

Sunday of the Prodigal Son



The Prodigal Son

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, New Jersey 07090

Live streaming services - 908.233.8533 - www.holytrinitywestfield.org

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizi, Parish Priest

On the Third Day of the month, we commemorate: The Holy Martyrs Sts. Eutropius, Cleonicus, and Basiliscus; St. Theodoretos the Holy Martyr of Antioch; St. Nonnita, mother of Saint David

Click links for Scripture Readings

Morning Gospel:	St. Luke 24:36-53	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Luke 15:11-32	Ελληνικά

Plagal Second Ηχος Πλ. Β´

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 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: *“Foolishly, I sprang away* from Thy great fatherly glory,* and dispersed in wicked deeds* the riches that Thou didst give me.* With the Prodigal I therefore* cry unto Thee now:* I have sinned against Thee, O compassionate Father.* But receive me in repentance;* make me as one of* Thy hired servants, O Lord.”*

Liturgical Schedule

Saturday, March 9, Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste, 1st Saturday of Souls, Orthros, 8:30 AM;
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, March 10, Meatfare Sunday, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Saturday, March 16, 2nd Saturday of Souls, 9:00 AM

Sacraments and Rites

Funeral: On Monday, February 26, the funeral service for George Skorinko† was held. Eternal be his memory.

Partaking of Holy Communion

Receiving Holy Communion is a clear and visible sign of unity in faith. Please know that Holy Communion can only be received by those who are baptized and confirmed in the Orthodox Church. Additionally, all Orthodox Christians must prepare themselves through prayer and fasting before approaching the Chalice.

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all those visiting our parish today and are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are looking for a friendly spiritual home, we invite you to become part of the Holy Trinity family. Fr. Peter would very much like to meet you. Please visit the Philoxenia/Fellowship table in the Bouras Center after services to meet parishioners and enjoy our Fellowship.

Fellowship Hour: Please join us in the Bouras Center after church for the Fellowship Hour, which is being sponsored by Fotini Nicholas and family, in memory of George Nicholas †

Saturday of the Souls Divine Liturgies

March 9, 16, 23

“Saturday of the Souls” (Ψυχοσάββατον) are days that the Holy Church has specifically prescribed to pray for those who have taken their repose in the Lord. Memorial Services will not be scheduled on the Sundays immediately following a Saturday of the Souls to help maintain the purpose of these Liturgies. It is important to attend these liturgies to pray for the souls of your departed loved ones. By remembering them in death, we witness God’s ultimate power through Christ’s Resurrection. Please submit the names of the deceased to Fr. Peter so that they can be commemorated during the Saturday of Souls Liturgies.

Kolyva



For Memorial Services, a special plate of boiled wheat, called kolyva, is brought to Church and presented to the Saviour. Symbolically, the kolyva represents the souls of those departed who are connected to the Resurrected Lord. The imagery of wheat and its connection to new life is introduced by Christ, “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” (John 12:24) These words of Christ become a comfort to us knowing that each of us must pass through the portal of death. Christ is risen from the dead and through the victory of His Resurrection the fruits of eternal life have been given to those who believe in Him. (Romans 5:8-11; 6:7-11)

During the Saturday of Souls, families are encouraged to bring small bowls of kolyva to church for the memorial prayers offered after liturgy. As always, trays of koliva can be purchased from the church, if you are unable to make them yourselves.



The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is given by St. Luke only and is preceded by two short parables of the lost sheep (15:1-7) and the lost drachma (15:8-10). The pharisees and scribes condemned the Lord Jesus Christ because He welcomed sinners and ate with them. For this reason, the Lord told this parable to illustrate the joy in heaven when a sinner repents.

A certain man had two sons. The man is a symbol of God. The younger son evidently of age but lacking in experience and wisdom, asks his father for his portion of inheritance – 1/3 according to the law (Deut. 21). After receiving it, he decided to live independently, according to his own whims and left to a far-off country where he wasted his inheritance in a profligate life. Soon after, a severe famine struck the land. He was in desperate need and even ate pig fodder.

