

THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE VENERABLE AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS



Elevation of the Precious and Holy Cross

September 14, 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 Delvzizis, Parish Priest

On this day we commemorate The Elevation of the Precious and Holy Cross

Festal Morning Gospel: [St. John 12:28-36](#) [Ελληνικά](#)
Epistle Reading: [I Corinthians 1:18-24](#) [Ελληνικά](#)
Gospel Reading: [St. John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30](#) [Ελληνικά](#)

Apolytikion of the Cross: *“Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth.”*

Kontakion: *“You who were lifted on the cross voluntarily, * O Christ our God, bestow Your tender compassions * upon Your new community to which You gave Your name. * Cause our faithful emperors to be glad in Your power, * granting them the victories against their adversaries. * And for an ally, Lord, may they have You, * peace as their armor, the trophy invincible.”*

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, September 21, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Friday, September 26, **St. John the Evangelist**, Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, September 28, 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 focal point of our 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.

Philoptochos New Year’s Welcome

We hope your summer was filled with peace and joy. As we begin the Ecclesiastical New Year, we look forward to continuing the meaningful work of our Philoptochos ministry. With new opportunities ahead, it's a great time to get involved. Your support makes a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Please stop by our table during Fellowship Hour to learn more.

Prayer Request



Alexandra, Sophia, Nicholas, Ioanna, Panagiota, Adina, James, Mary, Chris, Janeen, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, John, Marina, Pete, George, Laura, George, Costa, Basil, Lemonia, Justin, Evangelia, Brennan, Egon, Marilyn, Tatanya, Robert, Elizabeth, George, Nicholas, Alexander, Vasilios, Danny, Bill, Lou, Foula, Eupraxia, Chris, Arlene, John, Ted, William, Theodora, Michael, Gioula, Nicholas, Hellen, Kevin, Janice, Elaine, Patty, Cynthia, Nicholas, Christos, Thomas, Rich, Lea, Robert

Sacraments and Rites

Baptism: On Friday, September 12, the baptism of Philip David Siler was celebrated. The Godparents are Georgios and Kristy Kyriakopoulos.



The Ecumenical Patriarchate is the highest see and holiest center of the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the world. It is an institution with a history spanning seventeen centuries, during which it retained its see in Constantinople (today's Istanbul). It constitutes the center of all the local Orthodox churches, heading these not by administration but by virtue of its primacy in the ministry of pan-Orthodox unity and the coordination of the activity of the whole of Orthodoxy. The function of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as center par excellence of the life of the entire Orthodox world emanates from its centuries-old ministry in the witness, protection, and outreach of the Orthodox faith.



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



+ B A R T H O L O M E W
By God's Mercy, Archbishop of Constantinople
New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is honored to announce the official visit of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the U.S. The visit will include public events in Washington, DC, NYC and the Metropolis of NJ offering opportunities to receive his blessing and participate in worship services.

Public events include the following:

Monday, September 15: Arrival in the United States – Joint Base Andrews

Wednesday, September 17: Welcome & Great Patriarchal Doxology in the Metropolis of New Jersey at St. Katherine GOC, Falls Church, VA 3:00 PM

Thursday, September 18: Patriarchal Doxology – St. Nicholas GOC and National Shrine, New York City

Friday, September 19: Patriarchal Audience/Blessing with the Young Adult Leaders – St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shine, NYC & Beacon of Hope Dinner at Casa Cipriani

Saturday, September 20: Environmental Tribute to the “Green Patriarch” – Stony Brook University Marine Station, NY; Vespers – Southampton, NY

Sunday, September 21: Patriarchal Divine Liturgy – Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church, Southampton, NY

Monday, September 23: Audience and meeting with hierarchs, clergy, monastics at Archdiocesan Cathedral & Visit Fordham University and the Orthodox Christian Studies Center

Wednesday, September 24: Patriarchal Doxology and Reception – St. George GOC, New York City & The Templeton Prize Dinner

The Patriarchal Visit to the United States follows the announcement of the Templeton Foundation of the awarding of the internationally recognized Templeton Prize to His All-Holiness for his "pioneering efforts to bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity's relationship with the natural world, bringing together people of different faiths to heed a call for stewardship of creation."

