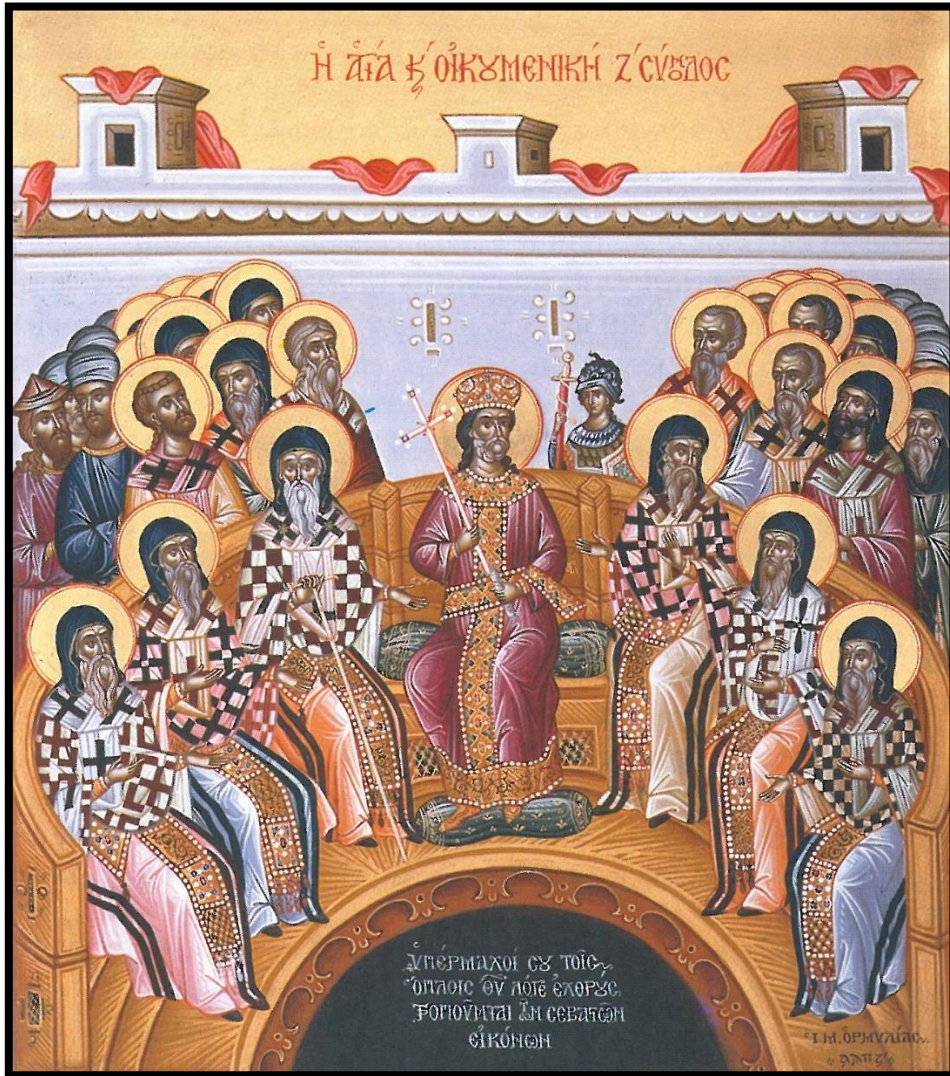


FOURTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

October 12, 2025

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 Delvizis, Parish Priest

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council in Nicaea
The Holy Martyrs of Tarsus Sts. Provos, Andronicos, & Tarachos; St. Symeon the New
Theologian; The Holy Victorious Martyrs Domnina and St. Anastasia the Virgin

First Tone

Ἦχος Α΄

Morning Gospel:	St. John 20:1-10	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	Titus 3:8-15	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Luke 8:5-15	Ελληνικά

Apolytikion: “Although Your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Saviour, and Your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, You rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise You: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.”