Then the young son “came to his senses”. The heavy consequences of sin, together with external calamities, forced him finally to wake up, and his sober reason returned to him. Seeing and understanding the hopelessness of his situation, he looks for a way out. “I will arise and go to my father” – this is the decision of the sinner to leave his sin and repent. “I have sinned against heaven, and before you” – that is disdaining his loving father. “I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” This is an expression of profound humility and a confession of his unworthiness, both of which always accompany true repentance in a sinner. “Make me like one of your hired servants” is an expression of deep love for the house and the hearth of the father and agreement to submit to the heaviest conditions for reception into the father’s house.

The remainder of the parable is meant to illustrate the limitless love of God to a repentant sinner, His forgiveness of all, and that joy which, according to Christ, is heard in heaven at the repentance of even one sinner. The father seeing his son returning from a distance, and not even knowing what his inner disposition is, runs to meet him, embrace him, and kisses him, not even allowing him to finish his words that he has already contemplated saying. Instead, he orders him to be dressed in the best clothes and prepare a feast in honor of his return. All these are symbols taken from everyday life that illustrate how God, with love for every repentant sinner, mercifully accepts his repentance and gives him new spiritual goods and gifts, instead of those he wasted through sin. For the sinner “was dead and is alive again.”

The elder brother, angry at his father for his mercy is a vivid image of the scribes and Pharisees, proud in their exact and strict fulfillment of the Law, but cold and heartless in their soul when it comes to loving their brothers; praising themselves in doing the will of God, but not desiring to have any communication with the repentant publicans and sinners. Just as he “was angry and would not go in,” so the meticulous fulfillers of the Law were angry at the Lord Jesus Christ for His close association with repentant sinners. Instead of rejoicing with the father and the younger brother, the elder begins to announce his own merits, not even desiring to call his younger sibling “brother”; instead, disdainfully calling him “this son of yours.”

“You are always with me, and all that I have is yours.” With these words, the Lord indicates that the Pharisees, in whose hands the Law is kept, always had free access to God and His spiritual benefits, but they cannot receive the good will of the Heavenly Father when they have such a twisted and cruel spiritual and moral disposition.

Reading the Communion Prayers - Pages 60-63 of Divine Liturgy Book

In Her wisdom, the Church provides beautiful prayers to say before and after receiving Holy Communion. These prayers are part of our Eucharistic preparation which also includes a complete fast in the morning (i.e., nothing by mouth) before receiving the Precious Gifts. As these prayers are read by the clergy in the altar, the faithful should join in at the same time by reading them silently. These Communion Prayers speak to us about faith and forgiveness; humility and cleansing of sins; and a feeling of unworthiness in the presence of the Almighty God. Finally, they reveal the benefits of receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. The conclusion of these prayers is seen in the priest who asks for forgiveness from his co-celebrants in the altar and then from the entire congregation. In like manner, each of us must ask for forgiveness from our brethren before approaching the Holy Chalice.

Metropolis of New Jersey Facebook Page

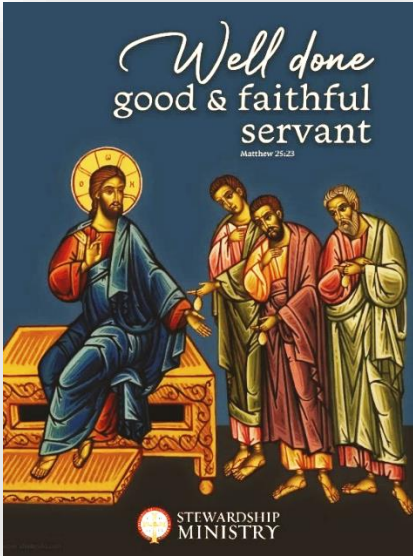
His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos wishes to inform all that the Metropolis has created a new Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Facebook Page. Please visit and follow this page and share the link with fellow parishioners. www.facebook.com/people/Greek-Orthodox-Metropolis-of-New-Jersey/

Stewardship Cards



Thank you to the parishioners who submitted their pledge cards and stewardship gifts. As of February, we have received 261 pledges in the amount of \$380,526. Please remember to submit your pledge card which will help us meet our operating budget of \$939,200. Consider

inviting family and friends to come to visit and worship with us. Sponsor a new steward and bring them into our Holy Trinity family. Your gifts to date have allowed our Parish to achieve 40.5% of our budget. Holy Trinity is blessed in that we do not have a mortgage as do many other parishes. This allows for a greater percentage of your Stewardship pledge to be utilized for ministry rather than given to the bank. As you can see, the parish has many thriving ministries, and we want every parishioner to be involved with our ministries.



