

The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



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The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord and Saviour

*"And He was Transfigured before them.
His face shone like the sun,
and His clothes became white as light."*

— Matthew 17:2

The Transfiguration of our Lord is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church. This extraordinary event occurs six days after Christ announces His forthcoming death to His beloved disciples. His prophetic words are fulfilled forty days later when our Lord is convicted to be crucified. To preserve the theological linkage between the Transfiguration and our Lord's Passion, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Universal Exaltation of the Precious Cross on September 14 which falls exactly forty days after the Transfiguration. These two commemorations preserve in the history of the Church the period of time that elapsed between these two life-giving events.

In the Gospel according to Matthew, Christ is portrayed as a Moses-like figure. And while details of the Transfiguration appear in the Synoptic Gospels, Matthew enhances the story by creating a link to Moses by calling attention to Christ's face. "His face shone like the sun" — Matthew 17:2. Similarly, the face

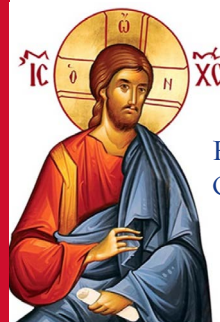


of Moses shined as he descended from the mountain carrying the two tablets with God's law inscribed on them. Elsewhere in Matthew, the motif of light or divine illumination is continued as describing those who are righteous in presence of God. — Matthew 13:43

But Christ is no mere figure resembling Moses or any other of the Old Testament prophets. The Transfiguration stands as a testimony that Christ is divine. He shows Himself as God, and in godly fashion appears on the top of

Continued on page 2 ➡

GOD BLESS AMERICA!
250TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION



Doxology
For Our Nation
On July 5, 2026

GOD BLESS AMERICA

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
to the oceans white with foam.

God bless America,
my home sweet home!

God bless America,
my home sweet home!

PRAYER: O Lord our God, You hold together the universe by Your power, and by Your divine and almighty will govern the universe. From one blood, You created all the nations of the earth, assigning to each a boundary and a border to keep them safe and united as a people.

Continued on page 3 ➡

Wait for the promise of the Father



Dates in the Life of Our Church

July – August 2026

JULY		AUGUST	
4	250th Anniversary of America 1:00 PM Baptism	2	8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 12:00 Baptism
5	8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM Doxology for America's Independence	10	6:30 PM Paraklesis
11	11:00 AM Baptism	12	9:30 AM Paraklesis
12	8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy	15	Dormition of the Virgin Mary 8:30 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
19	8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy	16	8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
25	11:00 AM Wedding 3:00 PM Wedding	23	8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
26	8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 12:30 Baptism	30	8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
28	8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy		

The Holy Transfiguration

↪ Continued from page 1

a mountain. At the appropriate time, the Lord displays the attributes of His divinity, not only in His transfiguring appearance but also with the arrival of Moses and Elias who converse with Him. During the time of Jesus, people wondered if His was Elias or one of the other prophets who have returned by God's will. – Matthew 16:14

All the motifs presented in Scripture during this spectacular moment of Transfiguration such as the intense light, the mountain ascent, Jesus' raiment shining bright, His face like the sun, His appearing like snow, the cloud that encircles all, every image is a comment to us about Christ's divine nature. To bring the meaning together and to show that Christ is part of the Trinity, Scripture records for us His Father's words. "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" – Matthew 17:5

The appearance of Moses and Elias

further illustrates Christ's divinity, for He brings together the one who received the Law and the one who was a great zealot of God's glory. The appearance of these two great Old Testament figures indicates the Lord's power over both life and death, and heaven and earth. Moses, who has already died, and Elias, who did not die but was taken up into heaven, assume their position and flank the Almighty, the One whom they served and witnessed to.

Observing the display of such divine intensity are Peter, John, and James, the closest and most trusted disciples. They are the ones who were always with Jesus during His most majestic and important moments in our Lord's earthly ministry. They are overcome by amazement and fear at this supernatural occurrence. Our Lord wishes them to keep this event to the confines of their mind, at least for now. He commands them not to mention the Transfigura-

tion event until after His Resurrection. "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead" – Matthew 17:9 This single verse suggests that the Transfiguration of our Saviour points forward to the Resurrection.

