Ninth Sunday of Luke

Stewardship Sunday
Offering Gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure
“Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant”

Sunday, November 19, 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 Nineteenth Day of the month, we commemorate: The Holy Prophet Obadiah; The Holy Martyrs St. Barlaam of Caesarea and St. Heliodoros; The Holy Martyrs St. Anthimos, St. Thalaleos, St. Christopher and St. Euphemia with her children

Grave Tone Ηχὸς Βαρύς

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** “By Your Cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrh-bearers’ sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your 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:** “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.”

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**Liturgical Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Nov 21</td>
<td>Entrance of the Theotokos, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, Nov 26</td>
<td>Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Nov 30</td>
<td>St. Andrew the Apostle, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM</td>
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**Altar Donations**

**Altar Candles:** In Memory of Vasilios Daskalopoulos†; **Vigil Light:** In Memory of Vasilios Daskalopoulos†; **Large Candles:** In Memory of James N. Rentas†; **Prothesis:** In Loving Memory of Peter S. Markos†

**Sacraments and Rites**

**Wedding:** On Saturday, November 18, the wedding of Alexandra Maglaras and Anthony J. Cannatella was celebrated. The Koumbaro is Nikolas Karsos.
In observance of Thanksgiving Day, the church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24.

Welcome Visitors
We welcome all visitors to our parish. 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 and enjoy our Fellowship Hour.

Stewardship Sunday – Sunday, November 19
On Sunday, November 19, after the Divine Liturgy, the 2024 Stewardship Cards will be collected and presented for a blessing. Thank you for your continued dedication to the parish and Christ’s work at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. If you forget to bring your cards on Sunday, don’t worry there are Stewardship Cards at each pew. Fill one out to offer during collection time. Your prayerful consideration to next year’s pledge of time, talent and treasure is greatly appreciated. We are counting on all our parishioners to support the church and her ministries.

What is Christian Stewardship?
Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. The primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act according to those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed. The concept of Stewardship is based on the Greek word Philotimo (grateful indebtedness), and is understood through the words of Jesus Christ, “freely you have received, freely give” (Mt. 10:8).

Have you ever gazed at the moon with wonder, especially when it hangs huge in the night sky and is lit up with brilliant light? But if you think about it, the moon has no light of its own. The only light it has comes from another source. It receives the sun’s light and then reflects to us that which it has gained.

Just like the moon, we have no light of our own. The only light we have comes to us from another source, from the One who says, “I AM the Light of the world.” – John 8:12. The light of Christ always shines upon us. We receive it freely and with joy. So therefore, let us bask in this light but also reflect this light to others, for this is the purpose of light for others to enjoy.

Stewardship is recognizing that I am the moon and Christ is the Sun. Every gift we have been given is from Him, the Sun of Righteousness. Stewardship is the way by which we reflect this light. We return a portion of what has been given to us for the working of the Church, for doing good in the
world, for helping the poor, for teaching the faith, for being a witness to the eternal kingdom, and finally to glorify God.

Stewardship Sunday helps remind us of a daily fact that Christ is with us. He is continually sanctifying and blessing us. And by giving a portion back we show our loyalty, trust, and confidence in God.

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

GOYA – Pie and Loaf Fundraiser: Pick Up **Sunday, November 19**
The GOYA pie and loaf fundraiser pickup is Sunday, November 19 in the Bouras Center.

Parish Assembly – **Sunday, November 19**
The Fall Parish Assembly will be held in the Bouras Center immediately following church service today. This Assembly is very important because it is our opportunity to be together and share our thoughts and feedback about Holy Trinity.

Parish Council Elections – **Sunday, December 3**
Are you eligible to vote? If you are a steward of Holy Trinity, you can verify your eligibility by ensuring that your name is on the voting list. A member of the Board of Electors will be in the Bouras Center on November 19 and 26 to help you check before the election day.

The November Edition of **The Promise** Is Now Available
Prot. No. 325/2023

Archeepiscopal Encyclical for Thanksgiving

November 23, 2023

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and entirety of the Christ-loving Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

*Give thanks in everything, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.*
(I Thessalonians 5:18)

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

Our National Day of Thanksgiving arrives in a time when the world is in turmoil, and “wars and rumors of wars” (Matthew 24:6) cast a pall over the global community. It is often difficult to muster the intention to be thankful in such moments. But as the Apostle Paul reminds us in his first letter to the nascent Christian community in Thessaloniki, we fulfill the will of God by our gratitude. This does not mean that we are thankful for the miseries that afflict the world, but that even in such distressing and sad circumstances, we persist through them.
President Abraham Lincoln, in one of his precursor “Thanksgiving” proclamations (July 15, 1863), just days after the bloody victory at the Battle of Gettysburg, said: “It is meet and right to recognize and confess the presence of the Almighty Father, and the power of His hand, equally in these triumphs and in these sorrows.” In the midst of the brutal Civil War, Lincoln acknowledged the “presence” of God. And this is what giving thanks in all things really means.

