

# The Nativity of the Theotokos



The Nativity of the Theotokos and Mother of God

September 8, 2024

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
908.233.8533 [www.holytrinitywestfield.org](http://www.holytrinitywestfield.org)  
Live streaming services

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis, Parish Priest

|                         |                                      |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Morning Gospel:</b>  | <a href="#">St. Luke 1:39-49, 56</a> | <a href="#">Ελληνικά</a> |
| <b>Epistle Reading:</b> | <a href="#">Galatians 6:11-18</a>    | <a href="#">Ελληνικά</a> |
| <b>Gospel Reading:</b>  | <a href="#">St. John 3:13-17</a>     | <a href="#">Ελληνικά</a> |

**Apolytikion:** *“When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by Your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.”*

**Apolytikion of the Theotokos:** *“Your Nativity, O Theotokos, imparted joy to the entire earth, for out of you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God. He nullified the curse and instead gave His blessing; and causing death to be neutralized, He granted us eternal life.”*

**Kontakion of Sts. Ioakim and Anna:** *“Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility’s stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality’s ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, “The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”*

### Liturgical Schedule

Saturday, September 14, **Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Holy Cross,**

Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

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

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

### Sacraments and Rites

**Churching:** On Sunday a 40-day blessing of Ellie (Eleni) Sophia Durso, daughter of Nicolas Durso and Christina Philippou-Durso will be held.

### 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 by Subscribing

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

# Prayer Request



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, Leonedas, 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

## Nativity of the Theotokos – September 8

In addition to the celebration of the Annunciation, there are three major feasts in the Church honoring Mary, the Theotokos. The first of these is the feast of her nativity which is kept on the eighth of September. The record of the birth of Mary is not found in the Bible. The traditional teaching which is celebrated in the hymns and verses of the festal liturgy is that Joachim and Anna were a pious Jewish couple who were among the small and faithful remnant—“the poor and the needy”—who were awaiting the promised messiah. The couple was old and childless. They prayed earnestly to the Lord for a child, since among the Jews barrenness was a sign of God’s disfavor. In answer to their prayers, and as the reward of their unwavering fidelity to God, the elderly couple was blessed with the child who was destined, because of her own personal goodness and holiness, to become the Mother of the Messiah-Christ.

The fact that there is no Biblical verification of the facts of Mary’s birth is incidental to the meaning of the feast. Even if the actual background of the event as celebrated in the Church is questionable from an historical point of view, the divine meaning of it “for us men and for our salvation” is obvious. There had to be one born of human flesh and blood who would be spiritually capable of being the Mother of Christ, and she herself had to be born into the world of persons who were spiritually capable of being her parents. The feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, therefore, is a glorification of Mary’s birth, of Mary herself and of her righteous parents. It is a celebration as well of the very first preparation of the salvation of the world. For the “Vessel of Light,” the “Book of the Word of Life,” the “Door to the Orient,” the “Throne of Wisdom” is being prepared on earth by God Himself in the birth of the holy girl-child Mary.

At Vespers the three Old Testament readings are “mariological” in their New Testament interpretation. Thus, Jacob’s Ladder which unites heaven and earth and the place which is named “the house of God” and the “gate of heaven” (Gen 28.10-17) are taken, to indicate the union of God with men which is realized most fully and perfectly—both spiritually and physically—in Mary the Theotokos, Bearer of God. So also the vision of the temple with the “door ‘to the East’” perpetually closed and filled with the “glory of the Lord” symbolizes Mary, called in the hymns of the feast “the living temple of God filled with the divine Glory” (Ezek 43.27-44.4). Mary is also identified with the

“house” which the Divine Wisdom has built for himself according to the reading from Proverbs 9.1–11.

The Gospel reading of Matins is the one read at all feasts of the Theotokos, the famous Magnificat from Saint Luke in which Mary says: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden, for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed” (Lk 1.47). The epistle reading of the Divine Liturgy is the famous passage about the coming of the Son of God in “the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of man” (Phil 2.5–11) and the Gospel reading is that which is always read for feasts of the Theotokos—the woman in the crowd glorifies the Mother of Jesus, and the Lord himself responds that the same blessedness which his mother receives is for all “who hear the word of God and keep it” (Lk 11.27–28).

### Religious Education Classes Resume - Sunday, September 8

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](#)

| <b>HOLY TRINITY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>  |             |   |
|--|-------------|---|
| <b>TEACHER AND CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS</b> |             |   |
| <b>2024-25</b>                           |             |   |
| <b>GRADE</b>                             | <b>ROOM</b> | <b>TEACHERS</b>                           |
| <b>PreK</b>                              | 105         | Anna Darity                               |
| <b>Kdg</b>                               | 107         | Alexandra Mavridis<br>Ariadne Monfalcone  |
| <b>1 &amp; 2</b>                         | 102         | Anna Decavalles<br>Melissa Krikos         |
| <b>3 &amp; 4</b>                         | 101         | Felicia Karsos                            |
| <b>5 &amp; 6</b>                         | 207         | Maria Tarhanidis<br>Beth Grivoyannis      |
| <b>7 &amp; 8</b>                         | 202         | Leon Carayannopoulos<br>Elias Grivoyannis |
| <b>9 &amp; 10</b>                        | 204         | Tony Drivas                               |
| <b>11&amp;12</b>                         | Boardroom   | Peter Tarhanidis<br>Nik Karsos            |