The Elevation of the Precious and Holy Cross – September 14



Two events in connection with the Honorable Cross of Christ are commemorated on this day: first, the finding of the Honorable Cross on Golgotha and second, the return of the Honorable Cross from Persia to Jerusalem. Visiting the Holy Land, the holy Empress Helena decided to find the Honorable Cross of Christ. An old Jewish man named Judah was the only one who knew where the Cross was located, and, constrained by the empress, he revealed that the Cross was buried under the temple of Venus that Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. The empress ordered that this idolatrous temple be razed and, having dug deep below it, found three crosses. While the empress pondered on how to recognize which of these was the Cross of Christ, a funeral procession passed by. Patriarch Macarius told them to place the crosses, one by one, on the dead man. When they placed the first and second cross on the dead man, the dead man lay unchanged. When they placed the third cross on him, the dead man came back to life. By this they knew that this was the Precious and Life-giving Cross of Christ. They then placed the Cross on a sick woman, and she became well. The patriarch elevated the Cross for all the people to see, and the people sang with tears: "Lord, have mercy!" Empress Helena had a silver case made and set the Honorable Cross in it. Later, the Persian Emperor Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, enslaved many people, and took the Lord's Cross to Persia. The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years. In the year 628 the Greek Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes and, with much ceremony, returned the Cross to Jerusalem. As he entered the city Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross on his back, but suddenly was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zacharias saw an angel preventing the emperor from bearing the Cross on the same path that the Lord had walked barefoot and humiliated. The patriarch communicated this vision to the emperor. The emperor removed his raiment and, in ragged attire and barefoot, took up the Cross, carried it to Golgotha, and placed it in the Church of the Resurrection, to the joy and consolation of the whole Christian world.



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 423/2025

**Archebiscopal Encyclical for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross**

September 14, 2025

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-named Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

*Χαῖρε, Κριτοῦ δικαίου φανέρωσις.... (Ακάθιστος τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ, Ν)
Hail, Manifestation of the Righteous Judge.... (Akathist of the Holy Cross, N)*

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Today, we hail the Precious and Life-giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In many of our parishes, the Akathist to the Holy Cross is chanted in overflowing praise. Like so many of our magnificent liturgical texts, this Akathist contains glimpses and glimmers of the mystery of our salvation in Christ, which illumine our spiritual path and teach us the deep things of God.

It is not without purpose that our Theological School is named “Holy Cross,” because the Cross of our Lord is one of the greatest teachers in the two thousand years of the Church. We have amazing and erudite Saints, like Basil and the Gregorays, whose writings endure through the ages, and who are studied intently at our Theological School. But the Holy Cross of our Lord teaches wordlessly. It teaches by example, and by sheer manifestation. Therefore, when we chant, “Hail, Manifestation of the Righteous Judge,” we come to the realization that the Lord, hanging upon the Cross, is being revealed to us as the Righteous Judge.

Let us all pause for a moment and consider the only truly innocent human being, put to death for the sake of every other human being. It is an unfeigned “sign of contradiction,” as the Prophet Simeon the Elder said (Luke 2:34). For from the Cross, the Lord delivers no judgment of anyone — not his crucifiers, nor the ones who clamored for His destruction, nor those who ridiculed Him in His agony. The Lord, the Judge of the Universe, judged no one; rather, He gave His life for the life of the world with forgiveness.

Such is the lesson for each of us, then, as we praise the Holy Cross. To forgive, rather than condemn. To love, rather than despise. These are the lessons that are at the core of our training of the good people studying at our beloved Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Today, on their Feastday, let us remember this vital Institution of our Church and support its mission, as we apply ourselves to the lesson of the Cross, the greatest teacher of our souls.

With paternal love in Christ,

† Ἐλπίδοφορος Ἐπιτοκοῦχος

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

Together Let's Support Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology



As we celebrate the Elevation of the Holy Cross, we are reminded of our beloved Scholi. It is the only institution of high learning for the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States. Here one can earn a bachelor's degree or a Master of Divinity or ThM. It is at this School where the future priests who will serve the Archdiocese of America are formed and spiritually trained.

A second tray will be passed today to support the mission of this beautiful and most important institution of our church in America.

Xronia Polla as we celebrate the School's name day today and pray for its continued success fulfilling its vital mission. The Ladies of Philoptochos, as part of their commitment, will take today's collection. For more info visit or schedule a visit:

www.hchc.edu



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. Each of us wants our children to remain in the church as they grow up. By committing and serving in this unique role, a deep respect for the divine services is created and a sense of service (stewardship) is instilled. This shapes and deepens the faith of the altar boy. Please see Fr. Peter for more information.

Sunday School Has Begun!



We ask that you register by using the online form for each student at your earliest convenience via <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/religious-education/> or scanning the QR code above.

