Sixth Sunday of Luke

The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus

St. Averbios

Sunday, October 22, 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-second Day of the month, we commemorate: St. Averkios, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Wonderworker, Bishop of Hierapolis; The Seven Holy Martyred Youths of Ephesus

Third Tone Ηχός Γ΄

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: “Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.”

Apolytikion of the Hierarch: “An example of the Faith and a life of humility* as a teacher of abstinence you did inspire and lead your flock* and through the truthfulness of your deeds were you exalted by greatness through your humility* uplifting all* and by poverty gaining wealth* Father and Hierarch Averkios intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.”

Apolytikion of the Seven Youths: “Your Martyrs, O Lord, were worthily awarded by You* the crowns of incorruption, in that they contested for You our immortal God.* Since they possessed Your power, they defeated the tyrants,* dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance.* O Christ God, at their fervent entreaties, save 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: “A protection of Christians unshamable,* Intercessor to our Holy Maker, unwavering,* please reject not* the prayerful cries of those who are in sin.* Instead, come to us for you are good;* your loving help do bring to us,* who are crying in faith to you:* hasten to intercession* and speed now to supplication,* as a protection for all time,* Theotokos, for those who honor you.”

Liturgical Schedule
Thursday, October 26, St. Demetrios, Orthros 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM @ Union
Sunday, October 29, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM
Sunday, November 5, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations
Altar Candles: In memory of Dimitrios Zafiriou†  Vigil Light: In memory of George Christou†
Large Candles: In memory of George Christou†
Memorials: Your prayers are requested on Sunday morning at the memorial services for George Christou, 1 year; Anastasios Delvizi\`s, 3 years; Dimitrios Zafiriou, 4 years; Kostas, 20 years, and Irene, 13 years Tsapelas; Mihal and Eleni Jovan. 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 Christou family, in memory of George Christou.

Welcome Visitors
We welcome you to the parish of Holy Trinity in Westfield. 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.

St. Averkios, Equal to the Apostles and Wonderworker – Oct. 22
Born in 95 AD during the second century after Christ, Averkios lived in Phrygia, now western Asia Minor. He was the Bishop of Hierapolis and was given, through the grace of God, the gift to perform miracles. When he first became bishop, he had many spiritual trials and felt as though he lived worse than before. He made known that it is better to live as if you are a bishop spiritually than to become one. He encouraged others to remain humble and give to those in need. He had a great love for serving the people and giving to the poor.

In his region, there was only a small population of Christians as the majority of the people were pagans. Averkios prayed asking the Lord to have mercy on their souls and bring the people to the One True God. An angel then came before him and gave him the task of bringing the idol temples to ruin. Following God’s command, he destroyed the temples, which caused an uproar among the pagan citizens. They wanted to kill him, so Averkios had no choice but to flee to a safe area where others disagreed with the idol Gods. Still, the pagans searched for him and tried to capture him. There were three young children who were demon-possessed. They were crying out and the Saint noticed them and knew what was wrong. Through his fervent prayers, the demons immediately came out from the youths, and they were restored. The people who were there were all amazed, as they had been idol worshippers. In that moment, they asked for Averkios to teach them of the One True God and guide them toward salvation. He baptized all of them and then began to travel to other nearby towns or cities where he healed many of the ill and exposed many to Christ. Some of the major cities he passed through were Rome, Mesopotamia, Cilicia and Syria. Countless numbers were converted to Christianity. He healed many throughout his travels, and always gave glory fully to God. One of the miracles he performed was to take a demon out of the emperor of Rome’s daughter. Due to his great missionary work, he has been compared to the original Apostle, noted as an equal to their works and given the title “Holy Equal to the Apostles”

Nearing the end of his life, he returned to Hierapolis in 167 AD, where, in peace, he rendered his soul to the Triune God he served. His many great works remained known, and miracles began to
pour from his tomb. Those who visited were healed of sickness. His relics are today on Mount Athos, and Andros, a small island of Greece.

**The Seven Youths (Sleepers) in Ephesus – Oct. 22**

These seven youths, Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Constantine and Antoninus, lived during a time when Christians were still under rigid persecution. In the early 3rd century, these boys were all raised in Ephesus, from esteemed families and Maximilian was son to a high-ranking city official. They were all friends from an early age and remained close in the military. A new emperor came to rule in 249 A.D., Decius. He was hateful toward Christians and commanded all in Ephesus to bow down and bring sacrifices to the pagan gods. He threatened those who disobeyed with severe torments and death. The youths were Christians and had no intention of sacrificing anything to the idols. Others who noticed they did not follow the emperor’s orders turned them in and Decius called them before his council. All seven boys professed their love of Christ and so they were stripped of their military commission. Decius did not further punish them, as he was hopeful they would be swayed into worshipping the idols. The boys knew that their time was numbered, so they went off into the caves of Mount Ochlon where they prepared themselves with prayer and fasting. The youngest of the boys, Iamblicus, went into town dressed as a peasant and bought bread. He did this several times and one day he heard that Decius was looking for them as he had returned from his military campaign, and he had already discovered their hiding spot. The youths did not want the soldiers to capture them and feared they may be swayed to worship the idols. So they prayed to God to take their souls before the soldiers arrived. Our Lord, having mercy on them, put them under a deep and miraculous sleep that preserved their bodies and kept them from dying.

