

Leavetaking of Theophany



Holy Eucharist
The Lamb of God

Sunday, January 14, 2023

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 Delvzis, Parish Priest

On the Fourteenth Day of the month, we commemorate: The Holy Fathers slain on Mt. Sinai and the Thirty-three Holy Fathers on Raitho; Our Righteous Father Theodoulos; St. Agnes who died in a dark dungeon; Our Righteous Father St. Sava the first Archbishop of Serbia and founder of Hilandar of Mt. Athos

Click links for Scripture Readings

Morning Gospel:	St. John 21:1-14	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	Ephesians 4:7-13	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Matthew 4:12-17	Ελληνικά

Grave Tone Ηχος Βαρύς

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: “By Your cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrh-bearers’ sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your 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: “You appeared today to us* on earth, O Master,* and Your light was shined on us* who cry aloud to You and say* with understanding, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable.”

Liturgical Schedule

Tuesday, January 16, **St. Peter of the Chains**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
Wednesday, January 17, **St. Anthony**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 21, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations

Altar Candles, Vigil Light, Large Candles and Prothesis: In Loving Memory of Nicholas† and Teresa† Zeniou

Sacraments and Rites

40-Day Blessing: Today we are blessed to have the churching of Nikolas James Fernandez, son of Gerardo and Ronnie Fernandez.

Memorial: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial service for Nicholas Zeniou†, 10 years. Eternal be his memory.

Baptism: On Saturday, January 13, the baptism of Gia Elsie (Mary) Scordo-Hasche, daughter of Andre Rivera-Hasche and Alicia Irene Scordo, was celebrated. The Godfather is Joseph John Scordo.

Fellowship Hour: Please join us in the Bouras Center after church for the Fellowship Hour which is being sponsored by the Colonias and Zeniou families, in loving memory of Nicholas Zeniou†.

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.

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

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.

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our parish. We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home, we hope that you will become 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.



“The Holy [Gifts] For the Holy [People of God]”
Τὰ Ἅγια τοῖς ἁγίοις

This sentence from the Divine Liturgy (p. 57) brings us to the accomplishment of the Orthodox worship service, namely bringing us to the moment of Holy Communion. The priest, having prayed to our Lord Jesus Christ who is gloriously enthroned in the heavenly Kingdom with the Eternal Father, asks the Almighty to grant him and all pious Orthodox Christians the most pure Body and precious Blood of the Saviour. The Holy Eucharist is made ready through the Mighty Hand of God and distributed by the hand of the priest.

The literal translation of this phrase is, “The Holy for the holies” which means that the Holy Gifts (*plural*) are given to the people who are holy (*also plural*). The “Holy Gifts” are not just consecrated elements such as the Altar Table or other holy utensils or service books but are in fact the Body and Blood of the Lord. These Holy Gifts are Christ Himself. It is very clear that what we receive is not simply some “gift”, but rather the Giver Himself. St. Nicholas Cavasilas says, “We partake not of [the things that are] His, but of Him.”


When these words are spoken, the priest elevates the Lamb of God (*the portion of bread that is the pure Body*) and invites the faithful to partake of the Holy Eucharist. What an awesome and fearful invitation this is. We attend the Divine Liturgy to specifically partake of the Holy Mysteries. Nevertheless, when the moment comes for us to receive, we must feel overwhelmed by a sense of inadequacy, unworthiness, and being unprepared, for no person can ever be adequately prepared to receive Christ.

These words of the liturgy also specify that the Holy Eucharist is not for everyone. In calling us “holy”, we must discern whether our lives are truly holy and entirely dedicated to God. Unequivocally, we are not. We are sinners and have fallen short of God’s glory. Yet as sinners, we are not totally depraved. To those who recognize their sinful nature and who strive to have our broken and fallen nature healed through God’s holiness comes mercy. These are the people to whom the Holy Gifts are offered: to those who seek holiness in their lives. St. Nicholas Cavasilas says, “Those whom the priest call holy are not only those who have attained perfection [these are the saints], but those also who are striving for it without having yet obtained it.” Complete holiness does not adorn our nature. Yet, even though our souls are bruised, there must be a great effort to overcome evil and approach with fear and trembling the only Holy One from Whom we will draw new strength.

