

# The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



April 2023 ✦ Volume 47, Issue 3

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## A Glimpse into Holy Week

**H**oly Week, or Great Week, is the heart of the Christian Orthodox Faith and the center of the yearly cycle of Orthodox feasts. It does not stand alone: it is a continuation of Great Lent and the themes of God's mercy and repentance continue from this time.

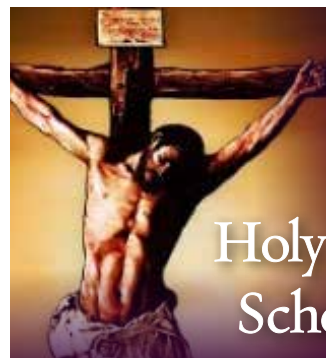
Great and Holy Week may be divided into two halves. The first (Great and Holy Monday – Wednesday) is dominated by the Bridegroom Service, which is based on the parable of the ten virgins. – Matthew 25:1-13. The image of Christ as the Bridegroom reminds us of the intimate love and union between God and His people, and the absolute commitment and dedication to Christ that should define our relationship with Him.

Additionally, the themes of repentance, vigilance, and the Second Coming of Christ heavily appear. The parable of the ten virgins is, after all, a parable about the Last Judgment.

The second half of Holy Week is the commemoration and celebration of the Lord's Passion, Crucifixion, death, burial, and ultimate Resurrection. And it is here that we are invited to enter the very essence of the Orthodox Faith. Holy Week is not simply a religious custom, but the heart of Christianity and the fundamental purpose of the Church in this world: to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ that He has risen offering us resurrection unto eternal life. ✦



At one time darkness reigned over all creation. There was no light but in the midst of this darkness the voice of God declared, "Let there be light!" Then the light appeared out of the darkness. And this created light dispelled the darkness. Besides natural darkness, spiritual and moral darkness covered the world. But through Christ's splendid Resurrection, a great light came to us. Shining brightly, Christ overcame the gloom of spiritual darkness. Like a candle whose flame melts it away so too does our sin melt away in the presence of Christ, who is the Light of the world. Next time you enter church to light a candle praise God in all His wonders and ask for His divine illumination to melt away the darkness within us.



## Holy Week Schedule

### PALM SUNDAY

Divine Liturgy ..... 9:30am

### SUN., MON., TUE., & WED.

Bridegroom ..... 6:30pm

### HOLY TUESDAY

Presanctified Liturgy ..... 9:30am

### HOLY WEDNESDAY

Unction ..... 3:00pm

### HOLY THURSDAY

Institution of the Eucharist ..... 9:30am

The Passion of Christ ..... 6:30pm

### HOLY FRIDAY

Royal Hours ..... 9:30am

Apokathelosis ..... 3:00pm

Lamentation Service ..... 6:30pm

### HOLY SATURDAY

First Anastasi ..... 9:30am

### HOLY PASCHA

Vigil and Paschal Liturgy ..... 11:15pm

### HOLY PASCHA

Agape Vespers ..... 11:00am

### HYMN OF THE BRIDEGROOM SERVICES

I see Your bridal chamber adorned,  
O my Saviour, And I have no  
wedding garment that I may enter  
therein O Giver of Life, make radiant  
the vesture of my soul and Save Me!

