

# SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



ST. THEODORE THE COMMANDER AND GREAT MARTYR – FEB. 8  
HIS PRECIOUS RELICS ARE PLACED IN THE ALTAR TABLE OF HOLY TRINITY

February 8, 2026

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 Delvzizis, Parish Priest

The Holy Great Martyr St. Theodore the Commander, The Holy Prophet Zacharias

## Second Tone

Ἦχος Β΄

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. Mark 16:1-8</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">1 Corinthians 6:12-20</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Luke 15:11-32</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**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 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.”

**Apolytikion of St. Theodore:** “In truth enlisted with the King of the Heavens,\* thou didst become for Him a noble commander,\* O trophy-bearer and Great Martyr Theodore.\* With the weaponry of faith\* didst thou arm thyself wisely\* and didst utterly destroy\* all the hordes of the demons,\* as a triumphant athlete of the Lord;\* wherefore we ever do faithfully call thee blest.

*Ο υψωθείς εν το σταυρω*

**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

Saturday, February 14, 1st Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy, 9:00 AM

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

Saturday, February 21, 2nd Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy, 9:00 AM

### Altar Donations

**Altar Candles:** February 2, In loving memory of Ioan Moldovan†; February 8, In loving memory of Stavros Constantinou†; **Large Candles:** In loving memory of Antonio (Tony) Pistola†

## Sacraments and Rites

**Memorial:** Your prayers are requested Sunday morning at the memorial service for Antonio (Tony) Pistola†, 3 years. Eternal be his memory.

**Funeral:** On Saturday, February 7, the funeral service for Francesco (Frank) Galdi† was held. Eternal be his memory.



Florence, Sandy, James, John, Athena, Stavroula, Dimetra, Danny, Dominique, Daniel, Elizabeth, John, Robert, Erin, Kevin, Sabrina, Luke, Bill, James, Ria, Eric, Joanne, Alexandra, Sophia, Nicholas, Panagiota, James, Mary, Chris, Janeen, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, John, Marina, George, Laura, George, Costa, Basil, Lemonia, Justin, Chris, Evangelia, Brennan, Egon, Marilyn, Tatanya, Robert, Elizabeth, George, Nicholas, Alexander, Vasilios, Danny, Bill, Lou, Foula, Eupraxia

## Welcome Visitors

Our parish welcomes those visiting our community. Worshipping the Holy Trinity is the principal act of an Orthodox parish, especially on the Day of the Resurrection (Sunday). Our mission is to live the Holy Gospel and spread the Good News to those in our area. We are sanctified by God's grace through the holy Sacraments and glorify Him each moment of the day. We seek God's mercy, as we confess the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Visit the Philoxenia/Fellowship table in the Bouras Center after service to meet parishioners and enjoy our Fellowship Hour.

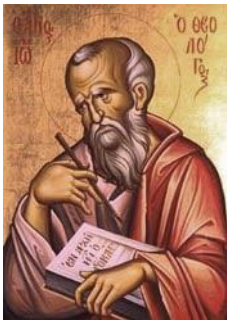
## Saturday of the Souls Liturgy - Ψυχοσάββατα - Feb. 14, 21, & 28 @ 9:00 AM

The "Saturday of the Souls" or Ψυχοσάββατο is a special day that the Holy Church has specifically prescribed to pray for those who have taken their repose in the Lord. Traditionally, Saturday is a day of rest and therefore the appropriate time to pray for those "taking their rest" and who "sleep in death." Family members are encouraged to attend to pray for their loved ones and to bring a small bowl of koliva (boiled wheat) to church for the memorial prayers offered after the Divine Liturgy. As always, trays of koliva can also be purchased from the church as well, if you are unable to prepare it yourself. Please submit names of deceased Orthodox Christians to Fr. Peter. Saturday of Souls forms can be found in the Narthex. St. Athanasios the Great says that "even if you are absolutely certain about the holiness of your deceased, do not neglect prayers with candle and oil. These are the things God accepts, and in return, He relieves the sinner and grants reward to the righteous." Please note: Sunday Memorial Services are not scheduled when there is a Saturday of the Souls Liturgy preceding.

**Theosis and Bible Study**  
**Start Your Lenten Journey by Attending**  
**Wednesday, February 18 @ 7:00 PM**

Join the Theosis program as we continue to read through the Holy Gospel According to St. John. The class will resume by looking at chapters 14 & 15. All are welcome to join in person or through Zoom every Wednesday night. A Zoom link will be provided next week but schedule your Wednesday nights for this interesting examination of the Gospel of St. John. It is a wonderful way to open your eyes and heart to Christ's message of salvation.