Finally, the Holy Eucharist is administered only to those who are baptized and chrismated in the Holy Orthodox Church. The Church has long viewed itself as the Ark of Salvation, once prefigured by Noah and the ark. Before communing of the sacred gifts, one must be admitted into the ark. This is done by being sponsored for entry into the Church. The Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation are the only ways that we are mystically renewed and received into the Church. Only those who have gone through this process are allowed to receive Holy Communion.

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.



EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

I would like to have my house blessed during the Epiphany Season.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

I understand that I will receive a phone call from Fr. Peter to determine the date and appropriate time.

Return this form to the church office before January 15, (908) 233-8533

Holy Water Bottles – Available Sunday, January 14

On January 6, the Holy Epiphany service of the Blessing of Waters was held. Each parishioner can take Holy Water bottles to their home. 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.

Metropolis of New Jersey Facebook Page

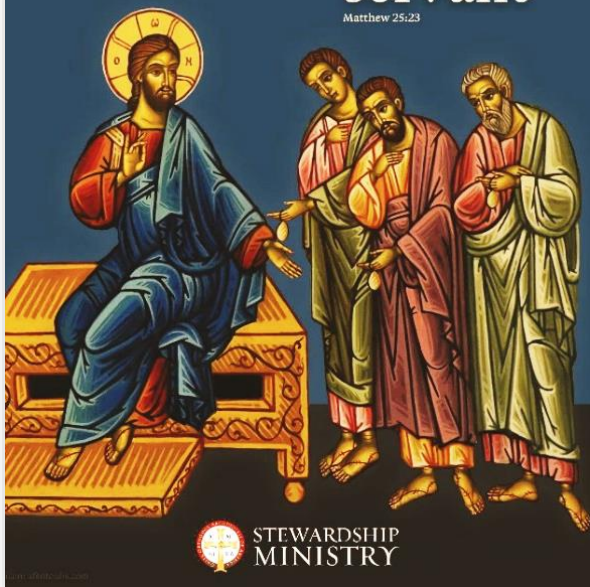
His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos wishes to inform all that the Metropolis has created a new Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Facebook Page. Please visit and follow this page and share the link with fellow parishioners. www.facebook.com/people/Greek-Orthodox-Metropolis-of-New-Jersey/

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.

*Well done
good & faithful
servant*

Matthew 25:23



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@htgocnj.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



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, Ket, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Ket, 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 January Edition of
THE PROMISE
Is Now Available

The Promise
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY
January 2014 • Volume 48, Issue 1
http://prayer@gpnet.org 908-220-8555 http://www.ftwc.org

The Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ
January 6

The Orthodox Church celebrates the baptism of Christ on January 6 from ancient times, calling this feast the Theophany since a divine light, the Trinity was made known to humankind for the first time. Before our independence, the feast of the baptism of Christ on December 26, the Nativity was celebrated on January 6 as well. Both Christmas and on God's long expected incarnation in the world. The Trinity is revealed to us and the course of salvation is set. God the Father is revealed in the voice from heaven. God the Son is baptized in the faith and baptized by John in the Jordan, and God the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove. God is everywhere in everything that we do.

The baptism of Christ inaugurates the beginning of His public ministry. The Gospel records that Jesus comes from Galilee; he is thirty years of age, the minimum age for a priest of the faith. As He approaches for baptism, John protests saying, "I need to be baptized by You." According to the Evangelist John, St. John the Baptist didn't recognize Jesus before He was baptized (John 1:19). Only realizing Who was the son of the Trinity, even though He would have known the voice of the Holy Spirit, he says, "I have seen the sign of the Holy Spirit, and I have seen and I have testified that this is the Son of God." Jesus would be present and revealed to God's will and baptised in the Jordan. "And behold, the heavens were opened to Him. Then the voice of God the Father was heard, "You are My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased" following St. John and everyone who stood together the divinity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Only Begotten of the Father.

