

Sunday After The Elevation of Holy Cross



The Elevation of the Precious and Holy Cross

September 15, 2024

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 Delvizi, Parish Priest

Third Tone

Ἦχος Γ΄

Morning Gospel:	<u>St. Matthew 28:16-20</u>	<u>Ελληνικά</u>
Epistle Reading:	<u>Galatians 2:16-20</u>	<u>Ελληνικά</u>
Gospel Reading:	<u>St. Mark 8:34-38; 9:1</u>	<u>Ελληνικά</u>

Apolytikion: “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 Holy Cross: “Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful against the enemies of the faith, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth.”

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: “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 22, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Monday, September 23, Conception of St. John the Baptist, Orthros, 8:30 AM;
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, September 29, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Altar Donations

Altar Candles: In loving memory of Ernest Ladas†

Vigil Light: In loving memory of Carolyn Mitilenes†

Sacraments and Rites

Baptism: Today, the baptism of Effie Olivia “Efthalia” Sprague, daughter of Dane Sprague and Leah Lalos Sprague, will be celebrated. The Godfather is George Fikaris.

Memorials: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial service for Ernest Ladas†, 40 days and Carolyn Mitilenes†, 40 days. Eternal be their memories.

Fellowship Hour: Please join us in the Bouras Center after church for the Fellowship Hour, which is being sponsored by Cynthia Ladas, in loving memory of Ernest Ladas†.

Welcome Visitors

The parish of Holy Trinity welcomes those visiting our community today. We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home, we hope that you consider becoming 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.

Get Weekly Emails and Updates by Subscribing

Stay informed with parish happenings. Simply subscribe to Holy Trinity weekly emails providing news, information, and weekly announcements by request at:
HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org

The Elevation of the Precious and Holy Cross

The Elevation of the Holy Cross, celebrated on September 14, commemorates the finding of Christ's Cross by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, in the fourth century. After it was taken by the Persians, it was recovered by the Emperor Heraclius in the seventh century, when it was "elevated" in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. From this latter event the "universal elevation" of the Cross was celebrated annually in all the churches of the Christian Empire.

The day of the Elevation of the Cross became, as it were, the national holiday of the Eastern Christian Empire similar to the Fourth of July in the United States. The Cross, the official emblem of the Empire which was placed on all public buildings and uniforms, was officially elevated on this day by the bishops and priests. They blessed the four directions of the universe with the Cross, while the faithful repeated the chanting of "Lord have mercy." This ritual is still done in the Churches today after the solemn presentation and elevation of the Cross.

The apolytikion of the feast which was, one might say, the "national anthem" sung on all public occasions in the Christian Empires of Byzantium and Russia, originally petitioned God to save the people, to grant victory in war and to preserve the empire "by the virtue of the Cross." Today the apolytikion, and all the hymns of the day, are "spiritualized" as the "adversaries" become the spiritually wicked and sinful including the devil and his armies, and "Orthodox Christians" replace the names of ruling officials of the Empire.

The holy day of the Elevation of the Cross, although it has an obviously "political" origin, has a place of great significance in the Church today. It remains with us as a day of fasting and prayer, a day when we recall that the Cross is the only sign worthy of our total allegiance, and that our

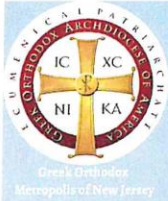
salvation comes not by “victories” of any earthly sort but by the only true and lasting victory of the crucifixion of Christ and our co-crucifixion with him.

When the Cross is elevated, we bow down before it in veneration and worship to God, we proclaim that we belong to the Kingdom “not of this world,” and that our only true and enduring citizenship is with the saints in the “city of God” (Eph 2.19; Heb 11.10; Rev 21-22).

This central hymn of the Elevation of the Cross, which lasts for eight days, is sung many times in the Church. It replaces the Thrice-Holy hymn of the Divine Liturgy. The normal antiphons are also replaced by special verses from the psalms which have direct reference to Christ’s crucifixion on the Cross (Ps 22, 74, 99). Thus, at the Elevation of the Cross, Christians make their official rededication to the crucified Lord and pledge their undivided allegiance to Him by the adoration of His holy feet nailed to the life-creating Cross. This is the meaning of this holy day of fasting and repentance in the Church today.



