

The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



August 2022 ✦ Volume 46, Issue 4

holytrinity@htgocnj.org

908-233-8533

holytrinitywestfield.org

Beyond Human Relationships

Beyond natural human relationships and blood relations, there exists another relationship which is higher and greater in value. This is the spiritual relationship which consists of doing the will of God. This type of relationship does not abolish nor discard natural relationships but is a higher form since anyone can acquire it through the God's grace.

We must understand that relationships are not only limited to human blood-relationships or ordinary friendships but extend to the spiritual realm as well. A spiritual relationship is the higher form of relationship because people's souls are united by the power of God.

Families share a bloodline. But this sharing of a DNA code does not mean that there exists amongst relatives harmony, unity of mind, collective purpose, or connected souls. Every household can tell of painful stories of family discontent and disharmony. Perhaps you have even experienced this type of hurt within your own family. Familial acrimony does not exist in spiritual relationships where God's love is present and pervasive. Spiritual relationships build unity by utilizing God's power instead of natural proclivities.

August is the month of the Panagia. Along with the celebration of the Dormition or Falling Asleep of the Panagia, we celebrate the Lord's special relationship with His mother.

Our Saviour neither brushed aside His natural relation with His Mother or the honor befitting a mother, nor did He reject His kinship with other family members but sought to elevate these relationships placing



BEYOND
HUMAN

them in a spiritual context. Through this example we understand that every person can cultivate a spiritual relationship with the Lord. The purpose of which is to show the possibility of us being united to the eternal God. This is the purpose of the Christian life.

We venerate the Theotokos and Mother of God for having both a physical connection with her Son, as well as a spiritual union with Him.

The first to identify the special honor of the Panagia as the greatest amongst all the saints was Elizabeth who, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! Why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come visit me?"

Elizabeth recognizes the Panagia's signifi-

cance by giving birth, not only to a child but to the eternal God, who is the Lord. Through the Virgin Mary, the physical and spiritual realms of our existence are made perfect with the Lord's appearance on earth.

During His earthly ministry, when the Lord heard praise for His mother, He quickly reminded all that she is praised not for having simply given birth – a natural physical act that any woman can do – but that she, above all else, is a person who hears and obeys God's words. "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts that nursed You!" But Jesus said, "More than this, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" – Luke 11:27-28

From this passage, we understand that the physical relationship is of importance but the spiritual one, which is the keeping of God's word, is the higher of the two. The Panagia is honored with the greatest honor a human being can receive, for she is in perfect union with God, both physically and spiritually.

In her physical death, the Panagia is not separated from her Son but through their spiritual connection, she receives the fruits of eternal life and the gift of the Resurrection.

In the present feast of the Dormition, we understand that our physical and spiritual relationship with Christ will reward us with the same gift of eternal life and the gift of Christ's Resurrection. ✦

Happy Feast Day



■ BY REV. FR.
PETER DELVIZIS

Wait for the promise of the Father



Dates in the Life of Our Church

August–September 2022

✝ AUGUST

- I 6:00 PM Paraklesis Service

- 3 6:00 PM Paraklesis Service

- 5 6:00 PM Great Vespers

- 6 **Holy Transfiguration**

- 8:30 AM Orthros

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 12:00 PM Baptism

- 7 8:15 AM Orthros

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- IO 6:00 PM Paraklesis Service

- I2 6:00 PM Paraklesis Service

- I4 8:15 AM Orthros

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 6:00 PM Great Vespers @ Holmdel

- I5 **Dormition/Kimisis of the Theotokos**

- 8:30 AM Orthros

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 2I 8:15 AM Orthros

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 28 8:30 AM Orthros

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 26 7:00 PM Great Vespers @ Elizabeth

- 27 **St. Phanourios the Great Martyr**

- 9:00 AM Orthros

- 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy in Elizabeth

- 28 8:15 AM Orthros

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 29 **Beheading of St. John the Baptist**

- 8:30 AM Orthros

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

✝ SEPTEMBER

- 4 8:15 AM Orthros

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 8 **Nativity of the Theotokos**

- 8:30 AM Orthros

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- II 8:15 AM Orthros

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- I3 7:30 PM Parish Council

- I4 **Holy Cross**

- 8:30 AM Orthros

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- I8 No Services

- Holy Cross Celebration in Asbury Park



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 take approximately three weeks to complete. For your safety, please keep clear from the construction areas. Thank you for your cooperation.



