

# SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY



January 4, 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

Synaxis of the Holy Apostles of the Seventy; Our Righteous Father St. Theoktistos; Our Righteous Father St. Nikephoros the Leper; Sts. Zosimos the Monk and Athanasios the Notary; The Righteous St. Apollinaria the Senator; The Holy Martyrs St. Chrysanthos and St. Euphemia; The Holy New Martyr St. Onuphrios of Chios (+1818)

### Plagal First Tone

Ἦχος Πλ. Α΄

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. John 20: 11-18</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">2 Timothy 4:5-8</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Mark 1:1-8</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**Apolytikion:** “To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.”

**Apolytikion of the Forefeast:** “Jordan River once turned back when Elisha struck its stream\* with his mantle in the wake of Elias’ ascent;\* and the water was parted to the one side and to the other.\* And thus the fluid stream became a dry way for him,\* a symbol and truly a type of Baptism,\* by which we now pass over the streaming passage of the present life.\* And Christ appeared at the Jordan River\* to sanctify the waters.”

**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:** “In the running water of\* the Jordan River,\* on this day the Lord of all\* crieth to John: Be not afraid\* and hesitate not to baptize Me,\* for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

### Liturgical Schedule

Monday, January 5, **Paramoni of Theophany**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Royal Hours, 9:00 AM;  
Vesperal Divine Liturgy And Lesser Blessing of the Waters, 10:00 AM  
Tuesday, January 6, **Holy Theophany**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM  
with Greater Blessing of Waters  
Wednesday, January 7, **Synaxis of St. John the Baptist**, Orthros, 8:30 AM;  
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM  
Sunday, January 11, **Sunday after Theophany**, Orthros, 8:15 AM;  
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

### Altar Donations

**Altar Candles:** In memory of Nicholas J. Bouras† and Anna K. Bouras†; **Vigil Light:** In memory of Nicholas J. Bouras† and Anna K. Bouras†; **Large Candles:** In memory of Nicholas J. Bouras† and Anna K. Bouras†; **Kandili:** In memory of Nicholas J. Bouras† and Anna K. Bouras†; **Prothesis:** In memory of Nicholas J. Bouras† and Anna K. Bouras†

## Sacraments and Rites

**Memorials:** Your prayers are requested on Sunday morning at the memorial services for Nicholas J. Bouras†, 12 years, and Anna K. Bouras†, 31 years. Eternal be their memories.

**Funeral:** On Friday, January 2, the funeral for Pavlos A. Pavlou† was held. Eternal be his memory.

## Fellowship Hour

Please join us in the Bouras Center after church for the Fellowship Hour sponsored by Ted Bozonelis, in memory of Nicholas J. Bouras† and Anna K. Bouras†.

Religious Education classes resume on Sunday.

*In observance of Holy Theophany, the office will be closed on Tuesday, January 6.*



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

## In Remembrance - 2025

As a family of believers at Holy Trinity, let us keep in prayer the blessed memory of those who rendered their spirit unto our Lord in the year 2025.

*“O God of all spirits and every flesh, Who has trampled down death and has destroyed the power of the devil, bestowing life on this Your world: to the souls of Your servants give rest in a place of light, in a place of green pasture, in a place of refreshment, from where pain and sorrow and mourning are fled away. For You, Christ our God, are the Resurrection, the Life, and the Repose of Your departed servants: Michael Anastasiou, Meropi Constantine, Despina Anastasiou, Eraklis Polihros, Anastasios Markos, Gordon Lee Jolly, Bessie Vardas, Constance Thomas, Theodore Panagopoulos, Sotirios (Sam) Koliopoulos, William Stroh, Katherine (Kay) Panagos, Angeliki (Kiki) Anderson, Ilias Riginos, James Balatsos, Sylvia Kalamaras, Stella Provel, Pavlos Pavlou.”*

May their memories be eternal!



## 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)



### GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 579/2025

#### Archepiscopal Encyclical on the New Year of 2026

January 1, 2026

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

*O Redeemer, grant unto all a fruitful year!  
(Kontakion of the Indiction for the First of the New Year)*

Beloved sisters and brothers in the Lord,

In this New Year of 2026, we are encountering times and seasons of remarkable growth for our Church and for our personal lives and families. We pray that our efforts will be fruitful, and that they will bear many different kinds of harvests in our lives, both spiritual and material. The technological advances accelerating throughout our culture present many challenges, but also many opportunities. Now, more than ever, we need the wisdom of our Orthodox faith to guide our decisions for our families and for our Church, as to how to employ these advances for the good of our souls and for the good of the world.

With this in mind, I call on every member of our Sacred Archdiocese to become invested in the forthcoming Clergy-Laity Congress in Cleveland, Ohio (June 30 – July 2, 2026), where we will gather under the inspiring theme, “Rise and Build,” to heed the exhortation of the Prophet Nehemiah to the People of Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the Holy City:

Ἀναστῶμεν καὶ οἰκοδομήσωμεν. Καὶ ἐκραταιώθησαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐτῶν εἰς ἀγαθόν.