*Wait for the promise of the Father*



# Dates in the Life of Our Church

April 2023

<b>I</b>	10:00 AM Rise Against Hunger	6:30 PM Holy Passion of our Lord
<b>2</b>	8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy	<b>14 HOLY FRIDAY</b> 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Veneration of the Cross
<b>4</b>	11:00 AM Trinity Circle 4:00 PM Greek School 7:30 PM Parish Council	9:30 AM Royal Hours 3:00 PM Apokathelosis
<b>5</b>	9:30 AM TOTs 6:30 PM Presanctified Liturgy 7:45 PM Theosis	6:30 PM Lamentation Service
<b>6</b>	4:00 PM Greek School	<b>15 HOLY SATURDAY</b> 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
<b>7</b>	8:00 PM Spirit of Lent Concert	11:15 PM Resurrection Vigil
<b>8</b>	Saturday of Lazarus 8:45 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 11:30 AM Tying of Palms	<b>16 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA</b> 12:00 AM Paschal Divine Liturgy 11:00 AM Agape Vespers
<b>9</b>	Palm Sunday 8:30 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM Bridegroom Service	<b>17</b> 9:00 AM Church Office Closed <b>18</b> 4:00 PM Greek School 7:00 PM Philoptochos Board Meeting
<b>10 HOLY MONDAY</b>	6:30 PM Bridegroom Service	<b>20</b> 4:00 PM Greek School
<b>11 HOLY TUESDAY</b>	9:30 AM Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 PM Bridegroom Service	<b>23</b> Sunday of Thomas 8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
<b>12 HOLY WEDNESDAY</b>	3:00 PM Sacrament of Holy Unction 6:30 PM Bridegroom Service with Holy Unction	<b>25</b> 4:00 PM Greek School <b>26</b> 9:30 AM TOTs <b>27</b> 4:00 PM Greek School 5:30 PM Philoptochos Fashion Show
<b>13 HOLY THURSDAY</b>	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper	<b>30</b> 8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

**Chesapeake (Maryland) July 3-7**  
Ages 9-18  
Location: Camp Wu-Ma-To, Jarrettsville, MD

**Virginia July 9-15**  
Ages 10-18  
Location: Camp Plashatarik, Hartfield, VA

**New Jersey July 16-22**  
Ages 9-18  
Location: Camp Linwood Macdonald, Sandyston, NJ

Register here  
<http://www.campdoc.org/registraion>

More Information <https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd>

## GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

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# Fr. Peter's Paschal Greeting

**B**eing the very foundation of the Christian faith, Pascha invites every person to encounter Christ's victory personally. By examining the significance of the Resurrection, one will discover that this God-accomplished event is at the heart of the human experience. Each interaction and moment of life, every connection, cognitive thought, and dealings with other individuals are measured through this divinely splendid event.

Holy Week helps prepare the faithful to understand and celebrate the Resurrection by showing us God's love and the inexhaustible measures to which Christ suffered for our sakes. Hence, it is important to be present in Church for the entire week to witness firsthand the things our Lord endured for us - His suffering, betrayal, mocking, judgment, beatings, crucifixion and finally death. In utter weakness and through extreme humility, Christ's sacrifice upon the Cross ultimately ushers in renewed life and salvation for the world.

Holy Week teaches an underlying paradox of Christian life, namely that greatness is attained through humility.

Holy Week teaches an underlying paradox of Christian life, namely that greatness is attained through humility. By humbly surrendering and submitting ourselves to the will of God, the salvation found in Jesus Christ will most assuredly be ours. By yielding to Him, we prepare the vessel of our souls to graciously receive the gift of the Resurrection.

As life experiences have taught us, death is the most egregious display of human weakness. Yet we should not fear death, for on the Cross, Death is swallowed up and completely annihilated by Christ. In His victory over Death, Christ's divine power shines through, triggering and making manifest the glorious Life-giving Resurrection.

Therefore, if we are spiritually attuned to the Paschal message, then an awakening of the soul will occur. This personal resurrection will transform how we regard all personal relationships and how we deal with every aspect of life. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." – 1 Corinthians 15:58

As Holy Week approaches, let us take up the noble task of becoming witnesses to God's ineffable mysteries that lead to salvation. Thus, with kindled fer-

vor and with fullness of faith, we may triumphantly proclaim that "Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon Death and to those in the tombs He has granted life."

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

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis ❖





# Philoptochos

## Update

### THE HOLY TRINITY CHAPTER:

**A**veraging approximately 200 stewards a year, we support many worthy organizations, provide educational scholarships, support our church community, meet our National and Metropolis commitments and respond to individuals and families that are in great need and turn to the church for support. This can only be done through the funds raised at our events, donations and stewardship offerings.