Nicholas, Hellen, Luba, Kevin, Janice, Elaine, Patty, Cynthia, Nicholas, Blace, Christos, Thomas, Rich, Robert, Phyllis, Lea, Mary, Mason, George, Chloe, Yolanda, Luke, George, Maria, Alexander, Athena, Demetra, Stavroula, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Pamela, John, Helen, Chris, Niko, Vicky, Dino, Stephanie, James, John, Theodora, Novlet, Chrysavgi, Alexandra, Sue, Marilyn, David, Basil, Laura, Marylee, Meropi, Adina, Nicholas, Constantine, Billy, Molly, Leonidas, David, Elizabeth, Tara, Lambros, Anne, Maria, Mikos, Arthur, John, Al, Jessika, Anastasia, Robert, Joanne, Vasileos, Tina, Fran, Dayvon, Sunitha, Neil, Gus, Dimitri, Freddy, Shane, Lula, Christina, Diego, Michael, Katie



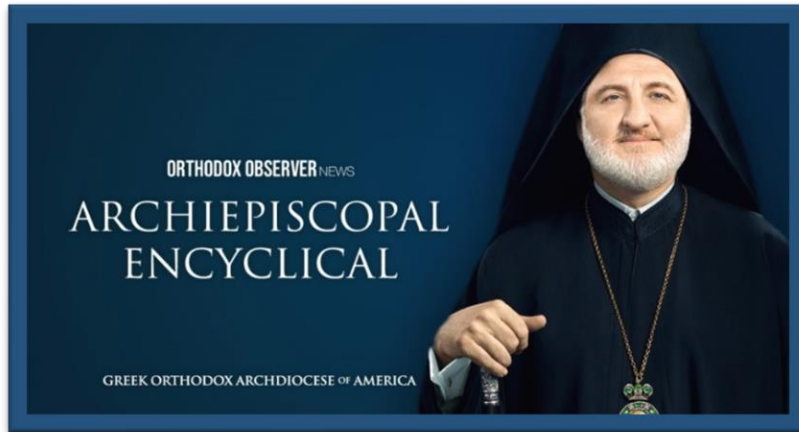
Metropolis of New Jersey Annual Holy Cross Celebration

Celebrated by His Eminence,
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

Sunday, September 15, 2024

- 8:00 AM Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy:
St. George Greek Orthodox Church 1033 W. Park Avenue Ocean, NJ
- Blessing of the Waters and Youth Dive for the Cross following the
Divine Liturgy: Deal Beach - 111 Ocean Ave., Deal, NJ
- Fellowship Picnic to follow for all at St. George Church in
Ocean, NJ





GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 273/2024

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

September 14, 2024

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

The Cross is exalted today, and the cosmos is sanctified... (Exapostilarion)

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Today, we celebrate the Discovery of the True Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. For centuries, it had lain hidden beneath the rubble and devastation that the Roman armies had inflicted upon Jerusalem and Her surroundings. Until the mission to the Holy Land of Saint Helen, mother to the holy Emperor Constantine, who ended persecution against Christians and called the First Ecumenical Council.

The finding of this sacred relic is the cause for our Feast today, the Universal Exaltation of the Holy and Life-giving Cross. Throughout the Sacred Archdiocese of America and around the world, the Cross of the Lord will be lifted up with fragrant basil, and faithful Orthodox Christians will fall down before it, just as they did at its first Elevation, when Saint Makarios, Archbishop of Jerusalem, raised on high the Cross that granted the miracle of resurrection. But as in the days of Saint Helen, before the Cross can be exalted, it must first be discovered.

So, where is the Cross to be found today? Is it only present in the precious fragments that are ensconced in reliquaries around the globe? In truth, the discovery of the Cross is available to every Christian who seeks to follow the example of our Lord's self-sacrificial love. The Cross is buried in our hearts through Baptism, and lies deep within us, waiting to be revealed by our thoughts and intentions, by our words, and by

our actions. Its discovery transforms a human being into a self-aware child of God, who then raises up the Cross in their own lives and shares in the divine plan of sanctifying the cosmos.

This is the daily work and calling of the devout men and women studying at our beloved Hellenic College & Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and today is their special Feastday. Let us all make every effort to support them and all those who labor at our precious Theological School, so that the Holy and Lifegiving Cross may manifest more and more in our own lives, and throughout the world.