✝
Save the Date

2022 Metropolis of New Jersey Annual Holy Cross Celebration

Sunday, September 18, 2022

The Great Auditorium
21 Pilgrim Pathway
Ocean Gove, NJ 07756



The Beginning of the Church Year

SEPTEMBER 1

The First Ecumenical Council held in Nicaea in 325 A.D. decreed that the Ecclesiastical Year should begin on September 1. The month of September was, for the Hebrews, the beginning of the civil year (Exodus 23:16), the month of gathering the harvest and of the offering of thanks to God. It was on this feast that the Lord Jesus entered the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-21), opened the book of the Prophet Isaiah and read the words: “*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn*” (Isaiah 61:1-2).

The month of September is also important in the history of Christianity, because Emperor Constantine the Great was victorious over Maxentius, the enemy of the Christian Faith, in September. Following this victory, Constantine granted freedom of confession to the Christian Faith throughout the Roman Empire. For a long time, the civil year in the Christian world followed the Church year, with its beginning on September 1. The civil year was later changed, and its beginning transferred to January 1. This occurred first in Western Europe, and later in Russia, under Peter the Great.

“Christ our God, Your Kingdom is an everlasting one and Your Lordship is over all. We give thanks to You in all circumstances and for all things. Grant that this liturgical year be for all of us a year of grace. Make us worthy with purity of heart always to praise you, Lord, glory to You!” (Orthros [Matins], September 1st)

Many of the hymns for the first day of the Church year state that the coming



year is God’s to give and God’s to bless—a **year of the Lord!** These hymns take their theme from Psalm 64 (65 in the Protestant Old Testament), a psalm of praise to the Creator Who is awesome as the Holy Lord but Who richly sustains the earth with His abundant goodness.

“Bless, O Lord, the crown (that is, the beginning) of the year with Your Goodness!”

The goodness of the Lord His love, mercy and grace. The Church’s prayer is that the coming year will be a year of grace, a year blessed by God. Each year can be a year of grace, a year blessed by God.

The prayers and hymns of the Holy Orthodox Church not only recite the wonderful works of God in creation and history for our salvation but also frequently offer guidance about how to make each year a year of grace, a year of the Lord. For example, the very first hymn of the **new liturgical year**, chanted at Vespers in the joyful first tone, reminds us that prayerful daily dependence on God is the basic attitude of the Christian and Christian life. This hymn is also interesting because it refers

to another key passage of the Holy Bible and addresses all the Orthodox Christian faithful.

“O faithful, having learned true prayer from the very words and divine teachings of Christ, let us cry out to the Creator each day: Our Father, Who dwells in heaven, give us always daily bread, and forgive us our transgressions”. (Vesper Hymn, September 1st)

Of course this hymn is making reference to the Lord’s Prayer, the “Our Father...”

Both the above Vesper hymn and the Lord’s Prayer set down three anchors, three great principles, necessary to make the coming year **a year of the Lord, a year of grace.**

The divine teachings of Christ **are the source of truth for our lives.** Our Father in heaven **is a personal God** Who provides for all our material and spiritual needs as we ask Him by faith. Prayerfully daily **dependence on God sanctifies every moment of the day**, whether we are at work, at play, at rest or in difficulty; it fills it with the presence of God and makes it **God’s moment.** ❖



Philoptochos

What is a role model?