As Christian Stewards we are called to give back to God from the “first fruits” of our labor. We do this in large part by supporting Our Church, Our Spiritual Home. Each year during this time, I ask you to support our parish and her ministries in an intentional and meaningful way. We can do this by offering the first and the best of our fruits!

The 2024 Christian Stewardship Cards have been mailed to all Stewards of Holy Trinity. If you did not receive it, please pick up a card from the church or call the church office to receive it by mail.

Thank you for your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure!

Click here to complete your [2024 Stewardship Commitment Card](#) online.



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090 • Tel. (908) 233-8533 • www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org



“Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant”

2024 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

The operating expenses of our Church for the year 2024 are estimated to be \$939,200 (or an estimated \$2,200 per family).

In gratitude for God’s blessings, I/we pledge to contribute for Christ’s work at Holy Trinity Church in 2024 a total amount of:

\$2,200 \$3,000 \$2,000 \$1,000 Young Adults (25-30) \$500 Other \$_____

For additional information on Legacy or Planned Giving including donations of property, stock, or other securities, please contact the church office (908) 233-8533 or email HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org (see enclosed Stock/Security Donation Form)

Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Spouse’s Name _____

Email Address _____

Names of Dependents _____

Telephone Number (_____) _____

Cell Number (_____) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please bring your Commitment Card to Stewardship Sunday Liturgy, on Sunday November 19, 2023

To vote or seek elective office in the administration of the parish in 2024, your signed Stewardship Commitment Card must be received by March 1, 2024

Prayer Request



John, Helen, Chris, Niko, Vicky, Dino, Stephanie, James, John, Theodora, Novlet, Chrysavgi, Alexandra, Sue, Marilyn, David, Basil, Laura, Marylee, Meropi, Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Billy, Molly, Leonedas, David, Elizabeth, Tara, Lambros, Anne, Maria, Mikos, Arthur, John, Al, Jessika, Anastasia, Robert, Joanne, Constantine, Phyllis, 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



Altar Boys

Fr. Peter invites all boys ages 12 and older to commit to service in the altar. An acolyte plays an integral part in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and other services. Please speak to Fr. Peter to assist in this capacity. To serve the Lord in this way is a great privilege and honor.

The March Edition of
THE PROMISE
Is Now Available



**YOUTH
REGISTRATION**

Holy Trinity offers numerous youth programs, including GOYA, JOY/HOPE, Greek Dance and TOTS.

GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) is the ministry to teenagers for the purpose of fellowship, worship, service, and witness. New members in grades 6-12 are welcome at any time. 6th graders may

participate in Westfield only activities and 7-12th (ages 12-18) may participate in statewide activities. Activities include Christ Encounter Retreat, athletics, outreach, Greek dance, Sights & Sounds (performing and visual arts), and many others! Register at <https://tinyurl.com/53pp88nz>
GOYA Advisors: Maria Tarhanidis, Mary Carayannopoulos, Sophia Saketos, Catherine Kelly, Andy Zotos, and Christine Skalkotos. Please contact an advisor or email goya@htgocnj.org with any questions.

TOTS Playgroup – March 13

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, March 13, 9:30-11:30 AM in the preschool room. Children 18 months-Pre-K are welcome with their caregiver (younger siblings welcome!). Bring water, sneakers, and a snack. Contact Val Comprelli at vcomprelli@gmail.com or 612-801-8608 to sign up or to ask any questions.