Feb. 18 {Chapters 14 & 15}; Feb. 25 {Chapter 16}; March 4 {Chapter 17};  
March 11 {Chapter 18}; March 18 {Chapter 19}; April 1 {Chapters 20 & 21}



“Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.” St. John 14:1-4



**The Holy  
Great**

**Religious Education**

We have opportunities available to make a difference in the lives of our youth through our faith! You do not need to be an expert on Orthodoxy and you do not need to have teaching experience. We are just looking for extra hands! We are looking for Assistant Teachers for the Pre-K class and the combined 9/10 grade class. If interested, please contact Pete Markos at [religiouseducation@htgocnj.org](mailto:religiouseducation@htgocnj.org)

**Martyr St. Theodore Stratelatos – Feb. 8**

**A Military Commander chose loyalty to Christ**

There are martyrdoms that are beyond any price. The preciousness of martyrdom depends upon the greatness of the good things which a Christian abandons, and in lieu of which he accepts suffering. In addition, it depends upon the greatness of the suffering that he endures for Christ's sake. St. Theodore, a Roman commander in the army of Emperor Licinius and the governor of the town of Heraclea, scorned his youth, his handsome appearance, his

military rank and the good graces of the emperor. In place of these, he accepted horrible tortures for the sake of Christ. At first, Theodore was flogged and received six hundred lashes on his back and five hundred on his stomach. Then he was raised on a cross and was completely pierced with lances. Finally, Theodore was beheaded. Why did he choose to suffer so much? Because St. Theodore loved Christ the Lord above all else in the world. He abhorred the foolish idolatry of the superstitious Emperor Licinius. He smashed the idols of silver and gold and distributed pieces of them to the poor. He converted many to the Christian Faith and called upon Emperor Licinius himself to reject idolatry and believe in the One Living God. During the entire time of his tortures, St. Theodore said repeatedly: *"Glory to Thee, my God, glory to Thee!"* St. Theodore suffered on February 8, 319 A.D., at three o'clock in the afternoon, and entered the Kingdom of Christ. St. Theodore is considered the protector of soldiers who call upon him for assistance. His miracle-working relics were translated from Euchaita to Constantinople and interred in the Blachernae church.

### **The Holy Prophet Zacharias – Feb. 2**

Zacharias was the eleventh of the [twelve] minor prophets. Together with the Prophet Haggai, he persuaded Prince Zerubbabel to restore the Temple of Jerusalem. Zacharias prophesied the solemn entrance of Christ into Jerusalem: on a colt, the foal of an ass (Zacharias 9:9). He also prophesied Judas's betrayal of Christ for thirty pieces of silver: And they counted out my wages, thirty pieces of silver (Zacharias 11:12), as well as the abandoning of Christ by the apostles during the time of His passion: Strike the shepherd, and the sheep shall be dispersed (Zacharias 13:7). The Prophet Zacharias is called the "beholder of the sickle" because he saw in a vision a sickle coming down from heaven to mow down the unjust, especially thieves and blasphemers of the Name of God. Zacharias reposed during the latter half of the reign of Darius Hystapes, in about the year 520 B.C.



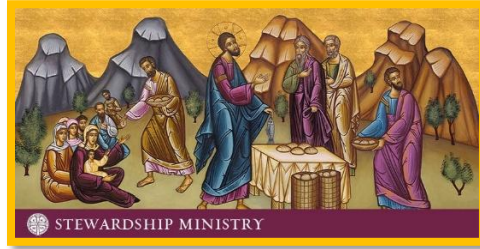
### **2026 Stewardship Drive is Underway**

Holy Trinity is an active and welcoming parish of dynamic stewards. Together we participate and grow in our faith through many 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. Please mail in your Stewardship Card as soon as possible. If you have not already submitted your pledge for 2026, please consider doing so as soon as possible. Deadline is March 1, 2026.

### **2026 Stewardship Campaign**

#### **"Building Up the Body of Christ"**

We have commenced our annual 2026 Stewardship Campaign. We thank all Holy Trinity parishioners who always rise to the occasion to support our beloved parish. In 2025 we received 423 signed Stewardship Pledge Cards. For 2026, so far we have received 222 Pledge Cards. Our goal for 2026 is to increase the number of stewards. You can help us on our journey by submitting a signed pledge card. Together we can keep Holy Trinity a special home and spiritual center.



