

The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



December 2018 ✦ Volume 42, Issue 10

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As Christmas Day quickly approaches, I ask that you direct your attention to the many great blessings God has given you. In the quiet solitude of prayer, thank the Lord for your family, friends, and all those whom you hold near and dear. By doing such, you will discover that no gift can match or exceed these cherished blessings.

I also ask that each of us imitate the field shepherds who hurried to the town of Bethlehem to greet the New Born Babe, Jesus. With eager anticipation, let us bask in the glories of God and assem-

■ **BY REV. FR. PETER DELVIZIS**



ble together on Christmas Eve to encounter the phenomenon of the Divine Being taking on human flesh. Through wonder and amazement, our lives can take on new meaning and life that springs from the One who is born in cave and lay in a manger for our salvation.

The Nativity in the flesh of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ is celebrated at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church as follows:

Then the angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

So then the shepherds said to one another,

“Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”

And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

-THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE,
CHAPTER TWO

DEC. 23

Sunday Before Christmas

8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

DEC. 24

Christmas Eve morning

8:30 AM Orthros
9:00 AM Royal Hours

DEC. 24

Christmas Eve

6:30 PM Great Vesper
7:00 PM Vesperal Divine
Liturgy; Christmas Pageant

DEC. 25

Christmas Day

8:30 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

DEC. 30

Sunday After Christmas

8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Wait for the promise of the Father



Dates in the Life of Our Church

December 2018–January 2019

✠ DECEMBER

- 2 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 11:45 AM Parish Council Elections
- 3 7:00 PM Great Vespers at Toms River
- 4 St. Barbara the Great Martyr
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 4:00 PM Greek School
- 5 7:00 PM Philoptochos Christmas party
- 7:00 PM Great Vespers at Wyckoff
- 6 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
- 8:30 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 4:00 PM Greek School
- 7:00 PM Choir
- 8 2:00 PM Baptism
- 7:00 PM Great Vespers in Flemington
- 9 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 12:00 PM Religious Ed Christmas program
- 12:00 PM Philoptochos bake sale
- 11 4:00 PM Greek School
- 7:00 PM Parish Council
- 12 St. Spyridon
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 13 9:30 AM TOTS

- 4:00 PM Greek School
- 7:30 PM Choir
- 16 8:15 Orthros
- 9:30 Divine Liturgy
- 18 12:00 PM Trinity Circle Christmas Luncheon
- 4:00 PM Greek School
- 20 4:00 PM Greek School Christmas Program
- 7:30 PM Choir
- 22 St. Anastasia of Rome
- 8:45 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 23 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 24 Paramoni of the Nativity
- 8:30 AM Orthros
- 9:00 AM Royal Hours
- 6:30 PM Vespers
- 7:00 PM Candlelight Liturgy/ Pageant
- 25 The Nativity of our Lord
- 8:30 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 26 Church Office Closed
- 30 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 31 New Year's Eve

✠ JANUARY

- 1 8:30 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 3 4:00 PM Greek School
- 4:30 PM Greek School Vasilopita
- 4 8:30 AM Orthros
- 9:00 AM Royal Hours
- 5 8:30 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 5:00 PM Vespers
- 6 Holy Epiphany
- 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 7 St. John the Baptist
- 8:45 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 8 4:00 PM Greek School
- 4:30 PM Greek School Vasilopita
- 7:30 PM Parish Council
- 12 11:00 AM Baptism
- 13 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 15 11:00 AM Trinity Circle Vasilopita



Christmas is about

Giving Thanks



ST. BASIL THE GREAT

On Giving Thanks to the Creator

St. Basil the Great is celebrated on January 1

Orthros at 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM.

“As you take your seat at table to pray, lift the loaf of bread to offer thanks to the Giver of All. When you sustain your bodily weakness with wine, remember Him Who supplies this gift, to make your heart glad and to comfort your infirmity. Has your need for eating food passed away? Let not the thought of thy Benefactor pass away too. As you put on your clothes, thank the Giver, once again. As you wrap yourself in a coat, feel the warmth of God’s love Who like in summer and in winter has given us coverings convenient for us, at once to preserve our lives, and to cover what is unseemly. Is the day done? Give thanks to Him Who has given us the sun for our daily work, and has provided for us a fire to light up the night,

and to serve the rest of the needs of life. Let night be another occasion of prayer. When you look up to heaven and gaze at the beauty of the stars, pray to the Lord of the visible world; pray to God the Great Architect of the universe, Who in wisdom hath made them all. “O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In Wisdom You have made them all!”