■ BY MARIA KANARAS, PRESIDENT

On Tuesday, May 17th, we reunited in sisterhood to rejoice in our numerous blessings and to support the Philoptochos mission of faith in action. “We came together not as before, but with newfound inner strength, courage, and beauty from our personal and collective journeys...and... to approach this new beginning like the lotus flower, which signifies enlightenment, resilience, and rebirth and to remember to watch for those around you in need.” What FUN was had by all where we once again viewed the latest in runway fashions of Emily’s Boutique of Staten Island, and Emily Rassias did not disappoint ~ it was a beautiful and entertaining show! It was evening befitting the theme of BLOOM!

“Where flowers bloom so does hope.”
~ Lady Bird Johnson

This being our most vital fundraiser of the year, the event proceeds is the foundation upon which we are able to further our reach and make a difference through the multitude of pro-

grams, initiatives, and special projects of Philoptochos, the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The dedicated and steadfast support of our much-loved donors, stewards and volunteers makes it all possible, and for that we are truly grateful!

We thank our enthusiastic, hard-working chairs, Alexandra Mavridis and Elise Daniledes, who stepped forward from our stewardship to devote their time, talents, and treasures to create this beautiful event. Their enlightened vision helped to lift one another up and nurture women of all ages to blossom and flourish. In a short 5 ½ months, they put together a fabulous evening of fun and fashions! Their creativity and resolute dedication made it all possible! Beyond a doubt, it was an honor to have worked by their side.

Furthermore, thank you to the following committee chairs: Ad Journal—Christine Johnson and Phyllis Verenes, Reservations—Debra Vlahakis, Finance

— Yiana Leichtling, Gift Raffle – Ellen Manos, Grand Raffle – Avi Kiriakatis, 50/50 Raffle – Mary Demiris, Silent Auction – Janet O’Sullivan. A special thank you Elise Savnik for her help from invitations to raffle and door prize presentation to décor and set-up. Much appreciation to Peter Verenes for his creative graphic design contributions! And thank you to Mary Skiadas and Avi Kiriakatis for their diligent business soliciting for the ad journal. Finally, the evening would not have been complete or successfully executed without Raffle and Silent Auction volunteers, the GOYA greeters, Gentlemen volunteers, Pianist, Ryan Kiel, and our Photographer, Julia Love.

The good works of Philoptochos would not be possible without each and every one of you! Individually we can make a difference, but together we can make an impact far greater than we could ever imagine. ❖

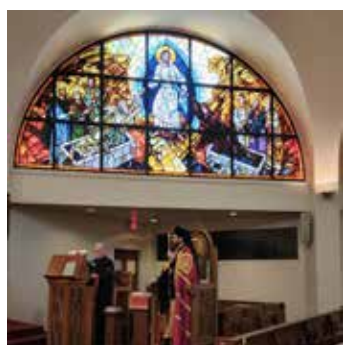


*“To everyone out there working to make a difference, just remember:
The work that you are doing matters and your efforts are making a difference.”*

~ Kelly Lovell



Holy Trinity Celebrates Parish Feast Day With His Grace Bishop Apostolos and Area Clergy



Nicholas Sikellis tonsured by His Grace Bishop Apostolos during the Feast Day Divine Liturgy

Religious Education Registration is Now Open



Religious Education Registration is Now Open. 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!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER

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



Holy Trinity Greek School will begin on Tuesday September 13 for grades Pre K – 3rd and Thursday September 15 for grades 4th – 6th. Please register your children.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR
GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2022–2023 FORM
AND PTO FORM**



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!



Scan the QR code & search for our team!





GREEK SCHOOL GRADUATION







HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
CLASSIFIEDS

Contact the Church Office if you would like to advertise
in the next issue of *The Promise!*



Galloping Hill Caterers

*We offer a unique atmosphere
of elegance, romance and warmth
at a price that is very reasonable.*

The Galloping Hill Inn
www.galkpughillcaterers.com
125 Chestnut Street, Union NJ 07081
Tel: (908) 686-2681 • Fax: (908) 686-2376



**The
Rug
Source
& Home, LLC**
*Oriental Rugs &
Home Furnishings*

Jeannie Arida

Two Naworth Pass
Westfield, NJ 07090
Phone: (908) 654-RUGS
(908) 654-7847
Fax: (908) 654-5767
E-mail: rugbroker@aol.com
www.rugbroker.com

