

# The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



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The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America announces to the faithful the election of

His Eminence  
Metropolitan Elpidophoros  
of Bursa as the new  
Archbishop of America.

*Axios!*

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE  
Election Announcement

Today, Saturday, May 11 2019, the Holy and Sacred Synod, continuing its work, proceeded to fill the vacated seat of the Archdiocese of America following the voluntary resignation of its shepherd, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America. Therefore, following the suggestion, permission and exhortation of His-All Holiness, the holy synodical members dully casting their votes unanimously elected as Archbishop of America, His Eminence Metropolitan Elpidophoros of Bursa, Abbott of the Holy Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Halki and Professor of the Theological School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros (Lambriniadis) of America was born in 1967 in Constantinople (Bakirkoy). He studied at the Department of Pastoral Theology at the Theological School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, graduating in 1991. In 1993, he completed postgraduate studies at the Philosophical School of the University of Bonn in Germany. In March 2005, at the proposal of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, he was elevated by the Holy and Sacred Synod to the position of Chief Secretary and ordained to the priesthood by the Ecumenical Patriarch in the Patriarchal Cathedral. In March 2011, he was elected Metropolitan of Bursa and then appointed abbot of the Holy Patriarchal Monastery of Holy Trinity on Halki. Of note, the new archbishop visited Holy Trinity in Westfield while accompanying His All Holiness on his pastoral visit to the United States in 2004. ❖



## PRAYER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Heavenly King,  
Comforter, the Spirit of  
Truth, everywhere  
present and filling all  
things, Treasury of good  
things and Giver of life,  
come and abide within us,  
cleanse us of every stain,  
and save our souls,  
O Good One.*

Wait for the promise of the Father



# Dates in the Life of Our Church

June–July 2019

## ✠ JUNE

6	Holy Ascension
	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	4:00 PM Greek School
	7:30 PM Choir
8	11:00 AM Baptism
9	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	11:45 AM Sunday School Graduation
	2:00 PM Baptism
	4:00 PM Baptism
11	7:30 PM Parish Council
13	9:30 AM TOTS
	4:30 PM Greek School Graduation
	7:30 PM Choir
15	Saturday of Souls
	9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

16	Holy Pentecost
	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	11:00 AM Pentecost Vespers
17	Day of the Holy Spirit
	PARISH FEAST DAY
	9:15 AM Orthros
	10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
	7:30 PM NNJYC
18	12:00 PM Trinity Circle luncheon
20	11:00 AM Trinity Circle to Papermill
23	All Saints Day
	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
24	Nativity of St. John the Baptist
	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
29	St. Peter and St. Paul

	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
29	GOYA Mission Trip
30	Synaxis of the Holy Apostles
	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

## ✠ JULY

7	St. Kyriaki
	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
13	11:00 AM Baptism
	1:00 PM Baptism
14	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	2:00 PM Wedding

## Feeding the Hungry

■ BY ELLEN CONTI

On Saturday, April 13, 2019, Philoptochos partnered with GOYA to feed 80 homeless men at the Market Street Mission, a non-profit organization in Morristown, NJ. The Market Street Mission has been reaching out to the poor and needy in Morris County since 1889. Through a life-centered on Christ, their goal is to assist individuals to overcome homelessness, addiction, and poverty.

For the last 4 years, our Philoptochos Chapter has engaged the Holy Trinity Community in the Mission's annual Thanksgiving Dinner Drive donating 1,910 dinners.

This year Philoptochos initiated a



“Joint Lenten Project” partnering with GOYA. Mary Carayannopoulos and her daughter Sophia spearheaded the making of 6 trays of baked ziti. Others included Yiana Leichtling, Ellen Manos-Athenson and Ellen Conti who contributed to rounding out the delicious meal with salad and bread and the GOYANS brought homemade desserts and drinks.

As we move forward, we plan to con-



tinue to support this mission organizing dates later in the year. Please let us know if you are interested in participating. ❖

# Holy Pentecost

by Rev. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann



In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation.

## THE VIGIL OF PENTECOST

The all-night Vigil service begins with a solemn invitation:

"Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit,

The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope,

The mystery which is as great as it is precious."

In the coming of the Spirit, the very essence of the Church is revealed:

"The Holy Spirit provides all,

Overflows with prophecy, fulfills the priesthood,

Has taught wisdom to illiterates, has revealed fishermen as theologians,

He brings together the whole council of the Church."

In the three readings of the Old Testament (Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God "would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh." This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn [the Prayer of the Holy Spirit]: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth...." the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose "descent"

upon us in this festal Vigil, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit "coming and abiding in us."