– Psalm 103:24

When you see nature sunk in sleep [in wintertime], then again worship Him Who gives us even against our wills release from the continuous strain of toil, and by a short refreshment restores us once again to the vigor of our strength. Let not night be, as it were, the special and peculiar property

of sleep. Let not half your life be useless through the senselessness of a slumbering soul. Divide the time of night between sleep and prayer. Amen, let your rest be itself an experience in piety; for it is only natural that our sleeping dreams should be for the most part echoes of the anxieties of the day. As have been our conduct and pursuits, so will inevitably be our dreams. Thus wilt thought pray without ceasing; if thought prayest not only in words, but unitest yourself to God through all the course of life and so your life be made one ceaseless and uninterrupted prayer.” ❖

- St. Basil the Great, from Homily V



The Book Store’s December Feature is High on “Santa’s” List for All Your Loved Ones!

The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions and Answers by Fr. Stanley Harakas, quoting Ancient Faith, in 354 pages, is: “A concise and comprehensive handbook on the Orthodox Faith, thoroughly indexed for easy reference. In a matter of seconds you will be able to find the answers to 455 questions most often asked about the Orthodox Church, its faith and life. The author is a pastor and emeritus professor who writes in a language all can understand.” This story explains why “Santa” rates this book so highly. Several years ago, a five year boy old visited Saint Paraskevi Church in Long Island. For some time he studied the magnificently and awesomely beautiful icons of the creation on the dome of that

Church. He asked his grandmother: “I see Jesus, but I don’t see God: where is God?” His grandmother was at a loss as to how to explain this, so she asked a friend who studied and wrote much about the Bible.

The friend wrote this: God is very, very big and our eyes are so small that we can not see God! This made God very, very sad. Do you remember how we all give gifts at Christmas to all our loved ones? On the first Christmas, over 2,000 years ago, God decided to give everyone the greatest Christmas gift of all: His only Son, Jesus. [John 3:16-17] This made God very, very happy! When Jesus grew up to be a man, everyone could see Him and ask Him whatever questions they thought would help them to be good

Christians and get to Heaven when the time came.

The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions and Answers, \$21.95: <http://store.ancientfaith.com/the-orthodox-church-455-questions-and-answers/>

This is one book of many wonderful books offered in the bookstore. If you browse the Book Store table during the Fellowship hour and want to order anything else, let us know! We do, however wait until we have a substantial number of orders to place so that we can save on shipping!

The Book Store wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas and a New Year overflowing with the best of health, and happiness! ❖



What Others Say About You

Is it annoying when people speak about you, especially when it's behind your back? Does it bother you? Or do you see this sick and unhealthy situation as a waste of time and energy? Quite honestly it's better to avoid it completely because the alternative makes us sink into the mire of this sin. If we have the mind of God, then we should rise above petty arguments and exchanges. "He who does not consent to wholesome words...is proud and obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions..." – 1 Timothy 6:3-4

Let consider how people may speak about an individual. A large group of

people may say that you're a great person. Perhaps ten say you're really a saint. A hundred others, on the contrary, may say you're corrupt, sinful, and therefore dangerous. Two friends may say you're a simple star. And still, another two or three may say you're useless.

With all the various comments and banter about your person, who is right? Is there truth in what is being said? Which person in a specific group is special to you and cares for you? Who in this group will judge you in the end?

We have to remember that when people speak about you they are just using words. Words, words, words. But their words seek to judge you, criticize you, and gossip about you. If you worry

about what people say about you then you will grow tired very quickly. Your physical and emotional energy will drain very fast.

A Greek Philosopher by the name of Epictetos [55-135 A.D.] said; "Any person capable of angering you becomes your master; he can anger you only when you permit yourself to be disturbed by him."

What you are is God's gift to you. What you make of yourself is your gift to God. Therefore, take the high road in all things by allowing your speech to be lifted up and all your words to inspire others to God's kingdom. ❖



Trinity Circle

Update

■ BY AVI KIRIAKATIS, PRESIDENT

We are blessed at Holy Trinity to develop lifelong friendships by being members of Trinity Circle. Parishioners 55 and over are welcome to join Trinity Circle and attend our monthly meetings and wonderful outings. We always start out with a prayer by Father Peter then proceed to a short meeting followed by a speaker or presentation and then end with

a lunch and some socializing.

