

# SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA



The Ascension of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ

June 5, 2022

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 Seventh Sunday after Pascha, we commemorate the 318 Holy and God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council held in Nicea; On the Fifth Day of the month, we commemorate St. Dorotheos the Holy Martyr, Bishop of Tyre; Holy Martyrs Nicandros, Gorgios and Apollonos and those with them; Sts. Christophoros & Konon the Martyrs of Rome; On the First Sunday in June, we commemorate the 150 Holy and God-bearing Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Council held in Constantinople in 381 A.D.

Plagal of the Second Tone Pl. B

*Click links for Scripture Readings*

Tenth Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. John 21:1-14</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">Acts 20:16-18, 28-36</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. John 17:1-13</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** “The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking, seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the virgin and granted life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to You.”

**Apolytikion of Holy Ascension:** “You ascended in glory, O Christ our Lord and God. And Your disciples were filled with joy by the promise of the Holy Spirit unto them. And through this blessing You did proclaim and thus assure them, that You are truly the Son of God and the Redeemer of the world.”

**Apolytikion of the Holy Fathers:** “Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be to You.”

**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:** “When you had joined earth to heaven and fulfilled your plan of redemption, you ascended in glory, O Christ our God, while remaining in our midst. For you assured us who love you that no one can prevail against us since you yourself are with us.”



## Altar Donations



**Altar Candles** in memory of Magdalene Genakos†

**Vigil Light** in memory of Nicholas S. Pappas†

**Large Candles** in memory of Theodore Biniaris†

**Prothesis Candles** in loving memory of our beloved mother Pauline Retsinas†, 40 years, from Harry, Patty, and Cynthia Retsinas

### Sacraments and Rites

**Memorials:** Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial service for Theodore Biniaris†, one year; James Baboukis†, 2 years; and Agorasti and Nicholas Baboukis†. Eternal be their memories.

### Liturgical Schedule

Saturday, June 11, **Saturday of Souls**, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, June 12, **Holy Pentecost**, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Monday, June 13, **Holy Spirit/Parish Feast Day**, Orthros, 9:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

### The Ascension of Our Lord, God, and Saviour, Jesus Christ

The Feast of the Ascension is a movable feast celebrated on the fortieth day after Pascha. (June 2 this year) Ascension means to arise or go up. Since death is generally considered the normal end to an individual's life on earth, entering heaven without dying is exceptional and unusual; it is a sign of God's special recognition of an individual's piety. According to Orthodox Tradition, only three such pious people were taken up by God's power: Enoch, Elias (Elijah), and the Theotokos. Being God, Christ ascended to heaven by His own power. {Enoch - see: Genesis 5:21-24 and see Hebrews 11:5} & {Elias - see 4 Kingdoms 2:9-11} Enoch and Elias were taken up bodily but not to heaven (since Christ's Ascension had not happened yet) but rather they were taken "as if to heaven." They now reside in a mystical place known only to God. "Elijah ascended as if into Heaven, because he was a slave, but Christ ascended into Heaven itself, because He was the Lord." - St. John Chrysostom. "Elijah, sitting upon a fiery chariot, ascended, as if into Heaven, as is written, but not reaching Heaven." - St. Romanos the Melodist.

There is no Scriptural reference to the Theotokos' being taken up into heaven, but according to Holy Tradition, this occurred by Christ, her Son. Coming from mortal loins, the Theotokos had a death conformable to nature. However her death was to show that all who fall asleep after Christ's Resurrection should not fear death for it has been vanquished by His Resurrection. The Theotokos did not fear death, nor did she seek to avoid it as she knew that death had already been overcome by her Son.

The present feast of the Ascension celebrates Christ's power to gather all people unto Himself and carry them into heaven. "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven." – John 3:13 It is by the Lord's power alone that we gain access to heaven. He has opened the gates of heaven, "lift up the gates, O you rulers, and be lifted up, you everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall enter." – Psalm 23:9. Now open to us, the King of Glory summons us to enter into the heavenly abode. The great feast of Ascension marks the completion of Christ's glorification and lordship over all creation. It is the culmination of the Mystery of the Incarnation. Christ's Ascension into heaven is understood as a necessary prerequisite for the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Let us now proceed to live eternally with Christ in heaven!

