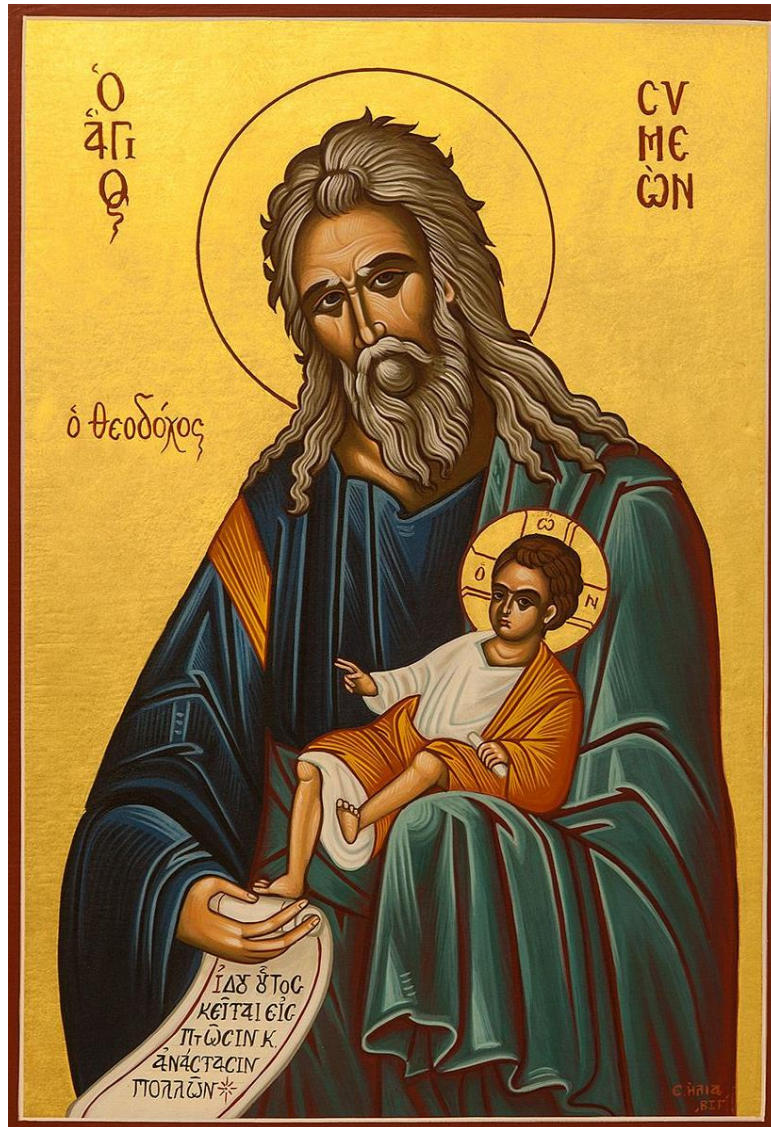


Fifteenth Sunday of Matthew



St. Simeon the God-receiver

Sunday, February 4, 2024

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

Live streaming services - 908.233.8533 - www.holytrinitywestfield.org

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizi, Parish Priest

On the Fourth Day of the month, we commemorate: Afterfeast of the Presentation; Our Righteous Father St. Isidore of Pelusium; St. Nicholas the Confessor and Studite; St. Abramios the Hieromartyr; St. John the Righteous, Bishop of Irenopolis; Holy New Martyr St. Joseph of Aleppo

Click links for Scripture Readings

Morning Gospel:	St. Mark 16:1-8	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	2 Corinthians 4:6-15	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Matthew 22:35-46	Ελληνικά

Second Tone Ηχος Β΄

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: *“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 Feast: *“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.”*

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: *“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

Thursday, February 8, St. Theodore the Commander, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, February 11, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, February 18, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations

Altar Candles: Friday, February 2, In Memory of Ioan Moldovan†

Large Candles: In Loving Memory of Stavros Constantinou†

Sacraments and Rites

Memorial: On Tuesday, January 30, a memorial service was held for Ioan Moldovan†, 3 years. Eternal be his memory.

Funeral: On Saturday, February 3, the funeral service for Nicholas Mestanas† was held. Eternal be his 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.

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.