Our November speaker was Megan Callus, fitness owner specialist, who talked to us on "Functional Aging" and what we should do to stay young!

Kindly sign up with Peggy Minaides, Chairperson, for our Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 18th - \$15. pp - 12 noon at Galloping Hill Caterers,

1085 Galloping Hill Road, Union, NJ 07083 – wheelchair accessible from left side of building.

January 15th Vasilopita meeting celebration. Father Peter will bless and cut Vasilopita and give us all a piece. You are in for a treat as the luncheon will be prepared and donated by Avi & Hellen Kiriakatis and Marina LoAlbo. ❖

Saying of the Fathers....

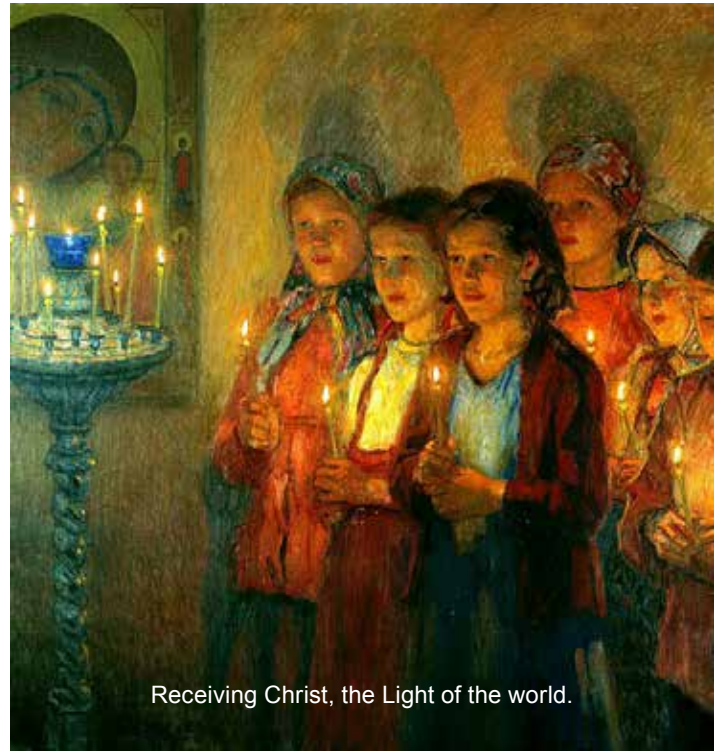
“Everyone who loves God, shows himself patient and steadfast in times of suffering. Whoever bears them bravely, becomes strong and obedient to God; and whoever enters the path of following the will of God, conquers his natural weakness. On the other hand, whoever does not recognize his own powerlessness, is proud and not inclined to submit himself to the will of the Lord. Whoever does not submit to it and hopes only in his own power does not receive the power and help of God; and not having been strengthened in spirit, cannot become patient. Whoever does not endure misfortune and afflictions, has no faith; and whoever does not have faith, does not love God.”

—St. Alexis

With God all things are possible

Matthew 19:26

The nicest place to be is in someone's thoughts,
the safest place to be is in someone's prayers,
and the very best place to be is...in the hands of God.



Receiving Christ, the Light of the world.



Parish Council

Power and Influence - The Power to Serve God!

■ BY A.J. KARANIKOLAS, PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Power and influence are generally thought of in a secular sense - associated with success, wealth, adulation, being feared, etc. Why do some people want power and influence? Many are tempted, and spend their lives in a constant struggle to compete against and dominate others in their quest to acquire, and then defend, their positions of power - an unmerited motivation.

What a blessing it is that we, the faithful, can turn to our Orthodox Christian faith and correctly answer that question as such - the want for benevolent power

and influence comes from the desire to better serve our Lord Jesus Christ! When we consider all of the time and talent that the Holy Trinity family puts forth, it is nothing short of amazing. Between the Ministries, Liturgical services, Religious/Greek School Education, and other Committees/Events, it adds up to over 40 activities in which the community serves - just at Holy Trinity. If we include the many, many out-reach programs that the church is connected to, the number is doubled - which is incredible! This certainly speaks to how the power and influence

can be effective when we are engaged with one another, the participation rate increases across the entire community, and we keep Christ at the center of everything!

