

The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



April / May 2018 ✦ Volume 42, Issue 4

holytrinity@htgocnj.org

908-233-8533

holytrinitywestfield.org

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! Χριστός ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!

“Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut...Jesus came and stood in the midst [of the disciples], and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ ‘As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’”

– Gospel of John 20:19 & 21

The mystery of the Resurrection is as remarkable as it is unfathomable. How can we comprehend God taking on flesh, and also assuming all the limitations surrounding human nature, in order to defeat death once and for all? As a result of this victory, the power of Christ’s divinity shines forth every moment reminding us of His tender love and great mercy. No day in the calendar year holds the message of His arising in higher esteem than the Day of Pascha.

Being the very foundation of the Christian faith, Pascha invites us to encounter Christ’s victory personally. By examining the significance of the Resurrection, one will discover that it lies at the center of the human experience since every interaction, every moment in life, every connection and dealing with another individual is measured by it. To highlight this point, our Saviour com-

mands His disciples to spread the Gospel of Righteousness saying, “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” This directive contains a profound anthropological implication, namely that a follower of Christ does not have the luxury to rest idly while the world moves on but that he must actively engage the world by preaching the Good News.

The Church’s anthropology is formulated and set by these words of the Lord and likewise, by extension, we too must share in the sacred mission of spreading His Gospel. We cannot be parochial in our mission, or timid. You are to “sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” – 1 Peter 3:15 On the glorious day of Pascha, God’s power and majesty are fully displayed. These

Continued on page 2 ⇨



Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ,

Let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One.

We venerate Your Cross, O Christ,

And we praise and glorify Your holy Resurrection;

For You are our God, we know no other than You, it is Your name we invoke.

Come, all you faithful, let us venerate the holy Resurrection of Christ.

For behold, through the Cross joy has come to all the world.

Ever blessing the Lord, let us praise His Resurrection.

For enduring the Cross for us, He destroyed death by death.

Wait for the promise of the Father



Dates in the Life of Our Church

April / May 2018

✠ APRIL

I PALM SUNDAY

8:30 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

7:00 PM Bridegroom Service

2 Holy Monday

7:00 PM Bridegroom Service

3 Holy Tuesday

9:00 AM Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 PM Bridegroom Service

4 Holy Wednesday

9:00 AM Presanctified Liturgy

3:00 PM Holy Unction

7:00 PM Holy Unction

5 Holy Thursday

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper

7:00 PM Divine Passion and Crucifixion

6 Holy Friday

9:30 AM Imperial Hours

10:00 AM Holy Friday Retreat

3:00 PM Apokathelosis/Unnailing

7:00 PM Lamentations

7 Holy Saturday

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

11:00 PM Vigil of the Resurrection

8 HOLY PASCHA

12:15 AM Paschal Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM Agape Vespers

9 Bright Monday

Church Office closed

10 4:00 PM Greek School

7:30 PM Parish Council

12 4:00 PM Greek School

7:30 PM Choir

13 Zoodochou Pigi

8:45 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

14 11:00 AM Baptism

15 Sunday of Thomas

8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

16 7:30 PM NNJYC

17 4:00 PM Greek School

7:00 PM Philoptochos Board Meeting

19 4:00 PM Greek School

7:00 PM Choir

21 11:00 AM Baptism

22 Myrrh-Bearing Women

8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

1:00 PM Greek Parade in NYC

24 11:00 AM Trinity Circle

4:00 PM Greek School

26 9:30 AM TOTS

4:00 PM Greek School

7:30 PM Choir

29 8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

2:00 PM Wedding

✠ MAY

I 6:00 PM Philoptochos Fashion Show

4:00 PM Greek School

2 Mid-Pentecost

8:30 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

3 4:00 PM Greek School

6 8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

8 4:00 PM Greek School

7:30 PM Parish Council

10 9:30 AM TOTS

4:00 PM Greek School

7:30 PM Choir

12 11:00 AM Baptism

3:00 PM Baptism

13 Mother's Day

8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

↔ *Continued from page 1*

alone are sufficient enough to encourage and embolden us into action.

If we are spiritually attentive to the Paschal celebration, then an awakening of the soul will take place. This personal resurrection will transform how we regard our neighbor and how

we look upon others. The New Day in Christ will integrate Christianity and humanity as it easily sweeps aside the primitive and insular views of a modern society that disassociates the Divine and human conjoining. Christ has eternally linked Himself to us. Through Divine action and sacrifice, man has been united with God. So, my dear brothers

and sisters, let us now bask in the glory of Christ's Resurrection. Let us now take up the noble task of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to further promote His kingdom, power, and glory to the end of the ages. Amen.

