

Twelfth Sunday of Matthew



The Holy Prophet Moses

September 4, 2022

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 Delvizio, Presiding Priest

On this, the Fourth Day of the Month, we commemorate the Holy Prophet Moses the God-seer, and Aaron His Brother; St. Babylas the Hieromartyr; Our Righteous Father St. Anthimos of Coroucle in Kefallonia; Our Righteous Father St. Anthimos the new ascetic; St. Hermione the Martyr, daughter of St. Philip the Apostle and Deacon; St. Theotimos and St. Theodoulos, the executioners who believed, die by fire.

Third Tone Ηχος Γ

Click links for Scripture Readings

First Morning Gospel:	Matthew 28:16-20	Ελληνικά
Epistle Reading:	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Ελληνικά
Gospel Reading:	St. Matthew 19:16-26	Ελληνικά

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: “Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.”

Apolytikion of Prophet: “By Thy manifestation in the fire and thine appearance in the flesh, Thou didst make glorious the countenance of Moses. And by Aaron’s priesthood according to the Law, Thou didst show forth the figure of the new dispensation of grace: By the prayers of Thy holy Prophets, O Christ God, save our souls.”

Apolytikion of Hieromartyr: “Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Babylas. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to 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: “Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. O immaculate one, by thy holy nativity, which thy people, redeemed from the guilt of offences, celebrate by crying to thee: The barren woman giveth birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life.”

Altar Donations

Altar Candles in loving memory of Maria Theofanous† and members of the Theofanous family



Sacraments and Rites



Memorial: Your prayers are requested this morning at the memorial service for Maria Theofanous†, 20 years, Polychronis Theofanous†, 37 years, Anna Theofanous† 21 years, and other members of the Theofanous family: Theofanis†, Mary Ellen†, Stavroula†, Henry†, Rosita†, Louis†, and Dimitra Kekis†. Eternal be their memory.

Liturgical Schedule

Thursday, September 8, Nativity of the Theotokos, Orthros 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Sunday, September 11, Sunday before Holy Cross, Orthros, 8:15 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

The Holy Prophet Moses – September 4

A great leader and lawgiver of Israel, Moses was born in Egypt in about 1550 B.C. He spent forty years in Egypt at Pharaoh's court, forty years as a shepherd in meditation on God and the world, and his last forty years he led the people through the wilderness to the Promised Land, which he saw but did not enter, having at one time sinned against God (Numbers 20:12). He entered into rest at the age of a hundred and twenty. He appeared from the other world on Mt. Tabor at the Lord's Transfiguration, and, according to the testimony of St. John of the Ladder, appeared to the monks of Sinai.

The Holy Hieromartyr St. Babylas the Hieromartyr – September 4

This “*great and wonderful man, if one can call him a man*”, as St John Chrysostom expresses it, was Archbishop in Antioch in the time of the wicked Emperor Numerian. This Numerian made a peace treaty with some barbarian king, who was of better character and a greater lover of peace than himself. As a sign of his sincere desire for a lasting peace, the king gave his little son to be brought up at Numerian's court. One day, Numerian butchered the boy and offered him as a sacrifice to the idols. Still hot from his wicked shedding of innocent blood, this evildoer went to a Christian church to see what was happening there. Holy Babylas was at prayer with the people. He heard that the Emperor was coming with his retinue and intended to enter the church. Babylas stopped the service, went out in front of the church and told the Emperor that, as an idolater, he was not permitted entry to the holy church where the one, true God was worshipped. Speaking of Babylas, Chrysostom says: “*Who else in the world would he fear, having with such authority withstood the Emperor? By this he taught kings not to spread their power further than the measure given them by God, and also showed the clergy how to use their authority.*”

The shamed Emperor turned back, but planned revenge. The following day, the Emperor summoned Babylas, and began to berate him and bid him offer sacrifice to idols, which the saint, naturally, steadfastly refused to do. The Emperor then bound him with chains and threw him into prison. He also tortured three children: Urban, aged twelve, Prilidian, aged nine and Hippolinos, aged seven. Babylas was their spiritual father and teacher, and they had stayed near him out of love for him. They were the sons of a Christian woman, Christodoula, who herself suffered for Christ. The Emperor first ordered that each child be beaten with the number of blows that totalled his age, and then had them thrown into prison. Babylas, in bonds, was present at the beheading of the children, giving them courage, and then laid his honored head under the sword. He was buried by Christians, in the chains in which he was bound at his death, in one grave with the three children. Their holy souls flew off to the company of heaven, and their wonderworking relics remained to be of support to the faithful, along with the enduring witness of their heroism in the Faith. They suffered in about 283 A.D.