Apolytikion of the Holy Fathers: “Supremely glorified are You, O Christ our God, who established the holy Fathers on earth as beacons, and through them guided us all to the true Faith. Most compassionate Lord, glory be to You!”

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: “O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.”

Liturgical Schedule

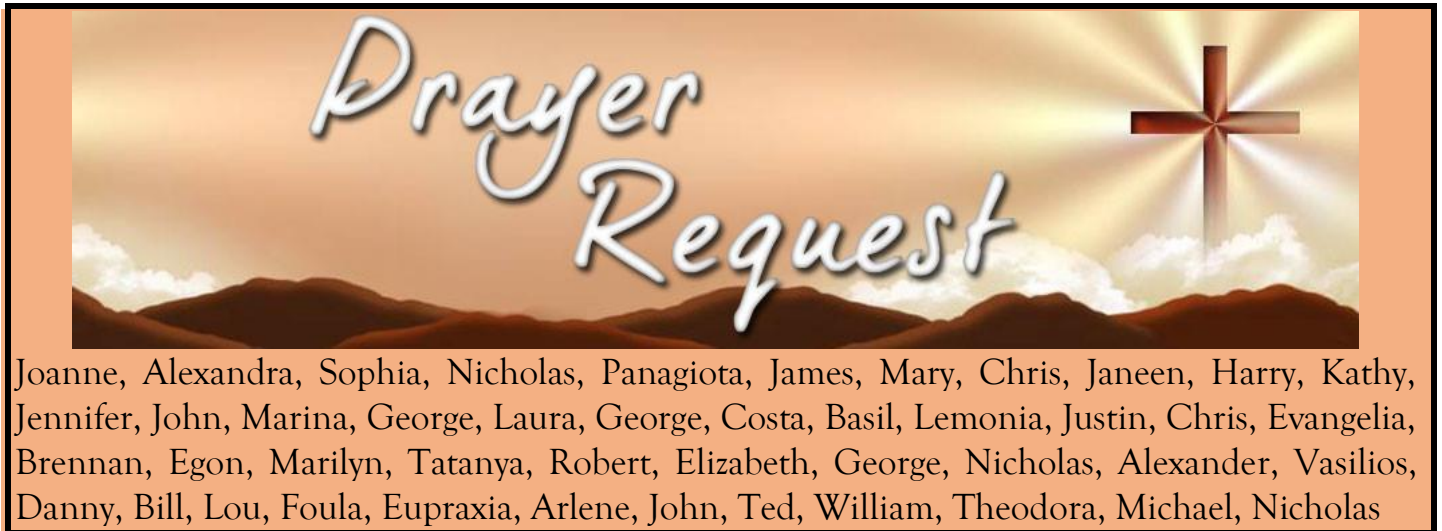
Sunday, October 19, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Saturday, October 25, Great Vespers, 7:00 PM @ St. Demetrios in Union, Jersey City,
Perth Amboy

Sunday, **St. Demetrios the Great Martyr**, October 26, Orthros, 8:15 AM;
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Welcome Visitors

The parish of Holy Trinity welcomes those visiting our community today. Worshipping the Holy Trinity is the principal act of an Orthodox parish, especially on the Day of the Resurrection (Sunday). Our mission is to live the holy Gospel and spread the Good News to those in our area. We are sanctified by God's grace through the holy Sacraments and glorify Him each moment of the day. We seek God's mercy, as we confess the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Visit the Philoxenia/Fellowship table in the Bouras Center after service to meet parishioners and enjoy our Fellowship Hour.