***Holy Trinity is my spiritual and cultural center –  
It is a place like no other, rooted in faith.  
It nurtures joy and a deep sense of purpose in giving.***

There was a certain man in the Old Testament named Nehemiah, who after seeing the crumbling walls of Jerusalem, called the people to "Rise up and build." Nehemiah knows he can't do it alone. He inspires the people, sharing his vision to rebuild. The people responded, "Let us rise up and build."

Spiritually, this story calls us to build using material that is beyond brick and mortar. As Orthodox Christians, we must use our faith to build up and make our parish stronger. Stewardship calls us to respond to the needs of the Church by using God's gifts faithfully. Together we can "rise up and build" lives that are holy and dedicated to God.

This call of Nehemiah to "rise up and build" invites us to become active members of the Church, the Body of Christ, to join in ministry and contribute according to our abilities. As Orthodox Christians, we understand that Stewardship is a community effort in which everyone plays a role.

To date, the parish has funded our Metropolis, Archdiocese, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, several outreach initiatives, and continued support of our growing and vibrant ministries.

Pledge cards are available in the pews, at the Pangari and can be submitted online at <https://form.jotform.com/230346419533151>. The suggested pledge is \$2,200 per steward and \$500 for young adults. The pledge card includes an option to identify your interest in volunteering by ministry. To be a steward in good standing means one is eligible to vote at parish assemblies & elections, and to run for the Parish Council. Please mail in your Stewardship Card as soon as possible. If you have not already submitted your pledge for 2026, please consider doing so as soon as possible. Deadline is March 1, 2026.

Yours in Christ, Stewardship Committee

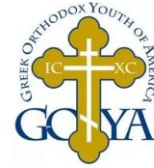
### **Altar Boys**

Fr. Peter invites all boys ages 12 and older to commit to serve in the altar. An acolyte plays an important role in the ceremonial aspects of the Divine Liturgy. We want our children to remain in the church as they grow up. By committing and serving in this unique role, a deep respect is instilled. This shapes and deepens faith. Please see Fr. Peter for more information.

### **Angel Choir (Ages 7-12) - 2026 Update**

The Angel Choir has joined the Adult Choir on Sundays. Membership continues to grow and new members are welcome any time of the year. Angel Choir practices are after Sunday School. Children should meet the director for practice in church in the choir pews. For more information contact Anne Kernoski, [akernoski@gmail.com](mailto:akernoski@gmail.com)

2025 GOYA Registration  
<https://forms.gle/hAmPHc4bLkk9eN9F8>



Contact Sophia Saketos at 908-247-6048 or [goya@htgocnj.org](mailto:goya@htgocnj.org) with questions.

**It's Souper Bowl Time Again - Sunday, February 8**



GOYA will be supporting Holy Trinity's Souper Bowl fundraiser. Please consider a monetary donation to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) at the end of church services on February 8. Also, GOYA is sourcing various items for the Westfield Food Pantry. Any questions, please contact GOYA Advisor/Outreach Christine Skalkotos 847-830-1530.

TEAM UP... with IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities), Westfield Food Pantry, and the Holy Trinity GOYA to help feed our hungry. Westfield Food Pantry is requesting food items (no glass) of: pasta sauces (plastic jars or cans), macaroni and cheese, rice (1 & 2 lb. size), meals in a can (Beefaroni, SpaghettiOs, SPAM), canned chicken, pancake mix, pancake syrup, peanut butter and jelly, mayonnaise, cereals; shelf stable milk, personal needs (toothpaste, soap, deodorant), diapers and wipes. Please bring items on or before February 8. A special collection tray will be passed to benefit IOCC on February 8.

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

**Philoptochos Stewardship and Vasilopita Luncheon - Sunday, February 8**

The rescheduled Vasilopita Luncheon is being held Sunday, February 8, in conjunction with the Community Communion Breakfast. Please join us in the Bouras Center immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Walk-ins are welcome! \$30 - Adults; \$20 - Children ages 11-16; \$10 - Children ages 10 and under. Reserved seating for tables of 8. Reservations may be made during Fellowship Hour or by contacting: Yiana Leichtling 908-413-6213 or [YianaL@yahoo.com](mailto:YianaL@yahoo.com) Payment options: Zelle: [treasurer@htphiloptochos.com](mailto:treasurer@htphiloptochos.com); Online: [2026 Vasilopita Reservation Form](#) or cash/check; Please make checks payable to: Ladies Philoptochos Society of HTGOC. We look forward to coming together as a community for these special, combined events.

