

# Eighth Sunday of Matthew



*God is love*

Sunday, July 30, 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 Delvizi, Parish Priest

On the Thirtieth day of the month, we commemorate: The Holy Apostles of the Seventy Sts. Silas, Silianos, Crescens, Epenetos and Andronicos; the Holy Martyr St. Julitta of Caesaria

*Click links for Scripture Readings*

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. John 11-18</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">Corinthians 1:10-17</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Matthew 14:14-22</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** “O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death, and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The apostles did preach the Good News at Your command, that You had risen from the dead O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.”

**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 of the Pre-feast of the Transfiguration:** “On the mount [Tabor] Thou wast transfigured, and Thy disciples, as much as they could bear, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; that when they should see Thee crucified, they would know Thy Passion to be willing, and would preach to the world that Thou, in truth, art the Effulgence of the Father.”

#### Sacraments and Rites

**40-Day Blessing:** Today we are blessed to have the churching of Alexandra Maria Teresa Hidalgo, daughter of Christina and Juan Hidalgo.

**Memorial:** Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial services for Christoforos Raptis†, 40 days; George Niotis†, 40 days; †Reverend Father Konstantinos Kotsonis, 28 years; Presvytera Catherine Kotsonis, 8 years; Vasilios, 8 years and Venetia, 3 years, Kotsonis; and Rita Salten, 40 years.

**Funeral:** On Thursday, July 27, the funeral service for Emanuel N. Logothetis† was held. Eternal be his memory.

#### Liturgical Schedule

Friday, August 4, Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 6:30 PM

Saturday, August 5, Great Vespers, 6:30 PM

Sunday, August 6, Holy Transfiguration, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM



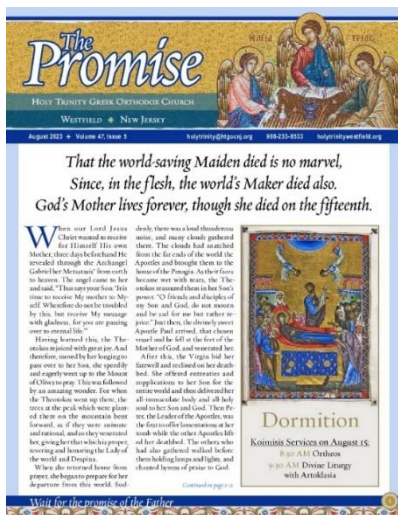
Arthur, John, Al, Jessika, His All-Holiness Bartholomew and Ecumenical Patriarch, Anastasia, Robert, Joanne, Peter, Constantine, Vasileos, Tina, Gabby, Fran, Dayvon, Sunitha, Neil, Gus, Dimitri, Freddy, Shane, Lula, Christina, Diego, Michael, Katie, Joe, Theo, Barbara, Nicholas, Athanasios, Clarita, Georgia, Savas, Christodoulos, Sophia, Savas, Maria, Michelle, Dorothy, Elizabeth, Steve, Clem, Christos, Dorothy, Bill, Thomas, John, Ketj, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Ketj, 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

### 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.

### Prosporo Offering During Summer Months

Prosporo is the Offering Bread from which the Body of our Lord is consecrated during the Eucharistic Celebration. During the summer months, the church runs low on prosporo. Please consider baking and offering this special bread to ensure that we have enough for each Divine Liturgy and for antidoron at communion and the dismissal. Even if the seal is not perfect the bread will be used. Bring the prosporo to church on Thursday or Friday with the names of the living and the departed to have Fr. Peter pray for your family during the Divine Liturgy.



The August Edition of  
**THE PROMISE**  
 Is Available  
 Online

## Keep saying in your heart, “Christ is love”

“Keep saying in your heart, ‘Christ is love.’ In this way, you’ll love all other people, sacrificing what you hold most precious, even your life, for the sake of this love.” St. John Kronstadt

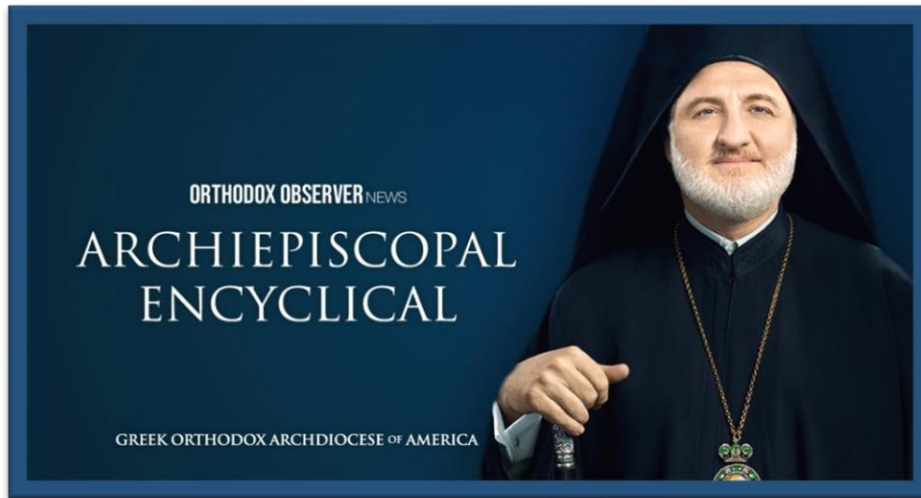


There are three main premises on which we base the above saying. The first is that Christ is God, who is love, as St. John the Theologian points out: “God is love” (1 Jn. 4, 8) and, hence, every action of His is stamped with divine love.

