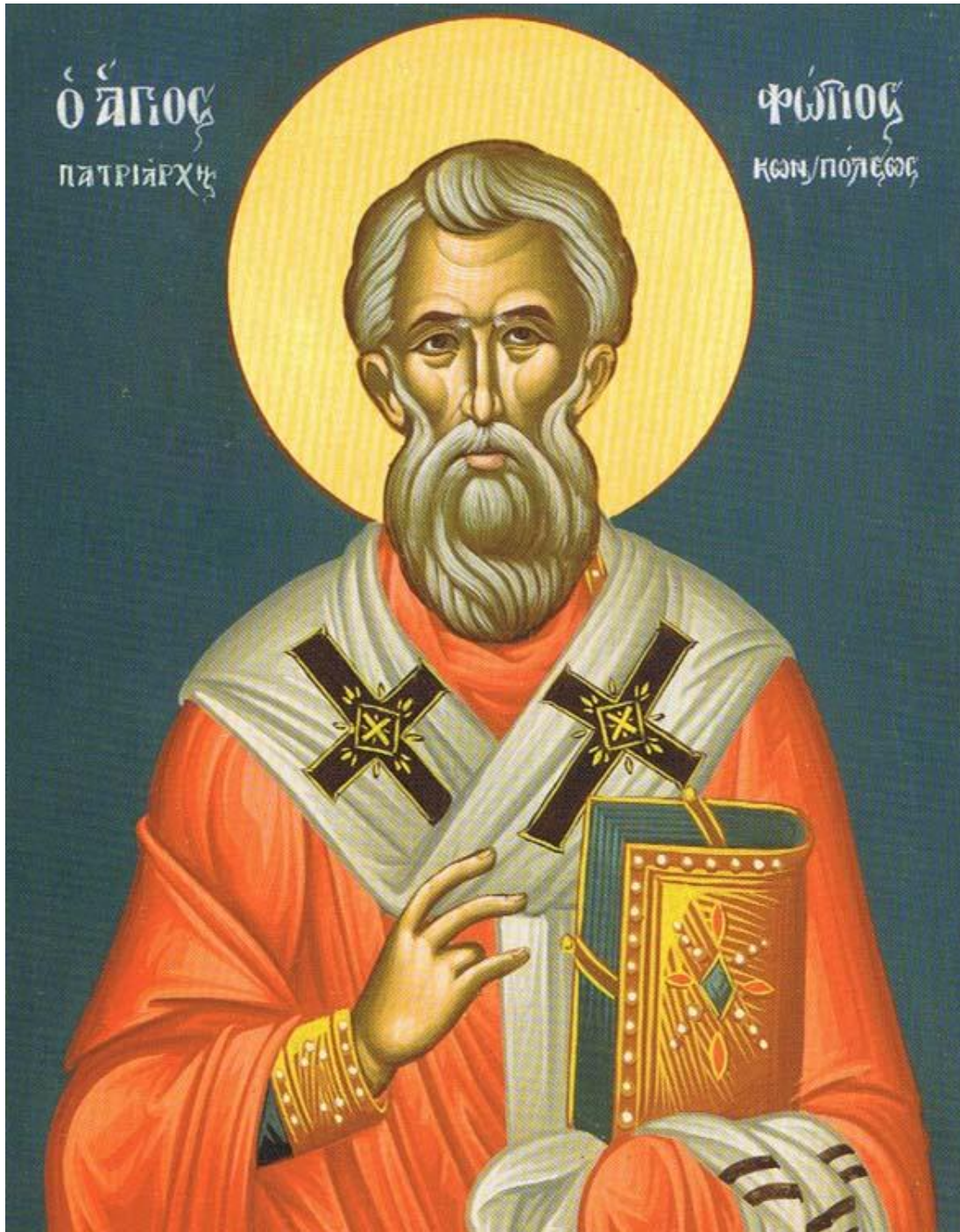


# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



ST. PHOTIOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

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 <http://holytrinitywestfield.org/parish-news/>  
Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis, Presiding Priest

CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST! HE IS AND EVER SHALL BE!  
Ο ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΕΝ ΤΩ ΜΕΣΩ ΗΜΩΝ! ΚΑΙ ΗΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΣΤΙ ΚΑΙ ΕΣΤΑΙ!