Joanne, Alexandra, Sophia, Nicholas, Panagiota, James, Mary, Chris, Janeen, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, John, Marina, George, Laura, George, Costa, Basil, Lemonia, Justin, Chris, Evangelia, Brennan, Egon, Marilyn, Tatanya, Robert, Elizabeth, George, Nicholas, Alexander, Vasilios, Danny, Bill, Lou, Foula, Eupraxia, Arlene, John, Ted, William, Theodora, Michael, Nicholas



QR Code for the Service of Matins

Matins or Orthros is the morning service in the Orthodox Church. It precedes each Divine Liturgy. This QR Code links you to the service. Just select today's date and then matins, in either EN – English and/or GR – Greek



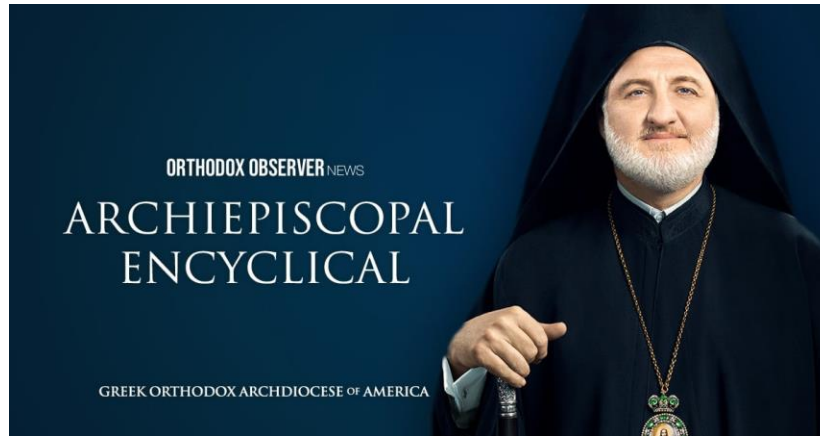
The October Edition of *The Promise* is Now Available Online!

www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org/the-promise

Subscribe to Holy Trinity weekly emails providing news updates and announcements. Request at: HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org

Honoring Sunday School Teachers and Religious Educators - Today

As indicated by the encyclical of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, on the Sunday of the Sower and the Seed, the Archdiocese today inaugurates a new celebration for our Sunday School Teachers and Religious Educators. We honor our unsung heroes who consistently dedicate their time and teaching ability to communicate the Orthodox Faith to our children. They constantly cast the seed in the hearts of our young people with the hope that their young and innocent hearts may receive the word of God and have it planted deeply within.



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 468/2025

**Archeepiscopal Encyclical on the Sunday
of the Parable of the Sower**

**Dedicated to Sunday School
Teachers and Religious Educators**

October 12, 2025

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

Ἐγμῖν δέδοται γινῶναι τὰ μυστήρια τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ (κατὰ Λουκᾶν 8:10)

Unto you it has been given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. (Luke 8:10)

Beloved brethren in the Lord,

Today, we inaugurate a new celebration of a most vital portion of our Archdiocese here in America – our Sunday School Teachers and Religious Educators. Together with the Holy Eparchial Synod, we have selected the Fourth Sunday of Saint Luke, whose Gospel Reading is the Parable of Sower, which also happily concurs with the commencement of the Catechetical Year in the Church of Greece. This year, this Sunday coincides with the commemoration of the Sunday of the 350 Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, the bookend to the First Council in Nicaea, whose seventeen hundredth anniversary we are observing this year. And it is an auspicious sign that the Gospel reading for both occasions is exactly the same.

The Parable of the Sower is the ideal text to honor our Sunday School Teachers and Religious Educators. For they are the ones who provide catechesis to our communities, constantly casting the word-seeds of the Faith – σπερματικοί λόγοι – which are the life-giving teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Very Logos of God, upon the good earth of our faithful people. Where the seed of the Divine Sower falls to the wayside, our teachers gather it up to redistribute it in the Middle Way, as per the commandment of Moses to the Children of Israel (cf. Deuteronomy 5:32-33). Where some has fallen in rocky places, our teachers work diligently to clear the land of the soul from all obstacles to the truth of the Gospel. And where some falls among the thorns of life, they strive to untangle our children and catechumens through patience, compassion and love. Indeed, their devotion to making all of us who are earthen vessels products of the “good earth” is to be admired and encouraged.