In all, the Great Feast of the Transfiguration reinforces to all the manifestation of Christ's divinity through the display of His uncreated and divine energy. That indeed Christ is the Only-begotten Son of the Father.

With this in mind, we must remember that the image of God is within each of us. We have darkened the image of our Lord within us by sin. Yet, the Transfiguration of our Lord brings us hope by showing us the incredible power that Christ possesses. Through Him, working within us, we can transfigure the image of the divine within us. We can once again make it shine as an icon of the living God and glow with the light of the Holy Trinity. ❖

250th Anniversary Celebration

↪ Continued from page 1

You have conferred special blessings on this country America and helped it develop into the foremost nation of the world – a true champion of freedom and democracy, and a haven for the oppressed and those who look for the opportunity to live in dignity. You kept it free by Your divine grace and preserving and saving it through world wars, a civil war, global upheavals, civil unrest, and from the malicious assaults of the evil one that seek to divide brother against brother.

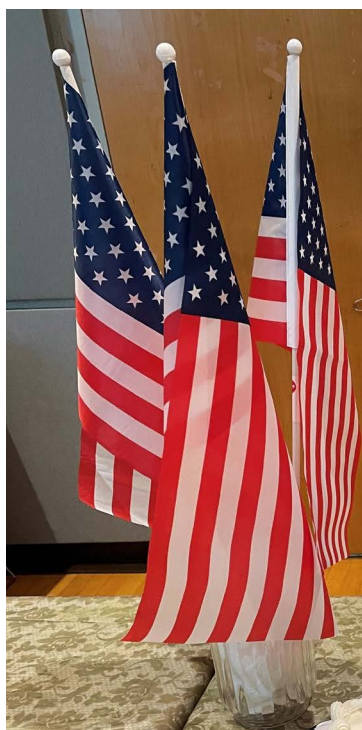
Do You, Yourself, All-holy Master, accept our prayers of thanksgiving as we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of America. Give rest to the souls of our fathers and brothers, sisters and kinsmen, who nobly fought and died for its freedom. Make us all worthy of the freedom we enjoy as a nation. Make us aware of our responsibility to preserve freedom. Keep us united as a country that we may always live in peace and concord. Guide us to every good work that is pleasing to You. Give steadfastness to every authority and power in the nation and make those who govern Your people favorably disposed towards Your divine name and the God-bestowed rights of all Your people.

For you are the Prince of Peace and the Saviour of our souls, and to You we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

PRIEST: O Theotokos and Virgin, hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, blessed too is the fruit of your womb for you gave birth to the Saviour of our souls. ❖



Trinity Circle Celebrates America





Month of the Panagia

The month of August is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the Panagia. Numerous services are celebrated to honor the Mother of God such as the Paraklesis, services for the Dormition and the After-feast.

In most Orthodox churches, there appears in the apse just above the Holy Altar, a large painting of the Theotokos with the Christ Child in her bosom. The Child has an adult face to denote even in childhood He is the “Wisdom of God and the Power of God.”

Through the years people may express dismay that the entire front wall of the sanctuary should be reserved for the Theotokos. These people believe that it should be Christ alone Who should be depicted in such a strategically important visual area. These people need to be reminded that the figure of the Theotokos with Child in the apse conveys

to the worshipper a fundamentally important message, that is, it tells us what our purpose in life is as Christians. It proclaims the vitally important fact that our purpose as Christians is that Christ be formed in us as He was formed in the Theotokos. “My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you.” Galatians 4:19

**The Virgin Mary
is the Prototype of
Each Believer**

The Theotokos is not someone placed on a pedestal. She is one of us, a prototype of the true believer. She summons us to respond to the call of God with the same faith and obedience as she did in

order that Christ be formed in us as He was formed in her.

The Virgin Mary is the typos (type) of the Church, the expression of the new people of God in whom and among whom God dwells. “You are the temple of the living God. As God has said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk with them.’” – 2 Cor. 6:16

The Virgin Mary is the fulfillment of the purpose of Christ’s coming to us. He came to make us temples of the living God. As the Panagia became God’s temple and gave Him human flesh, let us too become a temple fit for God.