This shows the mystery of Jesus Christ being baptized in the Jordan. The great Father and the ministry of baptism is conveyed by God through His Holy Spirit, to Him be Dominus, pater, and glory forever more. Amen. ©

January
The Month Dedicated to the Illustrious Fathers

January (in Latin, *ianuarius*) is named after the Latin word for "door" (*ianua*), since January is the door to the year and its opening in our beginnings. It is the first month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. The first day of the month is known as New Year's Day. It is an average, the vintage month of the year within most of the Northern Hemisphere.

Traditionally, the original Roman calendar consisted of 10 months, including 304 days, winter being considered an uncounted time period. Around 753 BC, the Roman calendar was revised by Romulus, King Numa. Pomponius Mela reported to have added the months of January and February, so that the calendar covered a standard lunar year (354 days).

Even though the month of January has the longest nights, and is among the darkest times of the year, the Church has made it one of its most luminous with such a start with a feast honoring our common ancestor.

Continued on page 2

Wait for the promise of the Father



YOUTH REGISTRATION

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.

GOYA Sights and Sounds - Seeking Vocal Coach

Stewardship opportunity of Time and Talent! We are looking for a vocal coach to work with the GOYA singing groups as they prepare for Sights and Sounds. If you can help, please contact Maria Tarhanidis at mvtarhanidis@gmail.com or stop by the GOYA table.

TOTS Playgroup – January 24

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, January 24, 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 would like to share a new exhibit in Africa and Byzantium displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art through March 3. There are three options for you to experience this exhibit:

Africa and Byzantium, an in-person Lecture with The Met's Dr. Andrea Achi
<https://www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/event/africa-byzantium/>

The Metropolitan of Museum Virtual Tour - Africa & Byzantium
https://www.metmuseum.org/perspectives/videos/2023/12/africa-and-byzantium?promocode=52441&utm_campaign=2023_1222_Met_MetNews&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museum

The Metropolitan of Museum Exhibition - Africa & Byzantium – through March 3
<https://www.metmuseum.org/>

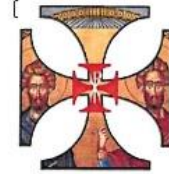
Philoptochos Stewardship and Vasilopita Luncheon – January 21

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. Kathy Maglaras and Debra Vlahakis, co-chairs.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity



VASILOPITA LUNCHEON & STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



January 21, 2024

Immediately following Divine Liturgy, Bouras Center
Proceeds to benefit the Saint Basil Academy

**THE ST. BASIL CHILDREN WILL BE JOINING US FOR THE LUNCHEON
PLEASE SUPPORT US!**

OPEN SEATING

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE BY JANUARY 14, 2024

ADULTS- \$25/ CHILDREN 12 & under- \$20

Includes: Buffet Lunch, Salad, Wine & Dessert

Please mail or stop @ Philoptochos table to sign up
Kathy Maglaras & Debra Vlahakis, Co-chairs

RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ # Adults _____ # Children _____

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

Zelle: treasurer@htphiloptochos.com

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"

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:	

Come DANCE with us!

Please join us for an adult Greek dance class and enjoy an evening with friends while supporting the GOYA!

Saturday, February 3, 7-8:30 pm in the Bouras Center

Greek dances will be taught by our dance instructor, Niko Nikolovienis from Hellenic Roots, in a relaxed and casual setting

Mezedakia & Sweets will be served - BYOB (ADULTS ONLY)

\$25 per person, Cash, Venmo @westfieldgoya or check payable to HTGOC YHT



Contact Mary Carayannopoulos (314) 623-5493 or Sophia Saketos (908) 247-6048
or email goya@htgocnj.org with any questions.

RSVP HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/yc8vvtzh>



Upcoming Parish Events

SAVE THE DATE!

February 11, 2024

Join the family of Holy Trinity in the Bouras Center immediately following Divine Liturgy for a delicious breakfast sponsored by Religious Education. \$14.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children. Volunteers are needed! Please reach out to Andrea Cerini at 908-347-3521 or via:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4DA5A622A75-46964448-community#/>

Community Communion Sunday with breakfast in the Bouras Center to follow

All are encouraged to invite their godparents and godchildren and join in fellowship and faith in receiving Communion as a community.



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
February 11, 2024

Sponsored by Holy Trinity Religious Education

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/