When the soldiers found the caves and the youth “dead”, the emperor ordered that the cave be sealed as he did not care to properly bury them or to encourage others to die for Christ. Then soldiers were ordered to stand guard at the cave to ensure no one tried to steal away the youths. Two of the guards were secretly Christians and they placed two sealed plaques in the cave that listed the saints’ names as well as the story of their martyrdom.

![Emperor Decius ordering the cave sealed](image)

Emperor Decius ordering the cave sealed

The youths remained in the cave for nearly 200 years. By this time, Ephesus was a city where Christianity was freely practiced, under the rule of holy Emperor Theodosius. (408-450) Still, conflict stirred within the church, as there were heretics who denied the possibility of Resurrection. They could not fathom how a human body could be preserved as it would disintegrate with time. They argued that it is impossible for a body to last 1000 years and be restored as nothing would remain of the flesh or bones. Emperor Theodosius was saddened by the heresies, and he prayed to God pleading for a way to show the
people the truth of God. He was pure of heart and a humble man. The man who now owned the
land to which the youths lay resting, was building an extension to his ship. He needed stone, and
used the stones that sealed the cave for construction. When he opened the seal to the cave, the
youths awoke. The youths were unaware of the time that had passed. Then noticing they were
hungry, following the previous routine, Iamblicus went to the city to get bread. He was surprised
to see many crosses decorating the gates of the city. Questioning if he had walked to the right
place, he went inside and heard the name Jesus Christ spoken openly. His wonder grew thinking
he must be in a dream.

He found a place to buy bread, and as he attempted to pay with coins that had emperor Decius on
them, the merchant turned him over to the city administrator, who also served as the Bishop of
Ephesus. When he questioned Iamblicus, the bishop was astonished at the answer the youth gave.
He knew this was from God, and investigated further as to what the Lord was revealing to him.
Through the Resurrection of the youths, God mended the confusion answering Theodosius’
prayers. He asked Iamblicus to lead him back to his cave, where he met the six other youths. There
he also found the plaques the Christian guards had left nearly 200 years before. The bishop and all
nearby rejoiced at the amazing revelation from God! They also understood and took this miracle
as an act of God demonstrating the possibility of resurrection.

Then Emperor Theodosius came to the cave and spoke with the seven youths. After their
conversation, the young men laid their heads upon the ground and gave up their spirits to the Lord.
The emperor wanted to honor the youths and bring glory to God by placing them each in a jeweled
coffin. But in a dream the youths told him that their bodies were to be buried in the ground under
the cave.

This amazing truth about life speaks to us about the realities of the Resurrection and the age-to-
come.

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**Religious Education**

Fr. Peter is happy to announce the appointment of Peter Markos as the new Director of Religious
Education. Being in the field of education, Peter will make a most suitable and knowledgeable
director. He has a passion for teaching and wishes to impart the faith to every child attending
Sunday School.

**Registration is Now Open**

Sunday School Classes have begun. We ask that you complete the online form for each student:
www.tinyurl.com/2023-24ReligiousEdRegistration
You can find the link on the church website https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/religious-
education/

⭐ **Teach Religious Education** ⭐

Looking for a fun way to serve the church and use your talents? Teach Religious Education! There
are openings in Pre-K, 3, 8 and 9 grades and can use assistant teachers in various grades. Speak to
Peter Markos or Father Peter for more details.
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.

Leoneias, David, Elizabeth, Tara, Lambros, Anne, Maria, Mikos, Arthur, John, Al, Jessika, Anastasia, Robert, Joanne, Peter, 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
The October Edition of **The Promise**

Is Now Available

Featuring:
- Followers of Christ
- Monthly Calendar
- Novak Djokovic - Grand Slam
- Philoptochos Christmas Card
- GOYA update
- United Nations and the Tower of Babel

Exchange Click to access.

Greek School Registration is Now Open

Greek School registration is now open for all classes. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4PM – 6PM. Tuesday’s are grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Beginners and Advanced, and 3rd and Thursday’s are grades 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th. You can register at [https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/greek-school/](https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/greek-school/)

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.

