

Sunday after Theophany



Christ, Who is Glorious Amongst His Saints

January 12, 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 Delvizi, Parish Priest

St. Tatiana the Martyr of Rome; St. Basil and St. John the Hieromartyrs; St. Mertios the Martyr; St. Euthasia the Virgin-Martyr; Our Righteous Father St. Elias

Fourth Tone

Ἦχος Δ´

Morning Gospel:	St. John 20:1-10	Ἐλληνικά
Epistle Reading:	Ephesians 4:7-13	Ἐλληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Matthew 4:12-17	Ἐλληνικά

Apolytikion: “The joyful news of Your Resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.”

Apolytikion of Theophany: “In the Jordan, You were baptized, O Lord. And the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bears witness to You, by calling You His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirms the certainty of His word. O Christ our God, Who did appear unto us and enlightened the world, glory to You.”

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: “From above You appeared today, to the earth’s people. And Your light, O dear Lord, has been marked upon us. In true knowledge we sing to You. You came, You appeared, O Light Unapproachable.”

Liturgical Schedule

Thursday, Jan. 16, Veneration of the Chain of St. Peter, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, Jan. 19, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, Jan. 26, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations

Altar Candles: For the health of Eupraxia Gianakis

Vigil Light: For the health of Vasilios Papalitskas

Large Candles: In loving memory of Spyros and Helen Sikaras †

Sacraments and Rites

Funeral: On Tuesday, January 7, the funeral for Michael Anastasiou† was held. Eternal be his memory.

Memorials: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial services for Dr. James (Demetrios) Genakos†, 2 years; and Helen Sikaras†, 1 year. Eternal be their memories.

Fellowship Hour: Please join us in the Bouras Center after church for the Fellowship Hour in memory of Dr. James (Demetrios) Genakos† and Helen Sikaras†

House Blessings During the Epiphany Season

If you would like to have your home blessed during the Epiphany season, please contact the church office to schedule a time for Father Peter to visit your home in January.

Holy Water Bottles Available

Holy Water bottles from the Epiphany service are available to take home. They can be found in the narthex. Holy Water is used to bless yourself and sanctify houses. It is a gift from the Church and should be used with piety and taken home with deep respect.

The white Christmas Poinsettias in church can be taken home today after the Divine Liturgy.

Welcome Visitors

The parish of Holy Trinity welcomes those visiting our community today. 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



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

Affirmation of Office of the 2025 Parish Council

After Holy Communion, the newly elected Parish Council members together with the ongoing members will take the Affirmation of Office. The 2025 Parish Council is comprised of: James Angelides, Peter Arbes, Stefanos Arethas, Peter Boutsikaris, Leon Carayannopoulos, George Colonias, Christopher Daifotis, Chris Dombalis, Ted Exarhakos, A.J. Karanikolas, Felicia Karsos, Lauren Koniaris, George Koutsaftes, Steven A. Ladas, Spiro Leunes, Peter Markos, Peter Pangis, Panayiota Mavridis Sales, Georgia Sikellis, Dean Steele, Jon Quintanilla, and Peter Tarhanidis.



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, Al

When the Apostle John was taken up in the spirit before the throne of God where all await the universal Judgement at the end of time, he heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints (Rev. 19:6-10). This is not only a foretelling of what will be at the dawning of the day of Resurrection; for even now, Holy Church, the Bride of Christ, stands clothed, as in purple and fine linen, with the blood of the martyrs, the tears of the ascetics, the temperance of the virgins, the preaching of the apostles, the writings of the Fathers, the mercy of the righteous, clad, that is, in all the virtues and in all the graces that the Holy Spirit has brought to birth in the saints of every age and place.

Who could number the cloud of witnesses (Heb. 12:1) that surrounds us? Who could name each one of the living who with Christ, through Christ, and in Christ have triumphed over death and

have access to the throne of God, the saints in whom the Lord rejoices - Isa. 41:16 and takes his rest - Isa. 57:15. They have become fellow-citizens with the Angels and brethren of Christ. And He appears in each one of that great multitude, which no man could number (Rev. 7:9), as the one and only Lord, just as the innumerable reflections of the sun in great waters belong to the one heavenly body. The saints who dwell today in the City of the Great King, in the Land of the Living, are a multitude of stars in the spiritual firmament enlightened by Christ, the Sun of Righteousness (Mal. 4:2). The world is sanctified, saved and redeemed through the presence of the saints that are in it like the leaven in the loaf (cf. Matt. 13:33), preparing mankind for the final revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ. He will come then in His glory, that the light of his divinity may shine with no shadow at all upon his Body, the Church. At that time, the number of the saints that are to appear upon the earth will be accomplished, whose names, known to God alone, are written in the Lamb's book of life (Rev. 21:27). Then, as Saint Gregory the Theologian writes, 'the world above will attain perfection and the saints of every age will be united in the one and only Body of Christ, whose union with His Bride, the Church, will have reached its fulfilment.

