

Sunday Before Theophany



**The Baptism of our Saviour
Matthew 3:13-17**

January 5, 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

The Holy Martyrs St. Theopemptos and St. Theonas; The Righteous St. Synkletike of Alexandria; Our Righteous Father St. Gregory of Akrita; St. Apollinaria of Egypt

Third Tone

Ἦχος Γ´

Morning Gospel:	St. Luke 24:36-53	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	2 Timothy 4:5-8	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Mark 1:1-8	Ελληνικά

Apolytikion: “Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.”

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: “To the flowing streams today * of River Jordan * comes the Lord and cries aloud * to John the Baptist, and He says, * “Be not afraid to baptize me now; * for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

Liturgical Schedule

Monday, Jan. 6, **Holy Theophany**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM with the Greater Blessing of the Waters

Tuesday, Jan. 7, **Synaxis of St. John the Baptist**; Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, Jan. 12, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

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

Friday, Jan. 17, **St. Anthony the Great**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations

Altar Candles: In loving memory of Nick Zeniou†

Vigil Light: In loving memory of Nick Zeniou†

Large Candles: In loving memory of Nick Zeniou†

Sacraments and Rites

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

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

Epiphany Icon - The floral decoration of the Epiphany icon was donated by the Kiriakatis family for their health and well-being.

Holy Water Bottles

After today's service of the Blessing of Waters, Holy Water bottles will be made available for parishioners to take 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.

The January/February Edition of The Promise is Now Available Online!

www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org/the-promise

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, information, and weekly announcements by request at: HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org



The Blessing of Waters

The feast of Epiphany or Theophany celebrates the baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River. Part of the observance of this feast is the blessing of waters. Two water-blessing services are conducted: one on the day preceding the feast, January 5, and one on the day of the feast itself. In order to distinguish these two blessings, the former is sometimes called the “Lesser Blessing of Water” while the one conducted on the feastday is called the “Greater Blessing of Water.”

This can become somewhat confusing. Both services are exactly the same except that on the Feast Day of Epiphany one extra prayer is read. The confusion comes from some saying the two waters are different: one is meant for drinking and the other is meant for blessing houses.

Holy Water is used in many different ways in the life of the Church. It can be used for drinking or sprinkling and is often kept with our icons at home throughout the year. The prayers said on these two days speak of the water to be used for these and other purposes.

Because January 5 is a day of fasting, the tradition developed that people would go to church without eating breakfast, and following the service would drink the Holy Water. On the next day, the priest or parishioners would bless their homes with the Holy Water that is distributed on Epiphany. Because of this, some think that there is a distinction between the two waters, as if they are totally different.

While there is nothing wrong with the custom of preparing to drink Holy Water on January 5 and having our homes sprinkled with Holy Water on January 6, but to make serious distinctions when none exist is neither helpful nor appropriate.

What is important is to focus on Christ and understand why the day is meaningful and significant. The Holy Water is a sanctification of ourselves, our homes, and places of business. Let us be thankful for this blessing. In the Jordan River, Christ was baptized. From this event the mystery of the Trinity was made manifest and the public ministry of Christ began. Through Christ working in the Holy Waters we pray that, “all who draw of it and partake of it with faith may have it for the cleansing of their soul and body, for the healing of their passions, for the sanctification of houses, and for every purpose that is expedient.”

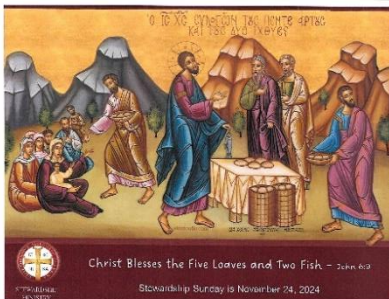


Reading the Communion Prayers – Pages 60-63 in Liturgy Book

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.



Trinity Circle

Our Vasilopita Lunch/Meeting is Tuesday, January 7, 11 AM – 2 PM. We thank Despina O'Neill for donating the luncheon in memory of her son Derek and her husband Jim.

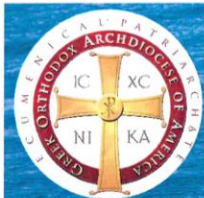
TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social)

It is a fun way to connect with other Orthodox families with small children. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 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.

Christmas Donations

Thank you for making Christmas donations to Moms Helping Moms and Bridges Outreach a huge success. Your generosity to this beloved Holy Trinity tradition is greatly appreciated. Happy New Year!

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



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of New Jersey



**His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey**

**Invites you to the
Annual Epiphany Celebration**

Monday, January 6, 2025

2:00 P.M.

**Great Blessing of the Waters
with the Sacred Cross**

**Molos Restaurant
1 Country Road 682
Weehawken, NJ 07086**

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

Proceeds to benefit the Saint Basil Academy

RESERVED SEATING

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE BY JANUARY 20, 2025

ADULTS- \$25

CHILDREN 16 & under- \$15

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

**For reservations, please mail, stop @ Philoptochos table or email your reservation to:
maglarask@yahoo.com**

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

January 18, 2025

Holy Trinity Winter Wonderland Dance

Join us for a night of food, dancing, family, friends, and fun! There will be an open bar and a delicious buffet to enjoy. We will also have a performance by our Greek dancers and activities for kids throughout the night. Galloping Hill Caterers, Union, NJ. 6 - 10 PM.

Tickets: Adults \$100, Teens 13-18 \$60, Kids 2-12 \$40. To purchase please Venmo @westfieldgreeksschool and include your first and last name and ticket quantity.

**** Donations Needed ****

We kindly ask for raffle prize donations. All proceeds from the raffle will support the Greek School. If you are interested in donating an item, please email

asfourmarissa@gmail.com



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US

*Holy Trinity
Winter Wonderland
Family Dance*

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

JANUARY

**SATURDAY | 18 | AT 6 PM
2025**

TICKETS

ADULTS \$100, TEENS 13-18 \$60, KIDS 2-12 \$40

*Thank you for supporting the
Holy Trinity Greek School*

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 ✠