St. John the Merciful

Sunday, November 12, 2023

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 Delvizis, Parish Priest
On the Twelfth Day of the month, we commemorate: Our Holy Father St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria; Our Righteous Father St. Nilus the Ascetic of Sinai; Our Holy Father St. Leondos Styppi, Patriarch of Constantinople +1143 A.D.

Plagal Second Tone Ἡχός 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 St. John the Merciful: “By your patience you obtained your reward, O devout Father. You persevered in your prayers without ceasing; and the poor you loved and satisfied. We entreat you, blessed John the Merciful, intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.”

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: “The Savior’s most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is introduced into the House of the Lord, and with herself she brings the grace in the divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is she.”

Liturgical Schedule
Monday, November 13, St. John Chrysostom services at Metropolis beginning at 9:00 AM
Sunday, November 19, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
Tuesday, November 21, Entrance of the Theotokos, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations
Altar Candles: In Loving Memory of Richard Frigerio†; Vigil Light: In Memory of Elias (Lee) Stevens†; Large Candles: In Loving Memory of Donald Dimitry†; Prothesis: In Loving Memory of Donald Dimitry†
Sacraments and Rites

Memorials: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial services for Richard Frigerio †, 40 days; Donald Dimitry †, 40 days. Eternal be their memories.

Fellowship Hour: Please join us in the Bouras Center after church for the Fellowship Hour which is being sponsored by the Frigerio family, in loving memory of Richard Frigerio †.

St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria – Nov. 12

John was born on the island of Cyprus. His father was Prince Epiphanios. John was raised as a true Christian from childhood. At the insistence of his parents, he married and had children. However, by God's providence, his wife and children passed from this world into the next. Renowned for his compassion and piety, John was chosen as Patriarch of Alexandria in the time of Emperor Heraclius. He governed the Church of Alexandria for ten years as a true shepherd, safeguarding it from pagans and heretics. He was a model of meekness, charity and love for his fellow men. He said: “If you desire nobility, seek it not in blood but in virtues, for this is true nobility.”

All the saints have been distinguished by being merciful, but St. John was completely dedicated to this wonderful virtue. Once, while celebrating the Liturgy, the patriarch remembered the words of Christ; “If then, you offer your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave there your gift before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” - Matthew 5:23-24. The patriarch remembered that one of the clergy in a church had a grievance against him. He quickly left the Holy Gifts, approached the priest, fell before his feet, and begged for forgiveness. And only when he had made peace with this man did he return to the Table of Oblation.

Another time, as he was on his way to the Church of Saints Cyrus and John, it happened that he met a needy and unfortunate widow who spoke to him at length about her misfortune. The patriarch's escorts became bored by the woman's lengthy complaint and urged the bishop to hurry to the church for the service, intimating that he could hear the woman's story afterward. John said to them: “And how will God listen to me, if I do not listen to her?” He would not leave until he heard the widow's complaint to the end.

When the Persians attacked Egypt, Patriarch John boarded a boat to escape from danger. Along the way he fell ill and, when he arrived in Cyprus, he reposed at his birthplace, in the year 620 A.D. After he entered the Immortal Kingdom of his Lord, his miracle-working relics were translated to Constantinople.

“Holy John, the one who practiced mercy and compassion, intercede to Christ our God for His great mercy!”
Reading the Communion Prayers - In Her wisdom, the Church provides beautiful prayers to say before 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. While 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.

Feast Day Celebration of the Metropolis of New Jersey – Monday, November 13
On Monday, November 13 the faithful are invited to attend a Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM in honor of St. John Chrysostom, Patron of the Metropolis. Metropolis Headquarters is located at 215 E. Grove Street in Westfield. A reception will follow service.

In honor and in special recognition of St. John Chrysostom, the annual special offering tray will be passed today to benefit the pastoral ministries of our Metropolis of New Jersey. Checks should be made payable to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey.

Parish Assembly – Sunday, November 19
The Fall Parish Assembly will be held in the Bouras Center immediately following church service on Sunday, November 19. This Assembly is very important because it is our opportunity to be together and share our thoughts and feedback about Holy Trinity. Watch for your Stewardship Card in the mail!

The November Edition of The Promise Is Now Available
Stewardship Sunday is November 19
Remember to bring your completed Stewardship Card
As an offering on this day.

Next Sunday, November 19, is Stewardship Sunday
You are asked to bring your 2024 Stewardship Card
to church.
These cards will be collected and offered to God as a “love offering.”

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.
Marina, Molly, Leonidas, 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, Lucia, Rich, Keti, Georgia, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Gayle, William, Byron, John, Robert, John, Angela, Andrew, Dianna, Edward, Sue, Thomas

Religious Education Christmas Program
Please join us for our annual Christmas Program followed by Breakfast with Santa provided by the Parish Council, and Holiday Fun with Joy/Hope on Sunday, December 10, in the Bouras Center following the Divine Liturgy!

Holy Trinity Bookstore
The Holy Trinity Bookstore is open. Visit for Christmas cards and meaningful small gifts.
Veterans Day

Saturday, November 11, let us honor all the Veterans who served in the Armed Forces keeping our country safe. Veterans Day is dedicated to all American veterans, both past and present, to thank them for their selfless service to the country. It is often confused with Memorial Day which is the day for honoring America’s war dead. Veterans Day is especially dedicated to all the living soldiers who honorably served in the armed forces at any time the country needed their services, both during wartime and peacetime.