Wishing all a blessed Pascha, I remain yours in the Resurrected Christ,

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizio ❖

Flames

■ BY LIA LEWIS

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

— Matt 5:14–16



We live during a time when our inner light flickers precariously. Our light flickers because the world around us presents us with many choices: good and bad. These choices determine our path in life. If we choose to hurt our neighbor or even our enemy then the choice is a dark one. Many of us choose this path deliberately because of circumstances. It may not be out of violence or vengeance done upon us, it may just be because we feel we have the choice and this choice is our concern and not the world's.

It's when we feel this way that our flame gets blown out. We've allowed our hearts to blacken a little like the wick of a candle when its flame goes out. It sputters and oozes smoke and then the wick blackens. The light is no longer a pure burning one like a brand new unlit candle. The Panagia [Virgin Mary] is a candle whose flame will never go out. Her purity of soul was imprinted from the moment of conception. She, as any mortal, was born with original sin but the path she chose melted all of that away which led to that day the Archangel Gabriel visited her and asked her to be the God-Bearer. She burns so

"Where do we go when we just don't know? How do we relight the flame when it's cold?"

— *Serenity by Godsmack*

brightly that her flame will never extinguish even after the end times.

We, on the other hand, struggle to make the right choice every day. Many times we make the wrong choice. It could be as simple as repeating our negative behaviors: overeating, rudeness, drugs, and whatever else we fall back on that we think warms us in the cold light of our reality.

How can we "relight the flame" of our souls during these difficult cold days of our lives? The first way is to see the destructive path we are following—like the Prodigal Son's path from his father's house to his eventual job as a cleaner of pig sties. This realization of how bad his life had fallen made him "relight the flame" in his heart. This "flame" led him to home to his Father's house. He remembered how much his Father loved him and the warmth and comfort

that the flame in his heart provided. He remembered that love also replaced his addiction for the world.

It's not hard to blow out a candle but when you need to relight it, there may not be a match around or worse, it could be really windy making it hard to light the candle. But a spark happens when two objects are struck together like two stones. One stone is us and the other is Jesus Christ. Once He enters our heart, the flame is relit with such ferocity that the "door" to our heart is reduced to ashes and His flame engulfs us in such love that it can never be snuffed out.

Through this entrance, we realize that we are the "light of the world." God created us in His image and wants us to burn brightly because He loves us unconditionally. And through this love, He wants us to do His will and glorify Him.

So the answer to the question that is quoted above, "how do we relight the flame when it's cold," by striking our hearts on God's Love and sparking a bonfire to let our "...light shine before others, that they may see [y]our good deeds and glorify [y]our Father in heaven." ❖

Lia Lewis, is a M.Div graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary, Brookline, MA, she lives, works and writes in New Jersey and blogs on www.agapespeak.com and is a member of Holy Trinity G.O.C.



Parish Council

Purpose - A Passion for God!

■ BY A.J. KARANIKOLAS, PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I TIMOTHY 6:11-12

“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”



As we celebrate the glorious Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, we are reminded of His purpose, and promise of eternal life to all that believe in Him. Our Orthodox faith teaches us that that the purpose of man, through God’s grace, is to become perfect in God through love (which is better used as a verb rather than a noun).

This love helps us live together as Christians - and support one another constantly - which was very evident at the recent Sights & Sounds. The Parish Council would like to congratulate our youth (and the advisors, parents, and volunteers) for their amazing performances. They certainly emulated

purpose, combining their faith with their God-given talents, and putting forth the commitment required to achieve success.

Holy Trinity also experiences a purposeful approach from the entire community that we are blessed to be a part of, continually tending to the garden with which we are entrusted - our beautiful Church. At the Parish Council level we have been diligently working in the same manner, and one example is the revamping our Stewardship ministry with a fresh approach and detailed plan from which to execute. Additionally, have also enacted other approaches which are new as well, such as a review of our contractual arrange-

ments (including insurance policies), a projection of upcoming facility needs, protecting our financial assets through restructuring bank accounts, and continually focusing on the Youth ministry and their development. All of these actions are done with the purpose of advancing the interests of Holy Trinity - put another way, engaging all aspects of the parish by keeping Christ at the center of everything!

We have a very vibrant and active church, and the Parish Council is grateful to our community for fighting the good fight of faith - and demonstrating the passion and purpose in all that we do for each other, Holy Trinity, and our Lord Jesus Christ. He is Risen! ❖



GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Please save the date! On April 22, 2018 Holy Trinity will once again proudly participate in the Greek Independence Day Parade in NYC on 5th Avenue!



