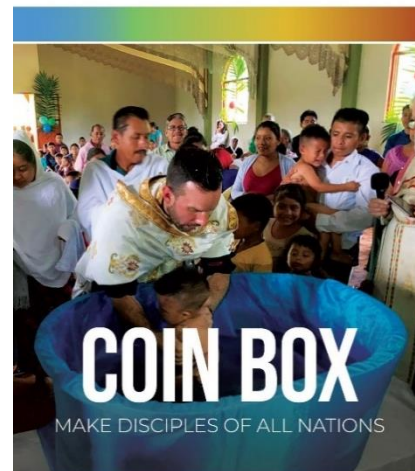
We have supported the following efforts over the past 8 years, giving almost \$8,000 through our annual Mission Sunday Coin Box collections!

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*

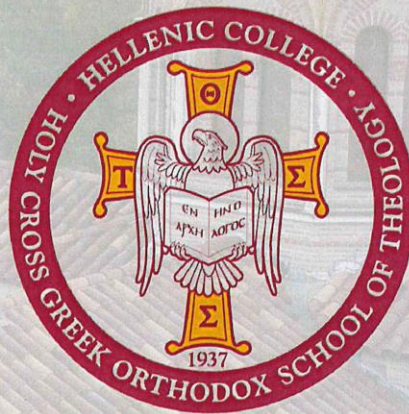
Help the Metropolis of NJ ensure the financial stability of Hellenic College/Holy Cross. The Parish Council together with Philoptochos will donate \$3,000 to this important Benefit Luncheon. If you would like to attend, please see Father Peter and peruse the flyer. Tickets are \$125/person.



# 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](mailto:vcomprelli@gmail.com) or 612-801-8608) to sign up or to ask any questions.

