

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA



The Ascension of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ

May 28, 2023

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 Delvizi, Parish Priest

The Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

On the Seventh Sunday of Pascha, we remember the 318 Holy and God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea; Hieromartyr St. Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene; St. Nikitas, Bishop of Chalcedon.

Click links for Scripture Readings

Tenth Morning Gospel:	St. John 21:1-14	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	Acts 20:16-18, 28-36	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading	St. John 17:1-13	Ελληνικά

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 John Prokos†

Vigil Light: In loving memory of Gus† and Eleni† Vlangos

Large Candles: In loving memory of Nicholas Sikellis†

Prothesis Candles: In memory of Marcus Scarkos†

Sacraments and Rites

Memorials: Your prayers are requested on Sunday at the memorial services for Nicholas Sikellis†, 1 year; John Prokos†, 1 year; and Marcus Scarkos†, 5 years. Eternal be their memories.

Liturgical Schedule

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

Sunday, June 11, All Saints, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Fellowship Hour

Please join us in the Bouras Center after church for the Fellowship Hour which is being sponsored by Margaret Prokos in memory of John Prokos†.

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.

Office Closed

In observance of Memorial Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, May 29.

Parish Feast Day – Monday, June 5

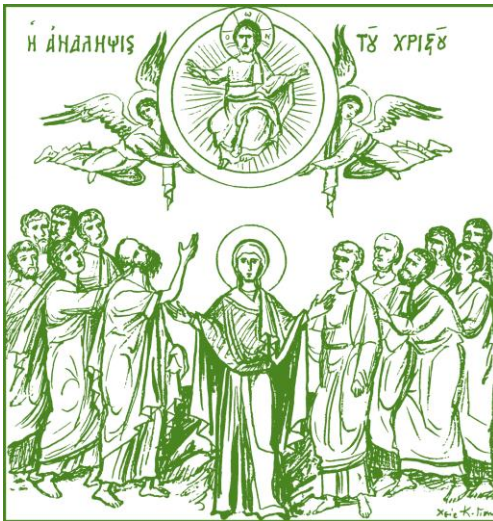
On the Monday following Pentecost, Holy Trinity celebrates its feast day. You are invited to attend and be part of this unique day. A special hierarchical liturgy presided by His Grace Bishop Apostolos and a number of area clergy will highlight this illustrious day. Let us all attend and welcome our guests praying to our Lord and thanking Him for the parish we call home. Orthros begins at 9:15 AM with Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Artoklasia at 10:00 AM. A special festive luncheon will be served at the conclusion in the Bouras Center.

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. (May 25 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 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!



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

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.

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

2023 Stewardship Campaign Update



Currently 348 Stewards have pledged \$445,433.

Thank you to the parishioners who submitted their pledge cards and stewardship gifts. As of May, we graciously received 348 pledges in the amount of \$445,433. Please remember to submit your pledge card which will help us meet our operating budget of \$885,000. 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 50% of our budget and to support our annual Archdiocesan commitment, a gift to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, and support our growing and vibrant ministries. Thank you!

Submit your stewardship card online: [Stewardship Commitment Card](#)

	HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090 • Tel. (908) 233-8533 • www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org <i>"Giving Thanks: Eucharistic Stewardship"</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2023 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD		
The operating expenses of our Church for the year 2023 are estimated to be \$885,000 (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 2023 a total amount of:		
☐ \$2,200 ☐ \$3,000 ☐ \$2,000 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Young Adults (25-30) \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____		
<small>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)</small>		
Name _____	Signature _____	Date _____
Spouse's Name _____	Email Address _____	
Names of Dependents _____	Telephone Number (_____) _____	
Address _____	Cell Number (_____) _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	<i>Please bring your Commitment Card to Stewardship Sunday Liturgy December 4, 2022</i>	
To vote or seek elective office in the administration of the parish in 2023, your signed Stewardship Commitment Card must be received by March 1, 2023.		

To set-up online giving: [Secure Online Giving](#)

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

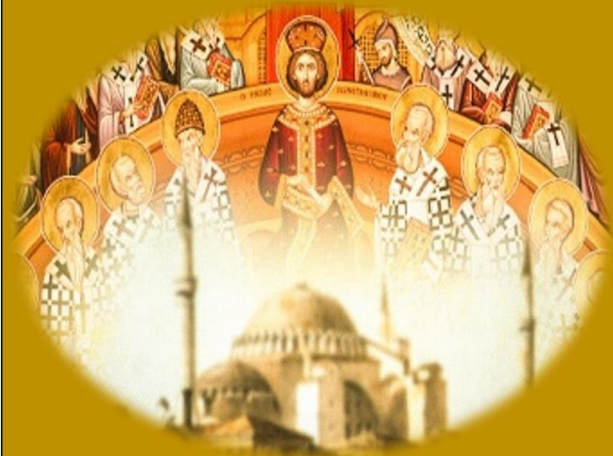
The Ecumenical Patriarchate is also known as the Patriarchate of Constantinople or the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople. It was established in 38 A.D., the year in which the Church was founded in the ancient city of Byzantium by Saint Andrew, the "First-called among the Apostles".

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



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



GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