Sacraments & Rites

January 19–February 17, 2018

FUNERALS

- 1/19/18 +Irene Bistis
- 1/20/18 +Georgios Drimtgiias
- 1/22/18 +Isabel Capatides
- 2/9/18 +Mary F. Lafakis
- 2/13/18 +Kathryn N. Demos
- 2/22/18 +Nasim Jaghab

CHURCHINGS

- 1/14/18 Jacob Phillip, son of Anna and Adam Darity
- 1/28/18 Thomas Theodore, son of Lia Papathomas and Anthony DiIonno

BAPTISMS

- 2/17/18 Theseus John, son of Katherine and Chris Mitrotasios, Godparent is Anthony Mitrotasios

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Jersey City, NJ 07302

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533 Vose Ave
South Orange, NJ 07079

Ariana Banos
236 Irving Place
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Athena Crim
30 Hawthorne Dr.
New Providence, NJ 07974

Stephanie Sikaras
2745 Hickory Rd.
Union, NJ 07083

Christopher and Joy Steele
200 Shearwater Ct. W Apt 12
Jersey City, NJ 07305

St. John Chrysostom *Oratorical Festival*



On Sunday, March 18 the parish St John Chrysostom Parish Oratorical Festival was held. All the speakers were exceptional. We are proud to announce that Stephanie Ticas from the Junior Division and Nicole Boutsikaris from the Senior Division are parish finalists to the Metropolis District Oratorical Festival to be held on April 28, at St. Demetrios in Perth Amboy. In recognition of this Festival, the Michael Kyritsis Foundation awarded each senior speaker with a scholarship. Senior Speakers: Nicole Boutsikaris, Finalist; Andrew Economides, Runner-up; Christopher Ticas, Second Runner-up. Junior Speakers: Stephanie Ticas, Finalist; and George Foussianis, Runner-up. ❖





Scenes from
Sunday of
ORTHODOXY



The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy."





■ BY NICHOLAS SAVORGIANNAKIS, GOYA PRESIDENT

On February 25th we hosted a Sights & Sounds preview show. The preview show took place after the big setup for Sights & Sounds. The Goyans had a chance to perform for a crowd before Sights & Sounds later that week. Also, at the preview show Andrew Economides presented the Good Friend Award to Mrs. Love. The Good Friend Award is presented to someone that goes above and beyond to help the youth of our church. Mrs. Love helps organize our Greek Dance costumes, organize a sale for t-shirts and sweatshirts, and filmed all of our group performances at Sights & Sounds. At the preview show, we collected \$200 that will be donated to help hurricane victims.

On Saturday, March 3, Holy Trinity hosted the annual Sights & Sounds Festival. There were over 450 participants from 15 churches from our Metropolis. Once again we placed 1st overall! This is the fourth year in a row that we have won 1st place. I would like to congratulate all of our Goyans that put in months of hard work preparing sights and practicing for their performances. Sights & Sounds is a

community event that would not be possible without the help of our community and the host committee. On behalf of the Goyans, we would like to thank all the directors that helped us prepare for our group performances. These group performances included: 1st place American Play, 1st place Band, 1st place Duet, 1st place Religious singing, 2nd place American singing, and 3rd Place Greek Dancing. On a personal note, I am happy that our Greek Dancing group placed during my final year. I have been a part of this group every year for six years. I would like to thank Mr. Katsingris for giving me this opportunity and teaching me and my fellow Goyans these dances that keep our Greek culture alive. I am proud of my fellow dancers and I wish them good luck for the future. We would also like to thank the volunteers that helped set up Sights & Sounds. We understand the days and nights that went into setup and preparation, no job was too small from the kitchen to door monitors, to classroom setup and breakdown and the endless amount of chairs we moved around! We really appreciate your help and Sights &

Sounds would not have been a success without the help of all of our volunteers and members of our Holy Trinity community.

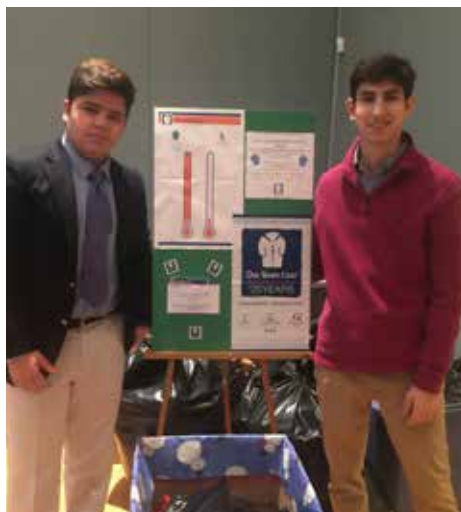
Our next Goya event is the Olympics which will take place in May. The Olympics is by far the best event of the year and takes place Memorial Day Weekend at Monmouth University. We are looking for any runners and swimmers to come compete at the Olympics. This will be our last official state event for the year. Practices will begin in the coming weeks.

SAVE THE DATE:

On April 22th we will be attending the Greek Independence Day Parade on 5th Avenue. I encourage everyone to come to support our Greek heritage and enjoy a fun day on 5th Avenue with our fellow Greeks.