On the Sixth Day of the month we commemorate the Sunday after the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple; Our Holy Father and Equal to the Apostles St. Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople and Confessor; St. Boukoulos, Bishop of Smyrna

Plagal of the Fourth Tone Ηχος πλ. δ'

*Click links for Scripture Readings*

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. John 21:15-25</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Matthew 15:21-28</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** “From on high did You descend, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure three days in the tomb that we may be released from passions in this world, You who are our resurrection and our life Glory unto You O Lord.”

**Apolytikion of the Presentation:** “Rejoice, you who are full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, you also, O righteous Elder, as you received in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also grants unto 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 Who didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb by Your birth, and didst bless Symeon’s hands as was meet, by anticipation hast even now saved us, O Christ God. But grant peace in the midst of wars unto the commonwealth and strengthen the hierarachs whom You have loved, O only Friend of man.”

## Altar Donations

Altar Candles February 2: in memory of Ioan Moldovan†

Altar Candles: in memory of Stefanos Antonios Delfinopoulos†

Vigil Light: in memory of Christos Kiriakatis†

Large Candles: in memory of our beloved brothers Christos† & Anastasios†

Kiriakatis from brother Costa Kiriakatis & family

Prothesis Candles: in loving memory of Gregory Psomas†



### *Sacraments and Rites*



### *Liturgical Schedule*

Tuesday, February 8, **St. Theodore the General**, Orthros, 8:30 AM;

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, February 13, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

### **40-Day Blessing**

Today the churching of Alexandra Marie, daughter of Tony and Audrey Pantagis, will be celebrated.

### **Memorials**

Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial service for Stefanos Antonios Delfinopoulos†, 40 days; Christos Kiriakatis†, 5 years; Peter Conelias† 12 years; and Anastasios Kiriakatis†, 29 years. Eternal be their memories.

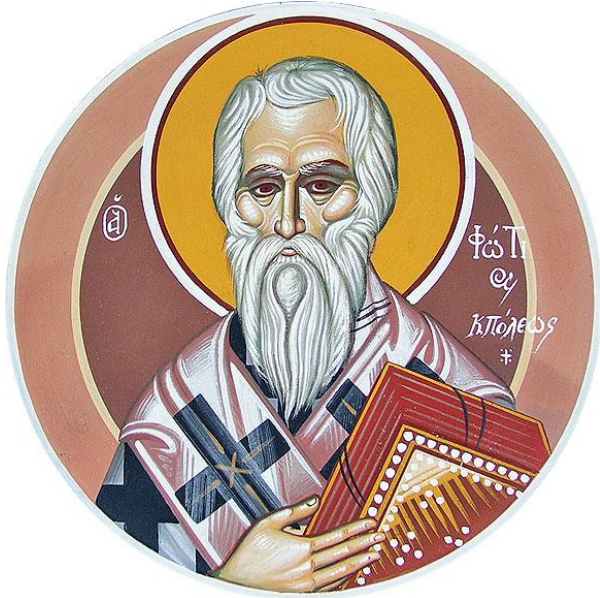
## **St. Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople**

**February 6**

Saint Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople, “the Church’s far-gleaming beacon,” lived during the ninth century, and came from a family of zealous Christians. His father Sergius died as a martyr in defense of holy icons. Saint Photios received an excellent education and, since his family was related to the imperial house, he occupied the position of first state secretary in the Senate. His contemporaries said of him: “He so distinguished himself with knowledge in almost all the secular sciences, that it rightfully might be possible to take into account the glory of his age and compare it with the ancients.”

Michael, the young successor to the throne, and Saint Cyril, the future Enlightener of the Slavs, were taught by him. His deep Christian piety protected Saint Photios from

being seduced by the charms of court life. With all his soul, he yearned for monasticism.