We have incorporated new avenues of communications to reach our stewards and extended communities through our Newsletter, "Philotimo", email blasts, social media, zoom meetings and a presence on the Holy Trinity Web Site. We welcome partnering opportunities across the parish ministries.

Our chapter executes on our mission responsibly in all the work we do through our capable, generous and dedicated community of women that put their faith in action.

### CALL TO ACTION:

We invite and urge all women 18 years and older to become a member. We must continue to build the strength of our chapter, to infuse new ideas and to embrace new generations of women to carry on. We look forward to your involvement.

We are honored by your support. Our strength from the community allows us to move together as one vibrant ministry and we look forward to meeting and exceeding our 2023 goals aligned with our mission. Please consider offering your time, talent and treasure to whatever extent possible to help lessen the pain and suffering of others and support our Greek Orthodox faith and traditions.

Please send in your Philoptochos stewardship before April 30th. Chapters must submit stewardship numbers at that time to National Philoptochos. Mail your stewardship envelope, see us at Sunday Fellowship, contact Ellen Manos at ebmanos@yahoo.com or Maria Stevens at marakiz@verizon.net ❖

### UPCOMING COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Lenten Project with "Rise Against Hunger" volunteering opportunity on Saturday, April 1
- Join us in the beautiful tradition of decorating the Epitafios on Great and Holy Friday at 9AM in the Bouras Center
- "ARISE ~ Living the Life of Your Dreams" Spring Dinner & Fashion Show on Thursday, April 27 at Brooklake Country Club, Florham Park. Reservations are due now! Stop by Philoptochos table or contact [fashionshow@htphiloptochos.com](mailto:fashionshow@htphiloptochos.com)
- Mother's Day Fellowship on Sunday, May 14 immediately following the Divine Liturgy. To help, reach out Ellen Manos at [ebmanos@yahoo.com](mailto:ebmanos@yahoo.com)

The Ladies Philoptochos Society  
Of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, NJ  
Cordially invites you to

# "ARISE"

*Living the Life of your Dreams*

Thursday, April 27, 2023  
Brooklake Country Club  
139 Brooklake Road  
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Reception and Raffles - 5:30 pm  
Dinner and Fashion Show - 7:30 pm

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# Holy Trinity Hosts 51st Sights & Sounds Festival



**H**oly Trinity was pleased to hold the 51st Annual Sights & Sounds Festival on Saturday, March 4. We thank the Peter and Sandy Boutsikaris and their teams for doing such an amazing job. Everything was perfect on that day.

At its core, Sights & Sounds is about community. Not only the community at Holy Trinity but also the wider community of all Greek Orthodox Christians in the Northern New Jersey area. GOYans from area parishes come to Holy Trinity to showcase their talents in a vast array of spectacular performances. But just before the award's presentation, the youth come together for a deeper meaning. They come together in prayer. By gathering in church for the Saturday night's Vespers Service, it become apparent why we are here and why youth participation is so important. We are united through our common faith and every time we come together in prayer the Body of Christ is manifested. Yes, all the performances and groups are amazing but the most amazing group-performance happens when the entirety of Sights & Sounds comes together under one roof (in this case one dome) to pray as one Greek Orthodox family.

Included in this issue of *The Promise* are a few pictures of that day. ❖





# GOYA

Update

■ BY MOLLY LOVE, GOYA PRESIDENT

**H**oly Trinity GOYA is ecstatic after our 3rd Place finish at this year's Sights & Sounds Festival, which was held on Saturday, March 4. Countless hours preparing for our group events paid off in the form of 1st Place for Band, 2nd Place for Choral Speaking, English Play, and Religious Singing, 4th Place for Greek Singing, and 5th Place for Greek Dance!