## **GreekFest 2024 Kick-Off Event – Sunday, September 8**

Please join us for our loukoumades and frappe sale on Sunday in the Bouras Center immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Come and enjoy our delicious treats, mingle with fellow parishioners and discover the joy of volunteering at our church festival. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or looking to get involved for the first time, we welcome you to join our community efforts at our NJ GreekFest – September 27 - 29.

### **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](mailto:sophiasaketos@gmail.com).

To register [click here](#).

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

### **Trinity Circle**

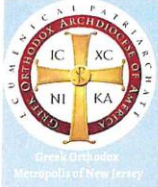
Our monthly lunch/meetings will begin Tuesday, September 10, 11-2 PM. All other months will be on the first Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise noted. We thank Pagona and Lefteris Ioannou for their lunch donation for everyone's good health.

Trinity Circle has also 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. Kindly make your reservation at our September 10 meeting with Kassandra Romas. Checks should be made payable to Trinity Circle. Kassandra can also be reached at [kromas22409@gmail.com](mailto:kromas22409@gmail.com) or (908) 296-1586.

### **Joy/Hope Greek Dance Registration**

Greek Dance classes for children in grades K-6 will once again be offered at Holy Trinity. Classes will be taught by Niko Nikolovienis from Hellenic Roots. The children will be divided into two groups based on their level of experience. Classes will begin on October 6 and continue every Sunday (excluding holidays). Class times are 12 PM - 12:30 PM (beginners) and 12:30 PM -1 PM (Intermediate). A complete schedule will be distributed as soon as possible. The cost of the class is \$250/dancer. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Paone ([kathy@homesbykathyp.com](mailto:kathy@homesbykathyp.com)). Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/JOYHOPEGRKDance>

NOTE: In preparation for dancing at GreekFest, we will be having 3 classes in September for dancers that participated in Greek dance last year. These classes will be September 8, 15, and 22 from 12 PM - 1 PM. We encourage all families to participate. If participation is cost-prohibitive, please contact the church office for additional information. All inquiries will be strictly confidential. Make checks payable to Holy Trinity GOC or Venmo - @WestfieldGOYA



# 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



# Upcoming Parish Events

## SAVE THE DATE!

### September 8, 2024



## Kick-Off Event!



### Loukoumades & Frappe Sale

Sun, September 8<sup>th</sup>

Come and enjoy our delicious treats, mingle with fellow parishioners and discover the joy of volunteering at our church festival. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or looking to get involved for the first time, we welcome you to join our community efforts at our

**NJ Greekfest - September 27-29<sup>th</sup>**

Bouras Center immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

# September 14, 2024

**2024 GOYA KICK OFF EVENT - Saturday, September 14th**

**Join us as we kick off another wonderful year of GOYA!!**



**Holy Trinity students entering grades 6th -12th are welcome to attend!**

**Pizza & Ice Cream (\$5 per goyan), followed by a game of laser tag at Lively Laser Tag (\$35 per goyan/optional).**

**Drop off in Bouras Center at 6:30 pm and pick up at 8 pm sharp if NOT participating in laser tag. Pick up from Lively Laser Tag, 355 US-22 , Springfield, NJ 07081 between 9:30-10 pm.**

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/3yx7e283>



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

**September 27 - 29, 2024**

Save the Date

Westfield, NJ  
**GREEKFEST24**  
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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

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



Westfield, NJ



# GREEK FEST 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](http://www.njgreekfest.com)



*Admission \$2. Children under 12 free!*  
*Free shuttle from Union County College parking lot to the Greekfest*

**September 23, 2024**

**42nd ANNUAL  
HOLY TRINITY GOLF CLASSIC**

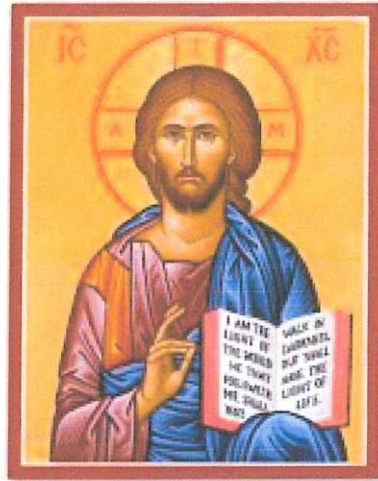


**Monday, September 23, 2024**

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

For information, please contact the Golf Committee: George Colonias [admin@htgocnj.org](mailto:admin@htgocnj.org)  
908-294-7414; George Paras [gparas@parasandparas.com](mailto:gparas@parasandparas.com) 201-681-5366

**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**