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.
Check out the New Bookstore Items
Prophoro Cover and Antidoro Pouch

These beautifully embroidered covers and pouches are perfect to cover your freshly made prophoro (offering bread) and use to place the antidoron (blessed bread) inside. Pious Orthodox Christians will take extra antidoron home to consume throughout the week as part of their daily devotions. This pouch is ideal to keep the blessed bread covered and placed on the iconostasis.

High Quality Wooden Prophoro Seal
When making prophoro (offering bread) for the Eucharist and antidoron, a good quality seal is of necessity. Plastic and low-quality wooden seals are less than ideal. These new wooden seals, now available in our bookstore, are high quality featuring deep carvings to allow for a better impression on the bread. You can clearly see and distinguish each part of this prophoro seal.

ΙΣ ΧΣ – This is an abbreviation for Ιησούς Χριστός or Jesus Christ
NIKA – Νικά means victory or to conquer

Taken together we translate this as “Jesus Christ Conquers” or in “Jesus Christ is Victory.”

The middle square is carefully extracted by the priest during the Service of the Proskomide and then placed on the paten. This center piece will be consecrated alongside the Offering Wine during the Divine Liturgy to become the very Body of Christ. This portion, also known as the Lamb of God or Amnos, is used for the Eucharist and is the portion that communes the faithful during Holy Communion.
Our Christian stewardship is a way of life that acknowledges our responsibility before God. It is the call of the faithful to willingly share the gifts that God has bestowed on them, including sharing these gifts for God’s work. It is our active commitment to use all our time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ’s redeeming love. Our budget is rooted in Christ’s teaching and example; an expression of that vision in our parish, its priorities, outreach efforts, capital improvements, and the philanthropic work of the Church. Our vision is magnified through our spiritual health and growth by actively participating in the life of the church as the body of Christ: attending worship services, praying, fasting, and almsgiving.

Our devotion and service to God and His Church are crucial to maintaining our spiritual home. As of September, we graciously received 407 steward pledges for $496,772. Please remember to submit your pledge card to meet our operating budget of $885,000.00. To date, we funded our annual Archdiocesan commitment, a gift to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, and continued support of our 15 growing and vibrant ministries. In November, we will start our annual 2024 Stewardship Campaign and will be reaching out to all Holy Trinity parishioners. Bringing people to Christ and strengthening their faith is a person-to-person process. Consider becoming an ambassador of our faith and volunteering in one of our ministries, inviting family and friends to come to visit and worship with us. Sponsor a new steward and invite them into our Holy Trinity family. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21. May God multiply your blessings. Thank you.
TOTS Playgroup – Wednesday, October 25
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, October 25, 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.

JOY/HOPE
Our next Joy/Hope gathering is scheduled for Friday, November 3, 6:30 PM in the Bouras Center. We will be making Veteran's Day cards for our Holy Trinity Vets. Also, we will be making shadow puppet crafts to tie into the Karaghiozi Puppet show. To ensure enough crafts, supplies and pizza, please RSVP for a headcount. Email mailto:joyhopehtgoc@yahoo.com or text 201-344-4049 to Kathy Paone by October 29.

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 Deblalahakis@gmail.com.

Karaghiozi Shadow Puppet Show-Sunday, October 22, at 12:30 PM in the Bouras Center
Robert Rogers Puppet Company will be performing a live shadow puppet show titled "Karaghiozi the Baker." The comedy will be performed in English and promises to delight all age groups. Robert Rogers will also give a behind the scenes explanation of the art form of shadow puppetry for our audience. His company is celebrating its 43rd year! For more information contact: Soula Campbell at soula73@hotmail.com
Trinity Circle
Tuesday, November 7, monthly lunch/meeting 11 AM - 2 PM with speaker Richard Roscoe, Physical Therapist. Our luncheon is being donated by Effie Gianakis and Mary Psomas in memory of their beloved Bill & Greg. If you are 55 years or older kindly join us for a wonderful day!

“A Sharing of Song, Faith & Unity” – October 24
Holy Trinity Choir will be participating in an evening of song and spirit on Tuesday, October 24 at 7 PM. Join us as Westfield’s houses of worship come together in song at St. Helen Roman Catholic Church, 16 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, NJ.
GOYA is hosting a clothing drive to raise funds to support our Outreach activities. Please drop off bags of clothes and other items on Saturday, October 28, 10 – 11 AM. See the below flyer for details. Contact Maria Tarhanidis at mvtarhanidis@gmail.com with any questions.
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

© Holy Night

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 PHILOPTOCHE 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 PHILOPTOCHE 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 988/578-3341 or Christina Colonias 917/825-5986 for more information. The Ladies Philoptochos Society – HTGOC is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.
The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America announces the “Nameday Gala” celebrating the Feastday of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and benefiting the Summer Camp Program. For more contact Fr. Peter or Archdiocesan Youth Summer Camp Scholarship Fund.
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 †