The Holy Trinity Cultural Committee

The Holy Trinity Cultural Committee would like to share Hellenic and Orthodox cultural events and exhibits from organizations and institutions available to all. **East Mediterranean Business Culture Alliance** webinar events on <https://www.youtube.com/@embca>

- March 21 - “Ioannis Kapodistrias - Hellenic Governor and International Statesman” Live Panel Discussion at the Demos Center in Athens, Greece
 - March 24 - “Hypatia of Alexandria “Martyr for Philosophy”” Webinar Panel Discussion
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art Exhibition Africa & Byzantium** is on view until March 3
- For a virtual tour of Africa & Byzantium watch now at: <https://youtu.be/NHIT9vq6mJU>
-

Trinity Circle – March 5

At our monthly lunch/meeting, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM, Steve Xenakis will speak to us on APOKRIES, Greek Mardi Gras. Luncheon donated by Joy Daniledes in memory of her loved ones.

Westfield GOYA

proudly presents the

2024 Sights & Sounds Showcase



**Join us for a light lunch and show
featuring the Westfield GOYA group and individual performances
and displays of artwork**

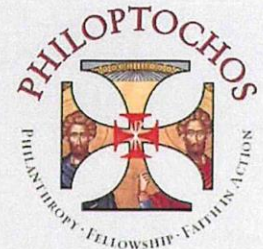
Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 12 noon

**Suggested Donation: \$5 per person or \$20 per family
Venmo @westfieldgoya or
Cash or Checks payable to HTGOC YHT at the door**

PLEASE SIGN UP SO WE CAN GET AN ESTIMATED HEADCOUNT: <http://tinyurl.com/m86jft5b>



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



WALKING WITH CHRIST

First Seminarian Benefit Luncheon



St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church
35 N Malin Rd, Broomall, PA 19008

March 16th

11 A.M.

2024



Follow the QR code for Ticket Sales and Event Sponsorships. All Proceeds Will Benefit the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Seminarrians and Masters of Divinity Students

The Ladies Philoptochos Society
Of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
in Westfield, New Jersey
Cordially invites you to

Coming Up Roses

Annual Dinner Fashion Show

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Brooklake Country Club
139 Brooklake Road
Florham Park, New Jersey

Reception and Raffles - 5:30 pm
Dinner and Fashion Show - 7:30 pm



TO PAY ONLINE

Fashions by



THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Rd., Westfield, NJ 07090

2024 JOURNAL--- BUSINESS AD CONTRACT

Dear Friend of The Ladies Philoptochos Society –HTGOC,

Our ANNUAL SPRING FASHION SHOW will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park, NJ. It is a popular and major fundraising event that assists us in our mission:

“To aid the widowed, the poor, the aged, the sick, the orphaned, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, and more.”

Please support our efforts and place a BUSINESS AD in our 2024 Journal! Place your Business Ad by sending us the following no later than April 10, 2024:

1. **Email:** Send PDF file of your Ad creative unit to alexandra.mavridis@yahoo.com. If you want to repeat your identical ad from last year or want to make minor changes, please email us stating so.
2. **U.S. Mail:** Complete the tear-off below and mail with payment and copy of your creative ad to address below. Please make checks payable to **“The Ladies Philoptochos Society – HTGOC.”**

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Attn: The Ladies Philoptochos Society - Ad Journal Committee
250 Gallows Hill Rd., Westfield, NJ 07090

BUSINESS AD AND SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Outside Back Cover.....	\$ 2,000
Premium Sponsor (4C Full Page Ad on Inside Cover or First/Last Page).....	\$ 550
Platinum Sponsor (BW Full Page Ad in 1 st half of book).....	\$ 350
Event Supporter (BW Ad on inside page of book; 2 sizes available):	
Full Page Ad (approx. 5" X 8").....	\$ 200
Half Page (approx. 5" X 4").....	\$ 150

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ADVERTISEMENTS IS APRIL 10, 2024.

IF YOU PLACED AN AD IN 2023 AD JOURNAL, A COPY IS ATTACHED.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society reserves the right to modify creative in order to conform to Journal specifications.

