

NINTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



St. Stephen the Protomartyr

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 Delvzis, Parish Priest

August 2, 2026



Ninth Sunday of Matthew

Translation of the relics of St. Stephen the Protomartyr and Archdeacon; The Glorious New Martyr St. Theodore of Dardanelles; The Holy Martyr St. Phocas and also the pious memory of Emperor Justinian

Plagal of Fourth Tone
'Ηχος Πλ. Δ

Ninth Morning Gospel
[St. John 20:19-31](#)

Epistle Reading: [1 Corinthians 3:9-17](#) Bible pp. 992-3
Gospel Reading: [St. Matthew 14:22-34](#) Bible pp. 849

Apolytikion: “From on high did You descend, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure three days in the tomb that we may be released from passions in this world, You who are our resurrection and our life, glory unto You O Lord.”

Apolytikion for St. Stephen: “O Stephen, a crown of royalty was laid on your head* for contests you courageously endured for Christ our God,* as first among Martyr saints.* You refuted the ravings of the Judaeans who accused you,* and you saw your Saviour at the right hand of the Father.* We pray that you will ever entreat 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 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.”

Liturgical Schedule

Monday, August 3, Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 6:30 PM

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

Thursday, August 6, **Holy Transfiguration**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Friday, August 7, Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 6:30 PM

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

Monday, August 10, Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 6:30 PM

Altar Donations

Altar Candles: In loving memory of Gus Minaides†, and Eleni Vanechanos†

Sacraments and Rites

Funerals: On Friday, July 31, the funeral for Eleni Vanechanos† was held.

On Saturday, August 1, the funeral for Gus Minaides† was held. Eternal be their memories.

Baptism: Today, the baptism for Rowan Lane Nicholas McHugh, son of Jordan and Samantha McHugh will be celebrated. Godmother is Alexandra Afendoulis.

Welcome Visitors

Our parish welcomes those visiting our community today. Worshipping the Holy Trinity is the principal act of an Orthodox parish, especially on the Day of the Resurrection (Sunday). Our mission is to live the Holy Gospel and spread the Good News to those in our area. We are sanctified by God's grace through the holy Sacraments and glorify Him each moment of the day. We seek God's mercy, as we confess the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Kneeling During the Divine Liturgy

The Iakovian Era of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America instructed the faithful to kneel during each Divine Liturgy during the *Epiklesis* [invoking the descent of the Holy Spirit]. Fr. Peter being a product of this era requests that we return to this custom to create a reverential environment at the moment we ask the Holy Spirit to come down to the faithful and the holy gifts.

Communion Prayers

In preparation of receiving Holy Communion, Fr. Peter asks that you read the Communion Prayers silently as he reads them aloud. The prayers are found on pages 60-63. By following along, you will gain awareness about the Holy Mystery of Communion.

The first two prayers are about confessing the divinity of Christ and asking for forgiveness. We also affirm the physical realities of the Eucharist, namely that these gifts are truly the Body and Blood of Christ. The third prayer expresses faith and humility. It is the Communion Hymn for Thursday morning of Holy Week. The fourth and fifth prayers are petitions for cleansing the soul. The last two prayers express feelings of unworthiness and indicate the benefits of receiving the Holy Mysteries which consist of cleansing and purification. There is also reference to a "vesture" which is our baptismal garment that we should endeavor to keep clean or else risk losing our intimate relationship with Christ. The bridal chamber is a metaphor of an inner sanctification and state of intimacy that we are called to share with Christ.



The Finding and Translation of the Holy Relics of

St. Stephen the Protomartyr and Archdeacon – August 2

After Christ's Resurrection, there were certain leaders of the Judeans who resisted the Holy Spirit and were overcome by evilness. In rejecting Christ, they rejected God's plan of salvation. Just like their forefathers who killed the prophets, they in like manner set out to silence the preaching of the Gospel. – Acts 7:51-52

The story of St. Stephen's martyrdom contains two zealots of faith. One, St. Stephen ordained by God, gazed into heaven to see God's glory and Jesus standing at the right [hand] of God. The other, Saul who supervised his martyrdom, was a great persecutor of the early Christians. He later was called by Christ to be an apostle to the Gentiles.

After Stephen was killed by stoning, the inhumane people left his body in the street for the dogs to consume. However, God's providence intended for something else. The martyr's body lay in an open place at the foothill of the city for one night and two days. The second night Gamaliel, Paul's teacher and a Pharisee (Acts 22:3), and also a secret disciple of Christ, came and removed the body, taking it to Caphargamala, and buried it there in a cave on his own land. Gamaliel later buried his friend Nicodemus, who died weeping over the grave of Stephen, in the same cave. Gamaliel also buried his godson Abibus there; and, according to his own will, he himself was buried there also.