With paternal love in Christ,



† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

Special Tray Collection for Holy Cross School of Theology

Archbishop Athenagoras established Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in June 1937. The Archbishop addressed a special appeal to the Philoptochos to devote themselves to the *School*, “where your sons will be educated as priests and teachers.” Eighty-seven years later, Philoptochos continues its strong commitment to and financial support of Hellenic College/Holy Cross. Today, as we continue celebrating the Venerable Holy Cross of Christ and nameday of the *School*, Philoptochos in like manner asks our Holy Trinity family to support the HCHC Scholarship Fund! Scholarships are awarded to worthy and dedicated students, both men and women at Hellenic College and seminarians at Holy Cross, to assist with tuition expenses. The help you provide today will continue the mission of the Seminary to offer worthy candidates to serve as priests in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Religious Education Classes Have Begun

Please complete the online form for each student at your earliest convenience. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in the Fall! Click the link to register: [Religious Education Registration](#)

HOLY TRINITY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION		
TEACHER AND CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS		
2024-25		
GRADE	ROOM	TEACHERS
PreK	105	Anna Darity

Kdg	107	Alexandra Mavridis Ariadne Monfalcone
1 & 2	102	Anna Decavalles Melissa Krikos
3 & 4	101	Felicia Karsos
5 & 6	207	Maria Tarhanidis Beth Grivoyannis
7 & 8	202	Leon Carayannopoulos Elias Grivoyannis
9 & 10	204	Tony Drivas
11&12	Boardroom	Peter Tarhanidis Nik Karsos

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. Classes begin Tuesday, September 10, grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Beginners and 1st Advanced and Thursday, September 12, grades 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th. To register [click here](#).

GOYA Registration is Now Open

All students in grades 6-12 are encouraged to register for GOYA. Sixth graders can only participate in Westfield events; grades 7-12 can participate in all state GOYA events. For more information contact Sophia Saketos at 908-247-6048 or sophiasaketos@gmail.com. To register [click here](#).

Trinity Circle

Trinity Circle has reserved 30 seats for the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Christmas Show & Lunch on Thursday, November 14, 2024. A bus will leave the church parking lot at 10:00 am and return at 4:00 pm. Members: \$85; Non-Members: \$95. Checks should be made payable to Trinity Circle. Kindly make your reservation with Kassandra Romas. Kassandra can be reached at kromas22409@gmail.com or (908) 296-1586.

Joy/Hope Greek Dancers for GreekFest

In preparation for dancing at GreekFest, we will be having two classes in September for dancers that participated in Greek dance last year. These practice classes are scheduled on September 15 and 22 from 12 PM - 1 PM. Greek Dancers will perform at the festival on Friday, September 27 at 6:30 PM; Saturday, September 28 at 1 PM and Saturday, September 28 at 6:30 PM. For any questions, feel free to reach out to Kathy Paone at 201-344-4049 or joyhopehtgoc@yahoo.com.

TOTS: (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social)

It is a fun way to connect with other Orthodox families with small children. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, September 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.



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

2024

September 25
October 9, 23
November 6, 20
December 11

2025

January 8, 22
February 12, 26
March 12 (Wed.), 28 (Fri.)
April 11, 25 (Fridays)
May 9, 23 (Fridays)

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



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

Email the Choir Director

kathanasoulas@hotmail.com

Upcoming Parish Events

SAVE THE DATE!

September 27 - 29, 2024



Westfield, NJ
GREEKFEST 24

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

250 GALLOWS HILL ROAD, WESTFIELD

September 27, 28, 29

Friday
3 pm - 11pm

Saturday
11 am - 11 pm

Sunday
noon - 5 pm



Greek Food & Pastries ◊ Music & Dancing
Marketplace ◊ Kids Zone ◊ Mega 50/50



www.njgreekfest.com



Admission \$2. Children under 12 free!

Free shuttle from Union County College parking lot to the Greekfest

Save the Date

Westfield, NJ
GREEKFEST 24
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

September 27, 28, 29

Friday
3 pm - 11pm

Saturday
11 am - 11 pm

Sunday
noon - 5 pm



Be an active part of our 2024 Greekfest! Volunteer your time, talents & treasures. Everyone is needed to make it a success! Simply scan the QR code to sign up or contact Roula Ioannou and Kelly Leunes at htgreekfestvolunteers@gmail.com

GreekFest 2024 - September 27 - 29

OPA!! 2024 Westfield GreekFest will take place, September 27-29!! Come volunteer your talent and join the fun to make this our best festival yet. PLEASE sign up and support OUR community! [*GreekFest Volunteers Sign-Up*](#)

Contact Roula Ioannou or Keli Leunes at HTGreekfestivalvolunteers@gmail.com

Follow us [@NJGreekFest](#) on Instagram and [NJ GreekFest](#) on Facebook to stay up-to-date on all things GreekFest!

Be sure to like and share our content!

Volunteers Needed for Festival Pastry Baking and Preparation

Please mark your calendar to help prepare for Greek Fest 2024. All are welcome!!!

