

The Presentation of Our Lord and Saviour in the Temple



Η ΥΠΑΠΑΝΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΟΥ ΗΜΩΝ

The Presentation of Our Lord into the Temple

February 2, 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 Delvizis, Parish Priest

**St. Gabriel (✠1676) and St. Jordan (✠1650) the New Martyrs of Constantinople;
St. Agathodoros the Martyr of Cappadocia**

Grave Tone

Ἦχος Βαρύς

Festal Morning Gospel: [St. Luke 2:25-32](#)

[Ελληνικά](#)

Epistle Reading: [Hebrews 7:7-17](#)

[Ελληνικά](#)

Gospel Reading: [St. Luke 2:22-40](#)

[Ελληνικά](#)

Resurrectional Apolytikion: “You destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the Robber. You turned the Myrrh-bearing Women’s lament into joy, and You commanded Your Apostles to preach that You rose, O Christ God, granting the world the great mercy.”

Apolytikion of the Presentation: “Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness has risen from you and He illumined those in darkness. And you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart, receiving in your embraces the One who liberates our souls and bestows on us the Resurrection.”

Kontakion: “You sanctified the womb of the Virgin by Your birth, and by Your presentation You blessed the hands of Symeon, when You came, and You saved us, O Christ our God. Now we pray You give peace to Your world at war, and let love for Your people prevail in all, O only benevolent Lord.”

Liturgical Schedule

Saturday, February 8, **St. Theodore the General**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

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

Sunday, February 16, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations

Altar Candles: In memory of Gabriel Athenson✠

Large Candles: In memory of Ernest Ladas✠

Kandili: In loving memory of Stavros Constantinou✠

Sacraments and Rites

Churching: Today a 40-day blessing of Josephine Diane Coppa, daughter of Zachary Coppa and Vivian Repousis, will be held.

Weddings: On Saturday, January 25, the wedding of Maria Hatzikostas and Andrew Repousis was celebrated. The Koumbara is Maria Baxter. On Saturday, February 1, the wedding of Elena Baurkot and Jacob Thompson was celebrated. The Koumbaro is Christopher Baurkot.

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

Communion Prayers Prior to Receiving

It is a blessing to be able to receive the Most Pure Body and Precious Blood of our Saviour through Holy Communion. As we prepare ourselves beforehand through prayer, fasting, and repentance, the Divine Liturgy is the act through which we are united to Christ Himself. It is therefore good and beneficial for us to read the Communion Prayers before approaching the sacred and awesome Chalice. As a spiritual discipline, read these prayers silently, as found on pages 60-63 of the new red Divine Liturgy book, as Fr. Peter reads them aloud. By following along and praying these words, we discover another beauty that is contained within the Liturgy, and thereby, approach the Eucharist with greater regard and love.

The Fruits of True Prayer

Prayer is doxology, praise, thanksgiving, confession, supplication and intercession to God. "When I prayed I was new," wrote a great theologian of Christian antiquity, "but when I stopped praying I became old." Prayer is the way to renewal and spiritual life. Prayer is aliveness to God. Prayer is strength, refreshment, and joy. Through the grace of God and our disciplined efforts prayer lifts us up from our isolation to a conscious, loving communion with God in which everything is experienced in a new light. Prayer becomes a personal dialogue with God, a spiritual breathing of the soul, a foretaste of the bliss of God's kingdom.

As we pray deeply within our hearts we grow in prayer. By the grace of God we suddenly catch a glimpse of the miracle of the presence of the Holy Spirit working within us. At first it is only a spark but later it becomes a flame freeing and energizing our whole being. To experience the fire of God's holy love, to give it space within us to do its cleansing and healing work as a breath of the Holy Spirit, and to use it as light and power for daily living ~ such are the goals as well as the fruits of true prayer.