As we come upon the Christmas season and celebrate the birth of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, let us reflect on how He humbly exercised His power and influence and how we may do the same - all in His name as we cheerfully give our time, talents, and treasure to our blessed Holy Trinity!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Parish Council. ❖

GOYA will be selling Orthodox visor crosses that clip on your car's visor to raise money for the 2019 GOYA Mission Trip to St. Innocent Orphanage/ Project Mexico. These beautiful crosses were blessed during a Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity. They clip anywhere in your car or home. This is a wonderful gift to you, your family, or friends. Minimum suggested donation \$10 each.



Bless Your Ride

GOYA Fundraiser

A team of our GOYANS, Fr. Peter and 5 parish adults will be traveling to St. Innocent Orphanage/ Project Mexico June 27-July 3, 2019.

Each cross is gift wrapped and will be available at the GOYA table each Sunday in December. Available while supplies last. Orders may be phoned into the church office as well at (908) 233-8533.

www.projectmexico.org

SAVE THE DATE

Greek Night GLENDE

Friday, 1/11/19

Performance by the
Holy Trinity
Hellenic Dancers &
Dance Instructions

Check the weekly bulletin for more information or stop by the GOYA table

Vasilopita Sale Benefitting our GOYA Dance Troupe

🌲 *From the Agia Skepi/Holy Protection Monastery* 🌲

- Large - 2 pound, round bread Vasilopita
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NAME: _____

PHONE/EMAIL: _____

NUMBER OF VASILOPITES: _____

TOTAL COST: \$ _____

Bread orders must be prepaid. **ORDER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 2nd.** Bread pickup will be December 16th in the Bouras Center. Please hand in payment to Christina Warnick or Popi Frantzeskakis during Fellowship Hour or send payment along with this form in sealed envelope to the Church office to our attention. Cash or Check payable to HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH - *VASILOPITA SALE* IN THE MEMO.

Ευχαριστούμε! Καλή Χρονιά!

On Saturday, November 3, Holy Trinity hosted its annual
Dinner Dance at Echo Lake Country Club





Religious Education

KALA KRISTOUGENNA!

■ BY ANTHONY BOSCO

On behalf of the Religious Education Department at Holy Trinity, we wish all our children and families a very blessed and Merry Christmas. Our Orthodox faith teaches us that we all should refer to Christ in present tense. We say Christ “is” born on Christmas Day; not Christ “was” born on Christmas Day. We teach our children that Christ actually was born in Bethlehem and yes to a Virgin - the blessed Theotokos. The history in our faith is very clear about the tree Kings, who they were and the kingdoms

they traveled from. We focus on the relationship with Mary and the angel Gabriel. The relationship with Mary and Joseph. The relationship between Mary and her cousin Elizabeth and so much more. We should all take a moment during this Christmas season to sit by our Christmas Trees and discuss with our children and teach them the true history of Christmas, not a fairy tale, or an abbreviated form of the birth of a Savior. Remind our children that Christmas is a Holy Day not just a holiday. We fast, we give to the poor, we share gifts and

good tidings of cheer with friends and family during this beautiful time of the year. In closing I encourage all families to embrace the joy of Christmas because it is an amazing event in history. It is a time of joy and celebration because on this day a Child was born of a virgin, God manifested Himself in the Christ child. All eternal hope for salvation became real. Embrace all our beautiful Christmas traditions and experience the joy of feeling God’s love for us.

A very blessed and Merry Christmas to all. ❖





■ BY AVA LEICHTLING, GOYA PRESIDENT

We see a lot of hustle and bustle in the months of November and December. It is also the perfect opportunity to pause and give thanks for all of our blessings and to help those who are less fortunate. This year, there is a strong focus on Outreach events. Each month GOYA will partner with Philoptochos to feed the homeless. Our first volunteer date was on Thursday, 11/7 at the Calvary Episcopal Church. Thank you to all the families that provided and served a delicious meal and to those who contributed to the donations of toiletry items.

“Feed a Friend” kicked off in October. GOYA will be collecting non-perishable food items monthly for local charities such as the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation and Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Items will be collected the first Sunday of each month. Details will be listed in the weekly bulletin for the specific items needed. The collection box for drop off is located in the Bouras Center. Thank you to Mrs. Savorgiannakis for transporting items to the centers.

We thank all who purchased the specialty breads baked from the Bread-

smith this year. Proceeds will benefit the St. Innocent Orphanage in Mexico, a home for orphaned teenage boys. Thank you to Mrs. Arida who coordinated this fundraiser once again.

