

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee



St. Theodore the General

February 9, 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

Triodion Begins; Leavetaking of the Presentation of Our Lord and Saviour in the Temple; St. Nikephoros the Martyr of Antioch; The Holy Hieromartyrs: St. Markellos, Bishop of Sicily; St. Philagrios, Bishop of Cyprus; St. Pankratis, Bishop of Taormina

Plagal Fourth Tone

Ἦχος Πλ. Δ'

Morning Gospel:	St. John 21:14-25	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	2 Timothy 3:10-15	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Luke 18:10-14	Ελληνικά

Resurrectional Apolytikion: “From on high You descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the Cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our Life and Resurrection, Glory to You, O Lord.”

Apolytikion of Apodosis 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

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

Saturday, February 22, 1st Saturday of Souls, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Sunday, February 23, Meatfare Sunday, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations

Altar Candles: In loving memory of Nicholas Karant†

Large Candles: In loving memory of Michael Anastasiou†

Kandili: In loving memory of Nicholas Karant†

Sacraments and Rites

Memorials: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial services for †Archbishop Anastasios of Albania; Michael Anastasiou †, 40 days; Nicholas Karant †, 1 year. Eternal be their memories.

Funeral: On Friday, February 7, the funeral service for Meropi Koukos Constantine † was held. Eternal be her memory.

Baptism: On Saturday, February 8, the baptism of Aristotle John Arethas, son of Stefanos and Allison Arethas, was celebrated. The Godfather is Alexander Karanikolas.

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

Souper Bowl of Caring - Sunday, February 9

On Sunday a collection will be taken at Divine Liturgy in support of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). Thank you for your contributions both on Sunday and for the requested non-perishable food items that will be donated to the Westfield Soup Kitchen. Let's turn the biggest day of football into a super day of giving. Visit here to donate or learn more: give.iocc.org/give



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.

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

St. Theodore the General – February 8 Ο Άγιος Θεόδωρος Ο Στρατηλάτης

St. Theodore the General is a special saint for Holy Trinity whose precious and holy relics are contained within the holy altar table. For this we celebrate with a Divine Liturgy, asking him to rescue us from harm and intercede on our behalf to our Merciful Lord.

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 all this, he accepted terrible tortures for the sake of Christ. At first, Theodore was flogged, receiving six hundred lashes on his back and five hundred on his stomach. After this, he was raised on a cross and was wholly pierced with lances. Finally, Theodore was beheaded.

Why all of this? Because St. Theodore loved Christ the Lord above everything else in the world. He abhorred the dangerous 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, he surrendered his spirit to God and entered into 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.

CONTEMPLATION

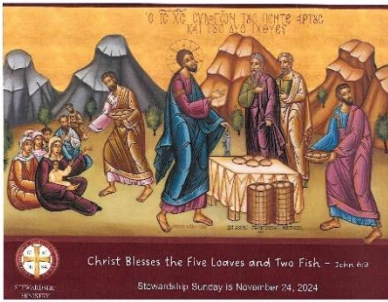
Contemplate the Lord Jesus as a Commander:

1. As a Commander Who entered into battle against Satan;
2. Who entered into battle against sin in men;
3. Who took up the defense of good against evil in this world;
4. Who defeated Satan, sin and death.

The number of those who hate the name of Jesus is sometimes great and sometimes small. However great their number is, brethren, do not be afraid, for the numbers of angels and of saints are myriad. The number of your kinsmen in heaven, i.e., those who love the Lord Jesus, exceeds the number of stars in the firmament and the grains of sand by the sea. Oh, do not be afraid; Christ is with you, and that means that you are always mightier than those who hate you. When the Omnipotent One is on your side, you are always more numerous, for you are always stronger than any number of your adversaries. Look at the great St. Theodore and be inspired. His trials on earth were limited but his glory in heaven is eternal. To Jesus Christ, the One he served, be glory and praise, forever and ever. AMEN!

Sayings of the Church Fathers...

“He who seeks forgiveness of his sins loves humility, but if he condemns another he seals his own wickedness. Just as water and fire cannot be combined, so self-justification and humility exclude one another.” – St. Mark the Ascetic



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.



Philoptochos Valentines Bake Sale

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

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



GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