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, Meropi, Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Molly, Leonedas, David, Elizabeth, Tara, Lambros, Anne, Maria, Mikos, Arthur, John



The January/February Edition of The Promise is Now Available Online!
www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org/the-promise

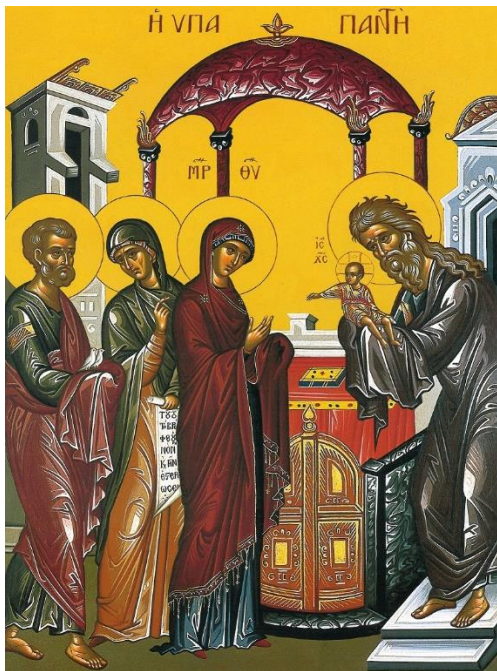
THE PRESENTATION [MEETING] OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

The fortieth day after His birth, the All-Holy Virgin brought her Divine Son into the Temple of Jerusalem, to dedicate Him to God, in accordance with the Law, "Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites both of man and beast, for it belongs to me" (Exodus 13:2). "Tell the Israelites: when a woman has conceived and gives birth to a boy, she shall be unclean for seven days, with the same uncleanness as at her menstrual period. On the eighth day, the flesh of the boy's foreskin shall be circumcised, and then she shall spend thirty-three days more in becoming purified of her blood; she shall not touch anything sacred nor enter the sanctuary till the days of her purification are fulfilled. When the days of her purification for a son or for a daughter are fulfilled, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the meeting tent a yearling lamb for a holocaust and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering. The priest shall offer them up before the Lord to make atonement for her, and thus she will be clean again after her flow of blood. Such is the law for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl child" (Leviticus 12:2-7). The Lawgiver did not, in any way, want to transgress His own Law which He had given through Moses, His servant and prophet. At that time, the high-priest Zaccharias, the father of John the Forerunner, was in the Temple, "serving as a priest before God in the order of his division" -St. Luke 1:8. Zaccharias placed the Panagia, not in the temple area reserved for women but rather in the area reserved for virgins.

On this occasion, two unusual persons appeared in the Temple: the Elder Symeon and Anna, the daughter of Phanuel. The righteous Symeon took the Messiah in his arms and said: "Now, Master, You may let Your servant go in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation" -St. Luke 2: 29-30. Symeon also spoke the following words about the Christ-child: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel" -St. Luke 2:34. Then Anna, who from her youth served God in the Temple by fasting and prayers, recognized the Messiah and glorified God and proclaimed to the inhabitants of Jerusalem about the coming of the long-awaited One. The Pharisees present in the Temple, who having seen and heard all, became angry with Zaccharias because he placed the Virgin Mary in the area reserved for virgins and reported this to King Herod.

Convinced that this is the new king about whom the Magi from the east spoke, Herod immediately sent his soldiers to kill Jesus. In the meantime, the Holy Family had already left the city and set out for Egypt under the guidance of an angel of God. The Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple was celebrated from earliest times, but the solemn celebration of this day was established in the year 544 A.D. during the reign of Emperor Justinian.

The Icon of The Presentation of Our Lord and Saviour in the Temple



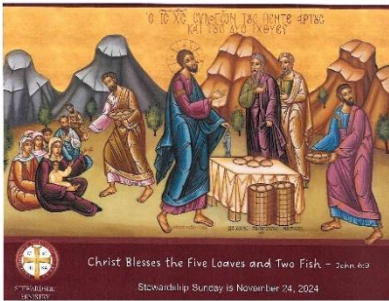
This Holy Icon shows that the meeting takes place inside the Temple and in front of the altar. The altar has a book or a scroll on it and is covered by a canopy. The Theotokos stands to the left and is holding out her hands in a gesture of offering. The one hand of the Theotokos is covered by her cloak or as it is known, the maphorion. She has just handed her Son to Simeon. Christ is shown as a child, but He is not in swaddling clothes. He is clothed in a small dress and his legs are bare. Jesus appears to be giving a blessing. Simeon holds Jesus with both hands which are covered. This shows the reverence Simeon had for the Messiah. Simeon is bare headed and there is nothing to show that he is a priest. Some biblical scholars say that Simeon was probably a priest of the Temple or a Doctor of the Law. Joseph is behind the Theotokos. He is carrying the two turtle doves for the sacrifice. Anna the Prophetess is also standing behind the Theotokos and is pointing to the Christ child. The words Simeon spoke when he saw the Christ Child are known as "St. Simeon's Prayer." This prayer is sung daily at the evening Vespers services of the Orthodox Church. In the Orthodox Church, both baby boys and baby girls are taken to the Church on the fortieth day after their birth. This is done in remembrance of the Theotokos and Joseph taking the infant Jesus to the Temple.