The second point is that we’re called to love in accordance with the model of Christ because we’ve been made in His ‘image and likeness.’ Whatever Christ, the incarnate God, is, we who believe in Him should become to have fellowship with Him. “Remain in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love.” But for this to happen, people must break free of their entrapment in sin, which isolates them from God, other people and from themselves. For a Christian there is no other than Christ, and we are an extension of Him. “I Am the Vine and you are the branches”. St. John of the Ladder says that “A Christian is an imitation of Christ, insofar as this is humanly possible.” So, there is nothing more important for Christians than to engage in the daily struggle to remain within Christ’s commandments, that is, in the commandment to “love one another.”

The third premise which St. John touches upon reveals the extent of his knowledge of those fallen into sin, that is all of us. He urges us, “Keep saying in your heart that Christ is love.” Love keeps us connected with each other and divine love keeps us connected to Christ. This is important because we continue to dwell in a world that is full of deceit with its multifarious snares of passions, and the wicked devil is ever ready to attract us toward evil. All Christians say: ‘I delight in God’s law, but I see another law within myself, the law of sin which drags me away from the will of God’. So, what more do believers need to do? To be in a constant state of sobriety, vigilance, and readiness to observe God’s holy will. The faithful should repeat the words of holy scripture, the words of Christ, meaning that they should study them and, if possible, learn them by heart so that they’re always accessible in their mind and heart. This will keep them where they ought to be at a point of coordination with the Lord Himself. Constant repetition of Christ’s name, His love and central command to “love one another”, is the most crucial thing for our spiritual life, especially at those difficult times when the passions are somewhat enflamed: by a hostile action on somebody else’s part, an abusive remark, an unexpected reaction on the part of our spouse or children. That’s when we must remain with Christ. Just as, when we’re driving, we press the accelerator to get up a hill, this is what we must do when faced with an uphill struggle in life: feed our will by ‘stepping on the gas’, recycling the all-powerful words of our God.

**Archiepiscopal Encyclical**  
*On the Day of Mourning for Hagia Sophia*



Prot. No. 191/2023

July 30, 2023

“Wisdom has built a house for herself ...” (Proverbs 9:1)

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Great Church of Holy Wisdom, Hagia Sophia, is a living monument to the glory of our Orthodox Christian Faith and a visible symbol of all that is best in the worship and liturgy of our Church. Even after centuries of serving an alien purpose, the magnificence of the edifice is unparalleled. Its seizure and second conversion to use as a mosque, on July 24, 2020 (ironically, the anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne), is a day of mourning for all Orthodox Christian People, as well as for all people of religious conviction. As is known, there was no need for Hagia Sophia to be taken over; there is an abundance of mosques in modern-day Istanbul. Rather, this was an act of political theater, using religion as a trope to manipulate the populace.

Three years later, we continue to hope and work for a return to at least the status of the Great Church as a museum, which would manifest the iconographic masterpieces and the original intention upon which Her builders raised the stones of Wisdom’s House. For like the stones who would cry out on Palm Sunday if the Disciples were silenced, (Luke 19:40), there are manifold voices of the ages enshrined in Hagia Sophia, who even now cry out for diversity in the Republic of Türkiye, the diversity that makes the country truly grand.

Let us pray that the House of Wisdom with Her canopy of light, or, as the historian Procopius says, “the golden dome suspended from Heaven,” will one day be restored to a place that welcomes all people. Anything less can be endured, but only by prayer and fasting. Until that happy day, let us

build the House of Wisdom in our hearts, where, by love and forgiveness, we can always worship within the Great Church in our deepest souls.

With paternal love in Christ,

† *ELPIDOPHOROS*

Archbishop of America



**AXIOS! – ΑΕΙΟΣ!**

**His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia Elected  
Metropolitan of New Jersey**



On Monday, July 24, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate meeting at Halki Seminary elected His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia as Metropolitan of New Jersey. Beginning on the day of his election, his name is to be commemorated at all divine services in the Metropolis of New Jersey.

Bishop Apostolos studied at the Ecclesiastical School of Patmos, where he majored in Orthodox Byzantine music and hymnology. He received his theological and pastoral education at the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, earning a MDiv. He came to the United States in 2002 and attended Boston University School of Theology, earning a Master of Sacred Theology.

### **Greek School Registration is Now Open**

Greek School registration is now open for all classes. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4PM – 6PM beginning Tuesday, September 12, grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> Beginners and Advanced, and 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday, September 14, grades 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>. You can register at <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/greek-school/>



# Upcoming Parish Events

**Friday, September 29 – Sunday, October 1**



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

September 29th-September 30th, 2023

Friday: 3pm-11PM

Saturday 12-11PM

Sunday October 1st-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 seek business sponsorships

Please sign-up to volunteer

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4AADAA2E5-greekfest2>

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

