

# First Sunday of Luke



**St. Thekla the Great Martyr and Equal to the Apostles**

Sunday, September 24, 2023

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

[Live streaming services](#) - 908.233.8533 - [www.holytrinitywestfield.org](http://www.holytrinitywestfield.org)

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvzsis, Parish Priest

On the Twenty-Fourth Day of the month, we commemorate: The Holy Great Martyr and Equal to the Apostles St. Thekla; The Commemoration of the Miracle of the Theotokos Myrtdiotissa (Myrtle Tree) in Kythera; Our Righteous Father St. Silouan of Athos; The Holy Martyr St. Stephen; Synaxis of the Saints of America, Sts. Juvenaly, Peter the Aleut, and Herman of Alaska

*Click links for Scripture Readings*

Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. Luke 24:12-35</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">2 Timothy 3:10-15</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Luke 5:1-11</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** “O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death, and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The apostles did preach the Good News at Your command, that You had risen from the dead O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.”

**Apolytikion of Theotokos:** “O come, all you people, and let us in faith clap our hands \* and sing sacred songs to her who is the Mother of God, \* and longingly cry aloud: \* "Rejoice, O protection of all those who entreat you; \* rejoice, the salvation of those who honor you with longing; \* rejoice, O Lady who restored \* the paralyzed man to health.”

**Apolytikion of the Great Martyr:** “All aflame with love for your Creator, \* from the teachings of the sacred preacher, \* you disregarded as fleeting all things mundane. \* And being bold in the face of the penalties, \* you gave yourself as a beautiful gift to God. \* Thekla, glorious companion of the Apostle Paul, \* we pray you entreat your Bridegroom, Christ, \* and ask Him to grant us His great mercy.”

**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*

Sunday, October 1, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Liturgy, 9:30 AM

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

## Altar Donations

**Altar Candles:** In Loving Memory of Anastasios and Christos Kiriakatis†

**Vigil Light:** In Memory of Harriet Miras†

**Large Candles:** In Memory of Georgia Conelias†

**Kandili:** In Memory of Loving brothers, Anastasios Kiriakatis† and Christos Kiriakatis†

## Sacraments and Rites

**Memorials:** Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial services for Elias Savva†, 31 years; Gust John Svolos†, 1 year; Harriet†, 1 year, and Bill†, 8 years, Miras; Panagioti†, 47 years, and Akrivi†, 42 years, Pangis; Paris Panagakos†, 54 years; Anastasios†, 30 years, and Christos†, 5 years, Kiriakatis; Georgia Conelias†, 24 years. Eternal be their memories.

**Wedding:** On Saturday, September 23, the wedding of Andrea Banu and Peter Ehmann was celebrated. The Koumbara is Daniela Buna.

## 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.



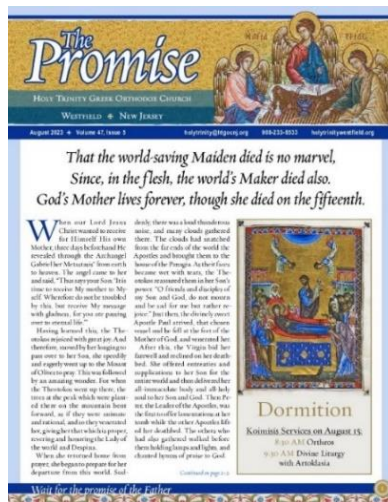
## The Great Martyr and Equal to the Apostles St. Thekla – Sept. 24

Thekla was born in the city of Iconium. She was the daughter of rich and illustrious parents, and she was distinguished by extraordinary beauty. At eighteen years of age they betrothed her to an eminent youth. But after she heard the preaching of the holy Apostle Paul about the Savior, St. Thekla came to love the Lord Jesus Christ, and she resolved not to enter into marriage. Thekla's mother was opposed to her daughter's plans and insisted that she marry her betrothed. Thekla's fiancé also complained to the prefect of the city about the Apostle Paul, accusing him of turning his bride against him. For this, the prefect locked up St. Paul in prison.

During the night, Saint Thekla secretly visited St. Paul in prison. For three days she sat at his feet, listening to his fatherly precepts. At his trial, St. Paul was sentenced to banishment from the city. Again, they urged Thekla to consent to marriage, but she would not change her mind. Neither the tears of her mother, nor her wrath, nor the threats of the prefect could separate Thekla from her love for the Heavenly Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. Her mother in an insane rage demanded from the judges a death sentence against her unyielding daughter, and Thekla was sentenced to be burned. Without flinching, the holy martyr went into the fire and made the Sign of the Cross over herself. At this moment the Savior appeared to her, blessing her present deed, and inexpressible

joy filled her holy soul. The flames of the fire shot up high, but the martyr was surrounded by a light and the flames did not touch her. Thunder boomed, and a strong downpour of rain and hail extinguished the fire. The torturers scattered in fear. Thekla, kept safe by the Lord, left the city and with the help of a certain Christian youth, searched for the Apostle Paul. The holy apostle and his companions, among whom was St. Barnabas, were hidden in a cave not far from the city, praying fervently, that the Lord would strengthen Thekla in her sufferings.

