

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



Sunday of the Paralytic

May 7, 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 Delvzis, 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

Fifth Morning Gospel:	St. Luke 24:13-35	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	Acts 9:32-42	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading	St. John 5:1-15	Ελληνικά

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

Apolytikion: “Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.”

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 Eleni Psarianos †

Vigil Light: In memory of Peter Levas †

Large Candles: In memory of Michael Koulouthros †

Prothesis Candles: For the health of William Papalitskas



Sacraments and Rites

Memorials: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial services for Stella Savva†, 13 years; Eleni Psarianos†, 5 years; Peter Gianacakes†, 15 years; and Mimi Gianacakes†, 2 years. Eternal be their memories.

40-Day Blessings: Today, a churching for Penelope Valentine Bell, daughter of Alexandra Terpos Bell and Terry Bell will be held.

Baptisms: On Saturday, May 6, the baptism for Angelo Ravanos, son of Jimmy and Ashley Ravanos was held. The Godparents were Carol and Louis Kotsinis. Today, the baptism for Theodore Gene Blackford, son of Raymond and Alexandra Blackford will be held. The Godparent is Daniella Tsakos Kaiserman.

Funerals: On Friday, May 5, the funeral for Peter J. Costalas† was held. Eternal be his memory.

Liturgical Schedule

Wednesday, May 10, Mid-Pentecost, Orthros 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, May 14, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, Orthros 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday of the Paralytic

Who among us can boast that he is strong, courageous, bearing all the misfortunes of this age, fulfilling all of Christ's commandments? Deliver us, O Lord, if such a person stands in our midst-for that person is a fraud! The Apostle Paul says: *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong* (2 Cor 12:10). But the Apostle did not deprive himself of one thing: strong faith and undoubting hope in the Savior. "The power of God is made perfect in weakness!"

How can the world, which does not believe in God and preaches the illusory omnipotence of mankind, understand this? The Lord came into the world to save paralytic sinners, and us among them. Let us recognize ourselves for who we are in fact. The Apostle James writes: *For what is your life? It is a vapor that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away* (James 4:14). No matter how strongly our pride rebels against this, let us look dispassionately at the universe: the myriads of planets, the thousands of generations, endlessly following one another, the billions of people who are erased from the memory of their descendants and their neighbors.

Something within us tells us unmistakably that man is something more than vapor. Our life, yes, is transient and withering, like the grass under the hot summer sun. Recall in the Psalter: *as the flower of the field, so hath he blossomed forth* (Ps. 103:15). But the soul – a unique human personality created by God – its story in time and eternity is altogether different. If the soul is united with its Creator and God, then it becomes the most

beautiful, the most precious of everything that is on earth. In the memory of God, in God such a soul receives not simply life, but life “more abundantly,” as the Apostle Paul writes. He cannot with human words express in any other way the mystery revealed to him of the future age. And the same Apostle writes: *Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him* (1 Cor 2:9).

In the lives of each one of us, there will still be moments of weakness and failures, what we call paralysis. They can last for many years, just as with the paralytic at the Sheep pool, of which the Gospel speaks. The paralytic lay for many years awaiting healing, but he believed that a messenger of God would come and heal him. The Lord, “trampling down death by death,” can give eternal life to us, who one day will be in the grave, and who will free us from this eternal and final paralysis.

Let us not think highly of ourselves; let us not be surprised by our infirmities; let us not, because of them, fall into despair and despondency. Let us sincerely, with all our strength, strive towards correction, struggling against the evil and sin living within us. Let us firmly believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will help us in this. He loves us, because we are His children. We, who recognize ourselves as paralytics and who are asking help from our Heavenly Father, will not be left behind, for He gives us His invincible power. Only by this are we strong.



Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered;
let those who hate Him flee from before His face!

A sacred Pascha is shown to us today; a new and Holy Pascha;
A mystic Pascha; an all-venerable Pascha;
A Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer; a spotless Pascha;
A great Pascha; a Pascha of the faithful;
A Pascha which has opened to us the gates of Paradise;
A Pascha sanctifying all the faithful.

CHRIST IS RISEN!



ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!
ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

TRULY, HE IS RISEN!