St. Simeon the God-receiver – February 3

During the reign of the Egyptian Emperor Ptolemy Philadelphus, Simeon was chosen as one of the famous Seventy, to whom was entrusted the task of translating the Bible from Hebrew into Greek [The Septuagint]. Simeon was performing his task conscientiously, but in the process of translating the book of the Prophet Isaiah he came upon the prophecy: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son.” (Isaiah 7:14). He became confused and took a knife to remove the word “virgin” and replace it with the words “young woman”. At that moment, however, an angel of the Lord appeared to Simeon and restrained him from his intention, explaining to him that the prophecy is true, that it was correctly written. The messenger of God also said that Simeon would become convinced of it personally, for, according to the will of God, he would not die until he saw the Messiah born of the Virgin. The righteous Simeon rejoiced to hear such a voice from heaven, left the prophecy unchanged and thanked God, Who made him worthy to live and see the Promised One. When the young Child Jesus was presented in the Temple in Jerusalem by the Virgin Mary, the Spirit of God revealed this to Simeon, who was very old and "as white as a swan." Simeon

quickly entered the Temple and there recognized both the Virgin and the young Child by the light that shone around their heads like halos. The joyful Simeon took Christ into his hands and prayed to God to release him from this life: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word: For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation." (Luke 2:29-30). Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, was also there; she too recognized the Messiah, and she proclaimed Him to the people. At that time Anna was eighty-four years old. St. Simeon died shortly thereafter. This righteous Elder Simeon is considered the protector of children.

REFLECTION

How great a glory in heaven was attained by St. Simeon the God-receiver, who held the Savior of the world in his hands! The following incident, as related in the life of St. Peter the Athonite (June 12), clearly shows this. As a commander during a battle, Peter was enslaved, chained and cast into prison in the town of Samara on the shores of the Euphrates River. Languishing in prison for a long time, Peter begged St. Nicholas with tears to pray to God for him, that he might be freed from prison, vowing that he would completely dedicate himself to God. St. Nicholas appeared to him in a dream, saying that although he [St. Nicholas] had prayed to God for him, God was delaying his deliverance because he [Peter] had earlier made a similar vow to God and had not kept it. And St. Nicholas further counseled Peter that he ought to pray to St. Simeon the God-receiver, "who is very mighty before God and stands close to the throne of God, together with the All-holy Virgin and St. John the Forerunner." Peter heeded the counsel of St. Nicholas and proceeded to pray to St. Simeon. Again St. Nicholas appeared to him with St. Simeon, not in a dream but in reality. Peter saw Simeon, glorious in appearance with light shining from his countenance. He was attired in the vestments of an Old Testament priest and bore a golden staff in his hand. St. Simeon said to Peter: "Do you want to fulfill the vow and become a monk?" To this Peter replied: "Yes, master, with God's help." Simeon then touched Peter's chains with his staff, and the chains melted like wax. Opening the doors of the dungeon, the saint led Peter from prison.

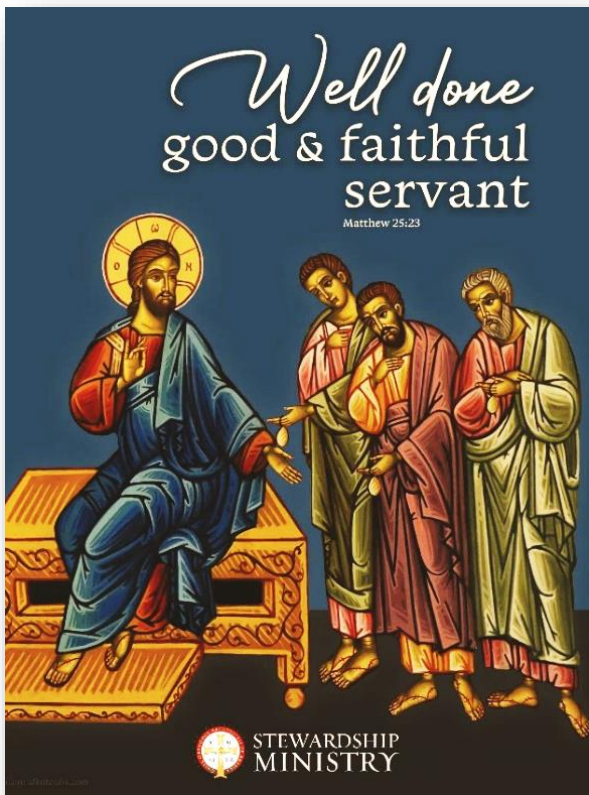
Reading the Communion Prayers - Pages 60-63 of Divine Liturgy Book

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/



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@higocnj.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



John, Theodora, Novlet, Chrysavgi, Alexandra, Sue, Marilyn, David, Basil, Laura, Marylee, Meropi, Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Billy, Molly, Leonedas, 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, 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

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 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 with any questions.

TOTS Playgroup - February 7

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7, 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 or 612-801-8608 to sign up or to ask any questions.