*Let us arise and build. And their hands were strengthened for the good work. (2:18)*

Whether in person or virtually, the Clergy-Laity Congress will address the needs and opportunities of our Institutions and Parishes. Among these, of course, is Saint Basil Academy, which has been forging ahead with innovative and exciting designs to bring its mission into even sharper focus. On this day, the First of the New Year, when we celebrate the memory of the Great Hierarch, Ascetic and Theologian of Caesarea, Basil the Great, let us all consider how we might support the Academy as it considers its future. May the intercessions of Saint Basil be with you all as you embrace the New Year of 2026, and may it bear fruit for you in your lives and in the lives of all those you love.

With paternal blessings in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America



## Twelve Days of Christmas

The commemoration of the Nativity and the Baptism of our Lord developed over time in the life and practice of the Church. Originally celebrated together on the same day, their celebrations – and the sequence of twelve days in between them – offer the faithful a festal period of great joy once again showing God’s great compassion and love. From the early days of the Christian Church, January 6 was the day observing these days because they both demonstrate the Incarnation of our Lord, the Only-begotten Son of the Father. In the Fourth Century, it was felt that a distinct day should be made for each of these feast days. While Jan. 6 remains the day celebrating the Theophany (Appearance of God), Dec. 25 became the day to celebrate the Nativity independently. Many scholars believe that at the time in the Western Church Christians were slipping back into pagan worship. In particular, it was difficult to end the pagan celebration honoring the “sun god”. During the winter solstice as the days began to grow longer, the Church Fathers wished to educate the faithful about the Son of God who is the creator of the sun and who is described as the Sun of Righteousness. Thus, the twenty-fifth of December was selected as the day to champion pagan worship and introduce the Nativity of Jesus Christ as its own feast day.

When this shift happened, a twelve-day period consisting of what pragmatically is still one major celebration (the Appearance of God) came into existence. [The Nativity celebrates God's appearance as an infant & Epiphany or Theophany celebrates God's appearance and beginning of His public ministry at the age of 30 with His baptism]. In their wisdom, the Holy Fathers of the Church led by the Holy Spirit created new Ecclesiastical celebrations. By honoring the Nativity of our Lord on Dec. 25, the church calendar opens up to also include new celebrations which run a length of forty days. Immediately, the Church formed celebrations around the naming of the Lord (on the eighth day of Christmas, Jan. 1) and the Presentation of the Lord (on the fortieth day after Christmas, Feb. 2). Other commemorations directly associated with Christ's birth in the flesh were also included such as: "Synaxis of the Virgin Mary (Theotokos, Dec. 26); "the murder of the 14,000 baby boys ordered killed by Herod" (Dec. 29). In the Western Church, "the Adoration of the Magi" was changed from Dec. 25 to Jan. 6. In the Eastern Churches, the Adoration of the Magi has remained on Christmas Day so as not to confuse the essential character between the Nativity and the Baptism of Christ.

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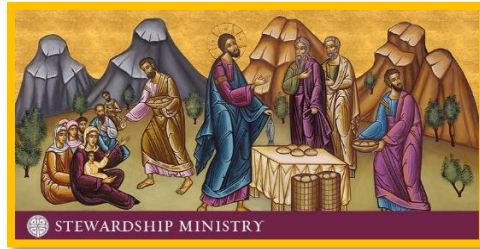
King Herod was intensely evil. Furious upon hearing the wise men's news about a newborn King in Bethlehem and being tricked by them, he ordered that all the babies, 2 years of age and under be killed in Bethlehem and the surrounding area. Herod sought out Zachariah's son, John the Baptist who was also newly born thinking that John would be this "New King". When Zachariah refused to hand over baby John, Herod killed Zachariah. His anger knew no limits. Herod also killed Hyrcanus, their high priest and 70 elders from the Sanhedrin (their council). Herod was so enraged that "someone" would take his position as king he also killed his own brother and sister, as well as his wife and 3 of his sons! What a crazed and evil man. The first martyrs of Christ were these young children. The first martyr of the Resurrected Christ was St. Stephen the Archdeacon whom the Church commemorates on Dec. 27.



## **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 161 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 submit your pledge card by the end of the year.

Yours in Christ,

Stewardship Committee

### **Angel/Mitten Tree Thank You**

Thank you for your generous donations to this year's Angel/Mitten Tree. "Moms Helping Moms" was so appreciative. The socks, hats and mittens/gloves were donated to a local shelter. Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year!

### **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 - 2026 Update**

The Angel Choir has joined the Adult Choir on Sundays. Membership continues to grow and new members are welcome at any time of the year. Angel Choir practices are after Sunday School from 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM. Children should meet with the director for practice in church in the choir pews. Children ages 7-12 interested in joining the Angel Choir should attend Sunday's practice. For more information contact the church office or Choir Director, 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.

### **Trinity Circle - Tuesday, January 6**

Vasilopita Luncheon 11 AM - 2 PM donated by Marie Mastorakis in memory of Gus Zades.

### **TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) - January 14**

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 14, 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.

### **SAVE THE DATE - Holy Trinity Cultural Committee - January 15**

The Holy Trinity Cultural Committee invites all parishioners and friends to an evening with Iphigenia Kanara, Consul General of Greece in New York. More details to follow early January.

