

# Fourth Sunday of Matthew



If you love Me, you will keep My commandments – John 14:15

July 21, 2024

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 Delvzis, Parish Priest

<b>Morning Gospel:</b>	<a href="#">St. Luke 24:1-12</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
<b>Epistle Reading:</b>	<a href="#">Romans 6:18-23</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
<b>Gospel Reading:</b>	<a href="#">St. Matthew 8:5-13</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**Apolytikion:** “Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming 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:** “O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.”

### Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, July 28, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, August 4, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

### Sacraments and Rites

**Memorials:** Your prayers are requested Sunday morning at the memorial service for Stella Psarianos†, 40 days and Ariadne Mavridis†, 2 years. Eternal be their memories.

**Wedding:** On Sunday the wedding of Deana Sofia Gifford and Brandon Matthew Brooks will be celebrated. The Koumbaro is James J. Mavrikidis.

### Artoklasia

An Artoklasia is being offered on Sunday for the 30th anniversary of Fr. Peter’s ordination to the priesthood and his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as presiding priest (Proistamenos) of Holy Trinity, together with all the members of this God-saved community.

### Welcome Visitors

The parish of Holy Trinity welcomes those visiting our community today. 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.

## 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.



# Prayer Request

Blace, Christos, Thomas, Rich, John, Robert, Phyllis, Lea, Mary, Mason, George, Chloe, Yolanda, Luke, George, Maria, Alexander, Athena, Demetra, Stavroula, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Pamela, John, Helen, Chris, Niko, Vicky, Dino, Stephanie, James, John, Theodora, 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, Vasileos, Tina, Fran, Dayvon, Sunitha, Neil, Gus, Dimitri, Freddy, Shane, Lula, Christina, Diego, Michael, Katie, Joe, Theo, Barbara, Nicholas, Athanasios, Clarita, Georgia, Savas

## 30/20 Ordination and Assignment Anniversaries



Fr. Peter is thankful to Almighty God for the upcoming dual anniversaries of his 30-year ordination to the priesthood and completing 20-years as Proistamenos of Holy Trinity in Westfield. Joining him in the three-decade ministry is Presvytera Victoria who is the person who shares with her husband the most intimate joys and sorrows of pastoral ministry. A presvytera's support is perhaps the most essential component of a priest having a successful ministry in any parish.

**30-year Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood, July 31, 1994** - In accordance with the authority and power granted to the bishops by the Holy Apostles and with canonical permission of the Holy Synod represented by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, His Grace Bishop Maximos of Pittsburgh ordained Fr. Peter to the Holy and lofty degree of the priesthood by the laying on of hands, on July 31, 1994. Fr. Peter has served at the Cathedral of the Ascension in Oakland, CA; St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Diego, CA; St. George in Media, PA and Holy Trinity, Westfield, NJ

**20-year Anniversary as Proistamenos of Holy Trinity, July 25, 2004** - His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos assigned Fr. Peter to pastoral duties as Proistamenos or presiding priest of Holy Trinity in Westfield on July 25, 2004. His Eminence encouraged Fr. Peter to "remain faithful to your priestly responsibilities, by responding to the sacred role to which Christ has called you, asserting yourself with love, respect, dignity, and dedication to our Holy Orthodox Church." Fr. Peter is honored and extremely blessed to have served the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for thirty years and the parish of Holy Trinity for the last twenty years.



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 219/2024

**Archebiscopal Encyclical on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Invasion of Cyprus**

July 20, 2024

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

*But let judgment roll down as water, and righteousness as an impassable torrent.  
(Amos 5:24)*

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the unjust and unnecessary invasion of the Island Nation of Cyprus by Türkiye is a sad and heartbreaking milestone in what has been too long a journey of injustice and diplomatic neglect by the World Powers. The mistakes and grim miscalculations of the past are long overdue for forgiveness, so that credible solutions can emerge with an air of possibility.

For half a century, we have been praying and working for the reunification of Cyprus, and for all its citizens to receive the just judgment of a peaceful and equitable settlement. In the intervening decades, global leadership has chosen to turn a blind eye to the suffering on both sides of the Green Line. Families have passed through generations without closure for their lost loved ones, whose earthly remains are still missing. Magnificent cultural heritage has been razed and looted, finding its way into global black art markets. And the utter lack of respect for sacred Churches is a reminder of medieval views of conquest that should no longer be applicable in a civilized world.

We, who are Greek Orthodox Christians, and who share spiritual, cultural, ethnic, linguistic and all manner of civilizational ties with Cyprus, cannot simply stand by and wait passively for a resolution to be found — especially when the world seems to be no longer looking for one. We shall continue to raise the issue “in season and out of season.”



But this cannot be all that we do. We must implore the Lord of all to rain down judgment and righteousness on the hearts of world leaders and bring Cyprus back to the forefront of international affairs without further delay. Cyprus deserves a peaceful and just settlement now! Fifty years is far too long, and anything more is unworthy of what has been forever lost.