In 857 Bardas, who ruled with Emperor Michael, deposed Patriarch Ignatius (October 23) from the See of Constantinople. The bishops, knowing the piety and extensive knowledge of Photios, informed the emperor that he was a man worthy to occupy the archpastoral throne. Saint Photios accepted the proposal with humility. He passed through all the clerical ranks in six days. On the day of the Nativity of Christ, he was consecrated bishop and elevated to the patriarchal throne. Soon, however, discord arose within the Church, stirred up by the removal of

Patriarch Ignatius from office. The Synod of 861 was called to end the unrest, at which the deposition of Ignatius and the installation of Photios as patriarch were confirmed. Pope Nicholas I, whose envoys were present at this council, hoped that by recognizing Photios as patriarch he could subordinate him to his power. When the new patriarch proved unsubmitive, Nicholas anathematized Photios at a Roman council.

Until the end of his life Saint Photios was a firm opponent of papal intrigues and designs upon the Orthodox Church of the East. In 864, Bulgaria voluntarily converted to Christianity. The Bulgarian prince Boris was baptized by Patriarch Photios himself. Later, Saint Photios sent an archbishop and priests to baptize the Bulgarian people. In 865, Saints Cyril and Methodius were sent to preach Christ in the Slavonic language. However, the partisans of the Pope incited the Bulgarians against the Orthodox missionaries.

The calamitous situation in Bulgaria developed because an invasion by the Germans forced them to seek help in the West, and the Bulgarian prince requested the Pope to send his bishops. When they arrived in Bulgaria, the papal legates began to substitute Latin teachings and customs in place of Orthodox belief and practice. Saint Photios, as a firm defender of truth and denouncer of falsehood, wrote an encyclical informing the Eastern bishops of the Pope's actions, indicating that the departure of the Roman Church from Orthodoxy was not only in ritual, but also in its confession of faith. A council was convened, censuring the arrogance of the West.

In 867, Basil the Macedonian seized the imperial throne, after murdering the emperor Michael. Saint Photios denounced the murderer and would not permit him to partake of the Holy Mysteries of Christ. Therefore, he was removed from the patriarchal throne and locked in a monastery under guard, and Patriarch Ignatius was restored to his position.

The Synod of 869 met to investigate the conduct of Saint Photios. This council took place with the participation of papal legates, who demanded that the participants sign a document (Libellus) condemning Photios and recognizing the primacy of the Pope. The Eastern bishops would not agree to this, and argued with the legates. Summoned to the council, Saint Photios met all the accusations of the legates with a dignified silence. Only when the judges asked him whether he wished to repent did he reply, "Why do you consider yourselves judges?" After long disputes, the opponents of Photios were victorious. Although their judgment was baseless, they anathematized Patriarch Photios and the bishops defending him. The saint was sent to prison for seven years, and by his own testimony, he thanked the Lord for patiently enduring His judges.

During this time the Latin clergy were expelled from Bulgaria, and Patriarch Ignatius sent his bishops there. In 879, two years after the death of Patriarch Ignatius, another council was summoned (many consider it the Eighth Ecumenical Council), and again Saint Photios was acknowledged as the lawful archpastor of the Church of Constantinople. Pope John VIII, who knew Photios personally, declared through his envoys that the former papal decisions about Photios were annulled. The council acknowledged the unalterable character of the Nicean-Constantinople Creed, rejecting the Latin distortion ("filioque"), and acknowledging the independence and equality of both thrones and both churches (Western and Eastern). The council decided to abolish Latin usages and rituals in the Bulgarian church introduced by the Roman clergy, who ended their activities there.

Under Emperor Basil's successor, Leo, Saint Photios again endured false denunciations, and was accused of speaking against the emperor. Again deposed from his See in 886, the saint completed the course of his life in 891. He was buried at the monastery of Eremia.

The Orthodox Church venerates Saint Photios as a "pillar and foundation of the Church," an "inspired guide of the Orthodox," and a wise theologian. He left behind several works, exposing the errors of the Latins, refuting soul-destroying heresies, explicating Holy Scripture, and exploring many aspects of the Faith.