The week following Sights & Sounds, we held our annual Post Show. It was so much fun to share our hard work with the rest of the parish! At the Post

Show, we were honored to present this year's Good Friend Award to Steven Ladas. Mr. Ladas has been an unsung hero of the Westfield GOYA for many years. Every event that has been hosted at Holy Trinity in the last 6-7 years has been made better by Mr. Ladas's cooking and leadership in the kitchen. In September, when we hosted the Harvest Dance, he took care of all of the planning, shopping and preparing of the food to feed a delicious dinner to hundreds of GOYAns. This allowed us to focus on the planning of the rest of

the event, and made it a great success! Not to mention that he makes breakfast, lunch, and dinner for over 500 people every March at Sights & Sounds.

On Sunday, March 19, nine GOYA members participated in the parish level of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Holy Trinity Fianlists were Ava Savvis from the Junior Division, and Elizabeth Connant from the Senior division. Both advanced to the District Oratorical Festival hosted at St. George in Piscataway on April 1. All the speakers did a wonderful job at presenting. ❖



Holy Trinity Oratorical Festival Finalists, Elizabeth Connant & Ava Savvis

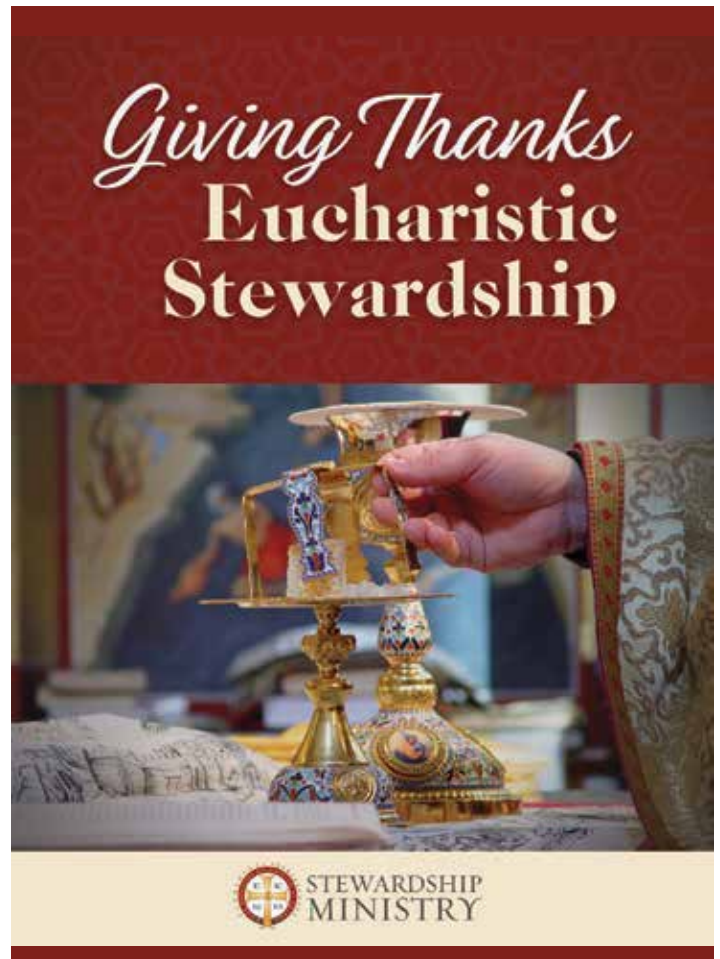
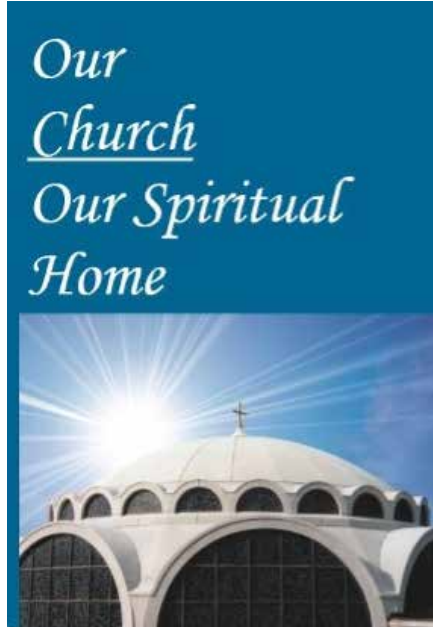