Therefore, my dear sisters and brothers, let us dedicate this Sunday to honoring and celebrating our Educators and Teachers who labor for the good of our communities by teaching in both word and deed. For they are truly worthy of our deepest gratitude. And let us work to establish models of ministry and teaching that are compatible with the lifestyles our people are living in the modern world, such that our pedagogy is comprehensible to our faithful and the mysteries of the Kingdom of God are revealed in their lives.

With paternal love in Christ,



† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

On the Sunday that falls on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we chant the Service to the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council. They gathered in Nicaea in 787 under the holy Patriarch Tarasius. This was during the reign of the Empress Irene and her son, Constantine Porphyrogenitus, to refute the Iconoclast heresy. The Iconoclast heresy had received imperial support beginning with the Edict issued in 726 by Emperor Leo the Isaurian. Many of the holy Fathers who condemned Iconoclasm at this holy Council later died as Confessors and Martyrs for the holy Icons. This second assault of Iconoclasm was in the ninth century, especially during the reigns of Leo the Armenian and Theophilus.

Sts. Provos, Andronicos, & Tarachos, Martyrs of Tarsus – October 12

The holy Martyrs contested for Christ during the reign of Diocletian, in the year 296 or 304. Tarachos was advanced in years, of Roman birth, and had been a soldier; Provos was from Side in Pamphylia, and Andronicos from Ephesus. They were taken together in Cilicia and subjected to manifold exceedingly cruel tenures. Tarachos was beaten on his cheeks and neck with stones, his hands were burned, he was hanged on a post and smoke was put underneath him to choke him; vinegar was forced down his nostrils; after enduring further tortures, he was carved to pieces. Provos was thrashed with whips, his feet were burned with red hot irons, his back and sides were pierced with heated spits; finally, he also was cut up with knives and received the crown of martyrdom. Andronicos suffered similar tortures, and also finished his course being cut to pieces, commending his soul into the hands of God.

St. Symeon the New Theologian – October 12

Saint Symeon became a monk of the Studite Monastery as a young man, under the guidance of the elder Symeon the Pious. Afterwards he struggled at the Monastery of Saint Mamas in Constantinople, of which he became abbot. After enduring many trials and afflictions in his life of piety, he reposed in 1022. Marveling at the heights of prayer and holiness to which he attained, and the loftiness of the teachings of his life and writings, the church calls him "the New Theologian." Only two others, Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Gregory, Patriarch of Constantinople, has the church given the name "Theologian." Saint Symeon reposed on March 12, but since this always falls in the Great Fast, his feast is kept today.

Bible Study and Orthodox Inquiry – Wednesday, October 15
The Gospel According to St. John

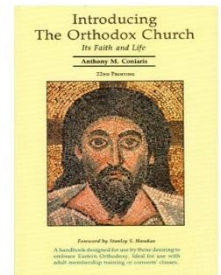
Join us in person or on *ZOOM* every Wednesday night at 7:00 – 8:15 PM as we read through the Holy Gospel According to St. John. The Holy Trinity Bible Study began October 1 and will run for seven weeks. We will examine this divine book through the lens of the Holy Fathers. This class is open to all parishioners who wish to deepen their knowledge of this Gospel and to those who are inquiring about the Orthodox Faith. As people of faith, we need to know the message of the Good News for the Holy Gospel is: "an embassy of God to men" (St. Maximos the Confessor), "an ocean of spiritual benefits" (St. Ambrose of Milan), "an epitome of all theology" (St. Jerome the Presbyter), "a workshop of souls and a storehouse of spiritual herbs by which any disease can be cured" (St. Basil the Great).