# Prayer Request



Lubove, Despina, Maria, John, Paraskevi (Parri), Dianna, Stephanie, Edward, Brian, Janeen, Cathy, James, Christine, Andrea, Molly, Anastasios, Michael, Angela, Lauren, John, Effie, Stella, Guerline, Phyllis, Denise, Cloy, Mirka, Stamatia, Theresa, James, Matthew, Antoinette, William, Angela, Tanner, Stefanos, Helen, Katherine, Ashley, Angela, Nick, Lindsey, Alexandria, Evdokia, Chris, Zach, Notis, Erica, Christina, Fran, Joan, Hellen, Joseph, Angela, Cleopatra, James, Rosa, George, Kathy, Theresa, Dorothy, Shannon, Jeff, Jeffrey, Rowena, Craig, Paul, John, Marien, John, Vasilias, Hellen, Natalia, Angela, Katherine, Patricia, Lily, Thomas, Brennan, Elvira, Bill, Alicia, Diane, Michael, Nicholas, Dorka, Stavroula, Maroulla



**Souper Bowl Sunday 2022** is coming! Be a star and team up with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) in its annual Souper Bowl of Caring. Our parish can make a difference by joining Orthodox parishes throughout America to demonstrate your concern for people in need. Parishioners are asked to bring nonperishable food items to help stock local food banks. On two Sundays, Feb. 6 & 13 youth members will take a monetary collection to help support the ministry efforts of IOCC.

Please visit: [iocc.org/souperbowl22](https://iocc.org/souperbowl22) for more information.





# The February 2022 edition of **The Promise**

[Is now available online](#)  
[click here to view](#)



The nation's blood supply is dangerously low. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a decline in donor turnout. Last year, the Red Cross saw a 34% decline in new donors.

Holy Trinity Parishioners can help tackle America's blood supply crisis as we host a blood drive on Wednesday, March 16 from 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Sign-up for donation appointments will be coming soon. Mark your calendars and plan to participate to help stabilize the nation's supply of life-saving blood.



**His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros  
cuts Vasilopita for the Metropolis of NJ clergy**



Clergy of Metropolis of New Jersey with Archbishop Elpidophoros and Bishop Apostolos at St. George, Piscataway, Monday, January 31



**Religious Education – Community Communion  
Breakfast – February 13**

The entire parish is asked to prepare to receive Holy Communion and join us for breakfast in the Bouras Center after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 13. Godchildren are encouraged to invite their godparents and godparents to bring their godchildren. Sign up today during Fellowship Hour. \$14.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children.

Also, volunteers are needed! Please reach out to Andrea Cerini @ 908-889-5961 or [andreacerini3@hotmail.com](mailto:andreacerini3@hotmail.com).

## Philoptochos

Philoptochos Valentine's Bake Sale, Sunday, February 6...homemade treats for your special Valentine!

### Adult Greek Dance Class Canceled

To be re-scheduled to a later date.

### Sights and Sounds – March 5

Holy Trinity is hosting the 50th year of Sights and Sounds on Saturday, March 5, at which approximately 400 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. We will follow all NJ Covid guidelines. Please contact Roula Ioannou (908)451-3005 or Christine Skalkotos (847)830-1530. 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. Please contact us ASAP.

## Saying of the Church Fathers on....

### Family

“Neither do walls nor rich furniture make a home...but where there are good relationships, where love binds the family together and to God, there happiness is always to be found. For good with relationships, heaven is there.” – St. Seraphim of Sarov

“The human family constitutes the primary and essential element of human society...peace in society will be a direct result of peace in the family.”

– St. John Chrysostom

## St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival - Sunday, March 27



Holy Trinity will host its annual St. John Chrysostom Parish Oratorical Festival on Sunday, March 27, directly after Church. All are invited to attend and support our youth and celebrate afterward with a luncheon.