On May 31st- June 3rd is the annual Greek Festival. Now is the time for all of our Goyans to start spreading the word especially through social media. This our biggest church fundraiser of the year and we need to make sure we publicize it well so lots of people will come. ❖

GOYA Outreach Ministry



■ BY STELIO KANARAS

As part of the GOYA Outreach committee, Stamati Angelides and I, with the blessing of Fr. Peter, decided to work with Philoptochos to organize the second annual coat drive through the One Warm Coat organization. From January 17th through February 28th, we collected 100 clean and gently worn coats for men, women and children. With the extra help of Despina Tarhanidis, we sorted the coats and put a small note card with an uplifting message like "smile" or "God loves you" in each coat pocket. These coats were donated to the Greater Central

Jersey Clergy Association in Plainfield, NJ. This charitable organization, who is vetted by One Warm Coat, were eager to accept our coat donation especially with the cold, wintry weather continuing into March. Thank you to each and every parishioner who donated a coat to help provide a warmer winter to a neighbor in need. Furthermore, we thank Mrs. Themis Ganifas who had no coats to donate this year so she made a \$25 donation to help our cause. To understand how far donations go, \$5 equals 10 coats for the needy! ❖

SIGNS & SOUNDS FESTIVAL





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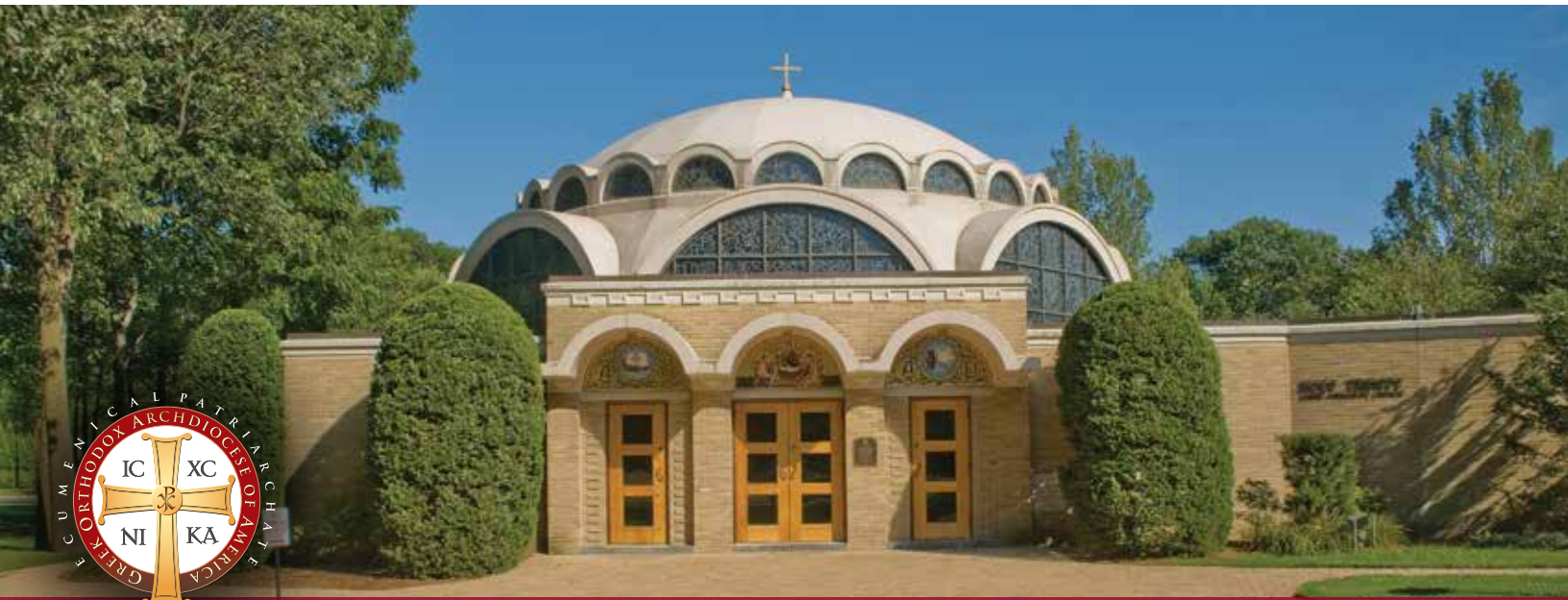
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Cultural Barbara Manos
Trinity Circle Helen Criares
Fellowship Lauren Karanikolas

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

| | Sundays | Weekdays |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|
| <i>Orthros</i> | 8:15 AM | 8:30 AM |
| <i>Divine Liturgy</i> | 9:30 AM | 9:30 AM |

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