Stephen Ladas, Good Friend Award

# Stewardship

**W**e are stewards of the Gospel and the stewards of our parish. We see our church, not as it is, but as it could be. We offer our treasure and ourselves sacrificially, so that, as members of the Body of Christ, we may reach our full potential in Him.

Easter is a wonderful and opportune time to offer your Stewardship to Holy Trinity. We need all Stewards, whose minds and hearts are centered on the message of the Resurrection, to pledge their time, talent, and treasury. When you offer these gifts, you help make change, not only for the advancement of our parish but to your own spiritual advancement towards the Kingdom of Heaven. ❖



## *Calling All Scouts* Scouting Sunday Hold May 7!

**T**o all Lions, Tigers, Daisies, Cubs, Brownies, Webelos, Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts, Venturers, and any other scouts and adult scouters who attend Holy Trinity:

Sunday, May 7, will be Holy Trinity's Scout Sunday this year. It is a time to celebrate all our scouts and their commitment to serving God and doing their duty to God, which they make every time they say their Promise or Oath.

It is also a time to celebrate the achievement of one of our scouts, Jaelyn Ladas, who will receive the prestigious Alpha Omega Award. This is the highest religious award that can be conferred on an Orthodox Christian scout.

Scouts should come to church in the uniform/sash/vest they would wear to

an official scouting event. We will call them all up to the Solea to participate in a short prayer service and take a group photo.

With this event, we are bringing the Holy Trinity Scouting Ministry back to life. During the pandemic, we held religious award classes via Zoom, and two of Holy Trinity's outstanding scouts received scholarships from the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting (EOCS). Now we will make sure that all our scouts once again have the opportunity to earn their religious awards, which are also sponsored by the EOCS.

In addition, the scouts of Holy Trinity have served as Color Guard in many Veterans Day Celebrations. They also are invited to attend an autumn event,

held at St. Basil's in Garrison, NY, in which seminarians from Holy Cross lead both recreation and learning about our Faith.

For more information, contact Miriam Kotsonis, Scouting Ministry Advisor, mekotsonis@gmail.com or 908-672-0001 (text). ❖



# Images from Sunday of Orthodoxy



Fr. Peter pointing to the dome explaining Christ the Pantokrator



## Trinity Circle

### Trinity Circle Trip

■ BY AVI KIRIAKATIS, PRESIDENT

On Wednesday, March 23 over fifty members of the Trinity Circle, including family and friends, visited St. Nicholas National Shrine at World Trade Center. It was an enjoyable and memorable day for all.

We boarded a very comfortable tour bus on time. For many passengers it was the first time in a long while since traveling to New York City. For some, it was their first visit to Ground Zero and the St. Nicholas Church.

Our group was in awe of the church's white exterior and the beautiful dome. The structure is situated in an open space overlooking the 9/11 Memorial

Pools. The church's design and appearance are in sharp contrast to the tall skyscrapers and noisy construction around it.

We arrived at the church in the middle of a Pre-sanctified Liturgy celebrated by Fr. Andreas Vithoukias. Our group filled the church and admired its beauty.

After the service Fr. Andreas highlighted the architectural features of the church, with emphasis on several of the icons that have non-traditional elements depicting the NYC skyline, the Twin Towers and First Responders. Father also displayed the relics of St. Nicholas

and parishioners venerated the relic.

