

Sunday of the Holy Fathers



Sunday, July 16, 2023

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 Delvzizis, Parish Priest

On the Sixteenth day of the month, we commemorate: The 630 Holy and Godbearing Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon; Holy Hieromartyr St. Athenogenes; Bishop of Pidachthoa; The Holy 15,000 Martyrs in Pisidia who died by the sword.

Click links for Scripture Readings

Morning Gospel:	St. Luke 24:36-53	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	Titus 3:8-15	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Matthew 5:14-19	Ελληνικά

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: *“Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful we both praise and worship Him, for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead through His all glorious resurrection.”*

Apolytikion of the Holy Fathers: *“Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be 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: *“A protection of Christians unshamable, * Intercessor to our Holy Maker, unwavering, * please reject not * the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. * Instead, come to us for you are good; * your loving help do bring to us, * who are crying in faith to you: * hasten to intercession * and speed now to supplication, * as a protection for all time, * Theotokos, for those who honor you.”*

Altar Donations

Kandili: In memory of Louis Sarandoulis †

Sacraments and Rites

Memorial: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial service for Ariadni Mavridis †, 1 year. Eternal be her memory.

Wedding: On Saturday, July 15, the wedding of Euphemia (Mia) Clarke and Steven Rofrano was celebrated. The Koumbaro is Stephan Sveshnikov.

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, July 23, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Wednesday, July 26, **St. Paraskevi the Martyr**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, July 30, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Tuesday, August 1, Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 6:30 PM

Welcome Visitors

We welcome you to the parish of Holy Trinity in Westfield. 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.

Singing the Liturgy during Summer Months

A beautiful opportunity occurs at the Divine Liturgy during the summer months in that the parish begins congregational singing. Our chanters lead the responses, and the faithful are encouraged to participate so that the church may be filled with the sweet sounds of spiritual hymns. There is no better way to learn, experience and have the Liturgy inscribed in the heart than to awaken the soul and to open the lips in praising God. In a few short weeks, you will be singing the hymns of the church even at home.



The Promise
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
WESTFIELD * NEW JERSEY

July 2023 • Volume 47, Issue 4
holytrinity@htgocnj.org 908-233-8533 holytrinitywestfield.org

A Child's Beauty

A baby is God's gift to a family. And from an infant's beauty and delicate nature one can clearly see the creative nature of God. If you ever want to be filled with overwhelming joy or be in amazement of God's handiwork, just hold a baby in your hands to look at its body which is so incredibly small and delicate.

I must admit that even though I have performed close to a thousand baptisms over the course of almost thirty years of ministry, my face still lights up and I become speechless each time I hold an infant in my hands to dedicate its precious soul to God.

Most of us were infants when we were baptized into the faith which means we have no cognitive memory of that day. But attend a baptismal service and if you are attuned to what is going on, then you just might learn something from the child.

The Lord remarked that whoever does not become like a child will not see the Kingdom of heaven. — Mark 10:15

By no means is a child a perfect being. But the Lord has taught us that we must incorporate certain traits clearly exhibited by a child to enter heaven. These traits must include trust, and a simple and delicate nature, things adults have trouble maintaining. A child is so extremely blessed because it has not acquired two faces or two different selves. It has not acquired hypocrisy because it has not encountered worldly glory. A child is happy and carefree in knowing nothing about the cares of this world or the anxiety *tes castis* on us. A child is like one of the birds in the air as described in Matthew 6:29, or a lily of the field, or a flower in a garden who is clothed with God's beauty so that not even King Solomon can outshine it.

But perhaps the most important thing the Lord teaches using the imagery of a child, is that our welfare is based entirely upon dependency. The brilliance of the Lord's teaching is found in that we must be completely and utterly dependent upon God. There is no other way to enter into the Kingdom of heaven.

So, the next time you look at or hold an infant think of the many things it teaches regarding the purity of faith. Think how many people the infant is dependent on for protection, sustenance, growth, and life. Then using this vivid imagery as provided by the Lord, let us understand how deeply dependent we are on our heavenly Father for all things. Doing this will unlock the gates of heaven for our entry. ✠

Wait for the promise of the Father

The July Edition of
THE PROMISE
Is Now Available
Online

Prayer Request



Arthur, John, Al, Jessika, His All-Holiness Bartholomew and Ecumenical Patriarch, Anastasia, Robert, Joanne, Peter, Constantine, 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, Ketu, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Ketu, Georgia, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Gayle, William, Byron, John, Robert, Terry, John, Angela, Andrew, Dianna, Edward, Sue, Thomas, Andrea, Thomas, Alexandra, Ronald, Galina, Angela, Lubove, Despina, Maria, John, Paraskevi (Parri), Dianna, Stephanie, Edward, Brian, Janeen

Movement Toward Perfection

To be as perfect as God is impossible for us. But to keep moving toward this perfection is always within our possibility with the help of God. In Orthodox spirituality, salvation is not a state of being; it is the motion toward theosis, toward becoming like God, which can never be fully achieved. It is growth in perfection. It is moving from sin to Christ, from slavery to freedom, from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from death to life. And once we have reached truth, it is moving from truth to greater truth, from wisdom to greater wisdom, from joy to deeper joy, from understanding to deeper understanding, from all-embracing love to more all-embracing love. And this process goes on eternally. We can never reach the point where we can say, "Well, now I've made it. I just have to sit around and be perfect."

Abbott Sisois, who had spent 80 years in the desert, was dying at age 100. He lived a life of repentance. Tears of penitence had deeply scarred his radiant face. Yet at 100 he was asking God for more time to repent. His disciples were amazed. "You are asking for time to repent, you who are the master of repentance." The old saint replied, "I'm only just beginning to learn that art." After 80 years of unprecedented spiritual growth, he had still not reached perfection. He was still excited about growing, realizing his unlimited possibilities in Christ.