# Prayer Request



Georgia, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Gayle, William, Byron, John, Robert, Connie, Donald, Terry, John, Angela, Andrew, Dianna, Thomas, Andrea, Thomas, Alexandra, Ronald, Galina, Angela, Lubove, Despina, Maria, John, Paraskevi (Parri), Dianna, Stephanie, Edward, Brian, Janeen, Cathy, James, Christine, Andrea, Molly, Anastasios, Michael, Angela, Lauren, John, Effie, Stella, Guerline, Phyllis, Denise, Cloy, Mirka, Stamatia, Theresa, James, Matthew, Antoinette, William, Angela, Tanner, Stefanos, Helen, Katherine, Ashley, Angela, Nick, Lindsey, Alexandria, Evdokia, Chris, Zach, Notis, Erica, Christina, Fran, Joan, Hellen, Joseph, Angela, Cleopatra, James, Rosa, George, Kathy, Theresa, Dorothy, Shannon, Jeff, Jeffrey, John, Marien, John, Vasilias, Hellen, Natalia, Angela, Thomas, Dorka, Stavroula, Maroulla

## Archiepiscopal Encyclical on the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Sunday

June 5, 2022

My Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers and sisters."* (Acts 1:14)

Once again, but for only the second time, we are celebrating the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Sunday. This day, the closest Sunday to June 4 – the feast of the Holy Sisters Mary and Martha – has been chosen because it reflects with great distinctiveness the service and ministry of our Presvyteres. Especially in this centennial year of our Sacred Archdiocese, the role and



contributions of our Presvyteres are rightly praised, for they have been part of the backbone of our Church since its inception. They have taught in Greek and Sunday Schools, led in organizing social services of the communities, and continuously supported the clergy of the Church.

The Apostolic quote above illustrates how the women of the Church were significantly involved in the first days of the Church. And on this Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, which is a bridge between the feasts of Ascension and Pentecost, we should be mindful of our Holy Mothers as well. For this gives us special cause to recognize all the Presvyteres throughout the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Therefore, let us demonstrate our love and respect for the Presvyteres of our National Church. They make many sacrifices to allow their husbands to serve our parishes, and they provide an essential ministry to our parishes by their example and leadership. Indeed, they are most worthy of our honor and gratitude, and of this very special awareness that we bring to their service to Christ and His Holy Church on this National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Sunday.

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America

### Holy Trinity Capital Campaign Progress

Holy Trinity is still accepting donations for the 2022 Capital Campaign. We thank all who have donated thus far. Holy Trinity is blessed to have received pledges for over half our goal but we still need your help to achieve our fundraising objectives. With your assistance and generosity, we can meet our goal and help maintain our facility in pristine condition.

*\*In the June edition of The Promise, the names of our donors will be published. Only names will appear to thank you for your kind donation.*

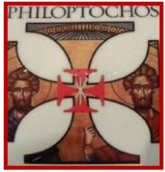
Call the church office to donate or donate online by clicking here: [Donate Now](#)

### [Holy Trinity Capital Campaign Donation](#)

#### How your donation will be spent

Holy Trinity Capital Campaign	
Refurbishment of church dome	\$220,000
Replacement of boiler, condenser, coils	\$260,000
Repaving of parking lot	\$120,000
Rooftop air conditioning	\$75,000
Church air conditioning	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>





## The Ladies Philoptochos Society

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ

presents

Trinity Treasures & Classy Collectibles Rummage Sale

Friday, July 15th 9am - 5pm  
Saturday, July 16th 9am - 4pm

Drop Off Dates

Wednesday, June 29th-Sunday, July 10th

- Household Items
- Holiday Décor
- China & Glassware
- Small Appliances
- Small Furniture
- Linens & Dry Goods
- Baskets, Frames, Artificial Flowers
- Toys, Games
- Home Décor Items
- Jewelry
- Purses, Scarves, Hats
- Greek Baked Goods

Bakers needed and much appreciated. For more information please reach out to Elise Savnik  
(908) 337-5046

Photo images do not represent actual items for sale.  
Cash Only!