HOLY TRINITY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER AND CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS 2025-2026

GRADE	ROOM	TEACHERS
Pre-K	105	Anna Darity
Kdg	107	Alexandra Mavridis, Ariadne Monfalcone
1st & 2nd	102	Anna Decavalles, Melissa Krikos
3rd & 4th	101	Felicia Karsos
5th & 6th	207	Maria Tarhanidis, Beth Grivoyannis
7th & 8th	202	Leon Carayannopoulos, Elias Grivoyannis
9th & 10th	204	Tony Drivas
11th & 12th	Boardroom	Peter Tarhanidis, Nik Karsos

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, the combined 3/4 grade class, and the combined 9/10 grade class. If interested, contact Pete Markos at religiouseducation@htgocnj.org

Greek School Registration is Now Open

Greek School registration is now open for all classes. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 PM - 6 PM. Classes began Tuesday, September 9, grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Beginners and 1st Advanced, 2nd; Thursday, September 11, grades 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. Register at <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/greek-school/>

Angel Choir

Boys and girls ages 7-12 are invited to join the Angel Choir. Interested children should meet with the Choir Director in the Choir Robe Room (off the Narthex) immediately after Sunday School dismissal on Sunday, September 28, for initial instructions and robe assignments. The Angel Choir will be joining the adult choir during Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 5. The Angel Choir will practice from 11:45 to 12:15 on select Sundays. For more information, contact Choir Director, Anne Kernoski, via <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/choir/> or akernoski@gmail.com

Greek Dance lessons offered to Holy Trinity youth in grades Pre-K – 12th

Today is the deadline to register! HOPE/JOY (Pre-K - 6th) Instructor, Ronnie Filippatos, on Sundays following religious education. 3 groups, exact times for each group to be determined once all are registered. GOYA (7th - 12th) Instructor, Nick Fourniadis, on Wednesdays 7 PM - 9 PM. For more information and to register, visit <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/dance-greek/HOPE/JOY> (Pre-K - 6th) Instructor: Ronnie Filippatos, lessons to be held on Sundays following religious education. 3 groups, exact times for each group to be determined once all are registered. GOYA (7th - 12th) Instructor: Nick Fourniadis, lessons to be held on Wednesdays 7 - 9 pm.

Dance Fee

HOPE/JOY (Pre-K - 6th): \$250 1 dancer, \$400 2 dancers, \$500 3 dancers, \$550 4 dancers
GOYA (7th - 12th): \$350 1 dancer, \$600 2 dancers, \$700 3 dancers, \$750 4 dancers

To Register click on the link: [Greek Dance 2025 - 2026](#). The deadline to Register is September 14, 2025. Please make payment directly to the church via check payable to: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church or pay Online: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YQBS/home>. Select the "Youth Greek Dance Lessons" tile. For questions, please contact Ronnie Filippatos ronnie.filippatos@gmail.com

Bible Study and Orthodox Inquiry Begins Wednesday, October 1 The Gospel According to St. John

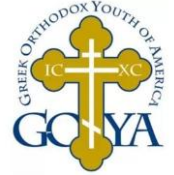
Join us in person or on Zoom every Wednesday night at 7:00 PM as we read through the Holy Gospel According to St. John. The Holy Trinity Bible Study will begin October 1 and run for seven weeks. We will examine this divine book through the lens of the Holy Fathers. This class is open to all parishioners 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).

TOTS: (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social)

A fun way to connect with other Orthodox families with small children. First meeting Wednesday, September 17, 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.

2025 GOYA REGISTRATION

<https://forms.gle/hAmPHc4bLkk9eN9F8>



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

GOYA Outreach: Sock It To 'Em Drive

GOYA is collecting socks for adults and children now until October 5. The goal is 500 pairs of socks: no short athletic socks. This collection will benefit Elijah's Promise in New Brunswick. Please place in the bin by the church office.

A graphic with a dark blue border containing several text boxes and sock illustrations. The text boxes include: 'SOCK IT TO 'EM DRIVE' in green on a dark blue background; 'Sponsored by Goya Outreach Running through October 5th Collection box outside of office Our goal is 500 Pairs' in orange and white on a dark blue background; 'Warm socks for adults and children' in white on an orange oval; 'Collection to benefit Elijah's Promise in New Brunswick' in green on an orange oval; and 'No short-ankle athletic socks' in white on a dark blue circle. Two socks, one orange and one teal, are illustrated in the center.

GOYA Clothing Drive: Oct 4, 9 AM – 11 AM

Clothing for men, women and children. Clothing accessories: belts, hats, scarves, handbags, gloves; small toys 2 feet or less; stuffed animals; towels, sheets and pillowcases; bikes and strollers. Not accepting quilts, blankets, large toys, board games, books, puzzles, pots or pans, glass, electrical devices, baby cribs, high chairs, vcr tapes, furniture, outdoor playsets, sports equipment. Please bag items in kitchen- sized garbage bags. Accepting shoes in separate clear bags.