Introductory Online Reading – www.holytrinitywestfield.org/faith/traditions/
{Please read before class}

Oct. 15 {Chapters 4, 5, & 6}; Oct. 22 {Chapters 7, 8, & 9}
Oct. 29; Nov. 5; Nov. 12; Nov. 19

ZOOM.US - Meeting ID: 865 1405 9453

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24th Printing

\$27.00

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

A parable can have the effect of instructing using allegory. What is important to realize about a parable is that it is not a simple illustration of point, but rather a message meant to elicit a listener's involvement in its meaning. With Gospel parables, the listener bears heavy responsibility for what is heard and understood. Quite often the message is not obvious nor available to casual, unengaged listeners. St. Kyril speaking of the pathway where the seed falls, says that it is hard and untilled. Since it is exposed to the trampling of feet, the seed cannot penetrate and lays there for any bird to snatch it away. *"All those, therefore, whose mind is hard and unyielding, and so to speak, pressed together {like the hard soil} do not receive the divine seed; for the divine and sacred admonition finds no entrance into them, nor do they accept the words that would produce in them the fear of God, and by means of which they could bring forth as fruits glories and virtues. They have made themselves a beaten and trampled pathway for unclean demons, yea, and for Satan himself, such as never can bear holy fruit."* – St. Kyril Simply stated, "The seed denotes the word; the field, the world; the birds, demons; the thorns, riches." – St. Gregory the Great

The seed that falls on good soil is those people who, having heard the word of God, receive it; and they keep it, having firmly resolved to follow it, and they offer the fruit of good deeds. In the Mystery of the Eucharist, the priest, elevating the bread and wine, says to God: "Thine own of Thine we offer unto Thee!", that is, "That which is Yours, we offer back to You!" The Parable of the Sower touches "the mysteries of the Kingdom of God." In order to understand this mystery, there must be on the part of those listening a direction of the will corresponding to it and a disposition of the heart fitting for its acceptance.

When the living word of God is sown in the sinful nature of fallen man, a new life springs up. The ability to receive the word of God is given to all men without exception, and the chance to receive this new life from hearing the word of God is given to everyone to the same extent. The fundamental concern of the whole of Christian life consists in constantly working on one's own heart to prepare the ground in oneself for receiving the seed (the word) of God.



Religious Education

Sunday School classes have resumed. We have opportunities available to make a difference in the lives of our youth through our faith! You do not need to be an expert on Orthodoxy and you do not need to have teaching experience. We are just looking for extra hands! We are looking for Assistant Teachers for the Pre-K class and the combined 9/10 grade class. If interested, please contact Pete Markos at religioueducation@htgocnj.org

Religious Education Christmas Program - December 14

Please join us for a Stewardship opportunity to help with the Christmas Program, Dessert Reception and Santa, Sunday, December 14, in the Bouras Center following the Divine Liturgy! To help or bring a dessert, please [click here](#).

Altar Boys

Fr. Peter invites all boys ages 12 and older to commit to serve in the altar. An acolyte plays an important role in the ceremonial aspects of the Divine Liturgy. We want our children to remain in the church as they grow up. By committing and serving in this unique role, a deep respect is instilled. This shapes and deepens faith. Please see Fr. Peter for more information.

Greek School Registration

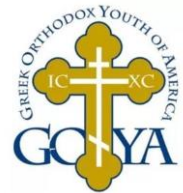
Greek School registration is ongoing. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 PM - 6 PM. Tuesday's grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Beginners and 1st Advanced, 2nd; Thursday's grades 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. Register at <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/greek-school/>

Angel Choir

The Angel Choir will be joining the Adult Choir on Sundays as of October 5. The first practice will be October 12 after Sunday School dismissal from 11:45 to 12:15. Children should meet with the Director for practice in church in the choir pews. Any children ages 7-12 still interested in joining the Angel Choir should attend the October 12 practice. For more information contact the Choir Director, Anne Kernoski, akernoski@gmail.com, or the church office.

2025 GOYA REGISTRATION

<https://forms.gle/hAmPHc4bLkk9eN9F8>



Contact Sophia Saketos at 908-247-6048 or goya@htgocnj.org with questions.

Trinity Circle - November 20

Christmas show, shopping, lunch outing to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Member cost is \$85; Non-Members \$95. Contact Kassandra Romas, Chair, kromas22409@gmail.com or 908-296-1586 for reservations.

TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social)

First meeting Wednesday, October 22, 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 612-801-8608 or vcomprelli@gmail.com to sign-up or with any questions.

