

**CHRIST IS RISEN! ~ TRULY, HE IS RISEN!  
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! ~ ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!**



**Sunday of the Blind Man**

**May 21, 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 Delvizis, Parish Priest**

**“CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD,  
BY DEATH, TRAMPLING DOWN UPON DEATH,  
AND TO THOSE IN THE TOMBS,  
HE HAS GRANTED LIFE.”**

**Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη!**

Christ is risen!

Christos Voskrese!

Christos a înviat!

Al-Mashīh-Qām!

Christe Agsdga!

Krishti u ngjall

**Ἀληθῶς Ἀνέστη!**

Truly, He is risen!

Voistinu Voskrese! - Russian

Adevārat a înviat! - Romanian

Haqqan Qām! - Arabic

Cheshmaritad agsdga! - Georgian

Vërtet u ngjall! - Albanian

Click links for Scripture Readings

Eighth Morning Gospel: [St. John 20:11-18](#)

Epistle Reading: [Acts 26:1, 12-20](#)

Gospel Reading [St. John 9:1-38](#)

[Ελληνικά](#)

[Ελληνικά](#)

[Ελληνικά](#)

**Apolytikion of Pascha:** “Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.”

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** “To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.”

**Apolytikion of Sts. Constantine and Helen:** “Your Apostle among the Rulers, St. Constantine, who once beheld in the sky the image of your Cross, and who like Paul received his calling not from man, once entrusted the Ruling City into Your hand. We entreat You to restore it in peace forever, at the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord who loves humanity.”

**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:** “Though Thou, O deathless One, didst descend into the grave, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades and as Victor, Thou didst rise again, O Christ our God. Thou didst greet the Myrrh-bearing women, saying: Rejoice! Thou didst bestow peace upon Thy disciples, and resurrection upon those that are fallen.”

## Altar Donations

**Altar Candles:** In memory of Konstandinos Genakos†

**Vigil Light:** In loving memory of our precious Mom and Yiayia, Mary Vasilow†, from Chrissy & Tony, Kate, George, Mary & John, Chris & Sophia, Louis & Angel

**Large Candles:** In loving memory of Katherine Pantages†

**Prothesis Candles:** In loving memory of our wonderful Dino Genakos† from Chrissy Vasilow Damalas & Family

**Kandili:** In memory of Teresa Zeniou†

**Kandili:** In memory of Vasileki Birrell†



## Sacraments and Rites

**Memorials:** Your prayers are requested on Sunday at the memorial services for Stavroula Frestis†, 40 days; Vasileki Birrell†, 1 year; Konstandinos Genakos†, 10 years. Eternal be their memories.

**40-Day Blessing:** On Sunday we will be blessed to have the churching of Sofia Guastella, daughter of Gerri and Peter Guastella.

**Funeral:** On Thursday, May 18, the funeral for Helen Agalias† was held. May her memory be eternal.

**Baptism:** On Saturday, May 20, the baptism for Kathryn Rose, daughter of Andrew and Caitlin Rose was held. The Godparent was Kaliopi Triantafellou.

### Liturgical Schedule

Thursday, May 25, Holy Ascension, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, May 28, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Saturday, June 3, Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy, 9:00 AM

Sunday, June 4, Holy Pentecost, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Monday, June 5, Holy Trinity, Parish Feast Day, Orthros, 9:15 AM; Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with area clergy, 10:00 AM

## Fellowship Hour

Please join us in the Bouras Center after church for the Fellowship Hour which is being sponsored by Antoinette Genakos in memory of Konstandinos Genakos†.

## 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. Please visit the Philoxenia/Fellowship table in the Bouras Center after services to meet parishioners.

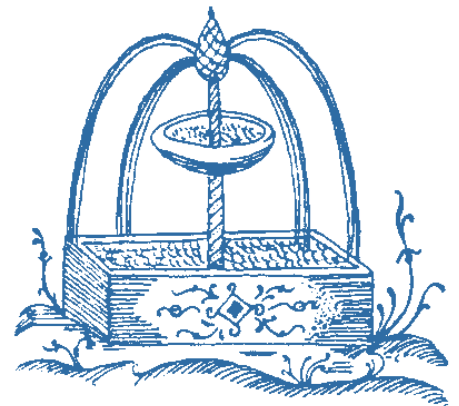
## Parish Assembly – Sunday, May 21

Holy Trinity will hold its Spring Parish Assembly meeting on Sunday, May 21, after church services. This is an important meeting as many aspects of parish life will be discussed. Your attendance and participation at the Parish Assembly is important. Notification of this meeting has been mailed to each Steward's home.