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 11 - "Legacy of a Great International Statesman - Ioannis Kapodistrias, on his Anniversary" Panel Discussion
 - 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>
-



Philoptochos Valentine Bake Sale - Today and Sunday, February 11

Please stop by the Philoptochos Valentine Bake Sale table during the Fellowship Hour today and Sunday, February 11, to buy something delicious for your special loved one!

Trinity Circle - February 6

Please join us on Tuesday, February 6, for our monthly lunch/meeting, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM. Steve Xenakis will speak to us on "Greek Language and Use of Diminutives". Luncheon donated by Cassandra Romas in memory of her beloved husband Christos. Kindly pay \$15 membership dues to Marina LoAlbo, chair.



Please join us by wearing **RED**
Sunday, February 4th, 2024
in support of the fight against the #1 cause of
death for women—**heart disease**.
We will be taking donations at church to benefit
cardiovascular research at the Cleveland Clinic.

Donations can also be mailed, payable to
The Ladies Philoptochos Society HTGOC.
or Zelle Yiana Leichtling at
treasurer@htphiloptochos.com

American Heart Association®



Defeat Heart Disease and Go Red because your heart matters



The Ladies Philoptochos Society– TGOC is a registered 501© (3) non-profit organization

Community Communion Sunday

With breakfast to follow



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

February 11, 2024

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 during Fellowship Hour on
February 4

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 2/10 and/or Sunday 2/11 by calling the chairperson, Andrea Cerini at (908) 347-3521 or emailing andreacerini3@hotmail.com

Holy Trinity Westfield Spirit Wear

Order online <http://tinyurl.com/243nu33x>

Or print and email completed order form to sophiasaketos@gmail.com

Orders/Payments due by February 4, 2024 - Payable to HTGOC YHT or Venmo @WestfieldGoya



Short Sleeve T: \$17
 +\$3 for name on back
 Youth S-XL
 Adult (men) sizes XS-XXL



Long Sleeve T: \$22
 +\$3 for name on back
 Youth sizes not available
 Adult (men) sizes S-XXL



Pullover Hoodie: \$35
 +\$3 for name on back
 Youth XS-XL
 Adult (men) S-XXL



Zip Up Hoodie: \$35
 +\$3 for name on front
 Youth XS-XL
 Adult (men) sizes S-XXL



Sport Wick 1/4 Zip Pullover: \$35
 Adult (men) XS- 4XL



Plaid Flannel/Blk Sweatpants: \$30
 Youth XS - XL
 Adult S - XXL

ITEM/COLOR*	SIZE	NAME ON BACK (+\$3)	PRICE
		TOTAL DUE:	



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

January 11, 2024

To the Very Rev. and Rev. Clergy
Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils
Directors and Faculty of the Religious Education Programs of the
Northern New Jersey Region of the
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My beloved in the Lord,

I hope and pray that this letter finds all of you well, both physically and spiritually as we enter into the New Year 2024.

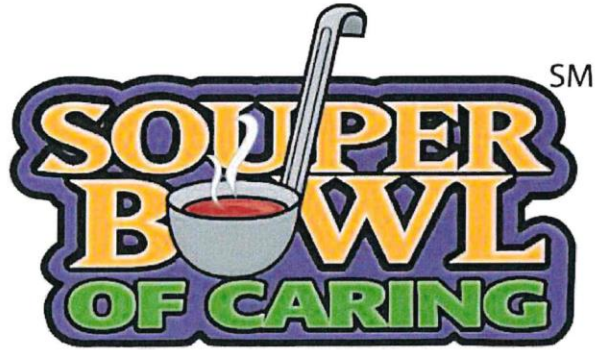
The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey in its continued efforts to cultivate and enhance the Religious Education Schools of the parishes, as well as to assist our dedicated teachers in better education our beloved children, will be hosting a **Religious Education Teachers Seminar for the Northern New Jersey Region on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at the Ss. Nicholas Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church located at 80 Laurel Ave in Roseland, New Jersey.** The seminar will begin at 9:00am and will conclude at approximately 2:00pm with lunch provided.

Please know that all teachers serving in our communities are expected to attend and participate in this important Seminar. However, although this Seminar is intended for the teachers, all those interested are invited to attend. Please RSVP directly to the Ss. Nicholas, Constantine and Helen parish at 973-251-2920 by February 2, 2024, in order to allow for proper preparations to be made the host community.

Praying that our loving Lord continues to bless you, your families and all the dedicated faithful of our sacred Metropolis, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

Metropolitan Agostolos
† APOSTOLOS
Metropolitan of New Jersey



Sunday, February 11, 2024

Score a Souper Bowl Victory Against Hunger!

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 and GOYA to feed the hungry.

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



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 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.

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 ✠