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” – 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 ❖

Paraklesis *to the* Holy Theotokos

The first two weeks of August are dedicated to the Panagia. During this time, special intercessory prayers known as the Paraklesis are chanted in church. You are invited to attend these beautiful services during the Dekapentaavgoustos which ask for the protection, guidance, and spiritual comfort (paraklesis) of the Mother of God. We are always in need of the Panagia's prayers. This is the perfect time to come together to call upon her for intercession because she is the greatest of all the Saints. By acquiring special favor from God, she stands in constant vigil asking her Son and our God to grant all spiritual goodness that leads to healing and salvation. The Panagia always seeks to help those who encounter misfortune by directing them towards Christ. She is the *typos* of faith, dedication, obedience, and is adored by all Orthodox Christians.

To request prayers for protection, healing, safety, and good health, please print your name and the names of family members on the provided form and return to church. ♦

List Names to be Commemorated Below:

Most Holy Theotokos, Save Us
ΥΠΕΡΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΕ, ΣΩΣΟΝ ΗΜΑΣ



Service of Paraklesis to
The Most Holy Theotokos
Ἡ Ακολουθία τῆς Παρακλήσεως
τῆς Παναγίας



Liturgical Schedule for Dormition Fast



August 1

Dormition Fast Begins



August 2

St Stephen the Martyr

Orthros, 8:15 AM
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM



August 3

Paraklesis, 6:30 PM



August 5

Great Vespers, 5:30 PM



August 6

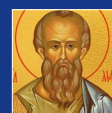
Holy Transfiguration

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



August 7

Paraklesis, 9:00 AM



August 9

St. Matthias the Apostle

Orthros, 8:15 AM

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM



August 10

Paraklesis, 6:30 PM



August 12

Paraklesis, 9:30 AM



August 15

Dormition of the Virgin Mary

Orthros, 8:30 AM

Divine Liturgy with
Artoklasia, 9:30 AM

We thank the many sponsors who did help make this year's Holy Trinity GreekFest one to remember. Your generosity is a constant reminder of the love that you have for the parish and how much it is cherished.

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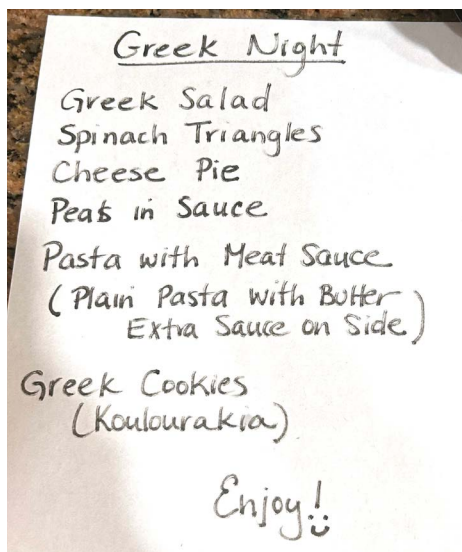


Holy Trinity Meal Ministry Ronald McDonald House

Holy Trinity has entered a new phase of ministry by preparing meals for those utilizing the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick. The Ronald McDonald House supports families seeking vital medical treatment for their seriously sick or injured child. Caring for a child in this condition can be challenging, stressful, and expensive. This House offers rooms to families, comfortable surroundings, and meals free of charge for those caring for their child.

For three days, parishioners visited the facility and cooked meals for the families who were staying there on June 22, 26, 29. Parishioners made Greek meals for the parents to enjoy and provide a little “home cooking” while being in away from home caring for their child.

It is the hope of our parish to continue this outreach endeavor to help soothe the pain and provide nourishment for the families of those staying at the Ronald McDonald House. ❖

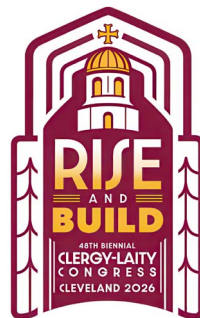


Clergy/Laity 2026 Rise & Build

The Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America gathers the Church to pray, listen, and work together for the life and growth of our parishes. Rooted in the theme Rise & Build, this year's Congress was centered on parish development and renewal, grounded first and foremost in our shared life of worship.