Vasilopita Luncheon Co-Chairs: Mary Carayannopoulos, Yiana Leichtling  
Community Communion Breakfast Co-Chairs: Andrea Cerini, Peter Markos

**Save the Date: Philoptochos Dinner and Fashion Show - Tuesday, April 28**

Our Ladies Philoptochos' annually popular Dinner and Fashion Show will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park, NJ. Features include Leslie Patrizio Fashions, fabulous gift raffle prizes, Special VIP Raffle with a Dior tote bag and scarf; and much more. For information contact Kassandra Romas, [kromas22409@gmail.com](mailto:kromas22409@gmail.com)

### **TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) – February 11**

Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 11, 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 612-801-8608 or [vcomprelli@gmail.com](mailto:vcomprelli@gmail.com) to sign-up or with any questions.

### **54<sup>th</sup> Sights and Sounds - Saturday, March 7, 2026**

**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: 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)

### **Adult Greek Dance Lessons - Thursday, February 19**

Lessons will be offered by Ronnie Filippatos Fernandez one Thursday per month, \$25 per class. The next lesson is on February 19, 7 -9 PM. We will enjoy some light drinks and appetizers while learning Greek dances. If interested, please send your name and phone number to [htgocgreekdance@gmail.com](mailto:htgocgreekdance@gmail.com). The remaining dates are: 3/26, 4/23, 5/21.

### **Save the Date: Greek Independence Day Parade – Sunday, April 26**

Join Holy Trinity Sunday, April 26, 1:30 PM in New York for the 87th NY Greek Independence Day Parade! This marks 205 years since March 25, 1821, the start of the Greek Revolution for liberation from the Ottoman Turkish yoke. Wear your best blue and white and join us for a march on 5th Avenue from 61st to 74th street! More information and details will be shared closer to the date.



**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

For more information, email Anne Kernoski, Choir Director:

[akernoski@gmail.com](mailto:akernoski@gmail.com)

[Click here to sign up](#)

*Come join us for  
Adult Greek Dance*

**Now offering Greek Dance  
Lessons for adults!**

Practices will take place once a month in the  
Bouras Center

10/16, 11/20, 1/22, 2/19, 3/26, 4/23, 5/21

\$25/class  
Scan here to sign up

Please contact the instructor  
Ronnie Filippatos  
for more information  
[HTGOCCGreekDance@gmail.com](mailto:HTGOCCGreekDance@gmail.com)



*join us for*

**GREEK DANCE  
LESSONS**



COME BE A PART OF THE HOLY TRINITY  
GREEK DANCE GROUP!

Classes offered for grades  
PreK-12  
and adults as well!

Contact: Ronnie Filippatos Fernandez  
908-672-6203  
[Htgocgreekdance@gmail.com](mailto:Htgocgreekdance@gmail.com)



# Upcoming Events

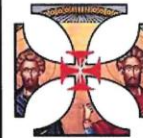
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

## February 8, 2026

*The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity*



### VASILOPITA LUNCHEON & STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



**February 8, 2026**

*Immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Bouras Center*

*All proceeds to support St. Basil Academy and youth and young adult programs throughout the Archdiocese and in all Metropolises*

**ADULTS - \$30**

**CHILDREN 16 and under - \$20**

Includes Buffet Luncheon, Salad, Mezethes, Wine & Dessert

Please mail or stop by Philoptochos table to sign up

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#### RESERVATION FORM

***Deadline by February 1<sup>st</sup> - Reserved seating for tables of 8***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ # Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ # Children \_\_\_\_\_

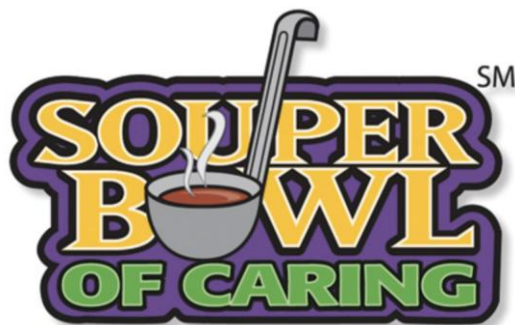
Amt Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Ladies Philoptochos Society of HTGOC  
Zelle accepted: treasurer@htphiloptochos.com

