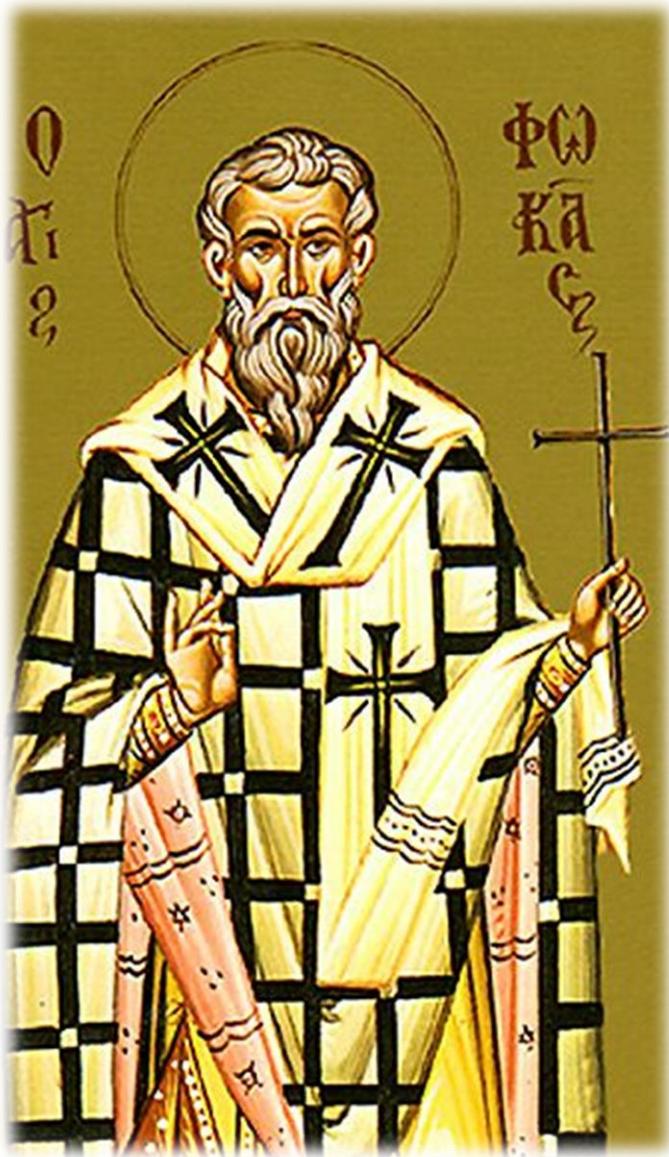


# Seventh Sunday of Matthew



St. Phocas the Hieromartyr



St. Anna of Leukadio

Sunday, July 23, 2023

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 Delvzizis, Parish Priest

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*

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. John 20:1-10</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">Romans 15:1-7</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Matthew 9:27-35</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**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.

### *Liturgical Schedule*

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

#### **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-worshippers 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 Theophilus 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.

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## 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 Promise**  
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
WESTFIELD \* NEW JERSEY

July 2023 \* Volume 47, Issue 4    holytrinity@htgocnj.org    908-233-9533    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 that exists 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*

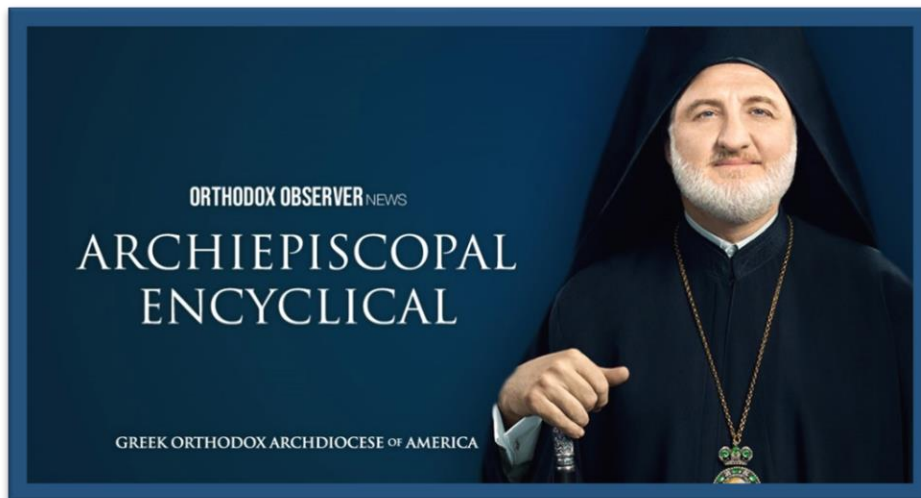
The July Edition of  
**THE PROMISE**  
Is Now Available  
Online

# 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, Keti, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Keti, 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

## Archiepiscopal Encyclical on the Day of Commemoration of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus



Prot. No. 189/2023

July 23, 2023

*"Upon the rivers of Babylon there we sat down and marched in the memorial of Zion."*

(Psalm 136, v. 1)

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 worshipping 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](mailto:Pmavridis21@gmail.com))

Join a committee (contact [lkaranikolas@msn.com](mailto: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 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 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](http://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 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:



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](mailto:admin@htgocnj.org) 908-294-7414 or  
George Paras [gparas@parasandparas.com](mailto:gparas@parasandparas.com)  
201-681-5366



**GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS**

**✠ AMEN ✠**