DIRECTORS
 Evy Zavalas, MA Dance
 Christina Manousos, BFA Dance
 75 Bartell Place, Clark, NJ
 732-388-6088
 www.CenterForDanceEducation.com
 we educate ages 2.5 & up

Ballet
 Pointe
 Jazz
 Lyrical
 Modern
 Hip-Hop
 Theatre
 Yoga
 Tap

Center For Dance Education

GERRY KITSOPOULOS, ESQ.
 MEMBER NJ & NY BAR

KITSOPOULOS LAW FIRM, PC
 63 MOUNTAIN BOULEVARD
 WATCHUNG, NJ 07069

gerryklaw@gmail.com Phone: (908) 222-3737

Westfield Family Dentistry
Paul Arfanis DDS
 Dental Care for You and your Whole Family.

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
 www.westfieldDDS.com

Tel. (908) 232-0074
 njdentist@hotmail.com

228 Saint Paul Street
 Westfield, NJ 07090

WELLS FARGO Advisors

Nicholas J. Minas, CFP®, CRPC®
 Senior Vice President - Investment Officer

Investment products and services are offered through Wells Fargo Advisors, a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

600 South Avenue West 2nd Floor
 Westfield, NJ 07090
 Tel: 908 518 7964
 Fax: 908 789 7830
 Toll Free: 800 369 5603
 nicholas.minas@wfidadvisors.com

Allyson Agathis, M.D.
*Diplomate Of The American Board Of Pediatrics
 Fellow Of The American Academy Of Pediatrics*

395 Main Street
 Bedminster, NJ 07921
 (908) 719-2626
 Fax (908) 719-2671

AG Electrical Contractors

- Industrial
- Commercial
- Residential

Aldo Galleli
 President

222 Harvard Avenue
 Metuchen, NJ 08840

Contractors Lic. # 9024
 H.H.S Inspectors Lic. # 7778
 aldo@agelectric-inc.com

Tel: 732-548-3995
 Fax: 732-548-5243
 Mobile: 732-580-0007

marcopolo
 Restaurant & Tavern
 Since 1934

Your Hosts
 Agapios Kyritsis
 Apostolos Apostolou

Open 7 days, Lunch & Dinner,
 Catering, Wines & Spirits.

www.marcopolonj.com

527 Morris Ave., Summit, NJ 07901
 908-277-4492 - email: marcopolo1934@aol.com

Vasilow Electric, LLC

Chris L. Vasilow
 Lic. #17954

1047 Rutgers Road
 Mountainside, NJ 07092

Licensed & Bonded
 908-228-2444 vasilowelectric@gmail.com

Orthodox Christian Cemetery
 Hillsborough, NJ
 Serving All Orthodox Christians

918-685-1452, Fr. James
 www.orthodoxchristiancemetery.org

DS RE *Andromeda Kitsopoulos*
 Sales Associate

3206 Cardinal Drive
 Vero Beach, FL 32963

DALE SORENSEN
 REAL ESTATE INC.
 THE RIGHT MOVE™

c 561.997.4644
 o 772.231.4712
 f 772.365.8282

akleopoulos@sorensenrealestate.com
 sorensonrealestate.com

Georgia Alexis
 Assistant Vice President
 Financial Advisor

Wealth Management
 150 JFK Parkway
 2nd Floor
 Short Hills, NJ 07078

tel 973 912 7769
 fax 973 376 5813
 toll free 800 526 4931
 CA Insurance Lic. # OD226865

Morgan Stanley

NMLS # 1261768
 www.morganstanley.com/georgia.alexis
 georgia.alexis@morganstanley.com

Hours by Appointment
 Lic. #OA5119, OM269

Dr. Spiro Antonacos
 OPTOMETRIST
 Eye Diseases, Infections &
 Disorders
 Eyeglasses - Contact Lenses