1821  
200th  
Anniversary of the Greek War  
of Independence  
2021

Πολιτισμός

Politismos



VOLUME 1/ISSUE 4  
March 2022

CULTURAL COMMITTEE  
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
250 GALLOWES HILL ROAD  
WESTFIELD, NJ 07090

Click to view the newsletter

[Politismos](#)



## Afternoon Tea

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
invites you to an afternoon tea  
to celebrate Father's Day and  
our Graduating Seniors

Sunday, June 19, 2022

Bouras Center

immediately after church services

If you can help, sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/dadsgrads2022>



Greek Independence Day  
**Parade**

**SUNDAY JUNE 5th 2022, 1:30pm**

# Volunteers Needed at the National Clergy/Laity Congress



## National Clergy/Laity Congress Philoptochos Convention - July 3-7

In less than a month the 46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of our Sacred Archdiocese will be taking place in New York City. With such a large undertaking, with delegates and parish representatives from throughout the country, our Archdiocese is in needs of Volunteers to assist with welcoming guests, assist with registration, as well as to assist with the various events that will be taking place throughout the week.

### Can you help?

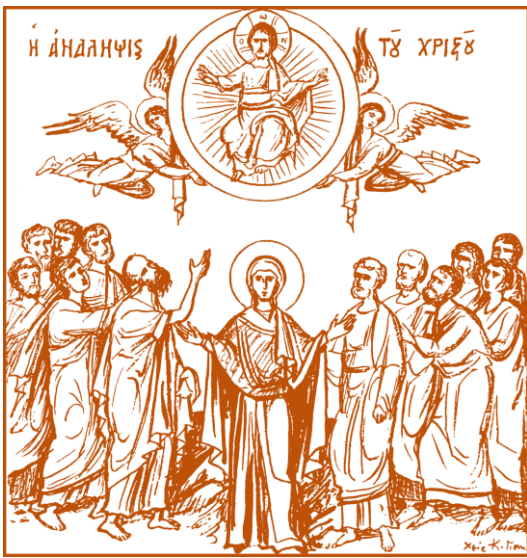
If you can help the Archdiocese by being a Volunteer, please find a link to a sign-up sheet below. Volunteer opportunities based on your availability can be found.

The Sign-Up Genius Link for Clergy-Laity Volunteers:

✓ [CLICK HERE](#) to access the Sign-Up

**Ἐκ δεξιᾶς κάθισας πατρικῆς Λόγε,  
Μύσταις παρασχὼν πίστιν ἀσφαλεστέραν.**

«Ὁ Κύριος ἀνελήφθη εἰς οὐρανοὺς, ἵνα πέμψῃ τὸν Παράκλητον τῷ κόσμῳ, οἱ οὐρανοὶ ἠτοίμασαν τὸν θρόνον αὐτοῦ, νεφέλαι τὴν ἐπίβασιν αὐτοῦ, Ἄγγελοι θαυμάζουσιν, ἄνθρωπον ὀρῶντες ὑπεράνω αὐτῶν, ὁ Πατὴρ ἐκδέχεται, ὃν ἐν κόλποις ἔχει συναΐδιον,



Τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον κελεύει πᾶσι τοῖς Ἀγγέλοις αὐτοῦ, Ἄρατε πύλας οἱ ἄρχοντες ἡμῶν, Πάντα τὰ ἔθνη κροτήσατε χεῖρας, ὅτι ἀνέβη Χριστός, ὅπου ἦν τὸ πρότερον».

Ο Κύριός μας Ιησούς Χριστός μετά την λαμπροφόρο Ανάστασή Του από τους νεκρούς, δεν εγκατέλειψε αμέσως τον κόσμο, αλλά συνέχισε για σαράντα ημέρες να εμφανίζεται στους μαθητές Του (Πράξ.1,3). Αυτές οι μεταναστάσιμες εμφανίσεις Του προς αυτούς είχαν πολύ μεγάλη σημασία. Ἐπρεπε οι πρώην δύσπιστοι και φοβισμένοι μαθητές να βιώσουν το γεγονός της

Αναστάσεως του Διδασκάλου τους και να αποβάλλουν κάθε δισταγμό και ψήγμα απιστίας για Εκείνον.