### **SAVE THE DATE - Holy Trinity Family Dance - January 17**

Join us for a night of dancing, delicious food, and fun. The evening will feature a performance by our parish Greek dancers, children's activities, and a buffet dinner. Galloping Hill Caterers, Union, NJ, 6 - 10 PM. To purchase tickets, please Venmo @westfieldgreeksschool and include your name and ticket quantity or visit the Greek School table during Fellowship Hour. Adults \$100; Teens (13 - 18) \$60; Kids (3 - 12) \$40. All proceeds will support the Holy Trinity Greek School. If you would like to donate a raffle item or sponsor prizes, email [liapapathomas@gmail.com](mailto:liapapathomas@gmail.com) For general questions, email [asfourmarissa@gmail.com](mailto:asfourmarissa@gmail.com)

### **Adult Greek Dance Lessons - Thursday, January 22**

Lessons will be offered by Ronnie Filippatos Fernandez one Thursday per month, \$25 per class. The next lesson is January 22, 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: 2/19, 3/26, 4/23, 5/21.

### **SAVE THE DATE - Philoptochos Stewardship and Vasilopita Luncheon - January 25**

Reservations are now open. Please join us immediately following Divine Liturgy. Sign up during the Fellowship Hour, by mail or email: [asst-treas@htphiloptochos.com](mailto:asst-treas@htphiloptochos.com) As a reminder, the luncheon is a fundraiser for St. Basil Academy and Archdiocese Youth and Young Adult Programs. Mary Carayannopoulos and Yiana Leichtling, co-chairs.

### **SAVE THE DATE - Community Communion Breakfast ~ February 8**

All are encouraged to receive Holy Communion and join us at the breakfast immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Invite all Godchildren and Godparents to this lovely event!



**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!**

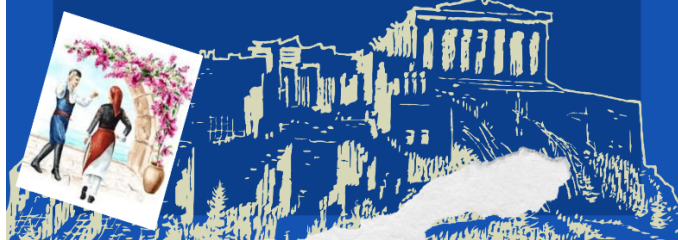
Practices will take place once a month in the  
Bouras Center

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  
[HTGOCGreekDance@gmail.com](mailto:HTGOCGreekDance@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

**January 15, 2026**



**Consulate General of Greece  
New York**

**Save the Date: January 15, 2026**

**The Holy Trinity Cultural Committee invites all parishioners  
and friends to an evening with**

**Iphigenia Kanara  
Consul General of Greece in New York**

**More details to follow in early January 2026**

# January 17, 2026

We are excited to invite you to our Holy Trinity Family Dance on Saturday, January 17, 2026, from 6 - 10 PM at The Galloping Hill Caterers in Union, NJ (Crystal Room). All are welcome, and we invite families to bring their children! The evening will include a delicious buffet, DJ entertainment, a performance by our Greek dancers, and fun activities for kids throughout the night.

[Please sign up for the Family Dance here.](#) Payment can be made via Venmo (QR code below) or by check made payable to "HT Greek School PTO".

If anyone would like to contribute a gift for our raffle, it would be greatly appreciated and would help make the evening even more special.

We look forward to celebrating a fun night together with our Holy Trinity family!



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AT

*Holy Trinity  
Family Dance*

GALLOPING HILL CATERERS  
1085 GALLOPING HILL ROAD, UNION NJ  
THE CRYSTAL ROOM

JANUARY  
SATURDAY | 17 | AT 6 PM  
2026

TICKETS  
ADULTS \$100, TEENS 13-18 \$60, KIDS 3-12 \$40  
TO PURCHASE VENMO @WESTFIELDGREEKSCHOOL OR BRING A CHECK TO THE GREEK SCHOOL  
TABLE AT COFFEE HOUR (MADE OUT TO HOLY TRINITY GREEK SCHOOL PTO)

INCLUDE YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME AND TICKET QUANTITY.

Westfield Greek School  
@WestfieldGreekSchool

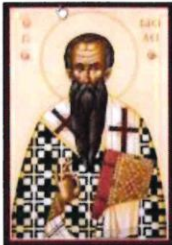
*Thank you for supporting the  
Holy Trinity Greek School*



venmo

# January 25, 2026

*The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity*



## VASILOPITA LUNCHEON & STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



**January 25, 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 January 19<sup>th</sup> - Reserved seating for tables of 10***

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

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

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

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

## Community Communion Sunday

*With breakfast to follow*



## Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

February 8, 2026

*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  
**Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, Jan 25<sup>th</sup> & Feb 1<sup>th</sup>**

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 2/7 and/or Sunday 2/8 by calling the chairperson, Andrea Cerini at (908) 347-3521 or via <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4DA5A622A75-61389618-copy>



## **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**

**January 14, 28**

**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 ✠**