Christ the True Vine
“I AM the Vine. You are the Branches” – John 15:5

Sunday, November 26, 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 Twenty-sixth Day of the month, we commemorate: Our Righteous Fathers St. Alypios the Stylite of Adrianopolis, St. Nikon Metaneoite, and St. Stylianos the Monk of Paphlagonia; St. George the New Martyr of Chios; St. Akakios of Sinai who is mentioned in The Ladder of Divine Ascent; Our Righteous Father St. Iakovos the Anchorite.

**Plagal Fourth Tone** Ηχος Πλ. Δighest

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** “From on high You descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the Cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our Life and Resurrection, Glory to You, O Lord.”

**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:** “On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.”

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**Click links for Scripture Readings**

| Morning Gospel: | St. Mark 16:9-20 | Ελληνικά |
| Epistle Reading: | Ephesians 4:1-7 | Ελληνικά |
| Gospel Reading: | St. Luke 18:18-27 | Ελληνικά |

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**Liturgical Schedule**

**Thursday, November 30,** St. Andrew the Apostle, Orthros, 8:30 AM;
  Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
**Sunday, December 3,** Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
**Monday, December 4,** St. Barbara the Great Martyr, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
**Wednesday, December 6,** St. Nicholas of Myra, Orthros, 8:30 AM;
  Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
**Sunday, December 10,** Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

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**Altar Donations**

**Altar Candles:** In Memory of Theodore Skiadas†; **Vigil Light:** In Loving Memory of Fotini Mavros†; **Friday Vigil Light:** In Memory of Euphrosyne Levas†; **Large Candles:** In Memory of Maria Karsos†; **Kandili:** In Loving Memory of Fotini Mavros†
Sacraments and Rites

Baptism: On Sunday, November 26, the baptism of Royce (Nektarios) Wacker, son of Zachery Wacker and Danielle Crabb, will be celebrated. The Godmother is Jessica Wacker.

Wedding: On Saturday, November 18, the wedding of Alexandra Maglaras and Anthony J. Cannatella was celebrated. The Koumbaro is Nikolas Karsos. The Koumbara is Dina Savva.

Memorials: Your prayers are requested on Sunday, November 26, at the memorial services for Maria Karsos†, 10 years; Fotini Mavros†, 4 years. Eternal be their memories.

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.

Have you ever met one of those positive thinkers who comes along, slaps you on the back and says, “Chin up! Shoulders back! Get a spring in your heart and a bounce in your step!” The fact is that unless you get connected with some source of power, your chin isn’t going to lift up, your shoulders aren’t going to stay back, and any bounce you might have put into your step just isn’t going to remain there. Why are some people full of “life” each day, ready for any task that comes along? Are these people drawing upon some “secret” source of power?

The place to find this source of power is no secret. Jesus talks about it when He says, “I Am the Vine, you are the branches, He who abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Branches receive their nourishment from the vine, so likewise, Christians receive their “life” by abiding in Christ and by remaining connected to Him through faith, prayer, the Bible, and the sacraments. They find life in Christ. As a result, they are not only made alive to God but are also kept alive for God, to love and serve Him. In Him there is fullness of life. “And we all received of His fullness” (John 1:16).

“I Am the Way,” said Jesus. Without that way there is no real goal or destination. “I Am the Truth,” said Jesus. Without that truth there is no real knowing. “I Am the Life,” said Jesus. Unless we have that life there is no real living. “I have come that people might have life, and that they may have life in all its fullness” (John 10:10).
Jesus is always pro-life. He calls on us to repent: to turn from sin, which is death, to life, which is life. “You refuse to come to me that you may have life,” said Jesus (John 5:40). Listen to what St. Paul wrote to a little group of Christians in Ephesus: “To you who were spiritually dead...Christ has given life...But even though we were dead in our sins, God was so rich in mercy that He gave us the very life of Christ” (Ephesians 2:1-5 Phillips). Dead once, but alive now in Christ. Fullness of life!

Two caterpillars sat watching a butterfly floating overhead. After some time, one caterpillar said to the other, “You wouldn’t get me up there floating around in midair even for a million dollars!”

Of course, the unsuspecting caterpillar was little aware he was gazing on his own destiny. Christ came to turn earthbound caterpillars into heaven bound butterflies through the fullness of His life. Let Christ be our destiny for future life.

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

Parish Council Elections – Sunday, December 3
Parish Council Elections will be held on Sunday, December 3, after church services in the Bouras Center. The list of candidates presented at the Fall General Assembly are: Leon Carayannopoulos; Christopher Daifotis; Chris Dombalis; Lauren Koniaris; George Koutsaftes; Stephen Ladas; Peter Pangis; Penny Mavridis Sales; Georgia (Gina) Sikellis; Dean Steele

The November Edition of The Promise Is Now Available
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.

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@higocnj.org (see enclosed Stock/Security Donation Form).

Name__________________________  Signature__________________________  Date________
Spouse’s Name__________________________
Names of Dependents__________________________________________________________
Address__________________________
City__________________________  State________  Zip__________________________
Telephone Number (_______)__________________________
Cell Number (_______)__________________________

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

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.

Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Billy, 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, 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
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.

Joy/Hope and all Holy Trinity Youth
Please join us for Holy Epiphany Divine Liturgy with Great Blessing of Waters on Saturday, January 6. We will meet in the Bouras Center at 10 AM and enter the church as a group for the service at 10:15 AM. After service, we will cut a vasilopita to ring in the New Year and make Valentine's Day Cards for our Holy Trinity Seniors. Please RSVP to Kathy at 201-344-4049 or at joyhopehtgoc@yahoo.com.
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/yvpvxrr8 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.

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.

Annual Goya Wreath and Grave Blanket Fundraiser
Order online via https://tinyurl.com/4v7e34p2 or at the GOYA table during the Fellowship Hour today and December 3. The order deadline is December 3. Pick up is on December 7 during the Philoptochos Christmas Party or December 10 in the church courtyard.
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 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/60B054FAEAD28A5FD0-46080618-religious#/]
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 Inguaggiato 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 PHILOPTOCOS 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 PHILOPTOCOS 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.
2023 Angel Tree
and
Mitten Tree
Sponsored by Religious Education

Please continue to sponsor these wonderful Holy Trinity Christmas traditions and help our local children in need.

The 34th Annual Christmas Gifting Program will benefit Moms Helping Moms helping underserved families in NJ
We will be collecting:
Diapers
Wipes
New, unused baby clothes
(0-5T Fall/ Winter only at this time)
New, unused books for ages 0-5
Other essential baby items
(NEW items only)

The 34th Annual Mitten Tree
What to Do?
1. Purchase new mittens, gloves, knit hats or SOCKS in adult and children's sizes.
2. Hang them on the Mitten Tree starting December 3rd.

DROP OFF DEADLINE:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!
Giving Tuesday SAMP Appeal

On Giving Tuesday please support SAMP (SUPPORT A MISSION PRIEST)

“For we are...created in Christ Jesus for good works”
(Ephesians 2:10)

Double your impact dollar-for-dollar this Giving Tuesday, up to $15,000, at ocmc.org/GivingTuesday.
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.
GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

† AMEN †