Together we can **GO RED** to help save more women's lives!

In honor of National Wear Red Day® and American Heart Month, the Ladies Philoptochos will be taking donations at church on Sunday, February 2, should you wish to support cardiovascular research at the Cleveland Clinic. You can also donate electronically at [GO RED Donation Page](#).

Trinity Circle – Tuesday, February 4

Our next lunch/meeting will be from 11 AM-2 PM in the Bouras Center. Rick Roscoe will give a Wellness presentation you don't want to miss. Adina Toescu is donating our lunch in memory of her loved ones. We will be collecting annual 2025 dues of \$15.



2025 Stewardship Drive is Underway

2025 Stewardship Cards are currently being collected. Holy Trinity is an active and welcoming parish of dynamic stewards. Together we participate and grow in our faith through these ministries which teach the Orthodox Faith and unite us in service to one another and the greater community. The Parish is asking each Steward to contribute \$2,200/family to help make our Stewardship effort successful.

Religious Education 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

Religious Education Community Communion Breakfast - Sunday, February 9

Join us in the Bouras Center immediately following Divine Liturgy for a delicious breakfast. Please plan on receiving Holy Communion. Godchildren are encouraged to invite their Godparents and Godparents to bring their Godchildren. Reservations can be made on Sunday, February 2; \$14.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children under 12. A registration form is also available in our Upcoming Parish Events section. Volunteers are needed! Please reach out to Andrea Cerini at 908-347-3521 or via [the Sign-Up Genius](#).



Philoptochos Valentines Bake Sale

Homemade baked goods will be for sale on Sunday, February 9, in the Bouras Center.

Souper Bowl of Caring - February 9

Team up with IOCC and GOYA to make a difference. From now until February 9 the following items can be brought to church and left by the office: cans of beans, medium-size bags of rice, pancake mix and jelly/jam. These collections will be donated to the Westfield Soup Kitchen. On Sunday, February 9, a collection will be taken at the Divine Liturgy. Let's turn the biggest day of football into a super day of giving. [Visit here](#) to donate or learn more.
[IOCC Souperbowl 2025](#)



Score a Souper Bowl Victory Against Hunger!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025

**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. Team up with IOCC (International
Orthodox Christian Charities) and the Holy Trinity GOYA
to help feed the hungry.**

IOCC DONATION BASKET - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

FOOD COLLECTION- SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**REQUESTED FOOD ITEMS: CANS OF BEANS (ANY KIND) , MEDIUM BAGS
OF RICE (ANY KIND), PANCAKE MIX, JELLY/JAM (ANY KIND)**

Let's turn the biggest weekend of football into a super day of giving!

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





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 12, 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.



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

Adult Choir for ages 18 to senior citizens



Angel Choir for boys and girls ages 8-12



Byzan "teens" for boys and girls

Ages 13-17

Email the Choir Director

kathanasoulas@hotmail.com

Upcoming Parish Events

February 9, 2025

Religious Education – Save the Date!

Sunday, February 9, will be this year's Community Communion Breakfast. Please plan on receiving Holy Communion and joining us in the Bouras Center immediately following the Divine Liturgy for a delicious breakfast. Godchildren are encouraged to invite their Godparents and Godparents to bring their Godchildren. Volunteers are needed! Please reach out to Andrea Cerini at 908-347-3521 or via [the Sign-Up Genius](#).

Community Communion Sunday

With breakfast to follow



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

February 9, 2025

Sponsored by Holy Trinity Religious Education

All are encouraged to invite their godchildren & godparents and come together in fellowship and faith in receiving Communion as a community and enjoying the breakfast to follow.



Orthros 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
Breakfast in the Bouras Center after Sunday School classes



Reservations can be made on **February 2**
This form and payment can also be dropped off or mailed to the church office,
ATTN: Communion Breakfast

\$14.00 for adults
\$6.00 for children under 12

NAME: _____

Number of adults: _____ Number of children (12 & under): _____

Total: \$ _____ Cash / Check # _____

Please volunteer to help Saturday 2/8 and/or Sunday 2/9 by calling the chairperson, Andrea Cerini at (908) 347-3521 or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4DA5A622A75-53359267-community>