The saints who shine with the divine light have become gods by the grace of the Holy Spirit, to the extent that baptized into Christ they have put on Christ (Gal. 3:27). To the extent that they have taken up their cross with Christ (Matt. 16:24), so as to crucify in themselves the old man (Rom. 6:6), full of passions, sins and all uncleanness, they have been able to share also in the glory of Christ's Resurrection. By partaking in Christ's Passion through martyrdom, asceticism, tears and practice of all the evangelic virtues, the saints have overcome death with Him. They are henceforth alive to God (Rom. 6:11), for Christ has made his abode with them. I have been crucified with Christ, they cry; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me (Gal. 2:20). The saints do the works of Christ because, by faith and grace, they are united to Him. It is Christ himself, dwelling in them by the Holy Spirit (cf. John 14:10), who works miracles, converts idolaters, reveals the hidden wisdom of spiritual knowledge, reconciles enemies and fortifies the bodies of His saints to meet the most dreadful torments with joy; so that the Gospel continues to be written, even to this day, through the evangelic labors of the saints. Thus, whether near at hand or far away, whether ancient or modern, the saints are trustworthy guides to Christ who dwells in them. Be imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1), the saints say to us with Saint Paul. If we want to make the image of Christ shine within us, we must often cast our eyes upon the saints to find real, practical examples of how to live. An artist who wants to paint the portrait of someone makes use of existing likenesses of that person. We ought to look on the lives of the saints in a similar way. By reading and comparing them, we will learn how to move forward in the life in Christ.

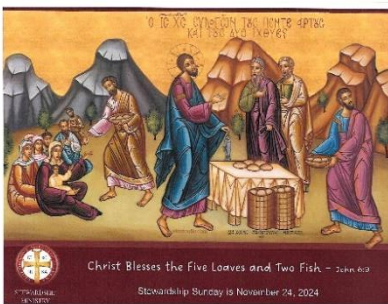


Reading the Communion Prayers – Pages 60-63 in Liturgy Book

In Her wisdom, the Church provides beautiful prayers to read before 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 Holy Communion. 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.

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.



SPAM Messages



In this age, please be mindful of messages sent to your phone or email asking for donations from Fr. Peter. Take note that the email or phone number of the sender has no connection to Fr. Peter or the parish. Fr. Peter's email is FrPeter@htgocnj.org. Spammers will use official looking addresses or in the last attempt a picture of Fr. Peter downloaded from our website to trick you into thinking the request is from him. All staff and employees of Holy Trinity have their email ending in: @htgocnj.org Please disregard any communication seemingly from the parish that does not end this way. And if in doubt just call Fr. Peter at the church office before communicating with an unknown person or giving money.

Journey to Orthodoxy – January 16, 23, 30

This Catechism class provides instruction to those seeking to join the Orthodox Church. However, it is not only for those looking to join but for everyone looking to increase their knowledge about the Orthodox Church, which is the fullness of the Christian Faith. "Journey to Orthodoxy" picks up where it left off in December. Classes begin at 5:00 PM in room 103. Please speak with Father Peter if you're interested in attending as part of the faithful or as one curious about the Orthodox Faith.

TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social)

It is a fun way to connect with other Orthodox families with small children. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 22, from 9:30 - 11:30 AM in the preschool room. Children 18 months-Pre-K are welcome with their caregivers (younger siblings welcome!). Bring water, sneakers, and a snack. Contact Val Comprelli vcomprelli@gmail.com or 612-801-8608 to sign up or with any questions.

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

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.

Sayings of the Church Fathers.....

“Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” – St. Jerome

“Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.” – St. Augustine

“We are not made holy by doing righteous things, but by living with God.” – St. Clement of Alexandria

“Do not be troubled if you do not immediately receive from God what you ask Him; for He desires to do something even greater for you.” – St. John Chrysostom

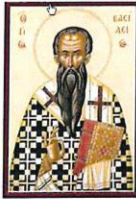
“A pure heart is the dwelling place of God.” – St. John of Kronstadt

“One should not seek among others the truth that can be easily gotten from the Church. She is the door to life.” – St. Irenaeus

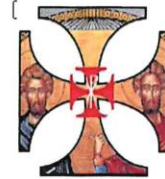
Philoptochos Stewardship and Vasilopita Luncheon – January 26

Reservations are now open. Please join us immediately following Divine Liturgy. Sign up during the Fellowship Hour, by mail or text at 908-327-4295. As a reminder, the luncheon is a fundraiser for St. Basil Academy and Archdiocese Youth Programs. Kathy Maglaras and Debra Vlahakis, co-chairs.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity



VASILOPITA LUNCHEON & STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



January 26, 2025

Immediately following Divine Liturgy, Bouras Center

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

RESERVED SEATING

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE BY JANUARY 20, 2025

ADULTS- \$25

CHILDREN 16 & under- \$20

Includes: Buffet Dinner, Salad, Mezethes, Wine & Dessert

Please mail or stop @ Philoptochos table to sign up

RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____ **# Adults** _____ **# Children** _____

Amt Enclosed: _____ **Check #** _____ **Cash** _____ **Credit Card** _____

Checks Payable to: The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity

Send to: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

250 Gallows Hill Rd, Westfield, NJ 07091

When mailing, mark envelope "Attn: V"

Debra Vlahakis & Kathy Maglaras, Co-chairs



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

January 8, 22

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.

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 during Fellowship Hour on

January 26th and February 2th

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>



GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