The Congress also offered rich and diverse programs focused on ministry at both the national and local levels. Daily ministry-focused keynotes, workshops, and panel discussions that explored the many dimensions of parish life and service.

Delegates from Holy Trinity attended the Clergy/Laity and Philoptochos Convention in Cleveland, OH June 29 to July 2. ❖



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all parents and guardians,

As we close out another school year at Holy Trinity Greek School, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all of our parents and guardians. Your partnerships, encouragement, and unwavering support have been essential for our student's growth and success in Greek education. Whether through your aid with homework, attending school cultural events or simply ensuring your child arrived every week to learn, your involvement made a meaningful difference. Your commitment to our school community remained strong. On behalf of our entire faculty and staff, thank you for trusting us with your children's Greek education and for working alongside us to help them thrive. We are proud of what we've accomplished together and look forward to continuing this partnership in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Ms. Stavroula Mergoupis

Principal

Holy Trinity Greek School

Welcoming OCMC Missionary Dr. Kristina Mantasasvili



On Sunday, July 12, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church welcomes Dr. Kristina Mantasasvili, an Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) missionary serving the Holy Metropolis of Buenos Aires and South America. Following the Divine Liturgy, Dr. Mantasasvili was invited to share her missionary calling and the vibrant growth of Orthodoxy throughout South America.

Before introducing Dr. Mantasasvili, Fr. Peter reminded the congregation of our Lord's Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations." He spoke of the unique calling of Orthodox missionaries who leave the familiarity of home to proclaim the Gospel in distant lands, noting that while all Christians are called to witness to Christ, certain individuals answer that call in a profound and sacrificial way. Dr. Mantasasvili is one such faithful servant.

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Iosif, Dr. Mantasasvili is developing a comprehensive catechetical



program for the Holy Metropolis of Buenos Aires, serving 25 parishes throughout South America. Her ministry focuses on providing Orthodox Christian education for children, youth, and young families, helping to nurture both new and established Orthodox communities across the continent. In addition, she is helping establish a theological library and multi-purpose educational center that will serve as a welcoming home for catechesis, study, and fellowship - a lasting resource for the growing Orthodox Church in South America.

Born in the country of Georgia and later raised in Greece, Dr. Mantasasvili earned her Ph.D. in Orthodox Theology from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Her



experience representing the Ecumenical Patriarchate in international theological dialogue, together with her deep love for the Orthodox faith, uniquely equips her for this important missionary ministry.

Her joyful spirit and unwavering commitment to Christ reminded us that although not all of us are called to serve overseas, each of us is called to participate in the Church's missionary work through our prayers, generosity, and witness.

We thank Dr. Kristina Mantasasvili for sharing her inspiring ministry with our parish and pray that God will continue to strengthen and guide her as she brings the light of Christ to the people of South America. ❖

For more info
ortodoxia.com.ar

[ocmc.org/missionaries/
dr-kristina-mantasasvili](http://ocmc.org/missionaries/dr-kristina-mantasasvili)



Religious Education

Update

■ BY PETE MARKOS, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Hopeing everyone is enjoying their summer recess. But Religious Education is planning for the upcoming year. You are asked to complete the online form for each student at your earliest convenience! The first day of Religious Education classes is Sunday, September 6.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in the Fall! Please visit to register:
<https://forms.gle/IvPQImudyGwBGP6B7>

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me
religiouseducation@htgocnj.org

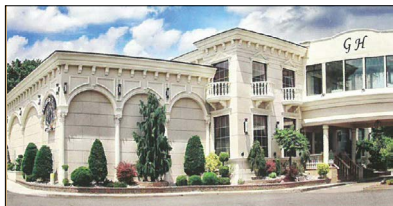




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Trinity Circle Avi Kiriakatis
Fellowship Lauren Karanikolas
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

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