Religious Education students are encouraged to participate within the three divisions that make up the festival, Elementary Division (Grades 4-6), Junior Division (Grades 7-9), Senior Division (Grades 10-12). This event, which gives our young people an opportunity to speak about their faith in a loving and friendly environment, has proven a very rewarding experience for participants through the years.

Participants will need to register online as well as access this year's topics, guides, and tips on the Archdiocese website ([www.goarch.org/en/oratorical](http://www.goarch.org/en/oratorical)), or by contacting our Parish Chairperson, Peter Tarhanidis at [ptarhanidis@gmail.com](mailto:ptarhanidis@gmail.com).

Join thousands of teens across the nation &

# #shareorthodoxy!

## 2022 ORATORICAL FESTIVAL



**EXPLORE** a deeper knowledge of your Orthodox faith  
**THINK** critically about current issues  
**SPEAK** to a gentle and loving audience

Share Your  
**FAITH**

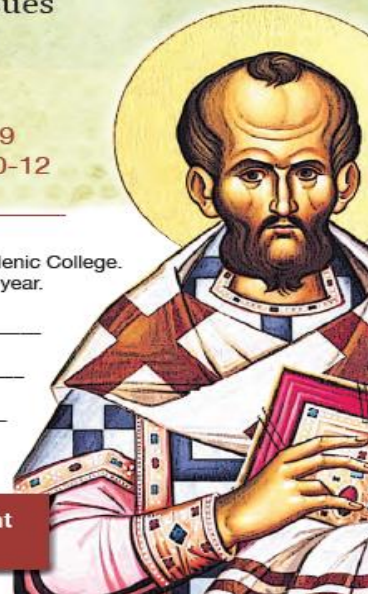
Junior Division for Grades 7-9  
Senior Division for Grades 10-12

**AWARDS** - The Chrysostom Scholarship for Hellenic College  
The 2022 finalists are eligible to receive a Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College. This scholarship provides awards ranging from \$2,500 up to \$30,000 per year.

Parish Festival Date March 27, 2022  
Parish Chairperson Peter Tarhanidis  
Contact Information ptarhanidis@gmail.com

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is a Ministry of the Department of Religious Education from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

Find the topics, rules, guidelines, and prize information at [www.goarch.org/oratorical](http://www.goarch.org/oratorical)





**HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090 · Telephone (908) 233-8533, website [www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org](http://www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org)

*“Every person shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God gave you.”  
Deuteronomy 16:17*

***\$750K MAJOR MAINTENANCE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN***

Dear Parishioner:

As we close calendar year 2021, we want to provide an early opportunity to participate in our \$750K Capital Campaign. The campaign, which was voted and approved at the Parish Assembly meeting on November 21, will formally launch in January 2022. The last time Holy Trinity conducted a capital campaign to fund major maintenance was over 20 years ago.

The Parish Council has diligently considered the reliability, energy efficiency and risk to our church of key assets such as the church dome, heating and cooling systems, and parking lot. We are in the process of finalizing the details of these capital needs and will provide these details at our formal launch in 2022. The first and most urgent of these needs relates to the Church dome, which we intend to execute in early 2022. Our due diligence is complete and it was presented at the Parish Assembly meeting on November 21. Details are below.

This early launch of the \$750K Capital Campaign to fund the church dome allows Holy Trinity donors to accelerate their charitable donations in 2021 calendar year. One tax efficient donation tool to consider is planned giving, which allows donors to contribute today’s value of invested stock shares and avoid paying taxes on realized gains on those shares while allowing the existing value to be realized as a tax deductible donation. For more details on planned giving please contact the church office.

**The Christmas Season reminds us about the importance of giving. The Parish of Holy Trinity requires the good will of many donors to operate. We ask for your help as this important Capital Campaign begins. Through you the spiritual home of many can be properly maintained for us and for future generations.**

**2022 Church Dome Project Background - \$220,000**

The church dome was originally erected in 1974 and last refurbished in 1999. The warranty for the dome expired in 2020. A continuation of the warranty requires that the dome be refurbished. Maintaining the church dome is critical to the protection of the church, its sanctuary, and the contents, including valuable iconography, religious relics, and furnishings. This level of refurbishment, absent extraordinary circumstances, is required every 20 – 30 years, depending on various conditions. The church dome refurbishment will consist of applying a customized waterproof polymer membrane onto the dome, re-caulking all seams, and replacing expansion joints. This process requires skilled labor, scaffolding, and heavy machinery. The Parish Council has interviewed three reputable contractors and conducted a competitive bidding process, selecting the contractor and technology that provides the most appropriate and cost-efficient solution, all with the ability to provide an acceptable warranty.

