Twelfth Sunday of Luke

St. Maximos the Confessor

Sunday, January 21, 2024

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 Delvizis, Parish Priest
On the Twenty-first Day of the month, we commemorate: Our Righteous Father St. Maximos the Confessor; The Holy Martyrs Sts. Neophytos, Agnes, Patrocllos, Maximos the Greek and St. Eugene of Trebizond

Plagal Fourth Tone  Ηχος Πλ. Δ´

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** “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 St. Maximos:** “Guide of Orthodoxy and a sacred teacher of piety and dignity, luminary of the world, and God-inspired jewel of monastics, O wise Maximos, the Spirit’s instrument: by your teachings you enlightened all. Intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.”

**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 virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Now, give peace to our Nation in time of war, and empower our Leaders, so loved by You, the only one who loves humanity.”

**Liturgical Schedule**
Monday, January 22, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 28, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
Tuesday, January 30, Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs, Orthros, 8:30 AM;
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

**Altar Donations**

**Altar Light:** In Loving Memory of Derek James Gearhart†

**Vigil Light:** In Loving Memory of Eleni Vlangos†
Sacraments and Rites

Memorial: Your prayers are requested on Sunday at the memorial service for Remila Christo†, 40 days. Eternal be her memory.

Funerals: On Monday, January 15, the funeral service for Helen (Boutsikaras) Sikaras† was held. On Thursday, January 4, Helen (Eleni) Nicholas† passed away, mother of JoAnn Jayson, funeral service held in Rye, NY. Eternal be their memories.

Eternal Memory – Αἰώνια ἡ μνήμη αὐτοῦ
With deepest sorrow, His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos announces the falling asleep of Rev. Fr. Angelo Michaels who passed away on Mon. Jan. 15. Fr. Angelos served at St. Demetrios GOC in Perth Amboy for over 20 years and in retirement served the parish of St. Demetrios in Jersey City. Funeral services will be held for his eternal repose at St. Demetrios Church in Jersey City on Tue. Jan. 23 at 11:00 AM preceded by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM.

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.

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.

New Bookstore Titles
Visit Holy Trinity Bookstore for informative books on the Orthodox faith. New titles arrived this week including: books on parenting, St. Nektarios composition on Christology, Patristic Theology by Father John Romanidis and many more fascinating options.

St. Maximos the Confessor – January 21
The month of January, often referred to as the month of the Church Fathers, celebrates today the illustrious Maximos born in Constantinople in 580 AD. He was raised by a pious Christian family. He received an excellent education, studying philosophy, grammar, and rhetoric. He was well-read in the authors of antiquity, and he also mastered philosophy and theology. When Saint Maximos entered into government service, he became first secretary (asekretis) and chief counselor to the emperor Heraclius (611-641), who was impressed by his knowledge and virtuous life. St. Maximos soon realized that the emperor and many others had been corrupted by the Monothelite heresy, which was spreading rapidly through the East. He resigned from his duties to become a simple monk. In 638, the emperor Heraclius and Patriarch Sergius tried to minimize the importance of
differences in belief, and they issued an edict, the “Ekthesis” (“Ekthesis tes pisteos” or “Exposition of Faith”), which decreed that everyone must accept the teaching of one will in the two natures of the Savior. In defending Orthodoxy against the “Ekthesis,” Saint Maximos spoke to people against this position. The Fourth Ecumenical Council condemned the Monophysite heresy, which falsely taught that in the Lord Jesus Christ there was only one nature (the divine). Influenced by this erroneous opinion, the Monothelite heretics said that in Christ there was only one divine will (“thelema”) and only one divine energy (“energia”). Saint Maximos traveled from Alexandria to Crete, where he began his preaching activity. He clashed there with a bishop, who adhered to the heretical opinions of Severus and Nestorius. The saint spent six years in Alexandria and the surrounding area. Meanwhile the assaults of the heretics against Orthodoxy intensified. Saint Maximos went to Carthage and he preached there for about five years. In the year 647 Saint Maximos returned to Africa. There, at a council of bishops Monothelitism was condemned as a heresy.

After three years, the Lord revealed to Saint Maximos the time of his death (August 13, 662). Three candles appeared over the grave of Saint Maximos and burned miraculously. This was a sign that St. Maximos was a beacon of Orthodoxy during his lifetime and continues to shine forth as an example of virtue for all. Many healings occurred at his tomb.