466 Pompton Avenue (Route 23)
 Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
 Tel. (973) 239-8381
 Text: (862) 400-1588
 www.drantonacos.com

582 Central Avenue
 East Orange, NJ 07018
 (973) 673-7700

RUTGERS HEALTH
 University Dental Associates

Ioanna Tsolaki, DDS, DMD, MS
 Board Certified Periodontist

Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
 135 Somerset Street, Suite A
 New Brunswick, NJ 08901

p. 732-235-5050 f. 732-220-0045
 it120@sdm.rutgers.edu
 rutgersdentists.org

Permit #: 6526

PARAS & PARAS REALTORS

25 DEFOREST AVE
 SUMMIT, NJ 07901

GEORGE PARAS S.C.G.R.E.A.
 Appraisal/Consulting

TEL 973-236-0100
 FAX 908-277-3050
 CELL 201-681-5366

EMAIL: gparas@parasandparas.com

PASKAS Funeral Service

Michael T. Paskas
 Manager N.J. Lic. No. 3933

The "Funeral Home of Choice"
 specializing in Greek Orthodox funerals
 for over 65 years.

For help & information contact
 Michael T. Paskas at: (973) 467-1882
 Fax: (973) 467-5157 or
 E-mail: paskasfuneralsvc@aol.com

ΕΛΛΗΝΕΣ ΝΕΚΡΟΦΟΝΙΟΙ Web: www.paskasfuneralsvc.com

OPA Grill

550 Boulevard, Kenilworth, NJ 07033
 908-324-4078 • FAX: 908-324-4089
 WWW.OPAGRILLNJ.COM

MARIA SIKOUTRIS DI IORJO, MA, Ed.S, LPC
 — HELLENIC THERAPY CENTER —
 INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY AND COUPLE COUNSELING

WWW.HELLENICTHERAPY.COM

567 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 203
 SCORCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

908-322-0112
 Lic.# 37PC00356200

THE GREEK STORE
 LIBERTY FOOD MARKET
 EST. 1950

• STEVE DIAMANDAS • LIA DIAMANDAS
 • VASILIKI DIAMANDAS

612 Boulevard
 Kenilworth, NJ 07033
 T: (908) 272-2550
 F: (732) 382-2894

Web: www.eatgreek.com
 e-mail: grkstore@aol.com

KENNETH W. ARIDA, DDS

WHERE PERSONALIZED CARE
 & HEALTHY, BEAUTIFUL SMILES MEET

131 SOUTH EUCLID AVENUE
 WESTFIELD, NJ 07090
 WWW.DRARIDA.COM

CALL (908) 654-6262

LEVS CONSTRUCTION
ROOFING • SIDING
 Somerville, NJ

- Shingles
- Tile
- Torch down
- Shakes
- Residential
- Commercial
- Fully Insured
- Reasonable Rates

Tel: 908-393-4723
 Email: levconstruction@yahoo.com

Levani Tatishvili
 www.levsconstruction.com

FISH WINDOW CLEANING
 BETWEEN YOUR WINDOWS

Mark Stoeklin

732.360.8191 (Office)
 732.360.8192 (Office 2)
 732.360.8186 (Fax)
 732.347.9360 (iCell)