The Venerable St. Macrina – July 19

St. Macrina was the eldest sister of St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory of Nyssa. As a young virgin, St. Macrina was betrothed to a young nobleman. When her betrothed died, St. Macrina vowed never to enter into marriage, saying: "It is not right for a maiden once betrothed to a young man to

seek another; according to the law of nature there must be only one marriage, as there is but one birth and one death." She further justified this by her faith in the Resurrection, considering her betrothed not as one dead but as one alive in God. "It is a sin and a shame," said St. Macrina, "for a wife not to preserve her faithfulness when her husband travels to a distant land." After this, she and her mother St. Emilia received the monastic tonsure in a convent, where they lived a life of asceticism with other nuns. They lived by the work of their hands, yet devoted a greater part of their time to divine contemplation, prayer and the constant raising of their minds to God. In time, St. Macrina's mother died, and afterward her brother St. Basil also went to rest. Nine months after the death of St. Basil, St. Gregory came to visit his sister, and found her on her deathbed. Before her death St. Macrina raised a prayer to the Lord: "You, O Lord, Who give rest to our bodies in the sleep of death for a time, will again awaken them at the last trumpet. Forgive me, and grant that when my soul divests itself of its bodily attire it will present itself before You pure and without sin, and that it may be as incense before You." She then made the sign of the Cross on her forehead, eyes, face and heart, and gave up her soul. She found rest in the Lord in the year 379 A.D.



“Our inferior nature works on our carnal desires and lusts in defiance of our spiritual nature, which is inspired by the Holy Spirit. People who behave in accordance with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit don’t engage in the desires of the flesh.” - Saint Mark the Ascetic

Upcoming Parish Events

Sale Dates: Thursday and Friday, July 20 and 21, 9:30 AM – 6:00 PM;
Saturday, July 22, 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

2023 Philoptochos Rummage Sale

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Road
Westfield, NJ 07090

Thursday July 20th 9:30am – 6:00pm
Friday July 21st 9:30am – 6:00pm
Saturday July 22nd 9:30am – 4:00pm
(everything ½ price 2pm-4pm SAT ONLY)

- Household Items
- Holiday Décor
- China & Glassware
- Small Appliances
- Small Furniture
- Home Décor Items
- Purses, Scarves, Hats
- Lines & Dry Goods
- Sporting Goods
- Crafting Materials
- Baskets & Frames
- Toys & Games
- Jewelry

Greek Baked Goods for Sale
Proceeds to Benefit Various Philoptochos Projects

Admission is FREE

Friday, September 29 – Sunday, October 1



GreekFest is back! **Enjoy Food, Fun and Fellowship while celebrating our Greek Culture**

September 29, 30 and October 1, 2023
Friday: 3PM -11PM
Saturday 12PM - 11PM
Sunday-Parish Only Picnic after Liturgy

We need your time, talent, and treasure to make it a great success

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

How can you help?

Please consider being a sponsor or seeking business sponsorships
(contact Penny Mavridis Sales Pmavridis21@gmail.com)

Join a committee (contact lkaranikolas@msn.com and
Sign up to volunteer (sign up genius link coming soon)

Spread the word to family, friends, businesses through social media, flyers
etc.

Bring your family and friends to enjoy the Kefi while supporting Holy Trinity's
Ministries



Dear Friend of Holy Trinity,

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church ("HTGOC") in Westfield, NJ will host its annual **GreekFest on Friday Sept 29th-Saturday Sept 30th**. Our parish invites you to our community to visit us and experience our Philoxenia, our faith, and authentic Hellenic culture. For over 50 years, our parish has been serving Westfield and the surrounding communities. Through the good works of our parish, the festival team, and partners, we support our ministries and local charitable organizations.

Become our partner and join the fun as we plan our largest fellowship event. Your sponsorship or advertising is a testimonial of your support, generosity, and patronage that directly enables our parish mission. As a business, your advertisement will reach thousands of attendees during the 3-day festival, **gain exposure to over 2,000 visitors and volunteers and our social media followers**. Our festival reaches patrons throughout New Jersey, including from Essex, Union, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Bergen, and Somerset counties.

Sincerely,

Fr. Peter Delvizi, Presiding Priest and the 2023 GreekFest Committee

Please remember:

- Spread the word through posting flyers, lawn signs, or find us on social media at NJGreekFest.
- Visit our website at www.njgreekfest.com.
- Repost and share on your social media feed(s).

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Grand Benefactor Sponsor* \$5,000 _____

Platinum Sponsor* \$2,500 _____

Gold Sponsor* \$1,000 _____

Silver Sponsor \$500 _____

Bronze Sponsor \$250 and above _____

*Sponsorship of \$1,000 and above entitles donor to the following advertising:

- (i) an HTGOC Promise Newsletter with over 800 recipients;
- (ii) inclusion on GreekFest website; and
- (iii) inclusion on large Festival Banners during Festival days.

Payment Options (for GreekFest donations)

A. By Check:

1. Mark your sponsorship package from above.
2. Fill out the contact information below:
 - Name _____
 - Address _____
 - Phone _____
 - Email _____
3. Mail check to: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church at 250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, New Jersey 07090

B. By Credit Card: Click link: [Holy Trinity Online Donation](#)

Or QR code:



Or visit: <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/>

Thursday, October 5

Save The Date!

**41st ANNUAL
HOLY TRINITY GOLF CLASSIC**

Echo Lake Country Club
515 Springfield Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090



Sponsorships, scheduling, and fees will soon be provided.

For information, please contact the Golf Committee:

George Colonias admin@htgocnj.org 908-294-7414 or
George Paras gparas@parasandparas.com
201-681-5366