Prayer
Request

A graphic featuring the text 'Prayer Request' in a white, cursive font. The background is a warm, golden-brown landscape with rolling hills under a bright sky. A large, glowing cross is positioned on the right side of the image, with rays of light emanating from it.

Art, 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, Cathy, James, Christine, Andrea, Molly, Anastasios, Michael, Angela, Lauren, John, Effie, Stella, Denise, Mirka, Stamatia, Theresa, James

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 will be mailed to each Steward's home.

Stewardship Update

Thank you to the parishioners who submitted their pledge cards and stewardship gifts. As of May, we graciously received 340 pledges in the amount of \$437,833. Please remember to submit your pledge card in order to meet our operating budget of \$885,000.00.

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 49% 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!

Metropolis of New Jersey to Honor Holy Trinity Parishioners

On Monday, May 15, at the honorees Grand Banquet, parishioners from Holy Trinity will be honored by Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. We thank this year's honorees who give selflessly of themselves to help benefit parish ministries: Mary Psomas-Senior Parish Member; Kristin Tencza-Steward of the Community; Peter Boutsikaris-Parish Council; Ellen Manos Athenson-Philoptochos; Stavroula Mergoupis-Greek Education Teacher; Pascali Kuvalakis-Psalti; Iris Love-Youth Advisor; Molly Sophia Love-GOYA.

TOTS Playgroup – May 12

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Friday, May 12, from 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.

Adult Greek Dance

We have two classes scheduled for May: Saturday, May 13, 5:30-7 PM, and Friday, May 19, 6-7:30 PM. Please register using the following link <https://tinyurl.com/u69b83b8>. For more information contact Mary Carayannopoulos (carayannopoulos@comcast.net or 314-623-5493).

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.



Scout Sunday Religious Awards

Today Holy Trinity is celebrating our Scout Sunday. Reverence and service to God are expressed in the values of Scouting. This year we have the honor of presenting Jaclyn Ladas, a longtime Scout, with the highest youth award of the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting (EOCS), the Alpha Omega Medal.



Jaclyn learned about her faith, intensified her prayer practice and experience of the Gospels, and performed meaningful acts of service. The true goal was not simply to complete an educational program and receive a beautiful medal, but to allow the Holy Spirit to help her draw closer to God and to the Orthodox Church.



Άξια! – She is worthy!

Special congratulations to her parents, who set an example of devotion to our Lord by making this award a family priority. Thanks also to Fr. Peter Delvizis for his unwavering support of the Scouting Ministry.

We are now restarting the religious awards program for all ages. There are three grade-appropriate awards for girls and boys in every level of Scouting, from Daisies and Cubs on up. The Scouting Ministry Advisor will help Scouts and their parents to earn these awards, and summer is a great time to get started!

Contact Fr. Peter or the Advisor, Miriam Kotsonis (mekotsonis@gmail.com), for more information.

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
at 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. Its creation goes back to the year 38, 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

Apostolic succession of Patriarchs a direct, uninterrupted line of continuity from the first Apostles of Jesus Christ.
The Seven Ecumenical Councils of the One Holy Catholic Church.
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@htgocni.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



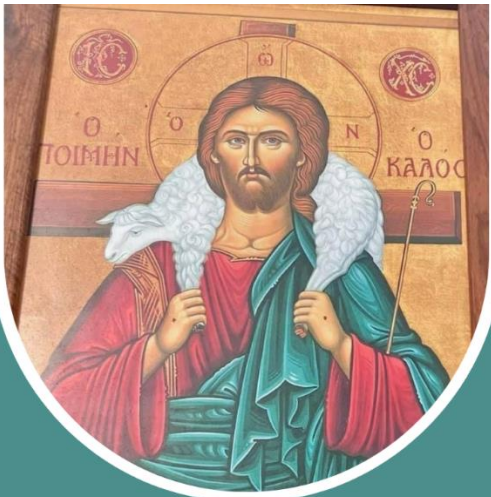

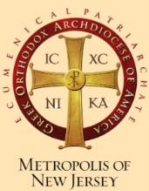
Celia Kapsomera
Chair, Cultural Committee
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

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 ✠