Send to: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090  
Attn: Vasilopita Luncheon

Mary Carayannopoulos & Yiana Leichtling, Co-Chairs

# February 8, 2026



## Score a Souper Bowl Victory Against Hunger in 2026!

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

**IOCC DONATION BASKET in Church: FEBRUARY 8th**

**WESTFIELD FOOD PANTRY - FOOD COLLECTION: JANUARY 18th - FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup>**

**WESTFIELD FOOD PANTRY REQUESTED FOOD ITEMS: NO GLASS**

Pasta sauces (Plastic Jars or Cans)

Mac & Cheese

Rice (1 & 2 lb size)

Meals in a can (Beefaroni, SpaghettiOs, spam)

Canned Chicken

Pancake mix

Pancake syrup

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Mayo

Cereals (Low sugar high fiber)

Shelf stable milk

Personal needs (Toothpaste, soap, deodorant)

Diapers and wipes

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

# February 28, 2026

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**

**is offering free BLS Class**

**Basic Life Support**

**Saturday, February 28, 11 AM to 1 PM**

**Class will be held in the Bouras Center**

**Registration is required, call the church office to  
register, 908-233-8533 or email  
[holytrinity@htgocnj.org](mailto:holytrinity@htgocnj.org).**

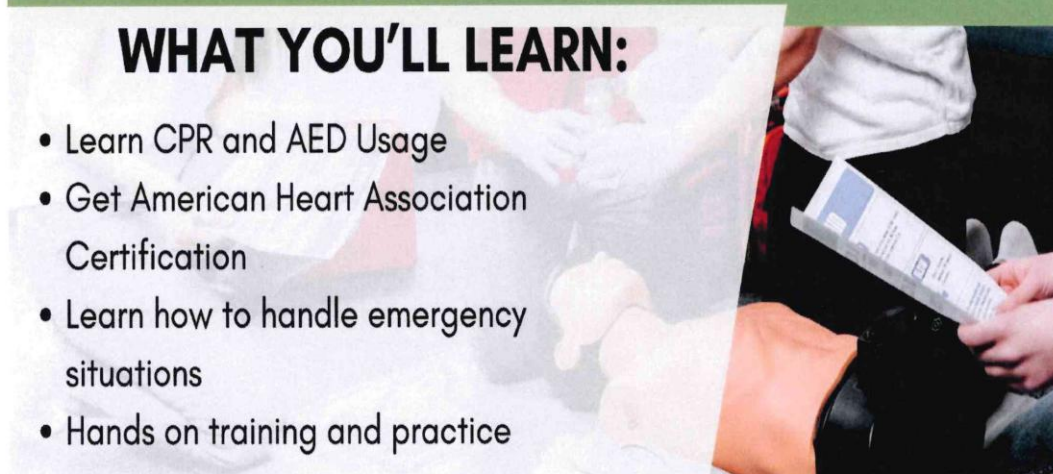
## FREE CPR TRAINING

SPONSORED BY THE JOHN TAYLOR  
BABBITT FOUNDATION



### WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- Learn CPR and AED Usage
- Get American Heart Association Certification
- Learn how to handle emergency situations
- Hands on training and practice



# April 26, 2026



**SAVE THE DATE TO JOIN HOLY TRINITY**

**SUNDAY APRIL 26, 2026**

**TIME: 1:30 PM**

March on 5th Avenue from 61st to 74th streets for the  
**87th NY Greek Independence Day Parade.**

This marks 205 years since March 25, 1821, the start of the Greek  
Revolution for liberation from the Ottoman Turkish yoke.

**WEAR YOUR BEST BLUE AND WHITE**

**INFORMATION & DETAILS WILL BE SHARED CLOSER TO THE DATE**

**April 28, 2026**

**Ladies Philoptochos Invites you to**

*Rays of Hope*

**Annual Dinner Fashion Show**

**April 28, 2026**

**Brooklake Country Club**

**Florham Park, NJ**

**Reception & Raffles- 5:30pm**

**Dinner & Fashion Show-7pm**

**Fashions by**

*Leslie Patrizio*

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## **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**

### **2026**

**February 11, 25**

**March 11, 25**

**April 22**

**May 13, 27**

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.



**GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS**

**✠ AMEN ✠**