Thank you for your generous support! Alexandra Mavridis - Ad Journal Chairperson

***** 2024 Sponsorship Business Journal Ad *****

Your Name _____ Business Name _____

Business address _____

Email address _____ Phone (____) _____

Sponsorship Level _____ Amount _____ Check # _____

Ad Creative: Repeat Last Year's Ad _____ New Creative PDF emailed on _____

Reminder to include copy of Ad creative and your check with this form when mailing.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Rd., Westfield, NJ 07090

2024 JOURNAL--- PERSONAL AD CONTRACT

Dear Members and Friends of The Ladies Philoptochos Society – HTGOC,

Our ANNUAL SPRING FASHION SHOW will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park, NJ. Proceeds from the Ad Journal greatly benefit Philoptochos charities.

**Please support our efforts and place a PERSONAL TRIBUTE to a special person in your life:
Mother’s Day, Birthday, Anniversary, In Memory of, Honoring a group or any special message!**

Place your Personal Tribute by sending us the following **no later than April 10, 2024:**

1. **Email:** Send PDF file of your tribute, including photo if applicable, to alexandra.mavridis@yahoo.com. If you need assistance in designing one, reach out to Alexandra Mavridis.
2. **U.S. Mail:** Complete the tear-off below and mail with payment and copy of your creative to address below. Please make checks payable to **“The Ladies Philoptochos Society – HTGOC.”**

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Attn: The Ladies Philoptochos Society - Ad Journal Committee
250 Gallows Hill Rd., Westfield, NJ 07090

TRIBUTE AD LEVELS

Outside Back Cover.....	\$ 2,000
Platinum Sponsor Full Page (Premium placement; Black/White approx. 5” X 8”; optional photo) ...	\$ 200
Full Page (Black/White approx. 5” X 8”; message with optional photo).....	\$ 100
Half Page (Black/White approx. 5” X 4”; message with optional photo).....	\$ 55
Quarter Page (Black/White approx. 5” X 2”; message only).....	\$ 35

THE FIRM DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF CREATIVE IS APRIL 10, 2024.

IF YOU PLACED A TRIBUTE IN 2023 AD JOURNAL, A COPY IS ATTACHED.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society reserves the right to modify creative in order to conform to Journal specifications.

Thank you for your generous support! Alexandra Mavridis - Ad Journal Chairperson

***** 2024 Personal Tribute Journal Ad*****

Your Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____ Phone (____) _____

Tribute Level _____ Amount _____ Check # _____

Tribute Type: Celebrating Someone Living in Your Life _____ or in Memoriam _____

Ad Creative: Repeat Last Year’s Ad _____ New Creative PDF emailed on _____

Reminder: Please include copy of Tribute Ad creative and your check with this form when mailing.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Upcoming Parish Events

SAVE THE DATE!

April 14, 2024

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE



SAVE THE DATE

The Greek Independence Day Parade in New York will be held on

Sunday, April 14, 2024



June 23-29, 2024

CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD

The Metropolis Summer Camp program will take place in the summer of 2024 from June 23-29. Registration is now available. This is an excellent opportunity for children to meet other Greek Orthodox and to learn about the faith in a protected environment.



Camp Good Shepherd

Experience the Best Week of Your Summer!

CGS: MARYLAND

June 16-22, 2024
Ages 8-18
Camp Wo-Me-To
1200 Knapp Rd, Jarrettsville, MD 21084
Registration Fee: \$600 (Early Bird Discount until May 1, then \$675)

CGS: NEW JERSEY

June 23-29, 2024
Ages 8-18
Camp Linwood MacDonald
1 Flatbrook Rd, Sandyston, NJ 07826
Registration Fee: \$625

CGS: VIRGINIA (2 SESSIONS)

Week 1: July 7-13 (Completed 5th Grade - 8th Grade)
Week 2: July 14-20 (Completed 9th Grade - 12th Grade)
Camp Piankatank
1586 Stammers Bay Rd Box 435, Hartfield, VA 23071
Registration Fee: \$500

REGISTER TODAY!



[HTTP://APP.CAMPDOC.COM/REGISTER/CGSN](http://app.campdoc.com/register/cgsn)

MORE INFORMATION [HTTPS://WWW.NJ.GOARCH.ORG/CAMP-GOOD-SHEPHERD](https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd)





GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