

# Eighth Sunday of Luke



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](http://www.holytrinitywestfield.org)

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizi, 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.

*Click links for Scripture Readings*

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. Matthew 28:16-20</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 9:6-11</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Luke 10:25-37</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

Plagal Second Tone Ηχος 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†

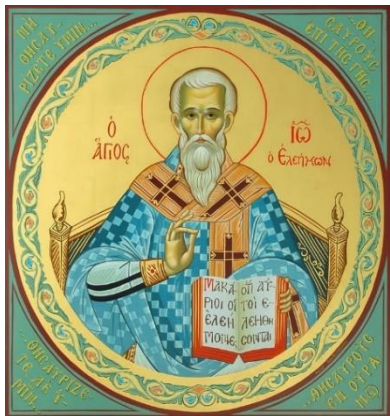
## Sacraments and Rites

**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 Epiphanius. 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




**The Promise**  
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
WESTFIELD \* NEW JERSEY  
November 2023 • Volume 47, Issue 8  
holytrinity@htgocnj.org 908-233-8533 holytrinitywestfield.org

#### The Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel And all the Heavenly Bodiless Powers

**O**n November 8, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Heavenly Bodiless Powers. Michael, the most glorious and splendid Chief Commander of the bodiless Powers, has shown much beneficence and grace to the human race. Archangel Michael first appeared to Patriarch Abraham, then to Lot when he rescued him with his daughters from the fire sent by God, and the destruction of Sodom. After this, he appeared to Patriarch Jacob when he rescued him from the murderous hands of his brother Esau. He went before the encampment of the children of Israel when they were liberated from bondage in Egypt, and together with the pillar of fire and of cloud, he made easier the difficulty of their journey.

Also with the coming of the Gospel of Christ during this time of new grace, Archangel Michael brought together the rivers which once were released by the impious against the holy spring of Chonae and against its divine Church. And many other things are recorded about him in the divinely inspired Scriptures. For this reason, we have him as a protector and guardian of our lives for our defense, and we celebrate today his all-revered festival, for which reason it is called a Synaxis.

Satan was an angel of divine rank. Out of supreme pride, he exalted himself against the Creator and Master of all. He boasted of placing his throne in the clouds of heaven to become like the Highest. As a



time the Chief Commander Michael, beholding the painful fall of the angels, understood the cause of their fall. And through subjection and humility, which he showed as a grateful servant and faithful housekeeper towards his Master, he carefully guarded his own glory and brilliance granted to him by God, as well as the glory of the other Angelic orders. Therefore by his humbleness and worship of God, it was determined by God Almighty that Michael should be the first among the Angelic orders.

Michael gathers together the choirs of Angels crying out: "Let us be attentive!" By this, we are to learn what happened with the fallen demons. They were once like the Angels but through pride lost everything and fell into the dark abyss. We must take care never to repeat their pride so that a similar fate may not befall us.

Michael teaches us to worship God and to praise His highly-praised name. He has shared with us the never-ending angelic hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Your glory!" (Isa. 6:3 & Revelation 4:9)

Together with the Archangel Michael, the Synaxis commemorates the most beautiful and glorious Archangel Gabriel. He also showed much beneficence to the human race, as much in the Old as in the New Testament. The prophecy of Daniel gives us his name, when Daniel explained

*usurper, he put his mind to evilness saying, I will ascend into heaven: I will place my throne above the stars of heaven and be like the Most High" - Isa. 14:13. But no one can outline the Sun of Righteousness and because Lucifer tried to take the place of the One True God he fell from heavenly glory and his archangelic office. For this reason the Lord said, "I saw Satan fall as lightning from heaven" (Lk. 10:18). Together with him an order of Angels fell, who sprung away from God due to their pride, and fell with their leader the devil. And they were all darkened instead of illumined, becoming demons rather than Angels. Therefore, it is said at that*

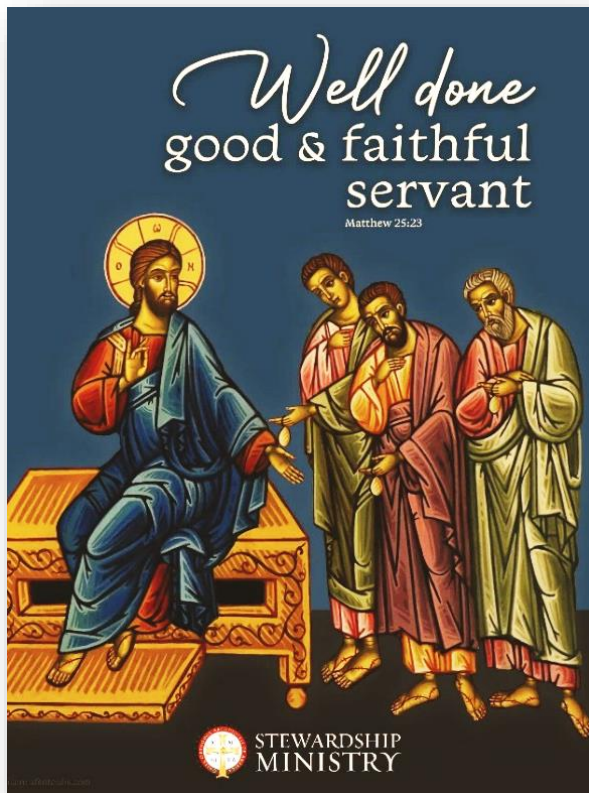
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*Wait for the promise of the Father*