With hope and faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

† Ἐλπίδοφορος Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America



**Who do you trust?  
Don't trust yourself!**

Obedience is a virtue. We are called to follow Christ and to trust in Him. This seems blindingly obvious to an Orthodox Christian. While some attempt to implement this in their lives, others do not. How often do we put God above all other things?

The truth is we are not obedient to God but to ourselves in all aspects of our lives. Do we keep His commandments, do we pray often and fervently, are we mindful of the Sabbath Day and spend the Lord's Day (Sunday) in Church? The Church Fathers teach us that only an obedient heart can truly pray. True prayer is not only praying for the "right things" but to discover its hidden meaning. In its deepest sense, the importance of prayer is what we find at the end, for the end of prayer is not speaking to God, but hearing and heeding what He says.

Discernment in the spiritual life is found in obedience. This is why in the Christian life, we put ourselves under the care of a spiritual father or father confessor. Just as a doctor, surgeon, or lawyer does not heal, diagnose, prescribe, or advocate for himself but rather finds another to do so, so too does each person need a spiritual father. It is unwise to have confidence in yourself. The Fathers of the Church emphasize this by saying, "If you choose yourself as a spiritual father, then you choose a fool!"

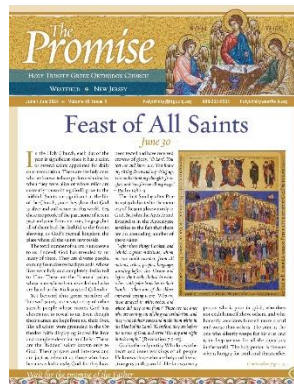
Christians, since the beginning of the Evangelical age, have sought to renounce the world. But when we renounce this world, we must have a spiritual guide to help us along the way. If we wish to flee the world, we must be like the Israelites having Moses as a guide as we flee from the evils of Pharaoh. Ancient Egypt is a symbol of this world, and we need someone, a spiritual guide, standing near us, advocating for us, to help us achieve divine growth. The Fathers of the Church again say, “There is only one erring path, and it is called autonomy or self-rule, in Greek *ιδιορρυθμία*.”

The person who seeks counsel and who is obedient eludes two evil snares that the devil cunningly sets up for our demise. Obedience erases disobedience given to us by our fore parents, Adam and Eve, and it puts an end to conceit.

Obedience is absolute renunciation of our own life, clearly expressed in our bodily actions. It is mortification of the limbs while the mind remains alive. Obedience is the tomb of the will and the resurrection of humility. Obedience is easy if we know how to listen.

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments” – John 14:15

**The June/July Edition of**  
**THE PROMISE**  
**Is Now Available**



**2024 Stewardship Campaign Update –**  
**Currently 344 Stewards have pledged \$486,951**

Thank you to the parishioners who submitted their pledge cards and stewardship gifts. As of May, we graciously received 344 pledges in the amount of \$486,951. Please remember to submit your pledge card which will help us meet our operating budget of \$939,200. Consider inviting family and friends to come to visit and worship with us. Sponsor a new steward and bring them into our Holy Trinity family. Your gifts to date have allowed our Parish to achieve 51.8% of our budget and to support our annual Archdiocesan commitment, a gift to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, and support our growing and vibrant ministries. Thank you!

**Religious Education Classes Resume - Sunday, September 8**

Please complete the online form for each student at your earliest convenience. The first day of classes is Sunday, September 8. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in the Fall! Click the link to register: <https://forms.gle/RbJYgfYKXdJMfeeC9>

# Upcoming Parish Events

## SAVE THE DATE!

### September 27-29, 2024

Save the Date



## September 27, 28, 29

Friday  
3 pm - 11pm

Saturday  
11 am - 11 pm

Sunday  
noon - 5 pm



Be an active part of our 2024 Greekfest! Volunteer your time, talents & treasures. Everyone is needed to make it a success! Simply scan the QR code to sign up or contact Roula Ioannou and Kelly Leunes at [htgreekfestvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:htgreekfestvolunteers@gmail.com)

GreekFest 2024 - September 27 - 29

OPA!! 2024 Westfield GreekFest will take place, September 27-29!! Come volunteer your talent and join the fun to make this our best festival yet. PLEASE sign-up and support OUR community! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4AADAA2E5-50233737-2024>

Please join us for a GREEK FEST KICK OFF EVENT Sunday, September 8, for loukoumades and frappe in the Bouras Center immediately following Divine Liturgy.

Contact Roula Ioannou or Keli Leunes at [HTGreekfestivalvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:HTGreekfestivalvolunteers@gmail.com)



**September 23, 2024**

**42nd ANNUAL  
HOLY TRINITY GOLF CLASSIC**



**Monday, September 23, 2024**

**Echo Lake Country Club**  
515 Springfield Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

For information, please contact the Golf Committee: George Colonias [admin@htgocnj.org](mailto:admin@htgocnj.org)  
908-294-7414; George Paras [gparas@parasandparas.com](mailto:gparas@parasandparas.com) 201-681-5366