After this, Thekla went with them preaching the Gospel in Antioch. In this city she was pursued by a certain dignitary named Alexander, who was captivated by her beauty. Thekla refused his offer of marriage, and so she was condemned to death for being a Christian. Twice they set loose hungry wild animals upon her, but they would not touch the holy virgin. Instead, they lay down meekly and licked her feet. The Providence of God preserved the holy martyr unharmed through many tortures. The people cried out, "Great is the God of the Christians!" With the blessing of the Apostle Paul, Thekla settled in a desolate region of Isaurian Seleucia and dwelt there for many years, constantly preaching the Word of God and healing the sick through her prayer. Thekla converted many pagans to Christ, and the Church appropriately names her as "Equal-to-the-Apostles." When Saint Thekla was already a ninety-year-old woman, pagan sorcerers became incensed at her for treating the sick for free. They were unable to comprehend that the saint was healing the sick by the power of the grace of Christ, and they presumed that the virgin-goddess Artemis was her special helper. Envious of Thekla, they sent their followers to defile her. When they came near her, Thekla cried out for help to Christ the Savior, and a rock split open and hid the holy virgin, the bride of Christ. The holy Church glorifies the Protomartyr Thekla as "the glory of women and guide for the suffering, opening up the way through every torment." Many churches were dedicated to her, one of which was built at Constantinople by the holy Equal of the Apostles Constantine (May 21). The Protomartyr Thekla, a prayerful intercessor for ascetics, is also invoked during the tonsure of women into monasticism.



The September Edition of  
**THE PROMISE**  
 Now Available Online

# Prayer Request



Leoneias, David, Elizabeth, Tara, Lambros, Anne, Maria, Mikos, Arthur, John, Al, Jessika, Anastasia, Robert, Joanne, Peter, Constantine, 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

**Get Weekly Emails by Subscribing** - Subscribe to Holy Trinity weekly emails providing news, information and weekly announcements by request at: [HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org](mailto:HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org)

## **Last Sunday's Special Collection For Holy Cross School of Theology**

Through your generosity, last Sunday the Ladies of Philoptochos raised over \$475. The Ladies will send a donation totaling \$500 to our seminary in Boston. There is still time to donate. If you would like to offer a gift to Holy Cross please see Fr. Peter or Maria Kanaras.

## **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 begin this Sunday, September 10. We ask that you complete the online form for each student: [www.tinyurl.com/2023-24ReligiousEdRegistration](http://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.

## 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Beginners and Advanced, and 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday's are grades 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>. You can register at <https://holytrinitywestfield.org/ministries/greek-school/>



We are excited to welcome everyone to a new ecclesiastical and school year.

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 (weekend away), athletics, outreach, Greek dance, Sights & Sounds (performing and visual arts), and many others! Diving for the Cross on Sunday, September 24 are Alexandre Sulton, Melina Colonias, Dylan West, and Marina Skalkotos. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/53pp88nz>

**SELECT UPCOMING EVENTS:** (subject to change):

- **September 29:** Harvest Dance, St. Andrews/Randolph
- **October 13-15:** 47th Annual Christ Encounter Retreat, Fairview Lakes YMCA Camp

**GOYA Advisors:** Maria Tarhanidis, Mary Carayannopoulos, Sophia Saketos, Catherine Kelly, Andy Zotos, and Christine Skalkotos. Please contact an advisor or email [goya@htgocnj.org](mailto:goya@htgocnj.org) with any questions.

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### TOTS Playgroup - September 27

**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 27, 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](mailto:vcomprelli@gmail.com) or 612-801-8608 to sign-up or with any questions.

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**JOY/HOPE:** (the Junior Orthodox Youth group) of Holy Trinity is open to youth between the ages of five to eleven. The events are geared to bring the youth of Holy Trinity together in a fun and educational way and to start to plant the seeds of giving back to the community. Past events have included apple picking, making Valentine's Day cards for our Holy Trinity seniors, pizza

night, and attending church services together. Past and new members can sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/n39edm2f> or contact Kathy Petsinis Paone at [kathy@homesbykathyp.com](mailto:kathy@homesbykathyp.com) or 201-344-4049.

Join us for apple picking on Saturday, October 14 at 11:30 AM at Wightman Farms in Morristown. Joy Hope and the Holy Trinity Family are welcome to partake in the fun fall festivities. The cost is \$25 per person to be paid directly to the farm. Fee includes entry to the farm, a hayride, a pumpkin, and access to the apple picking and picnic area. There is an additional fee to pick apples. Please RSVP to Kathy Paone at 201-344-4049 or [joyhopehtgoc@yahoo.com](mailto:joyhopehtgoc@yahoo.com) if you plan on attending so we can pick a meeting spot.