# Christian Stewardship



**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!*

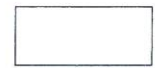
The 2024 Christian Stewardship Cards have been mailed to all Stewards of Holy Trinity. If you did not receive it, please pick up a card from the church or call the church office to receive it by mail.

*Thank you for your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure!*

**Click here to complete your [2024 Stewardship Commitment Card](#) online.**



**HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
 250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090 • Tel. (908) 233-8533 • www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org



*"Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant"*

**2024 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD**

The operating expenses of our Church for the year 2024 are estimated to be \$939,200 (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 2024 a total amount of:

\$2,200    \$3,000    \$2,000    \$1,000    Young Adults (25-30) \$500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*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)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Dependents \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Please bring your Commitment Card to Stewardship Sunday Liturgy, on Sunday November 19, 2023*

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

To vote or seek elective office in the administration of the parish in 2024, your signed Stewardship Commitment Card must be received by March 1, 2024



Marina, Molly, Leonedas, 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, Ket, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Ket, 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**

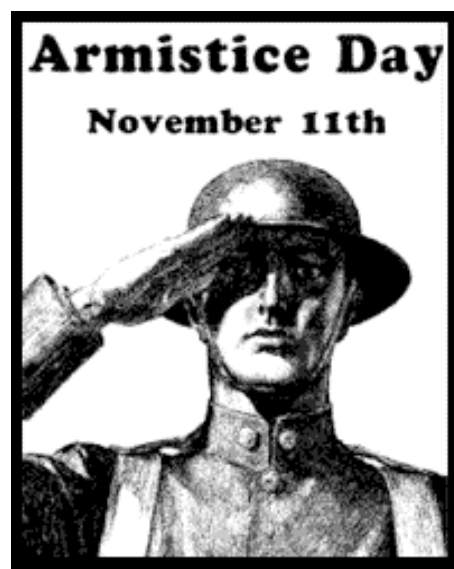
The Holy Trinity Bookstore is open. Visit for Christmas cards and meaningful small gifts.

## 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>  
GOYA Advisors: Maria Tarhanidis, Mary Carayannopoulos, Sophia Saketos, Catherine Kelly, Andy Zotos, and Christine Skalkotos. Please contact an advisor or email [goya@htgocnj.org](mailto: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.

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### **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](mailto:vcomprelli@gmail.com) or 612-801-8608 to sign-up or with any questions.

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### **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> Sign-up for Joy/Hope (K-6th grades) coming soon. Please email [goya@htgocnj.org](mailto:goya@htgocnj.org) (GOYA) or [kathy@homesbykathyp.com](mailto:kathy@homesbykathyp.com) (Joy/Hope) with any questions.

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### **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](mailto:Debvlahakis@gmail.com)

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### **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](mailto:kmt@asis-nj.com)

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## 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.

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### *2023 GOYA Loaf and Pie Fundraiser*

Order online <https://tinyurl.com/2uscenjv> 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**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email or Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Loaves \$12 each**

quantity

- Blueberry Streusel \_\_\_\_\_
- Cinnamon Streusel \_\_\_\_\_
- Butter Pound \_\_\_\_\_
- Zucchini Nut \_\_\_\_\_
- Apple \_\_\_\_\_
- Pumpkin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mixed Berry \_\_\_\_\_
- Banana Choc Chip \_\_\_\_\_
- Doughnut Bread Pudding \_\_\_\_\_



**9" Pies \$22 each**

- Apple \_\_\_\_\_
- Apple Crisp \_\_\_\_\_
- Pumpkin \_\_\_\_\_
- Pecan \_\_\_\_\_
- Coconut Custard \_\_\_\_\_
- Blueberry \_\_\_\_\_
- Mixed Berry \_\_\_\_\_



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**



GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



*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*

# SAVE THE DATE!

**June 23-29, 2024**

## CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD

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.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD**

**CGS MD: JUNE 15-22**  
**CGS NJ: JUNE 23-29**  
**CGS VA SESSION 1: JULY 7-13**  
**CGS VA SESSION 2: JULY 14-20**

REGISTRATION INFO COMING SOON!

Faith! Fun! Fellowship!

@gomnj\_youth



www.nj.goarch.org/





**GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS**

**✠ AMEN ✠**