Immediately after our visit, we walked across the street to Skinos, a relatively new Greek restaurant. We were impressed with the enchanting atmosphere that displayed artistic touches from the island of Chios. We enjoyed a sumptuous lunch and dessert. Perhaps, even more importantly, we cherished each other's company.

It was a day to remember and the included pictures reflect this. We want to express our gratitude to Kassandra Romas and Avi Kiriakatis for their exquisite planning and execution of this memorable event. ❖



# Greek School Celebrates March 25




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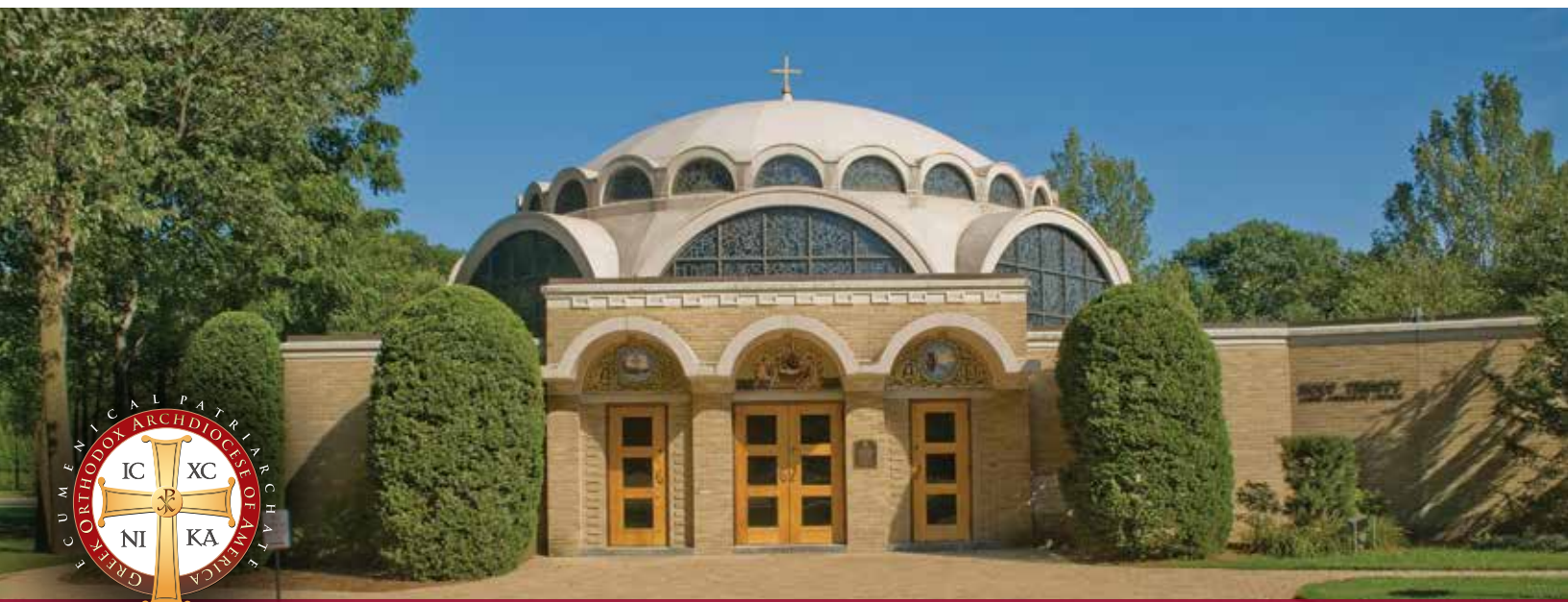
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*Choir Director* Kathryn Athanasoulas  
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*Head Acolyte* Nicholas Sikellis

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*Parish Council* Penny Mavridis Sales  
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*Religious Education* Catherine Pastrikos Kelly  
*Greek School* Stavroula Mergoupis  
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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

	Sundays	Weekdays
Orthros	8:15 AM	8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM	9:30 AM

## THE PROMISE: VOLUME 47, ISSUE 3

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