Adult Greek Dance Lessons

Lessons will be offered by Ronnie Filippatos Fernandez one Thursday per month, \$25 per class. Lessons begin October 16, 7 - 9 PM. We will enjoy some light drinks and appetizers while learning Greek dances. If interested, please send your name and phone number to htgocgreekdance@gmail.com. The remaining dates are: 11/20, 1/22, 2/19, 3/26, 4/23, 5/21

Philoptochos General Meeting – Wednesday, October 15

Join us at 7 PM to hear about the many charitable causes Philoptochos supports throughout the year. Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

Walkathon for Mary's Place by the Sea, October 18, Ocean Grove, NJ

Please join Philoptochos for a walkathon to support Mary's Place by the Sea on October 18 in Ocean Grove, NJ. Mary's Place provides a place for women with cancer to heal in mind. Stop by our table during Fellowship Hour for more information or reach out to Maria Stevens 973-941-4642 or maraki3@verizon.net with any questions. Let's walk together for a wonderful cause!

Athens Food Night – October 23

We're excited to welcome Diane Kochilas, host of "My Greek Table" as seen on PBS, for an unforgettable Athens food night on October 23 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Diane will unveil her new cookbook "Athens Food, Stories, Love. A Cookbook", with a presentation, book signing, and tastings of recipes featured in her book. This special event supports our Philoptochos feed the hungry initiatives. Please come and support this great cause!

[Athens Food Night- Sign Up Today!](#)

Grow-A-Row with GOYA - Friday, November 7

Join us (all ages welcome) as we gather fresh produce from local farms to donate to local food pantries and soup kitchens. The farm is in Pittstown, NJ. If you are interested in joining us, please stop by the Philoptochos table during Fellowship Hour to sign up.



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

Adult Choir for ages 18 to senior citizens



Angel Choir for boys and girls ages 8-12



Byzan "teens" for boys and girls Ages 13-17

For more information, email Anne Kernoski, Choir Director:

akernoski@gmail.com

[Click here to sign up](#)

*Come join us for
Adult Greek Dance*

**Now offering Greek Dance
Lessons for adults!**

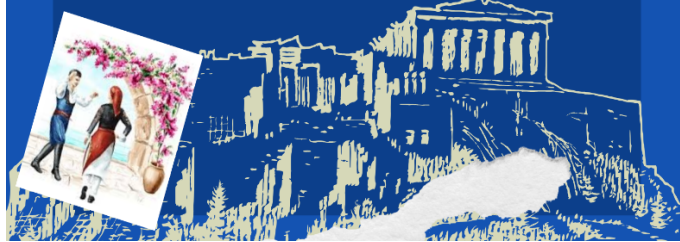
Practices will take place once a month in the
Bouras Center

10/16, 11/20, 1/22, 2/19, 3/26, 4/23, 5/21

\$25/class

Scan here to sign up

Please contact the instructor
Ronnie Filippatos
for more information
HTGOCGreekDance@gmail.com



join us for
**GREEK DANCE
LESSONS**



COME BE A PART OF THE HOLY TRINITY
GREEK DANCE GROUP!

Classes offered for grades
PreK-12
and adults as well!

Contact: Ronnie Filippatos Fernandez
908-672-6203

Htgocgreekdance@gmail.com



HTOGOC Greek School PTO



Our Organization ID:
27610

REGISTER. SHARE. SHOP. SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER

Check-off your holiday gift list today and help our important cause. From holiday to hostess to corporate gifts and more, our online store has something for every occasion - even if it's just for you!



1. REGISTER

REGISTER now as a participant at www.registercw.com to access our handy invitation tools in the Participant Dashboard. Very Important!

2. SHARE

INVITE 10+ friends and family to support our cause! Share a link to our sale using TEXT & EMAIL invitation tools. Don't forget to share on SOCIAL MEDIA, too!

3. SHOP

SHOP online and help us reach our GOAL today! With over 2,500 gift ideas there is something for everyone, including you!