Historically, this day was known as “Armistice Day” and was first celebrated to mark the end of World War I in 1918, which officially ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, i.e., November 11th. It became a legal federal holiday in 1938 and in the aftermath of the Korean War and World War II, Armistice Day was known as Veterans Day. It endorsed a name change when Congressman Edward Rees from Emporia, Kansas, introduced legislation to change the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day. President Eisenhower signed the legislation on June 1, 1954, and since then November 11 has been officially celebrated to commemorate veterans for their unwavering patriotism, service, sacrifice, and love for the country. On this day, an official wreath-laying ceremony is held at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

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.

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](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.

**GOYA – Pie and Loaf Fundraiser: Sunday, November 12**

Pie and Loaf Fundraiser, $12 per loaf, $22 per pie. Order deadline is Sunday, November 12. Visit the Goya table during Fellowship Hour to place your order. Pick up is Sunday, November 19.

**TOTS Playgroup – Wednesday, November 15**

**TOTS:** (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) It is a fun way to connect with other Orthodox families with small children. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 15, 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. Contact Val Comprelli vcomprelli@gmail.com or 612-801-8608 to sign-up or with any questions.

**Greek Dance**

Greek dance lessons will again be taught by Petro and Niko from Hellenic Roots. Classes will be held in the Bouras Center. Practice times TBD. Sign-up for GOYA (7th-12th grade): [https://tinyurl.com/yfvpxrr8](https://tinyurl.com/yfvpxrr8) Sign-up for Joy/Hope (K-6th grades) coming soon. Please email goya@htgocnj.org (GOYA) or kathy@homesbykathyp.com (Joy/Hope) with any questions.

**9th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Drive**

Share your blessings and support the Ladies Philoptochos Society's 9th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Drive. A $3 donation provides a complete Thanksgiving Dinner served at the Market Street Mission. The need is greater than ever before! Look for the Philoptochos donation box during the Fellowship Hour or mail your check to the church office marked "Thanksgiving Dinner". Make checks payable to "Ladies Philoptochos of HTGOC". For details, email Debvlahakis@gmail.com

**Feeding the Hungry - Volunteer Opportunity**

On Friday, December 1, 1-3 PM, Philoptochos has organized a volunteer opportunity at Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside. All are welcome to participate. Spots are limited. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Kristin Tencza at kmt@asis-nj.com
Third Annual Philoptochos Bread Sale to Benefit Saint Basil's Academy
Homemade Vasilopita from Agia Skepi Bakehouse! Order by December 3. Pick up at church December 17. $25 each. To order, stop by the Philoptochos table during Fellowship Hour or Venmo @Denise-Eliopoulos. Questions? Text or call Denise at 973-568-0938.

### 2023 GOYA Loaf and Pie Fundraiser

Order online [https://tinyurl.com/2uscenj](https://tinyurl.com/2uscenj) and pay via venmo @WestfieldGoya or complete this order form and return with a check payable to HTGOC YHT

**Order deadline: Sunday, November 12**  
**Order pickup: Sunday, November 19**

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<td>Banana Choc Chip</td>
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**TOTAL LOAVES:**  
**TOTAL LOAVES x $12**  
**TOTAL PIES:**  
**TOTAL PIES x $22**  
**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:**  
**VENMO or CHECK #**

WE THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE HOLY TRINITY GOYA!
Philoptochos Community Christmas Card - 2023

We invite you to participate in this community expression of joy over our Lord’s birth. Every member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church will receive a copy of the COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD imprinted with the names of those who have donated. This year we will donate the proceeds to St. Jude’s Research Hospital (ASLAC) and Community Hope, Inc. Please sign up on-line or during the Fellowship Hour each week at the Philoptochos table. Please help us make this fundraiser a success! For more information, contact Sandy Boutsikaris 908-578-3341 or Christina Colonias 917-825-5986.

HOLY TRINITY
2023 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Our dear Holy Trinity Parishioners, we invite you to participate in this community expression of joy over our Lord’s birth. Philoptochos continues its philanthropic work to assist those in need, and we are counting on your support and generosity to enable us to fulfill our mission. This year we will donate the proceeds to St. Jude’s Research Hospital and Community Hope, Inc. Please join your fellow parishioners by donating to our annual Christmas Card.

- COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT IN WITH YOUR DONATION.
- ALL DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
250 Gallows Hill Road Westfield, NJ 07090-1109

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME(S) CLEARLY AND AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON THE “COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD.” If it is the same from last year, please indicate by writing “same as last year”.

Contact Information:
Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________

Telephone ________________________ Donation Amount: _______________________
Cash: _______ Check #: __________

RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 3, 2023
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY HTGOC

For convenience in handling, you can make your payment by check, credit card, Apple Pay, Google Pay, or PayPal.

Include your information with the payment and how your family name(s) should appear.
Contact Sandy Boutsikaris 908/578-3341 or Christina Colonias 917/825-5986 for more information.
The Ladies Philoptochos Society – HTGOC is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.
Upcoming Parish Events

Monday, November, 13

Orthodoxy on Tap

How Should an Orthodox Christian Approach Reading and Understanding the Bible?

Guest Speaker:
Nicholas Ruvelas
M. Div.
Harvard Divinity School

📅 13 November, 2023
⏰ 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM
📍 Clydz
55 Paterson Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Upcoming Orthodoxy on Tap:

Wed. Dec. 20 – Tavern on George

@NNJYAL & @GOMNJ_YOUTH
Tuesday, December 12

His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

Cordially Invites you to the

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & OPEN HOUSE

on
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
6:00 - 9:00pm

At the
Metropolis Headquarters
215 E. Grove Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
The Metropolis Summer Camp program will take place in the summer of 2024 from June 23-29. Registration will be forthcoming. This is an excellent opportunity for children to meet other Greek Orthodox and to learn about the faith in a protected environment.
GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

† AMEN †