Welcome Visitors

Welcome all visitors to our parish. We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home, we hope that you will be part of our family. Fr. Peter would very much like to meet you.

Labor Day: In observance of Labor Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5.



Holy Trinity Administrative Assistant Position Available

Holy Trinity has begun searching for a new Administrative Assistant to replace Joy Daniledes, who retired on July 31. This full-time position provides support to Father Peter and Diana, the Office Manager, as well as, tending to office visitors and directing phone calls. Additional duties are: communication with parishioners through parish publications, preparing and editing communication materials, and keeping of the parish calendar. If interested, please contact Fr. Peter and email your resumé to FrPeter@Htgocnj.org.

Prayer Request



Daniel, Diane, George, Cynthia, Patty, John, Keith, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Ket, Georgia, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Gayle, William, Byron, John, Robert, Connie, Donald, Terry, John, Angela, Andrew, Dianna, Edward, Sue, Thomas, Andrea, Thomas, Alexandra, Ronald, Galina, Angela, Lubove, Despina, Maria, John, Paraskevi (Parri), Dianna, Stephanie, Edward, Brian, Janeen, Cathy, James, Christine, Andrea, Molly, Anastasios, Michael, Angela, Lauren, John, Effie, Stella, Denise, Cloy, Mirka, Stamatia, Theresa, James, Matthew, Antoinette, William, Angela, Tanner, Stefanos, Helen, Katherine, Ashley, Angela, Nick, Lindsey, Alexandria, Evdokia, Chris, Zach, Notis, Erica, Christina, Fran, Joan, Hellen, Joseph, Cleopatra, James, Rosa, George, Kathy, Stephanie, Theresa, Dorothy, Shannon, Jeff, Jeffrey, Rowena, Craig, Paul, John, Marien, John, Vasilia, Hellen, Natalia, Angela, Thomas, Stavroula, Maroulla



Pardon our appearance as the church installs security bollards in front of the church and in the courtyard. The security bollards will protect the church from vehicle intrusion. The construction, which is being funded by a grant from the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, has started and will be soon be completed.



Religious Education Registration is Now Open. Classes begin Sunday, September 11. Please complete the online form for each of your children at your earliest convenience. The first day of classes is September 11 and there will be no classes on September 18 due to the Holy Cross Celebration in Asbury Park. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in the fall! **Link to register:** <https://tinyurl.com/2022-23ReligiousEdRegistration>

Greek School Begins Tuesday 9/13 and Thursday 9/15



Holy Trinity Greek School will begin on Tuesday September 13 for grades Pre-K, K, 1st, 2nd and 4th and Thursday September 15 for grades 3rd, 5th, and 6th. Please register your children by clicking:

[Greek School Registration Form 2022-2023 Click here](#)

[PTO Form Click here](#)

TOTS

TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) is back for 2022/2023! It's a fun way to connect with other Orthodox families with small children. Our first meeting will be Wednesday (new day of the week) September 28, 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 to ask any questions.

Trinity Circle

Tuesday, September 13 Lunch/Meeting 11 am - 2:00 pm, welcoming everyone back to the new ecclesiastical year! We will also be celebrating Joy Daniledes retirement from Holy Trinity. Hope to see everyone that day for comradery and fellowship. All parishioners 55 yrs. and over are invited to join us.

Capital Campaign

How your donation is working...

and making improvements to the church.

Parking Lot – Milling & Paving

- June - Paving of the church's parking lot in front and back of the church is completed. Paving took place in June. You can see first-hand how your donation to the Capital Campaign was used. Thank you for your contribution to this important campaign.

Church Dome

- Work on the dome and protective membrane that covers it from the elements is the next scheduled phase in the Capital Campaign.

Security Upgrades, Bollards

As part of a Grant from the State of New Jersey Homeland Security, these upgrades will help keep parishioners safe:

- August - Security bollards protect the church from vehicle intrusion.
- August - Technology upgrade, cameras, communication systems, locking mechanisms.



2022 Stewardship Commitment and Online Giving

Our Online Stewardship Giving Program is a convenient way to automate your offering. To sign-up visit the church website www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org and click on "Online Giving", then "Stewardship". On this page you can complete the "Stewardship Commitment Card" and/or donate by clicking "Secure Online Giving".

Registration for Youth Ministries will be held during the Fellowship Hour on
September 11 and 25.