**As always, we thank you for your support and generosity.**

To help maintain and refurbish the church dome, I/we pledge to contribute a total amount of:

\$10,000    \$5,000    \$2,000    \$1,000    \$500    Other \_\_\_\_\_

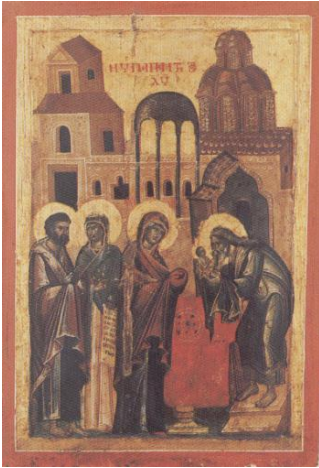
If you would like additional information regarding the church dome refurbishment or have other questions, please contact a Father Peter or a Parish Council member at the church office (908) 233-8533.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home # \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or email your Capital Raise Commitment Card to Holy Trinity @  
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 Gallows Hill Rd.  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
[Holytrinity@htgocnj.org](mailto:Holytrinity@htgocnj.org)

**Υπαπαντή του Κυρίου και Θεού και Σωτήρος ημών Ιησού Χριστού  
6 Φεβρουαρίου**



**Κόλπους Πατρὸς τυποῦσι τοῦ σοῦ, Χριστέ μου,  
Τοῦ Συμεὼν αἱ χεῖρες, αἱ φέρουσί σε.  
Δέξατο δευτερῖον Χριστὸν Συμεὼν παρὰ Νηφ̄.**

Το γεγονός αυτό εξιστορεῖ ο ευαγγελιστής Λουκάς στο κεφάλαιο Β', στ. 22-35. Συνέβη σαράντα μέρες μετά τη γέννηση του παιδιού Ιησού. Σύμφωνα με το Μωσαϊκό νόμο, η Παρθένοσ Μαρία, αφού συμπλήρωσε το χρόνο καθαρισμού από τον τοκετό, πήγε στο Ναό της Ιερουσαλήμ μαζί με τον Ιωσήφ, για να εκτελεσθεῖ η τυπική αφιέρωση του βρέφους στο Θεό κατά το «πάν ἄρσεν διανοίγον μήτραν (δηλαδή πρωτότοκο) ἅγιον τῷ Κυρίῳ κληθήσεται» και για να προσφέρουν θυσία, που αποτελούσαν από ένα ζευγάρι τρυγόνια ή δύο μικρά περιστέρια. Κατά τη μετάβαση αυτή, δέχθηκε τον Ιησού στην αγκαλιά του ο υπερήλικας Συμεών (3 Φεβρουαρίου). Αυτό το γεγονός αποτελεί ἄλλη μια ἀπόδειξη ὅτι ο Κύριος Ιησούς Χριστός δεν ἦλθε να καταργήσει τον Μωσαϊκό νόμο, ὅπως ισχυρίζονταν οἱ υποκριτές Φαρισαῖοι και Γραμματεῖς, ἀλλά να τον συμπληρώσει, να τον τελειοποιήσει.

Κατά την ολονυκτία της Υπαπαντής στην Κωνσταντινούπολη, οἱ βασιλεῖς συνήθιζαν να παρευρίσκονται στο Ναό των Βλαχερνών. Η συνήθεια αυτή εξακολούθησε μέχρι τέλους της βυζαντινῆς αυτοκρατορίας.

**GLORY BE TO GOD**



**FOR ALL THINGS**

**✠ AMEN ✠**