Having reached its climax, the Vigil continues as an explosion of joy and light for "verily the light of the Comforter has come and illumined the world." In the Gospel reading (John 20:19-23) the feast is interpreted to us as the feast of the Church, of her divine nature, power and authority. The Lord sends His disciples into the world, as He Himself was sent by His Father. Later, in the antiphons of the Liturgy, we proclaim the universality of the apostles' preaching, the cosmical significance of the feast, the sanctification of the whole world, the true manifestation of God's Kingdom.

## THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is "added" to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn "summing up" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon:

"Who is so great a God as our God?"

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fullness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy

Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost"—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—"the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope. ❖



## Holy Trinity – Fellowship & Friendship Gathering

### Holy Trinity G.O.C. & Roman Catholic Churches

**I**t is known that the Town of Westfield has two parishes named Holy Trinity. With a spirit of charity, love, and friendship our parish gathered together with Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church for a day of Christian fellowship. This was the first such meeting ever for the two churches. It was a historic and blessed day, as the two oldest and ancient faiths came together in Westfield.

Fr. Anthony greeted us on a picture perfect day on Saturday, May 18. The sun was shining brightly and the sky was crystal clear. The temperature hovered in the 70's all day long. The day began at 9:00 AM at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church with breakfast and a tour of their meditation garden, chapel, and church. As a sign of Christian affection, as we entered the church we held the hand of another parishioner

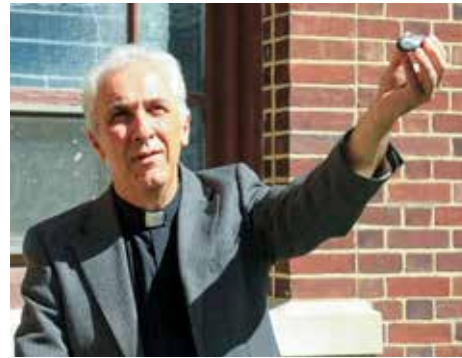


Fr. Anthony with Fr. Peter

from the other church. After the tour, the group gathered here at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in the courtyard to begin the second leg of the tour.

Fr. Peter began the tour by mentioning that it is good that each tour began in a garden since our creation and re-creation also took place in a garden. When we were first made, we enjoyed the delights of the Garden of Eden. Likewise, the fall from this garden was

overcome by another garden – that of Gethsemane. When the Lord entered the Garden of Gethsemane, His Holy Passion began. This event led to the Resurrection and thus we view this garden as the means of our re-creation in Christ. As the group entered the front of the church, we gathered together in the nave to sing the Paschal Hymn, Christ is risen. Together we sang the hymn first in English and once the tune was familiar we repeated the hymn in Greek using the phonetics found in the Easter Card. The afternoon ended with a luncheon in the Bouras Center and more comradery. We thank our Lord for granting us the opportunity to showcase our Christian Fellowship, hospitality and philoxenia known to us by the icon which both parishes share “The Hospitality of Abraham.” ❖



# Greek School

Holy Trinity Greek School hosted Hellenic Book Club and greek children's book author, Manos Gavras and his book series *Fistikios O Aiginitis*. Mr. Gavras, a well known television and film actor, has written three children's books featuring a loveable character named "Fistikios." During his visit Mr. Gavras explained how he came up with the idea for his books, explained what the books are about, and how he interweaves greek mythology into his stories. A good time was had by all our Greek School students, teachers, and parents. ❖





# Trinity Circle

## Update

■ BY AVI KIRIAKATIS, PRESIDENT

**H**oly Trinity Circles welcomes all parishioners 55 and over to join us for camaraderie and fun on the third Tuesday of each month. We have monthly speakers and outings of special interest.

We thank Themis & Greg Ganifas for donating the March Lenten luncheon in memory of their loved ones. Our April luncheon was donated by Joy Daniledes in loving memory of her parents, Anthony and Zara Kyrioglou. May their

memory be eternal.

Members lunch at Limani Seafood Grill, Westfield; breakfast at Rustic Mill, Cranford and Papermill Playhouse, Millburn to see Beauty and The Beast. If interested, sign up at Fellowship hour.

With love and gratitude to our Lord for the fellowship we share at Holy Trinity. May God's Blessings continue to be with all our members throughout the year. ❖

## Upcoming Calendar of Events



**Tuesday – 12:00 noon**  
End of year member's luncheon at Limani Seafood Grill - \$20. Please sign up during Fellowship Hour.