**HOLY TRINITY
WESTFIELD**

YOUTH REGISTRATION

GOYA

6TH* - 12TH GRADES

***WESTFIELD ONLY EVENTS**

IRIS LOVE: GOYA@HTGOCNJ.ORG

JOY & HOPE

KDG - 6TH GRADE

KATHY PAONE: JOYHOPEHTGOC@YAHOO.COM

TOTS

1.5 - 4 YRS

VAL COMPRELLI: VCOMPRELLI@GMAIL.COM

BOURAS CENTER

SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 11 & 25

Join "TEAM HOLY TRINITY" in the 2022 OCMC Virtual Trek 4 Missions!
WE NEED YOU!

From August 8th to September 18th, Team Holy Trinity is accepting OCMC's challenge to be physically active by completing miles for missions and trekking through our community to raise funds for OCMC's missionary work.

Register at <http://secure.ocmc.org/goto/Westfield>, Click "Join a Team".
Team Name: Team Holy Trinity Westfield, NJ, Password: 250Gallowshill

If you prefer to support Team Holy Trinity by making a donation, click on the link above and follow the prompts. Thank you for your support!

*Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement for an in-person Trek 4 Missions event in September. Starting Line and Finish Line at Holy Trinity!



JOIN OCMC TO COMPLETE MILES FOR MISSIONS

Calling all walkers, runners, cyclists, fitness enthusiasts, and those who like to stay active! Join our parish this August and September to demonstrate our commitment to Christ's Great Commission by completing miles for missions!

Our challenge for you is to commit your own personal "trek" by walking, running, and more to see how far you can go to "virtually" share the faith. During this event, we will track everyone's activity and raise funds to support the work of OCMC. Their goal is to reach a combined 25,000 miles representing the Gospel being shared around the world. We will host a LIVE walk/run as part of our Trek in September. Please stay tuned!

To join our parish team, go online using the information and link below. Questions? Please get in touch with Jeanie Arida at kjarida@aol.com!

Team Name **Team Holy Trinity- Westfield, NJ**
& Password: **250Gallowshill**

Join our team, visit: <http://secure.ocmc.org/goto/Westfield>

IT'S EASY!




 JOIN OUR TEAM



 RAISE FUNDS



 TRACK YOUR MILES

Scan the QR code & search for our team!



Τοῦ Ὁσίου Πατρὸς ἡμῶν Μωϋσέως τοῦ Αἰθίοπος 28 Αυγούστου

**Φήσεις τὸ ῥητὸν καὶ θανῶν, Μωσῆ μέλα.
«Ἄνθρωπος ὄψιν, καὶ Θεὸς τὴν καρδίαν».
Θάψαν ἐν εἰκάδι Μωσῆν ὀγδὴ Αἰθιοπῆα.**

Ὁ ὀσιος Μωυσῆς ἦταν αγορασμένος δούλος κάποιου πλούσιου κτηματία. Εἶχε χαρακτήρα σκληρό και δύστροπο και καθημερινά δημιουργούσε πολλά προβλήματα, ὥσπου το αφεντικό του αγανάκτησε και τον πέταξε στον δρόμο. Ὁ Μωυσῆς βρήκε καταφύγιο σε μια ληστοσυμμορία και με την τεράστια σωματική του δύναμη δεν ἄργησε να επιβληθεῖ και να γίνει ο αρχηγός της.

Κάποτε, κυνηγημένος ἀπὸ τα ὄργανα της εξουσίας, για τα πολλά του εγκλήματα, πήγε να κρυφτεῖ βαθειά στην ἔρημο ὅπου ζούσαν οι πιο ονομαστοί ασκητές. Η συναναστροφή του με τους αγίους τον ἔκανε σιγά - σιγά να ημερεύσει. Τον επισκίασε η Χάρις του Θεοῦ, γιατί η μετάνοια εἶναι ὦρα Χάριτος, μαλάκωσε η καρδιά του, μετανόησε πραγματικά και ζήτησε την λύτρωση. Η αλλαγή του ἦταν ριζική και σε σύντομο χρονικό διάστημα ἔφτασε στα μέτρα των μεγάλων Πατέρων της ἐρήμου. Μετά το βάπτισμα αξιώθηκε να λάβει και την Χάρις της Ιεροσύνης.

Σε ηλικία 75 ετών ἔφυγε ἀπὸ την πρόσκαιρη αὐτή ζωή με τρόπο βίαιο και μαρτυρικό. Ειδωλοάτρες ληστές εισέβαλαν στο σπήλαιο που ασκήτευε και τον σκότωσαν με μαχαίρια. Και στο σημείο αὐτό επαληθεύθηκε, για ἄλλη μια φορά, ο λόγος του Χριστοῦ προς τον Απόστολο Πέτρο: «πάντες γὰρ οἱ λαβόντες μάχαιραν ἐν μαχαίρῃ ἀποθανοῦνται» (Ματθ. κστ, 52).