Fourth Annual Nikos Mouyiaris Memorial Lecture

The President of Republic of Cyprus, His Excellency Nikos Christodoulides, will be the honorable speaker at St. George GOC in Piscataway on Sun., Sept. 21, 2025, 5:30 PM. To RSVP go.rutgers.edu/lecture-christodoulides



4TH NIKOS MOUYIARIS MEMORIAL LECTURE

A Rutgers alumnus, Nikos Mouyiaris was a successful industrialist, philanthropist and activist for justice in Cyprus. He was the most generous supporter of the Elytis Chair Fund and the Modern Greek Studies Program at Rutgers The State University of New Jersey.

Must RSVP
Space is Limited

Sunday, September 21, 2025
at 5:30pm

CYPRUS
FROM PROBLEM
TO SOLUTION

The Evolution of US-Cyprus Ties
in the Last 50 Years
and the Contributions of the
Hellenic American Community

The Community Center of the
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
1101 River Road, Piscataway, NJ

Organized by

The Elytis Chair Fund at Rutgers University,
The Modern Greek Studies Program,
and the NJ Cypriot Association Salamis



Speaker:

His Excellency, the President
of the Republic of Cyprus

Mr. Nikos
Christodoulides



To RSVP visit
go.rutgers.edu/lecture-christodoulides
or use the QR code



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK
School of Arts and Sciences



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

Upcoming Events

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

September 9, 2025

**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 Delvizi 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

September 17
October 8, 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.

September 29, 2025

44th ANNUAL

HOLY TRINITY GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, September 29, 2025

Echo Lake Country Club

515 Springfield Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090



Schedule

Practice/Driving Range	10:45 am
Lunch	11:00 am
Kapsimalis Putting Contest	11:30 am
Shotgun Start	12:30 pm
Cocktail Hour and Reception	5:00 pm

Sponsorship Opportunities

<i>Platinum Benefactor</i>	\$ 10,000
<i>Gold Benefactor</i>	\$ 5,000
<i>Silver Benefactor</i>	\$ 3,500
<i>Cocktail Hour Sponsor</i>	\$ 3,000
<i>Lunch Sponsor</i>	\$ 2,000
<i>Kapsimalis Putting Contest Sponsor</i>	\$ 1,500
<i>Halfway House Beverage Sponsor</i>	\$ 1,000
<i>Range Sponsor</i>	\$ 500
<i>Hole Sponsors (18)</i>	\$ 200

Benefiting:

Windy25 Memorial Fund
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Westfield

For information, please contact:

George Colonias gcolonias@yahoo.com 908-294-7414	Stefanos Arethas stefanos.arethas@gmail.com 301-518-6816	George Paras gparas@parasandparas.com 201-681-536
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REGISTRATION FORM

To pay and register online: ["Online Giving"](#)

Name: _____

Company: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Players

Name: _____ Email _____

Name: _____ Email _____

Name: _____ Email _____

Name: _____ Email _____

Please Check all that apply:

	Individual Golfer(s) \$450
	Foursome(s) \$1,800
	Sponsorship: Please indicate level below
	Reception \$100

To make your reservation, please complete this form and return it with your payment to or pay online:

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

250 Gallows Hill Road

Westfield, NJ 07090

Attention: Golf Committee

If paying by credit card, please complete the following and sign:

Name (as it appears on your card): _____

Master Card Visa American Express

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Month _____ Year Security Code # _____

Mailing Address for this credit card: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Total Enclosed or Authorized \$ _____

To pay and register online: ["Online Giving"](#)

October 4, 2025

**GOYA
CLOTHING
DRIVE**

HOLY TRINITY
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
250 GALLOWS HILL RD.
WESTFIELD, NJ
07090



**please bag items in
kitchen size garbage bags**

Accepting: Clothing for men, women and children, shoes (in a separate clear bag), Clothing accessories: belts, hats, scarves, handbags, gloves, etc.. We take small toys 2 feet or less, stuffed animals, towels, sheets, and pillowcases, bikes and strollers

Not Accepting: quilts, comforters, pillows, and blankets, sports equipment- bikes are ok, no board games, books, puzzles, pots, car seats, no glass or electrical devices, no large toys, highchairs or baby cribs, or scooters, vcr tapes, furniture or outdoor playsets, frames, candles, cards, plastic cups pet accessories or holiday decorations.

**SAT.
OCT 4,
2025**

DRIVE THROUGH & DROP OFF

9:00-11:00 AM



GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