**Thursday – 11:00 am**  
Breakfast at Rustic Mill and Papermill Playhouse "Beauty and the Beast" – \$50. with possible carpooling. Please sign up during Fellowship hour.

## Religious Education

■ BY ANTHONY BOSCO

**L**et me begin by congratulating all our seniors and wishing you all the best of luck for a bright future. Watching you grow and develop through our Religious Education program has given me the opportunity to realize what enormous talent each of you possesses. There is no doubt you will be faced with many challenges but

remember always to keep God first in your life. Lean on Him who can take you through any difficulties you may be faced with. Don't get distracted by all the contemporary noise in society. Stay focused on your God-given ability to become whatever you chose to be. Serve humanity whenever you can, make a difference in someone's life,

and embrace this beautiful world that God has made you part of. Remember always how every proud we are of each and every one of you and we will always be here for you whenever you need us.

God bless, guild, and watch over our children always. ❖

## OCCMC

### *Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!*

**W**e are pleased to report that the 2019 Holy Trinity OCCMC Coin Box Drive was very successful. Holy Trinity raised \$ 1827.82 for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. This is over \$550 more than 2018's collection. The parish was very generous and this collection will help spread the hope and promise of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the four corners of the globe.

Thank you for supporting this worthy Lenten outreach project. In the combined years 2018 and 2019, Holy Trinity has raised a total of \$3097.82 for the OCCMC. Praise the Lord! ❖