Οι δύο μεγάλες αρετές που τον κοσμούσαν ἦταν η αληθινή μετάνοια και η βαθειά ταπείνωση. Μέχρι την τελευταία του αναπνοή «ἔκλαιε πικρῶς» για τις αμαρτίες του και θεωρούσε τον εαυτό του κατώτερο ὄχι μόνον ἀπὸ τους ἀνθρώπους, ἀλλά και ἀπὸ αὐτήν την ἄλογη κτίση. «Ἡ συναίσθησις της αμαρτίας ἡμῶν εἶναι μέγα δῶρον του Ουρανοῦ, μεγαλύτερον και της οράσεως των ἀγγέλων... Η μετάνοια εἶναι ἀνεκτίμητον δῶρον προς την ἀνθρωπότητα... Δια της μετανοίας συντελεῖται η θέωσις ἡμῶν. Τούτο εἶναι γεγονός ἀσυλλήπτου μεγαλείου» (Αρχιμ. Σωφρονίου, Ὁψόμεθα τον Θεόν καθὼς ἐστι, σελ. 40 και 46). Ὁ Μωυσῆς αξιοποίησε κατὰ τον καλύτερο τρόπο το ἀνεκτίμητο αὐτό δῶρο και ἔφθασε στην θέωση, στην ὄραση του Θεοῦ.

Ἀρκετά περιστατικά ἀπὸ τον βίο και την πολιτεία του φανερώνουν την ριζική αλλαγή του τρόπου της ζωῆς του. Ἄλλωστε αὐτό σημαίνει μετάνοια. Αλλαγή τρόπου

σκέψης και τρόπου ζωής. Αξίζει να αναφέρουμε ένα από αυτά: «Κάποτε, τέσσερεις ληστές, παλιοί σύντροφοί του, μπήκαν στην καλύβα του για να την ληστέψουν, χωρίς να φαντάζονται ποιόν μπορούσαν να βρουν μέσα. Όταν τον είδαν σάστισαν. Εκείνος, με μεγάλη ευκολία, τους έπιασε, τους έδεσε και τους οδήγησε στην συνάθροιση των Γερόντων και τους ερώτησε να του πουν τί πρέπει να κάνει με τους ληστές, λέγοντας συγχρόνως: "Σε μένα δεν αρμόζει πια να τιμωρήσω άνθρωπον"» (Γεροντικόν, Εκδ. Ρηγοπούλου, σελ. 111). Όταν τα άκουσαν αυτά οι ληστές εξομολογήθηκαν, μετανόησαν και έγιναν Μοναχοί.

Άλλο χαρακτηριστικό περιστατικό που φανερώνει την ταπείνωση του Οσίου είναι και το ακόλουθο: «Την ημέρα που τον χειροτονούσε Πρεσβύτερο ο Πατριάρχης Αλεξανδρείας και μάλιστα την ώρα που του φορούσε τα ιερά άμφια του είπε φιλικά ότι έγινε λευκός σαν περιστέρι. Ο Μωυσής ερώτησε ταπεινά τον Πατριάρχη αν κρίνει από το εξωτερικό ή το εσωτερικό, επειδή και τα άμφια ήσαν λευκά. Ο Πατριάρχης θέλοντας να τον δοκιμάσει αν έχει πραγματική ταπείνωση, είπε κρυφά στους κληρικούς να τον διώξουν από το σκευοφυλάκιο. Έτσι, όταν παρουσιάστηκε εκεί μετά την θεία Λειτουργία, τον έδιωξαν βρίζοντας τον. Ο Μωυσής έφυγε αμέσως χωρίς καμιά αντιλογία. Ένας από αυτούς, που τον ακολούθησε κρυφά για να δει αν του κακοφάνηκε, τον άκουσε να μονολογεί μεμφόμενος τον εαυτό του: "Καλά σού κάνανε, σποδόδερμε μελανέ". Αφού δεν είσαι άνθρωπος, τί γυρεύεις με τους ανθρώπους;» (Γεροντικόν, σελ. 252 -253).

Η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία με τον τρόπο ζωής που προσφέρει μεταμορφώνει και μετασκευάζει τα τσακάλια και τους λύκους σε πρόβατα και αρνιά άκακα. Μεταβάλλει τους υπερήφανους σε ταπεινούς, τους πόρνους και μοιχούς σε σώφρονες, τους φονιάδες, τους τρομοκράτες και τους ληστές σε Οσίους.



GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