## Sunday of the Blind Man

While walking from the Temple on the Sabbath, the Lord Jesus saw the blind man referred to in today's Gospel. The man had been born sightless from his birth, that is, he had been born without eyes (Saint John Chrysostom, Homily LVI on Matthew; Saint Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book V:15; and the Second Exorcism of Saint Basil the Great). When the disciples saw him, they asked their Teacher, "Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" They asked because when the Lord had healed the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, He had told him, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14). Thus, they wondered, if sickness were caused by sin, what sin could have been the cause of his being born without eyes. But the Lord answered that it was for the glory of God. Then the Lord Jesus spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle. He anointed the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam," which was a well-known spring in Jerusalem, used by the inhabitants for its restorative waters, which flowed to the eastern side of the city and collected in a large pool, hence, "the Pool of Siloam."

Thereupon, the Savior sent the blind man to the pool that he might wash his eyes, which had been anointed with the clay - not that the pool's water had such power, but that the faith and obedience of the one sent might be made manifest, and that the miracle might become more remarkable and known to all, leaving no room for doubt. Thus, the blind man believed in Jesus' words, obeyed His command, went and washed himself, and returned, no longer blind, but having eyes and seeing. This was the greatest miracle that our Lord had yet worked, as the man healed of his blindness himself testified, "Since time began, never was it heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind," although the Lord had already healed the blind eyes of many. Because he now had eyes, some even doubted that he was the same person (John 9:8-9); and they still remembered when Christ came to the tomb of Lazarus, for they said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have caused that even this man should not have died?" Saint John Chrysostom also gives a thorough and enlightening account of



our Lord's meeting with the woman of Samaria, the healing of the paralytic, and the miracle of the blind man in his commentaries on the Gospel of Saint John.



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

### **TOTS Playgroup**

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, May 24, from 9:30-11:30 AM in the preschool room. Children 18 months-Pre-K are welcome with their caregivers (younger siblings welcome!). Bring water, sneakers and a snack.

### **Trinity Circle**

Members' end of year luncheon will be held on Tuesday, June 13, at Galloping Hill Caterers, 11:30 AM-3 PM. Kindly sign up with Kassandra Romas, Chair. Cost per member is \$20.

### **Ladies Philoptochos Rummage Sale**

Bring Us Your Treasures!! Drop off to the Bouras Center, Saturday, July 8 through Sunday, July 16. Household items, holiday décor, china and glassware, small furniture, small appliances, linens and dry goods, baskets, frames, toys, games, home décor, sporting goods, jewelry, purses, scarves, and hats. No clothing, shoes, books, TVs, DVDs or CDs. Sale Dates: Thursday and Friday, July 20 and 21, 9:30 AM - 6 PM; Saturday, July 22, 9:30 AM - 4 PM.

### **Religious Education Graduation - Sunday, June 11**

Please join us in celebrating our Graduates and our Religious Education School students on Sunday, June 11, after church services in the Bouras Center. We look forward to honoring our students. Help us make this day extra special for them by volunteering. Please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/y7ussfh5>. Contact Kathy Paone at 201-344-4049 with any questions.



## Sts. Constantine and Helen, The God-crowned and Equal to the Apostles

May 21

The Church calls Saint Constantine (306-337) “the Equal of the Apostles,” and historians call him “the Great.” Constantine, the future ruler of all the whole Roman Empire, was raised to respect Christianity. His father did not persecute Christians in the lands he governed. This was at a time when Christians were persecuted throughout the Roman Empire by the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and his corulers Maximian Galerius (305-311) in the East, and the emperor Maximian Hercules (284-305) in the West.



One of the first acts of Constantine was to grant the freedom to practice Christianity in the lands subject to him. Before a great battle, he prayed to God to give him a sign which would inspire his army to fight valiantly, and the Lord showed him a radiant Sign of the Cross in the heavens with the inscription “Εν Τούτο Νίκα” “In this [sign], victory.”

Constantine issued the Edict of Milan in 313 AD which guaranteed religious tolerance for Christians. Saint Helen, who was a Christian, may have influenced his decision. In 323, when he became the sole ruler of the entire Roman Empire, he extended the provisions of the Edict of Milan to the Eastern half of the Empire. After three hundred years of persecution, Christians could finally practice their faith without fear.

Renouncing paganism, the Emperor did not let his capital remain in ancient Rome, the former center of the pagan realm. He transferred his capital to the East, to the city of Byzantium, which was renamed Constantinople, the city of Constantine (May 11). Constantine was deeply convinced that only Christianity could unify the immense Roman Empire with its diverse peoples. He supported the Church in every way. He recalled Christian confessors from banishment, he built churches, and he showed concern for the clergy.

The emperor deeply revered the victory-bearing Sign of the Cross of the Lord, and also wanted to find the actual Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. For this purpose, he sent his own mother, the holy Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, granting her both power and money.

Patriarch Makarios of Jerusalem and Saint Helen began a diligent search, and through the will of God, the Life-Creating Cross was miraculously discovered in 326. (*The account of the finding of the Cross of the Lord is found under the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, September 14*). The Orthodox Church commemorates the Uncovering of the Precious Cross and the Precious Nails by the Holy Empress Helen on March 6.