# Holy Trinity Life



Matrona (Mary) Skiadas with Fr. Peter and Pres. Victoria



Kathy Athanasoulas with Gioula and Michael Assad

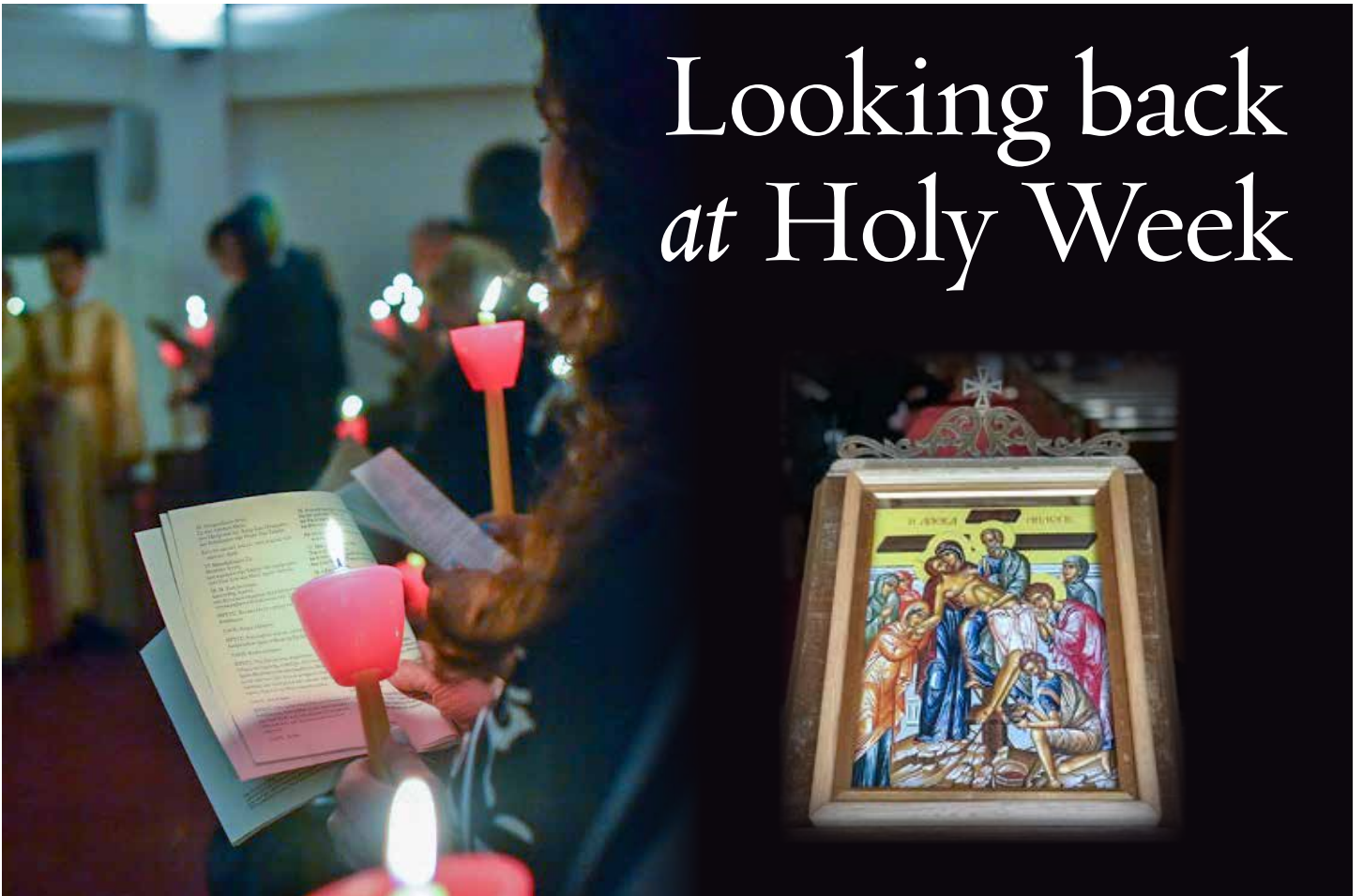


**GRANDMOTHER OF THE YEAR**  
Fotini Nicholas



**MOTHER OF THE YEAR**  
Debra Vlahakis

# Looking back *at* Holy Week



Apokathelosis



# Myrrh Bearing Women



# Holy Friday Retreat



# Holy Friday Night





## Holy Saturday



## Agape Vespers





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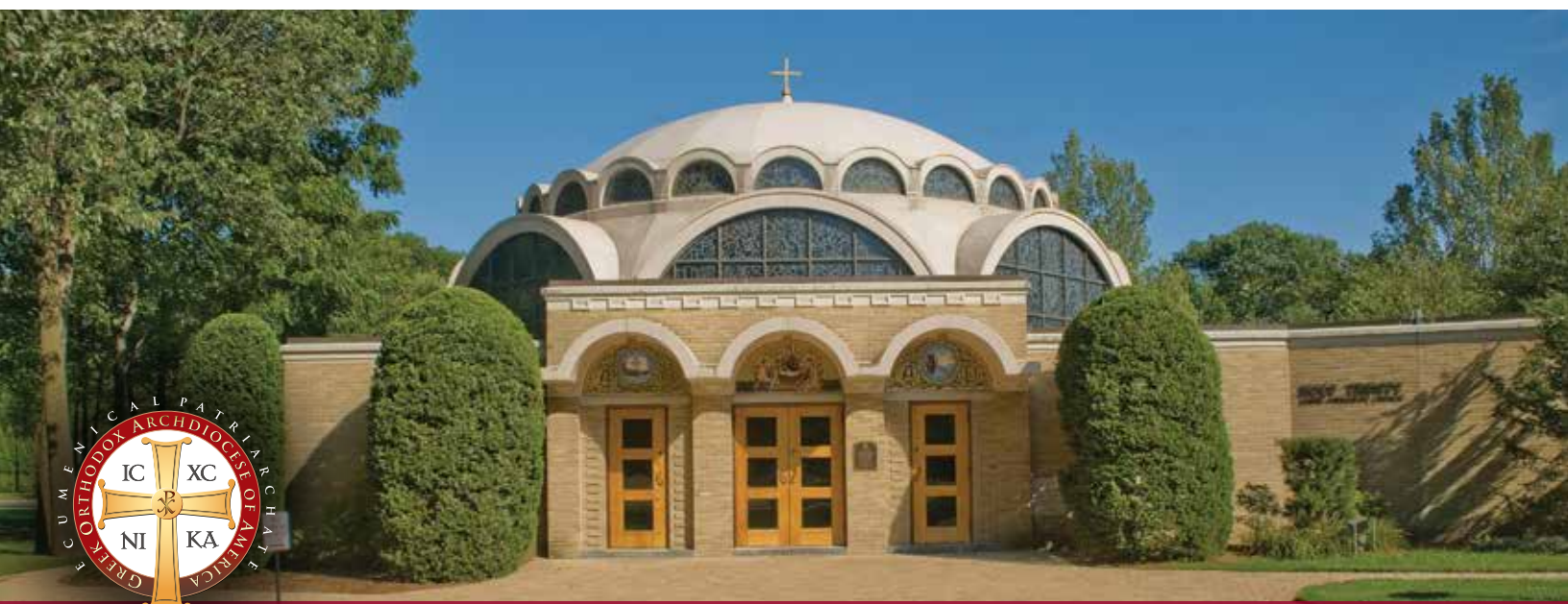
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*Trinity Circle* Avi Kiriakatis  
*Fellowship* Lauren Karanikolas

## 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

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