In the Greek Prologue, August 13 commemorates the Transfer of the Relics of Saint Maximos to Constantinople, but it could also be the date of the saint’s death. It may be that his memory is celebrated on January 21 because August 13 is the Leavetaking of the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. St. Maximos has left to the Church a great theological legacy. His exegetical works contain explanations of difficult passages of Holy Scripture and include a Commentary on the Lord’s Prayer and on Psalm 59, various “scholia” or “marginalia” (commentaries written in the margin of manuscripts), on treatises of the Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite (October 3) and Saint Gregory the Theologian (January 25). Among the exegetical works of St. Maximos are his explanation of divine services, entitled “Mystagogia” (“Introduction Concerning the Mystery”). The dogmatic works of St. Maximos include the Exposition of his dispute with Pyrrhus, explanations of the Orthodox teaching on the Divine Essence and the Persons of the Holy Trinity, on the Incarnation of the Word of God, and on “theosis” (“deification”) of human nature. “Nothing in theosis is the product of human nature, for nature cannot comprehend God. It is only the mercy of God that has the capacity to endow theosis unto the existing. In theosis man (the image of God) becomes likened to God, he rejoices in all the plenitude that does not belong to him by nature, because the grace of the Spirit triumphs within him, and because God acts in him” (Letter 22). St. Maximos also wrote anthropological works (i.e., concerning man). He deliberates on the nature of the soul and its conscious existence after death. Among his moral compositions, especially important is his “Chapters on Love.” St. Maximos the Confessor also wrote three hymns in the finest traditions of church hymnography, following the example of Saint Gregory the Theologian.
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.

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.

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/

Trinity Circle
Kindly join us Tuesday, February 6, for our monthly lunch/meeting 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM with speaker, Steve Xenakis, on “The Greek language and Use of Diminutives”. Luncheon donated by Kassandra Romas in memory of her beloved husband Christos.
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.

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**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090 • Tel. (908) 233-8533 • www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org

**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 ____________________________
Spouse's Name ____________________________
Names of Dependents ____________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________
City __________________ State __________ Zip __________
Telephone Number (________) ____________________________
Cell Number (________) ____________________________

Signature __________________ Date __________

Email Address __________________

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.
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
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
The Holy Trinity Cultural Committee would like to share Hellenic and Orthodox cultural events and exhibits from organizations and institutions available to all. East Mediterranean Business Culture Alliance webinar events on https://www.youtube.com/@embca

- January 28 - “Historic Legacy and Heritage of Greek Jews” Webinar Panel Discussion
- February 11 - “Legacy of a Great International Statesman – Ioannis Kapodistrias, on his Anniversary” Panel Discussion
- February 25 - “Nostos and Citizenship for Hellenic Adoptees” Webinar Panel Discussion
- March 21 - “Ioannis Kapodistrias - Hellenic Governor and International Statesman” Live Panel Discussion at the Demos Center in Athens, Greece
- March 24 - “Hypatia of Alexandria “Martyr for Philosophy”” Webinar Panel Discussion

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Exhibition Africa & Byzantium is on view until March 3
- For a virtual tour of Africa & Byzantium watch now at: https://youtu.be/NHIT9vq6mJU
Philoptochos Stewardship and Vasilopita Luncheon – Sunday, January 21
Please join us immediately following Divine Liturgy. Walk-ins are welcome. As a reminder, the luncheon is a fundraiser for St. Basil Academy and the children will be joining us! 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](http://tinyurl.com/243nu33x)

Or print and email completed order form to [sophiasakotos@gmail.com](mailto:sophiasakotos@gmail.com)

Orders/Payments due by February 4, 2024 - Payable to HTGOC YHT or Venmo @WestfieldGoya

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**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](http://tinyurl.com/yc8vvtzh)
January 11, 2024

To the Very Rev. and Rev. Clergy
Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils
Directors and Faculty of the Religious Education Programs of the
Northern New Jersey Region of the
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My beloved in the Lord,

I hope and pray that this letter finds all of you well, both physically and spiritually as we enter into the New Year 2024.

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey in its continued efforts to cultivate and enhance the Religious Education Schools of the parishes, as well as to assist our dedicated teachers in better education our beloved children, will be hosting a Religious Education Teachers Seminar for the Northern New Jersey Region on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at the Ss. Nicholas Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church located at 80 Laurel Ave in Roseland, New Jersey. The seminar will begin at 9:00am and will conclude at approximately 2:00pm with lunch provided.

Please know that all teachers serving in our communities are expected to attend and participate in this important Seminar. However, although this Seminar is intended for the teachers, all those interested are invited to attend. Please RSVP directly to the Ss. Nicholas, Constantine and Helen parish at 973-251-2920 by February 2, 2024, in order to allow for proper preparations to be made the host community.

Praying that our loving Lord continues to bless you, your families and all the dedicated faithful of our sacred Metropolis, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

Metropolitan APOSTOLOS
Metropolitan of New Jersey
Join us in the Bouras Center immediately following Divine Liturgy for a delicious breakfast. Please sign-up during Fellowship Hour starting next week, January 28 and February 4. $14.00 for adults, $6.00 for children. Volunteers are needed for set up on February 10 and the day of breakfast. Please reach out to Andrea Cerini at 908-347-3521 or sign up 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
April 14, 2024

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

SAVE THE DATE
The Greek Independence Day Parade in New York will be held on

Sunday, April 14, 2024

[Image of a group of people holding Greek flags and wearing traditional attire]
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.
GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

* AMEN *