GOYANS are looking forward to two of our favorite activities...the Lock-in and Christmas Caroling. The Lock-in was held on Friday, 11/16. We slept overnight night in the Bouras Center - fun for us, not so much fun for the chaperones! Christmas Caroling will be held on Friday, 12/14. We always enjoy spreading holiday cheer and spending time together.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/14
Christmas Caroling

12/27
Christmas Dance
in Asbury Park

12/30
Alumni Games at 2pm

1/11
Greek Night Glendi
in the Bouras Center

ATHLETICS

Our Basketball and Volleyball athletic teams both have victories versus Trenton, however, they lost to the strong Piscataway teams. This year we have an unofficial junior volleyball team

because we have enough players for two teams. We would also like to give a warm welcome to Mr. Jaime Kallinosis, a GOYA alumnus, who will be coaching the basketball team along with Mr. Op

Kyritsis. All our GOYANs have shown great sportsmanship during the games! We look forward to more WINS for the balance of the season. Come support our teams!

12/2
Westfield vs Holmdel (away)

12/16
Westfield vs Toms River (home)

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, Holy Trinity GOYA would like to thank Father Peter, our advisors, coaches, parents and the entire Holy Trinity family for all their love and support! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ❖

*For additional information on GOYA activities,
please stop by the GOYA table during fellowship hour or email
GOYA@HTGOCNJ.org*



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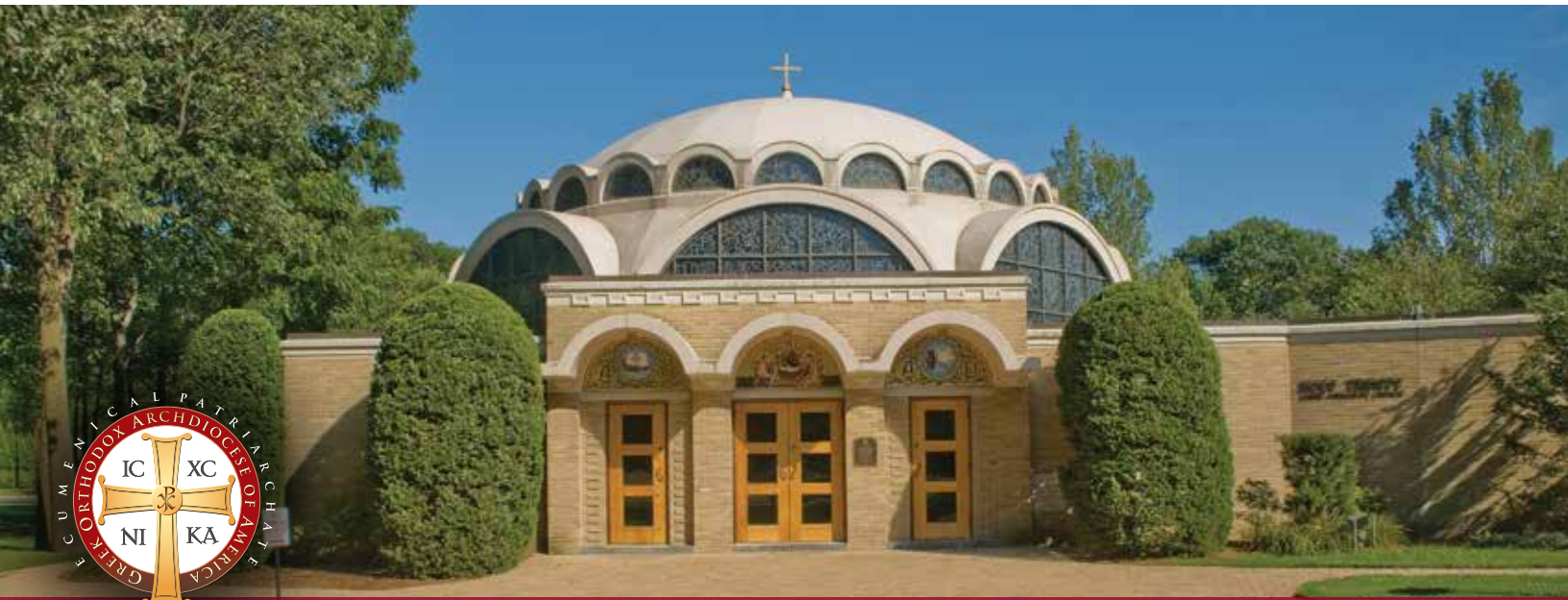
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<i>Divine Liturgy</i>	9:30 AM	9:30 AM

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