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 Delvizis, 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**

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<th>Tenth Morning Gospel:</th>
<th>St. John 21:1-14</th>
<th>Ελληνικά</th>
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<td>Epistle Reading:</td>
<td>Acts 20:16-18, 28-36</td>
<td>Ελληνικά</td>
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<td>Gospel Reading</td>
<td>St. John 17:1-13</td>
<td>Ελληνικά</td>
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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](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!
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 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 Delvizis
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
**HOLY TRINITY WESTFIELD / GOYA SPIRIT WEAR**

EMAIL YOUR ORDER TO GOYA@HTGOCNJ.ORG

Orders/Payment due by June 4, 2023.
Checks payable to HTGOC YHF or Venna @WestfieldGoya.
Turn in form to Iris Love or mail to church.
Due to supply issues, some items/sizes may become unavailable.

Short Sleeve T: $13
+ $3 for name on back
  Youth S-XXL
  Adult (men) sizes S-XXL

Long Sleeve T: $17
+ $3 for name on back
  Youth sizes not available
  Adult (men) sizes XS-XXL

Pullover Hoodie: $27
+ $3 for name on back
  Youth XS-XL
  Adult (men) sizes S-XXL

Moisture Wicking Polo: $26
  Blue or Black
  Adult (men) sizes S-XXL

Sport Wick 1/4 Zip Pullover: $35
  Adult (men) sizes XS-4XL

Sweatpants - black: $25
  (with pockets)
  Youth XS-XL
  Adult (men) sizes S-XXL

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TOTAL DUE:

**YOUNG ADULT NETWORKING & LECTURE SERIES**

**LIVING A PURPOSEFUL & FLOURISHING LIFE - A YOUNG ADULT’S JOURNEY**

GUEST SPEAKER: EUGENE GENTILE, DIRECTOR,
OFFICE OF CAREER MANAGEMENT, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
(Reception to Follow)

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH & Y2AM
Thursday, June 22, 2023 @ 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ

Recommended Age Group: 18 - 30
Upcoming Parish Events

Thursday, July 16-22

CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD

Registration now open: Register here

Chesapeake (Maryland) July 3-7
Ages 8-18
Location: Camp Wo-Mo-To, Jarretsville, MD

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

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

More Information
https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd
GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

★ AMEN ★