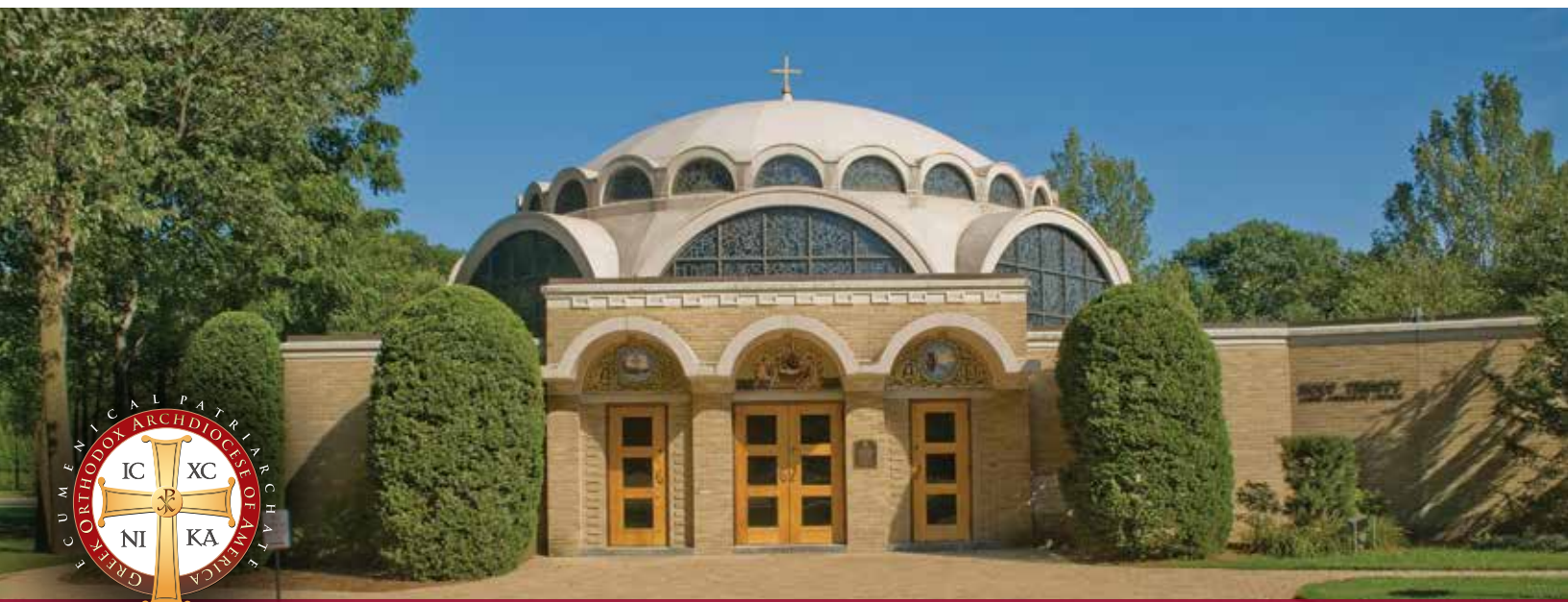
16 Emerson St.
 East Brunswick, NJ 08816

mstoeklin@fishwindowcleaning.com
 www.fishwindowcleaning.com/3154
 Commercial and Residential - Independently Owned & Operated

Wait for
The
Promise of the Father

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Road * Westfield, NJ 07090
Change Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
US postage
PAID
Rahway, NJ
Permit No. 654



METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address 250 Gallows Hill Rd.
Westfield, NJ 07090-1109
Phone 908-233-8533
Fax 908-233-0623
E-mail HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org
Web site holytrinitywestfield.org
Presiding Priest Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis
E-mail FrPeter@htgocnj.org

OFFICE STAFF

Office Manager Diana R. Waltsak
Admin. Assistant E. Joy Daniledes
Caretaker Beatriz Ramirez

WORSHIP

Lead Psaltis Pascalis Kuvalakis
Choir Director Kathryn Athanasoulas
Organist Phyllis Verenes
Head Acolyte John Colonias

MINISTRIES

Parish Council Felicia Karsos
Philoptochos Maria Kanaras
Religious Education Catherine Pastrikos Kelly
Greek School Stavroula Mergoupis
Greek School PTO Melissa Krikos
Youth (GOYA) Maggie Vassilopoulos
JOY/HOPE Kathy Drivas
TOTS Valerie Comprelli
Bookstore Sandy Mouratoglou
Cultural Celia Kapsomera
Nitsa Bruno
Trinity Circle Avi Kiriakatis
Fellowship Lauren Karanikolas
Scouting Miriam Kotsonis

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

THE PROMISE: VOLUME 46, ISSUE 4

10 issues published annually.
No subscription fee.
Article deadline - 10th of the preceding month