Upcoming Events

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Come Join Holy Trinity Greek School in Westfield!



Registration for all classes are open now!

2025-2026 Greek School Tuition

Holy Trinity Stewards

One student.....\$520

Two students.....\$850

Three students...\$1050

Non-Stewards

One student.....\$930

Two students.....\$1,510

Three students...\$1,780

Payments can be made at Holytrinitywestfield.org under Ministries:



[Greek School & PTO Registration](#)



[This QR is for PTO DUES only](#)

Classes will take place on **Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4:00pm-6:00pm**

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 Grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Beginner and 1st Advanced, 2nd and

Thursday, September 11, 2025 Grades, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th.

If you have an **important** conflict please reach out to Principal Stavroula Mergoupis at etsoutsani62@gmail.com

Tuition Assistance If you are experiencing financial difficulty with tuition, please feel free to reach out to Father Peter Delvzis in confidence at FrPeter@htgocnj.org



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Road
Westfield NJ 07090



T.O.T.S.- (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social)

Mission Statement

The mission of the Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social (T.O.T.S.) of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is to provide an environment fostering fellowship and prayer for children aged 18 months to 4 years of age and their mother, father and/or caregiver. Children are encouraged to develop a sense of comfort and security in God's house while experimenting in independent and cooperative age-appropriate play under their caregiver's supervision. Concurrently, the toddler social enables these adults the opportunity to meet, pray, and socialize.

TOTS meetings: Wednesdays, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM, Pre-K Room

2025

October 22

November 19

December 10

2026

January 14, 28

February 11, 25

March 11, 25

April 22

May 13, 27

Bring water, sneakers and a snack. Contact Val Comprelli (vcomprelli@gmail.com or 612-801-8608) to sign up or to ask any questions.

October 23, 2025

Athens Food Night- Sign Up Today!

Ladies Philoptochos Society at
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Westfield... presents



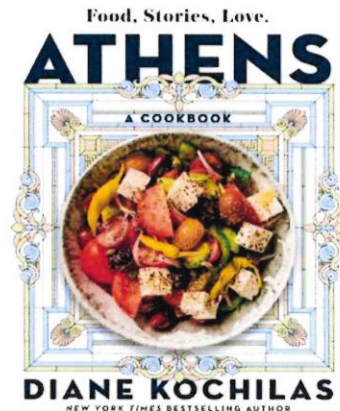
ATHENS FOOD NIGHT

*Presentation, Sample Delicious Recipes,
Book Signing and Mingling with Diane*

Diane Kochilas

October 23 2025 | 7-9 PM
250 Gallows Hill Road , Westfield NJ

Join New York Times Best Selling chef and author,
Diane Kochilas, for an unforgettable evening as she
unveils her new recipes from her newest release:
Athens: Food, Stories, Love.



Support a Cause

\$30 Donation to Support local Feed the Hungry Initiatives

\$35 Signed Cookbook

\$60 Prepay Donation and Signed Book by 10/16

RSVP TODAY!



November 6, 2025



BRINGING GOOD NEWS

“From Westfield to the World” 40 Years of OCMC: The Mission Continues

Thursday, November 6, 2025: 7-9 PM
Complimentary Wine & Cheese Reception & Program
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church - Bouras Hall
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield NJ 07090



With OCMC Senior Development Officer Dan Christopoulos & Holy Trinity parishioner Janet O'Sullivan

Dan Christopoulos, the first OCMC missionary, served in Kenya from 1985 to 1988. OCMC Ambassador Janet O'Sullivan participated in an OCMC Donor Trip to Kenya in June 2025.

They will speak about their transformative experiences bringing the Good News 40 years apart and share how we can all continue in this mission from Westfield to the world.



For questions email: OCMC Events at events@ocmc.org

RSVP for this complimentary event by October 30



Scan the QR code or click here to RSVP!
If you can't attend, donate via QR or ocmc.org/westfield-mixer



www.ocmc.org



GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