Saturday, September 21, 9 AM-5 PM (koulourakia) and Sunday, September 22, 12 PM-5 PM (packaging) If you have any questions please call or email Mary Carayannopoulos at 314-623-5493 or carayannopoulos@comcast.net

[**www.njgreekfest.com**](http://www.njgreekfest.com)



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Westfield, NJ presents

MEGA 50/50 RAFFLE

7 CHANCES TO WIN!

Grand Prize – Up to \$10,000

2nd Prize – Up to \$5,000 Five 3rd Prizes – Up to \$2,000 each

**Only 500 tickets to be sold!
\$100 per ticket.**



Winners need not be present to win and will be notified. Winners responsible for all taxes. If the offer is oversubscribed, the first 500 tickets paid for will be honored. All other contributions will be returned. If not completely subscribed, per State regulations, the exact prizes offered will be at the following percentages:

Grand Prize - 20%
2nd Prize - 10%
Five 3rd Prizes – 4% each



NJLGCC ID# 538-1-17636
Municipal Lic. #RL-2024-12

Join us at the Greek Fest!

Fri. Sept. 27, 3 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Sat. Sept. 28, 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Sun. Sept. 29, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

*Drawing to be held on Sun. Sept. 29 @ 2 p.m. at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090.
All proceeds to benefit Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Westfield, NJ*

www.njgreekfest.com

To reserve your ticket(s), please fill out this portion, including signature and return with your payment made payable to:

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

Tickets will be distributed after receipt of payment. Mail in entry deadline: Sunday, September 15, 2024

#of tickets to reserve _____ @ \$100 each = _____

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____

PAYMENT TYPE: Please check one: Check # _____ Cash American Express Visa MasterCard Discover

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP DATE _____ CVV# _____

NAME ON CREDIT CARD _____

SIGNATURE _____

September 23, 2024

42nd ANNUAL

HOLY TRINITY GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, September 23, 2024

Echo Lake Country Club

515 Springfield Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090



Golf Outing Schedule – Shotgun Start

Lunch and Driving Range	11:00am
Shotgun start	12:30 pm
Cocktail Hour and Reception	5:15pm

Sponsorship Opportunities

<i>Grand Benefactor</i>	\$ 10,000
<i>Cocktail Hour Sponsor</i>	\$ 3,500
<i>Prize Sponsor</i>	\$ 1,500
<i>Lunch Sponsor</i>	\$ 1,500
<i>On Course Beverage sponsor</i>	\$ 400
<i>Range Sponsor</i>	\$ 400
<i>Cart Sponsor</i>	\$ 400
<i>Tee Sponsor(s)</i>	\$ 150
<i>Hole in One Prize Sponsor Opportunity</i>	

**Benefiting: Windy25 Memorial Fund
and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**

For information, please contact the Golf Committee: George Colonias admin@htgocnj.org 908-294-7414 George Paras gparas@parasandparas.com 201-681-5366 To pay and register online: ["Online Giving"](#)

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Company: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (work): _____ (home): _____

E-Mail: _____

Foursome Players

Name: _____ Email _____

Name: _____ Email _____

Name: _____ Email _____

Name: _____ Email _____

Please Check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Golfer(s) @\$400
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foursome(s) @ \$1,600
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sponsorship: Please indicate level
<input type="checkbox"/>	We will donate a prize (describe)
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tee(s) Sponsor @\$200

Please call the church Golf Committee with any questions 908- 233-8533

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

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 # _____

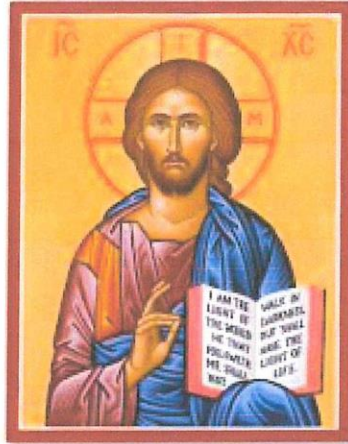
Mailing Address for this credit card: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Total Enclosed or Authorized \$ _____

To pay online, click here: ["Online Giving"](#)

October 4 - 6, 2024



48th Annual Christ Encounter Retreat for all students in grades 6-12th

**Camp Fairview Lake
Newton, NJ**

October 4th - 6th - \$150 per goyan

**Join us for a spiritual weekend of themed sessions, fun games, boating,
hiking, team building, campfire, friendship, and fellowship**

**Includes transportation, 5 meals, ice cream social & two nights
lodging in a well-maintained cabin with built in bunks, electricity,
flush toilets & hot showers.**

Arrive at church at 6 pm on Friday. Return Sunday around noon.

Registration and payment due no later than September 25

<https://tinyurl.com/ycx247yj>

Contact Sophia Saketos with any questions. (908) 247-6048





GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