While in Palestine, the holy empress provided benefit for the Church. She ordered that all places connected with the earthly life of the Lord and His All-Pure Mother, should be freed of all traces of paganism, and she commanded that churches should be built at these places.

The emperor Constantine ordered a magnificent church in honor of Christ's Resurrection to be built over His tomb. Saint Helen gave the Life-Creating Cross to the Patriarch for safe-keeping, and took part of the Cross with her for the emperor. After distributing generous alms at Jerusalem and feeding the needy (at times she even served them herself), the holy Empress Helen returned to Constantinople, where she died in the year 327. Because of her great services to the Church and her efforts in finding the Life-Creating Cross, the empress Helen is called "the Equal of the Apostles."

The peaceful state of the Christian Church was disturbed by quarrels, dissensions and heresies which had appeared within the Church. Particularly ruinous for the Church was the rise of the Arian heresy which denied the Divine Nature of the Son of God, and taught that Jesus Christ was a mere creature. By order of the emperor, the First Ecumenical Council was convened in the city of Nicea in 325. The heresy of Arius was condemned and a Symbol of Faith (Creed) composed, in which was included the term "consubstantial with the Father," at the insistence of the Emperor, confirming the truth of the divinity of Jesus Christ, Who assumed human nature for the redemption of all the human race.

After the Council of Nicea, Saint Constantine continued with his active role in the welfare of the Church. He accepted holy Baptism on his deathbed, having prepared for it all his whole life. Saint Constantine died on the day of Pentecost in the year 337 and was buried in the church of the Holy Apostles, in a crypt he had prepared for himself.

# Holy Trinity Cultural Committee

## Friday, June 2 at 7:00 PM

### The Holy Trinity Cultural Committee

Cordially invites parishioners, friends, and young adults to a presentation and discussion on:

### The Ecumenical Patriarchate: The Mother Church from Glory to Captivity

Friday, June 2, at 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 Gallows Hills Road Westfield, NJ 07090

The Ecumenical Patriarchate is also known as the Patriarchate of Constantinople or the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople. It was established in 38 A.D., the year in which the Church was founded in the ancient city of Byzantium by Saint Andrew, the "First-called among the Apostles".

#### Discussion Topics include

*Formation of the Church in Constantinople.*  
*Period of Glory, The Imperial Church 324 AD to 1454 A.D.*  
*Its Captivity, The Church under the Sultan 1454 AD to 1821 A.D.*  
*Greek Independence to Today.*  
*The autocephalous churches of the Eastern Orthodox Church.*  
*The Ecumenical Patriarchate Today.*  
*The struggle for Religious Freedom and Human Rights.*  
*The role of the United States as a leading Eparchy.*  
*Engaging the Modern World via Ecumenical Global Initiatives.*

#### Refreshments will be served as a post event fellowship

For further information please contact the office at 908-233-8533 or email [kathyg@htgocnj.org](mailto:kathyg@htgocnj.org)



### Our Guest Speakers



**Rev. Protopresbyter Peter Delvizi**  
Presiding Priest  
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



**Honorable B. Theodore Bozonelis**  
National Vice Commander of the  
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



**Celia Kapsomera**  
Chair, Cultural Committee  
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



### AXIOS – Fr. John Alexandrou

With joy, we congratulate and say AXIOS to Fr. John Alexandrou who was elevated to the office of Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. The honor was bestowed upon him and Fr. Nicholas Bacalis of Richmond, VA, at the Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy/Laity held last Monday, May 15.


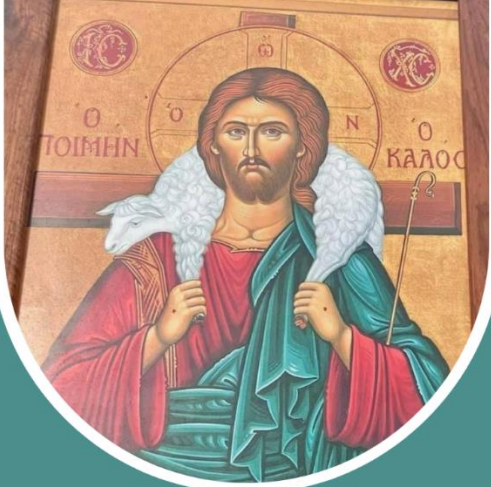
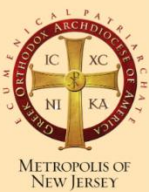


# Upcoming Parish Events


**Thursday, July 16-22**

## CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD

**Registration now open: Register here**




# CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD



**Chesapeake (Maryland) July 3-7**  
Ages 8-18  
Location: Camp Wo-Me-To, Jarrettsville, MD

**Virginia July 9-15**  
Ages 10-18  
Location: Camp Piankatank, Hartfield, VA

**New Jersey July 16-22**  
Ages 8-18  
Location: Camp Linwood Macdonald, Sandyston, NJ

 **Register here**  
<http://app.campdoc.com/register/cgsn>

**More Information** <https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd>



**GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS**

**✠ AMEN ✠**