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**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> Sign up for Joy/Hope (K-6th grades) coming soon. Please email [goya@htgocnj.org](mailto:goya@htgocnj.org) (GOYA) or [kathy@homesbykathyp.com](mailto:kathy@homesbykathyp.com) (Joy/Hope) with any questions.

### Trinity Circle

Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "Christmas Show & Lunch" outing by bus, Thursday, November 16, 10 AM - 4 PM. Only 30 tickets available. \$85 for members; \$90 for non-members. Kindly make your reservations with Chairperson, Cassandra Romas, at 908-296-1586 or [kromas22409@gmail.com](mailto:kromas22409@gmail.com)



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](mailto:kathanasoulas@hotmail.com)

## Capital Campaign Progress



**Capital Campaign**  
How your donation is  
working...

and making  
improvements to the  
church.

### Church Dome

Work on the dome and protective membrane that covers it from the elements has been completed! We thank everyone who contributed to our Holy Trinity Capital Campaign. God's Grace and your generosity and support enabled the achievement of this phase of our project.

## Upcoming Parish Events

**Friday, September 29 – Sunday, October 1**

GreekFest 2023 is just days away.

We still need your help!

Grab your family and friends to volunteer and join in on the fun, while enjoying the fellowship and celebration of our Greek culture! As we transition back to a full festival in the future, this year will be a hybrid type of festival in which all ordering will be done online at [www.njgreekfest.com](http://www.njgreekfest.com) prior to and/or in person by QR code. Patrons can enjoy music and dancing, drinks from the Bar' and the Kafenio, including coffee and pastries, and visit the Holy Trinity Bookstore while waiting for their order.



[How can you help?](#)

**Volunteers are needed for baking and pastry packaging** on Saturday, September 23, 9 AM - 5 PM (koulourakia) and Sunday, September 24, 12 PM - 5 PM (packaging). If you have any questions please call or email Mary Carayannopoulos at 314-623-5493 or [carayannopoulos@comcast.net](mailto:carayannopoulos@comcast.net)

**Volunteers are still needed during the festival (especially in food grilling, cooking, and order packaging).** Please sign-up to volunteer by visiting the Philoxenia/Fellowship Table during the Fellowship Hour or clicking the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4AADAA2E5-greekfest2>

### **How to pre-order your meal for the Festival**

**Friday, September 29** beginning at 9 AM, you can pre-order your meals at [www.njgreekfest.com](http://www.njgreekfest.com) or scan the QR code, on the flyer to be provided, for easy ordering. Pick up your takeout order at our front semi-circular driveway or stay and enjoy your meal under the tent. In person QR code ordering will also be possible. However, pickup timeframes will be limited. Help will be available to assist with in-person QR code ordering at the Festival.

### **Church Family Picnic, Sunday, October 1 - 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Bring your family to worship, receive Holy Communion together, and enjoy the picnic with our fellow parishioners. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. All Festival food and pastries will be prepackaged for sale. Following the picnic, please consider staying for a bit to help with clean-up and breakdown.

Thank you! The GreekFest 2023 Festival Committee

**Thursday, October 5**

**41st ANNUAL  
HOLY TRINITY GOLF CLASSIC**



**Thursday, October 5, 2023**

**Echo Lake Country Club  
515 Springfield Avenue  
Westfield, NJ 07090**

**Dear Holy Trinity Family,**

**Our golf tournament this year, limited to 52 golfers, has been sold out for October 5 at Echo Lake. Thank you to all who have registered. Next year we will have a bigger field available.**

**If you are not a golfer, please consider joining us afterwards for drinks and snacks, and enjoy the amazing facilities at Echo Lake.**

**There are still many sponsorship opportunities, beginning as low as \$150 for a hole or tee sponsor. These can be used to advertise a business, remember a loved one, or simply to show support. Additional categories can be found on the attached form, and some of the major items can be split among donors.**

**We know that there are other financial requests being made and simply ask that you support as you can. We appreciate widespread participation.**

**If you have questions regarding any of the categories, or can donate items for auction, please call George Paras on (201) 681-5366 or George Colonias on (908) 294-7414.**

**Thank you!!**

## Sponsorship Opportunities

<i>Grand Benefactor</i>	<i>\$ 10,000</i>
<i>Cocktail Hour Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 4,000</i>
<i>Lunch Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 2,500</i>
<i>Prize Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 1,500</i>
<i>Kyle House Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 1,000</i>
<i>Golfer Gift Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 1,000</i>
<i>On Course Beverage sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 400</i>
<i>Putting Green Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 500</i>
<i>Range Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 500</i>
<i>Cart Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 500</i>
<i>Closest -to -the- Pin Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 300</i>
<i>Hole Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 150</i>
<i>Tee Sponsor(s)</i>	<i>\$ 150</i>
<i>Hole in One Prize Sponsor Opportunity</i>	

**Benefiting: Windy 25 Memorial Fund  
& Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**

