On the Twenty-third day of the month, we commemorate: St. Phocas the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Sinope; The Holy Prophet Ezekiel; Our Righteous Mother St. Pelagia of Tinos; Holy Hieromartyrs Sts. Apollinaris and Vitalis, Bishops of Ravenna; The Righteous St. Anna of Leukadio; The Christian Martyrs who were executed in Bulgaria during the reign of Emperor Nikephoros

Click links for Scripture Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Scriptural Reference</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Gospel</td>
<td>St. John 20:1-10</td>
<td>Greek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epistle Reading</td>
<td>Romans 15:1-7</td>
<td>Greek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gospel Reading</td>
<td>St. Matthew 9:27-35</td>
<td>Greek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** “When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead, and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch You came unto the virgin woman bestowing the gift of life O You who rose from the dead. Lord we give glory to You.”

**Apolytikion of the Holy Martyr:** “Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Phocas. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.”

**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**

**Altar:** In loving memory of Angelo Ravanos†

**Kandili:** In loving memory of Frank (Fotios) Nicholas†

**Sacraments and Rites**

**Memorial:** Your prayers are requested on Sunday morning at the memorial services for Mary Fredas†, 40 days and Angelo Ravanos†, 13 years. All those Orthodox Christians who fought and lost their lives in the 1974 Turkish Invasion of Cyprus†, 49 years. Eternal be their memories.

**Funeral:** On Wednesday, July 19, the funeral service for Vincent V. Altomare† was held. Eternal be his memory.
St. Phocas the Hieromartyr – July 23
Phocas exercised himself in all the Christian virtues from his youth. As bishop in his birthplace of Sinope on the shores of the Black Sea, he strengthened the faith of the true believers by his example and divine words and converted many idol-worshipers to the true Faith.

The hard-hearted pagans were filled with rage against holy Phocas. Through a vision granted him by the Lord, he foresaw his martyrdom: Phocas saw a white dove fly down from heaven carrying a beautiful wreath of flowers in its beak and lowered the wreath on his head. After the crowning, Phocas heard a voice, saying: “Your cup is full and you should drink it!” From this vision the God-pleaser realized that he was soon to suffer for Christ. He was not afraid, but with gratitude toward God prepared himself for suffering. Soon after, a certain prince, Africanus, took Phocas for interrogation, and subjected him to harsh tortures. The torturers beat and wounded his whole body, and after a time of imprisonment Phocas was taken to a bath house and thrown into boiling water. This brave soldier of Christ ended his earthly life and settled in the joy of his Lord. Phocas suffered during the reign of Emperor Trajan and was glorified on Sept. 22, 102 A.D. St. Phocas was known for the many miracles he worked and for his apostolic zeal in shepherding the flock of Sinope. A homily in his honor was composed by Saint John Chrysostom. The translation of his holy relics to Constantinople is celebrated on July 23.

Saint Anna (Susanna) of Leukadio – July 23
Anna was born in Constantinople in 840 during the reign of Emperor Theophilos the Iconoclast (829-842) and was the daughter of a wealthy and distinguished family. She had many physical and spiritual gifts because she was raised “in the discipline and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). After the death of her parents, she inherited her father’s estate, which she shared with the poor. This beautiful young woman was loved by a certain Hagarene who lived in Constantinople and asked her to marry him, and he obtained the consent of Emperor Basil I the Macedonian. Anna turned down the proposal since she did not wish to marry him. The Hagarene tormented her and declared that he would have her as his wife, even if she did not wish it. The Saint tearfully entreated God to deliver her from this temptation. Indeed, the compassionate and righteous God heard her prayers. Punished for his impudence, the Hagarene was struck down by divine judgment and he died.

Around 896 Anna went to a certain church dedicated to the Mother of God in Constantinople. There she devoted herself to fasting, vigil, and prayer. For fifty years she lived in this angelic way. After a slight illness, she delivered her blessed soul to God. Years after her burial, her relics were found to be whole, incorrupt, and emitting a divine fragrance. By her grace-filled relics, demons
were cast out, the blind received their sight, and the lame walked. So, in this manner, God glorifies those who glorify Him.

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.

Scouting Ministry Confers National Scholarship
On Sunday, July 23, Father Peter and Miriam Kotsonis (Scouting Ministry Advisor) will present the George N. Boulukos National Scholarship of the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting to recent graduate Molly Love. To be selected for this scholarship is a great honor; Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts from all over the country can apply only after they have received both the highest awards of their organizations and the highest religious award of the EOCS. AXIA, Molly!

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 July Edition of The Promise Is Now Available Online
Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, forty-nine years have passed since the sad summer of 1974, when on July 20, armed Turkish soldiers — with the tolerance of the great powers and Greece's weakness, due to military dictatorship — invaded the most beautiful island of Hellenism, our beloved Cyprus. Memories of persecution and uprooting from ancestral homes remain alive today. Many Cypriots of Kyrenia, Ammochostos and other bloodied areas recount with great sorrow the
uprooting, rapes, pillaging and destruction that took place, and they rightly demand justice and liberation of their homeland, so that the island may be reunited under the flag of the Republic of Cyprus and the European Union.

We are like the Jews of the aforementioned psalm, because we weep and ache when remembering this gross injustice and invasion; when recalling the beautiful beaches of Ammochostos and Kyrenia; when worshiping the monasteries of Saint George and Saint Andrew the Apostle in Karpasia, of Saint Barnabas in Salamis and Saint Spyridon in Tremetousia; when awakening the vivid memories of celebrations and festivals, of weddings and songs, in the long-suffering villages of the occupied regions, and of the peaceful coexistence of Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

However, despite the fact that almost half a century has passed, and despite the fact that the Turkish government seems to be unyielding to the appeals and resolutions of the United Nations, we continue to believe that the pressure exerted by the Greek and Cypriot governments, the philhellenic senators and representatives in Congress and the Senate, the Greek Cypriot organizations everywhere, and all of you Orthodox Christians — together with the earnest prayers that we offer today, Sunday, July 23, in a memorial service for the fallen heroes of the Cypriot struggle in all the parishes of our Sacred Archdiocese — I am confident can bring about the desired result of a strong, united and free Cyprus!

Your fervent supplicant before the God of righteousness,

With Thankfulness and Paternal Love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America
Upcoming Parish Events

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 ikaranikolas@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 2-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 Delyazov, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsorship Level</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Benefactor Sponsor</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platinum Sponsor</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Sponsor</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Sponsor</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Sponsor $250 and above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sponsorship of $1,000 and above entitles donor to the following advertising inclusions: (i) HTGOC Promise Newsletter with over 800 recipients; (ii) GreekFest website; and (iii) 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: [QR Code Image]

Or visit: https://holitrinitywestfield.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
GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

★ AMEN ★