As the centuries passed, no one living knew where the body of St. Stephen was buried. Then, in the year 415 A.D., during the reign of Patriarch John of Jerusalem, Gamaliel appeared three times in dreams to Lucian, the priest at Caphargamala. Gamaliel related everything concerning the burial of himself, Stephen, and the others, showing him the exact spot of their forgotten grave. Affected by this dream, Lucian informed the patriarch, and with his blessing, went with a group of men and exhumed four graves. Gamaliel had already told him in the dream whose grave was which. A strong, sweet-smelling fragrance emanating from the relics of the saints, permeated the entire cave. The relics of St. Stephen were then solemnly translated to Zion and were honorably buried there. The relics of the remaining three were placed in a church located on the hill above the cave. Many healings of the sick were occasioned by the relics of St. Stephen. Later on, St. Stephen's relics were translated to Constantinople. Thus, the Lord crowned St. Stephen with glory, the zealot for Christ who shed his blood for His name.



Save the Dates

October 4, 2026 – 60th Anniversary Luncheon

November 14, 2026 – 60th Anniversary Gala

It's our Anniversary

Save the Dates...

In 2026, Holy Trinity celebrates 60 years of Orthodox witness and service. As a parish we will honor this milestone and the founders who with vision and faith established our beloved parish in 1966. The parish will host a grand celebration on Sunday, October 4, and we hope that you can join us for Liturgy and an Anniversary Luncheon. This will be followed by an evening gala and parish dance on Saturday, November 14. Details will be forthcoming but mark your calendars from now

Singing the Liturgy During Summer Months

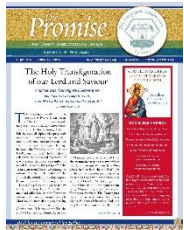
The summer months provide the faithful with a beautiful opportunity for congregational singing. With no choir, the chanters will lead the responses. You are encouraged to participate as well so that by our chanting the church may be filled with the sweet sounds of spiritual hymns.

Trinity Circle - Saturday, August 15, 2026

If you will be attending Dormition of the Theotokos, Divine Liturgy on Saturday, August 15, and want to go for lunch at Mosaico Restaurant, kindly sign up with Avi Kiriakatis. The cost is \$23. cash.



Athena, Theodoti, Angela, Joanne, Nicholas, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Constance, Jeremy, John, Gregory, Gus, Thomas, Sean, Betty, Keela, Florence, Sandy, James, John, Athena, Stavroula, Dimetra, Donny, Dominique, Daniel, Elizabeth, John, Robert, Erin, Kevin, Sabrina, Luke, Bill, James, Ria, Eric, and Eupraxia,



The August Edition of *The Promise* is Now Available Online!
www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org/the-promise. Subscribe to Holy Trinity weekly emails providing news updates and announcements. Request at: HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org

Holy Trinity Is Seeking An Administrative Assistant

Holy Trinity has begun searching for a new Administrative Assistant to replace Kathy Genakos, who retired on June 12. This full-time position provides office support to Father Peter and Diana as well as tending to office visitors and directing phone calls. Additional duties are: communication with parishioners through parish publications, preparing and editing communication materials, and keeping of the parish calendar. If interested, please contact Fr. Peter and then email your resumé to FrPeter@Htgocnj.org

2026 Stewardship Commitment and Online Giving

As you plan your summer vacation, please consider offering your Stewardship Pledge in advance before departing. It is critical that the Parish has ample financial resources during the summer months so as not to encounter any cash flow problems. Your attention is appreciated. Our Online Stewardship Giving Program is a convenient way to automate your offering. To signup, visit the church website www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org and click on "Online Giving", then "Stewardship". On this page you can complete the "Stewardship Commitment Card" and/or make a donation by clicking "Secure Online Giving".

Religious Education Registration - Classes Begin September 6

We hope everyone is enjoying their Summer! Please complete the online form for each student at your earliest convenience! The first day of classes is Sunday - September 6th for Religious Education! We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in the Fall!



Click the link to register: <https://forms.gle/1vPQ1mudyGwBGP6B7>

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Pete Markos at religiouseducation@htgocnj.org



Greek Dance 2026 – 2027

Greek Dance lessons offered to all Holy Trinity youth in grades pre-k - 12th.

Led by Holy Trinity parishioner and member of Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey, Ronnie Filippatos.

Dance Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/yiVX7AS6SBeQH3Z18>

Hope/Joy (Pre-K-6th) Instructor: Ronnie Filippatos, lessons to be held on Sundays following religious education. Prek-1st: 11:45am-12:15pm, 2nd-6th: 12:15-1pm, 4th-6th (additional time): 1pm-1:15pm.

GOYA (7th-12th) Instructor: Nick Fourniadis, lessons to be held on Wednesdays 6:45 - 9:15 pm.

Cost:

HOPE/JOY (pre-k-6th): \$250 1 dancer, \$400 2 dancers, \$500 3 dancers, \$550 4 dancers

GOYA (7th-12th): \$350 1 dancer, \$600 2 dancers, \$700 3 dancers, \$750 4 dancers.

Please make payment directly to the church via Venmo @westfieldgreekdance or via check payable to "Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church" or via the Holy Trinity website [“Online Giving”](#), then locate the Greek Dance tile and follow instructions for payment.

Thank you,

Nick Fouriniadis and Ronnie Filippatos Fernandez

HTGOC Greek Dance Instructors



GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