Την τεσσαρακοστή λοιπόν ημέρα, σύμφωνα με το Ευαγγέλιο του Λουκά, ο Κύριος τους μαθητές του «εξήγαγε ἔξω ἕως τη Βηθανία», στο ὄρος των Ἐλαιῶν ὅπου συνήθως προσηύχeto. «Και αφού σήκωσε τα χέρια του, τους ευλόγησε» (Λουκά 24,50) και «ευλογώντας τους, εχωρίσθηκε απ' αυτούς και εφέρετο πρὸς τα πάνω, στον ουρανό» μέχρι που τον ἔχασαν ἀπὸ τα μάτια τους. Και μετά αφού Τον προσκύνησαν επέστρεψαν στην Ιερουσαλήμ με χαρά μεγάλη και ἔμεναν συνεχῶς στο ναό, υμνολογώντας και δοξολογώντας το Θεό.

Ο ευαγγελιστής Μάρκος, περιγράφοντας πιο λακωνικά το θαυμαστό και συνάμα συγκινητικό γεγονός, αναφέρει πως μετά ἀπὸ την ρητή αποστολή των μαθητῶν σε ολόκληρο τον κόσμο κηρύττοντας και βαπτίζοντας τα ἔθνη, «ανελήφθη εἰς τον ουρανό και ἐκάθισεν ἐκ δεξιῶν του Θεοῦ. Εκείνοι δε ἐξελθόντες ἐκήρυξαν πανταχοῦ, του Κυρίου συνεργούντος και τον λόγον βεβαιούντος δια των επακολουθούντων σημείων» (Μαρκ.16,19-20).

Αυτή η ευλογία είναι πια η αρχή της Πεντηκοστής. Ο Κύριος ἀνέρχεται για να μας στείλει το παράκλητο Πνεῦμα, ὅπως λέγει το τροπάριο της εορτής: «Ανουψώθηκες στη δόξα, Χριστέ Θεέ μας, αφού χαροποίησες τους μαθητές σου με την επαγγελία του Αγίου Πνεύματος και βεβαιώθηκαν ἀπὸ την ευλογία σου».

Η Ανάληψη του Κυρίου μας Ιησού Χριστού ἀποτελεῖ ἀναμφίβολα το θριαμβευτικό πέρας της ἐπὶ γης παρουσίας Του και του ἀπολυτρωτικού ἔργου Του. «Ανελήφθη εν δόξῃ» για να ἐπιβεβαιώσει την θεία ιδιότητά Του στους παριστάμενους μαθητές Του. Για να τους στηρίξει περισσότερο στον τιτάνιο πραγματικά αγώνα, που Εκείνος τους ἀνάθεσε, δηλαδή τη συνέχιση του σωτηριώδους ἔργου Του για το ἀνθρώπινο γένος.

Ο Κύριος Ιησούς Χριστός ἀνήλθε στους ουρανοῦς, ἀλλά δεν εγκατέλειψε το ἀνθρώπινο γένος, για το οποίο ἔχυσε το τίμιο Αἷμα Του. Μπορεῖ να κάθισε στα δεξιά

του Θεού στους ένδοξους ουραμούς, όμως η παρουσία Του εκτείνεται ως τη γη και ως τα έσχατα της δημιουργίας. Άφησε στη γη την Εκκλησία Του, η οποία είναι το ίδιο το αναστημένο, αφθαρτοποιημένο και θεωμένο σώμα Του, για να είναι το μέσον της σωτηρίας όλων των ανθρωπίνων προσώπων, που θέλουν να σωθούν. Νοητή ψυχή του σώματός Του είναι ο Θεός Παράκλητος, «το Πνεύμα της αλήθειας» (Ιωάν. 15,26), ο Οποίος επεδήμησε κατά την αγία ημέρα της Πεντηκοστής σε αυτό, για να παραμείνει ως τη συντέλεια του κόσμου.

Η σωτηρία συντελείται με την οργανική συσσωμάτωση των πιστών στο θεανδρικό Σώμα του Χριστού. Αυτό εννοούσε, όταν υποσχόταν στους μαθητές Του: «ιδού εγώ μεθ' υμών ειμί πάσας τας ημέρας έως της συντελείας του αιώνος» (Ματθ.28,20).