The gratitude that is expressed in our Thanksgiving meals and gatherings is an acknowledgment of God’s ultimate will in our lives. We pass through suffering in this world, but like the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ, we also pass-over to Resurrection. We can look around and give in to despair, or we can give thanks to God for His will that “all people should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” (I Timothy 2:4).

Therefore, my beloved Christians, on this Thanksgiving Day, let us look beyond to the truth of God’s providential love for us, and offer Him the gratitude which can transform our world into His Kingdom.

With gratitude for each and every one of you
in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ,

[Signature]

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America
A Prayer of Thanksgiving

“O Lord my Savior and my Master, I, Thine unprofitable servant, with fear and trembling give thanks unto Thy loving goodness for all Thy benefits which Thou hast poured so abundantly upon me. I fall down in adoration before Thee and offer Thee, O God, my praises; with fervor I cry to Thee: O God, deliver me from all adversities and mercifully fulfill in me such of my desires as may be expedient for me. Hear me, I entreat Thee, and have mercy, for Thou art the Hope of all the ends of the earth, and unto Thee, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed glory, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.”

Reading the Communion Prayers
On pages 60-63 of Divine Liturgy Book

In Her wisdom, the Church provides beautiful prayers to say before and after 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. As 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.
Christian Stewardship

Stewardship Sunday is November 19
Remember to bring your completed Stewardship Card
As an offering on this day.

These cards will be collected on Sunday, November 19, 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.
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.

Trinity Circle

Trinity Circle’s Members Christmas Luncheon will be held Tuesday, December 5, at Galloping Hill Caterers from 11:30 AM – 3 PM. Kindly join us for a fun day full of friendship and camaraderie! We thank Kassandra Romas for chairing our event.
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 with any questions.

TOTS Playgroup – November 29

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, November 29, 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 at vcomprelli@gmail.com or 612-801-8608 to sign up or to ask 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 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

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.
Greek School PTO – New Fundraising Program
Greek School has partnered with “Charleston Wrap” to raise funds for Greek School’s favorite programs such as the Christmas Program, Greek Independence Program and Year End events. Purchase holidays gifts and Greek School will receive 40% of the profit from each item sold. Please visit https://www.registercw.com/ and enter our organization ID: 27610. Complete your shopping by December 4. Contact mailto:katiegitas@gmail.com with any questions.
Religious Education Christmas Program – Sunday, December 10
Stewardship opportunity to help with the annual Christmas Program followed by food and refreshments and Santa!!! Sunday, December 10, in the Bouras Center. To help or donate, please go to:  https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054FAEAD28A5FD046080618-religious#/

THE PARISH COUNCIL, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM AND JOY | HOPE GRACIOUSLY INVITE ALL HOLY TRINITY PARISH, FAMILIES & FRIENDS TO OUR

Christmas Program & Holiday Fun with Food & Refreshments!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LITURGY IN THE BOURAS CENTER
Annual Christmas Dinner Party & General Meeting
You are cordially invited to join the FUN on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023 in the Bouras Center. Hors d’oeuvres & shopping with 10+ vendors begin at 6PM with a brief General Meeting to follow. Please stop by the Philoptochos table during Fellowship Hour to make your reservation by December 2 or contact Yiana Leichtling at 908-413-6213 or treasurer@htphiloptochos.com. A delicious dinner will be catered by Prestige Diner. Cost: $42 per person Chair: Phyllis Verenes

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity
cordially invites you to a

CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY & “BOUTIQUES”
Thursday, December 7, 2023 | 6:00 pm Hors d’oeuvres & Shopping in the Bouras Center
(Brief General Meeting will follow)

Dinner catered by Prestige Diner & Restaurant, New Providence, NJ
Cost: $42.00 per person

Featuring
Christmas Boutique Bake Sale

• Lovely Hand Knits by Kassandra Romas

• Books for Orthodox Christian Children - Author Christina Romas Connant

• Original Oil Paintings & Enhanced Reproductions by Avi Kiriakatis

• Framed Optix, LLC / Sunglasses - KJ Nies

• Take A Bough, LLC - Kathy Clingan

• Matijewels.com by MEM Designs - Melissa Martakis

• Byzanthea - Helen Palatianos Quinn

• Kiki Ingaggiato Art - Kiki Alexiou

• Gina’s Traveling Boutique - Gina Martin

Monetary donations will be taken for the YWCA of Union County.
Checks made payable to: Ladies Philoptochos Society of HTGOC.

Please stop by Philoptochos table during Fellowship Hour to make your reservation or contact Yiana Leichtling at 908-413-6213 or treasurer@htphiloptochos.com

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS DECEMBER 2ND
You may pay with Zelle, Yiana Leichtling at treasurer@htphiloptochos.com
(please include RSVP info with payment)
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 as 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.
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 ★