

On the Seventh Day of the month, we commemorate: The Synaxis of St. John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, and Forerunner

Click links for Scripture Readings

Morning Gospel:	St. John 20:19-31	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	Acts 19:1-8	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. John 1:29-34	Ελληνικά

Plagal Second Tone Ηχος Πλ. Β΄

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: *“The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking, seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the virgin and granted life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to You.”*

Apolytikion of the Feast: *“As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.”*

Apolytikion for St. John the Baptist: *“The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you suffices the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved to be truly more ven'erable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us the great mercy.”*

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

Wednesday, January 10, **St. Gregory of Nyssa**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 14, **Sunday after Theophany**, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
Wednesday, January 17, **St. Anthony**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
Thursday, January 18, **St. Athanasios**, 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: In Memory of Louis Chergotis†

Kandili: In Loving Memory of Dr. James (Demetrios) Genakos†

Sacraments and Rites

Baptism: On Saturday, January 6, the baptism of John Dimitrios Kallinosis, son of Jamie and Jessica Kallinosis, was celebrated. The Godmother is Christina Kallinosis.

Memorials: Your prayers are requested on Sunday, January 7, at the memorial services for Dr. James (Demetrios) Genakos†, 1 year; Louis Chergotis†, 11 years. Eternal be their memories.

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 Glorious Prophet, St. John the Baptist and Forerunner - January 7

Among the Gospel personalities who surround the Savior, John the Baptist occupies a totally unique place by the manner of his entry into the world, and by the manner of his life in this world; by his role in baptizing people for repentance; by his baptizing the Messiah; and, finally, by his tragic departure from this life. He was of such moral purity that, in truth, he could be called an angel - as Holy Scripture calls him - rather than a mortal man. St. John especially differs from all other prophets in that he had that privilege of being able, with his hand, to show the world the Messiah about Whom he prophesied.

Let us contemplate the submission of the human will to the Saviour.

"Thy will be done, in earth as in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

Blessed be John the Baptist, for he fulfilled the Gospel before the arrival of the Gospel! Going into the wilderness, he gave himself up completely to the will of God, both body and soul. The will of God was carried out in his body on earth as well as in the heaven of his soul. Neither hunger nor wild beasts did harm to his body throughout the many years that he spent in the wilderness. His soul was harmed neither by despair in loneliness nor by pride in heavenly visions. He sought neither bread nor knowledge from man. God granted him everything that was necessary for him, because he gave himself up completely to the will of God.

He directed his footsteps neither into the wilderness nor away from the wilderness. An invisible rudder from on high steered his life. For when it was necessary for him to depart from the wilderness and go out to meet the Lord, it is said: "The word of God came unto John" (Luke 3:2). Like an innocent youth, John spoke simply about his communication with the powers of heaven: "And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon Whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God" (John 1:33-34). How tenderly and simply he speaks about heavenly things! How terrifying like a lion, he is when he speaks out against the injustice of men, against Herod and Herodias! The lamb and the lion dwell in him together. Heaven is as close to him as a mother is to her child. The will of God is as accessible and clear to him as it is to the angels in heaven.

O Lord, most wise, direct the lives of us sinners in the wilderness of this life according to Thy will, as Thou didst direct the life of St. John the Baptist.

Special Epiphany Gifts

During Epiphany, you may desire to express your love for Holy Trinity by offering special gifts such as Holy Water bottles, communion wine, festal icons, incense, charcoal, daily Bible guides, that can be donated in memory of or for the health of loved ones. Please call the office. Thank you for your generosity. A special request is asked for the floral decoration of the Epiphany icon.

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 7

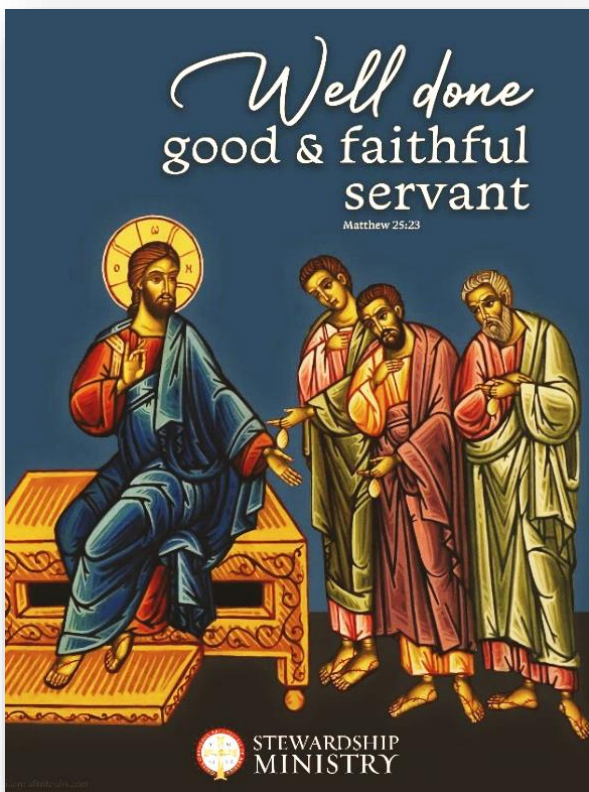
Yesterday, the Holy Epiphany service of the Blessing of Waters was held. Each parishioner can take Holy Water bottles to their home. Holy Water is used to bless yourself and sanctify houses. It is a gift from the Church and should be used with piety and taken home with deep respect.

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.



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 (_____) _____

Cell Number (_____) _____

Address _____

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



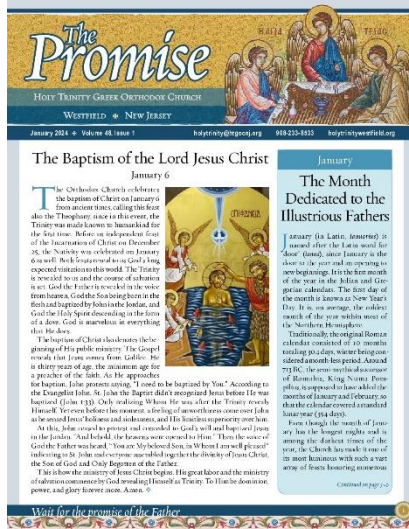
Novlet, Chrysavgi, Alexandra, Sue, Marilyn, David, Basil, Laura, Marylee, Meropi, Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Billy, Molly, Leonedas, David, Elizabeth, Tara, Lambros, Anne, Maria, Mikos, Arthur, John, Al, Jessika, Anastasia, Robert, Joanne, Constantine, Phyllis, Vasileos, Tina, Gabby, Fran, Dayvon, 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, Robert, 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



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 10

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, 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.

Philoptochos Vasilopita Bread Sale

We have a few extra homemade Vasilopita from Agia Skepi available for \$25 each. All proceeds benefit Saint Basil Academy. If you would like one, please text or call Denise Eliopoulos at 973-568-0938.

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"

Upcoming Parish Events

SAVE THE DATE!

February 11, 2024

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/



GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