

The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



June 2026 ✦ Volume 50, Issue 4

holytrinity@htgocnj.org

908-233-8533

holytrinitywestfield.org

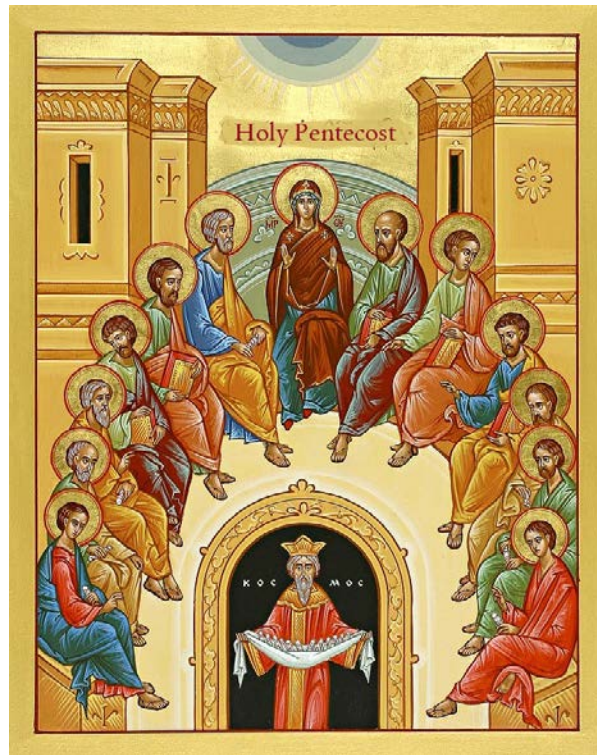
The Days of Pentecost

"Behold we now celebrate the feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Spirit, the fulfillment of the promise and also of our hope."

— Hymn of Vespers

One of the most important aspects of celebrating the Great and Holy Day of Pentecost is unity. *"They were all with one accord in one place."* — Acts 2:1. The story of Pentecost begins in an upper room, where the eleven disciples were gathered with the Lord's mother, the Panagia. Retiring from the world, they prayed together and being united in purpose, they waited joyously for God's power to descend upon them. At certain times and moments, we too need to retire from the chaos of this world and shut ourselves in the upper room of our souls. Each of these steps are the necessary conditions for receiving the Holy Spirit. With prayerful purpose and intention, we pause, waiting for God to visit us.

Intuitively, if with faith, we do these things as explained in Scripture, then we too will encounter God. *"Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house... then appeared to them divide tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them."* — Act. 2:2-3. God's appearance is like a holy breeze,



filling the room completely with a refreshing flow of grace that relaxes the mind and brings peace to the soul. When the Holy Spirit rested upon each person assembled in the form of fiery tongues, God's purpose during the Day of Pentecost is made clear. God comes to enlighten and unite

us. Fire is the vehicle God uses. Fire offers warmth through its intense display of energy. The tongues of fire offer the ability to preach and unite all humankind through the truth of the Gospel.

Notice God's ineffable power as the Holy Spirit completely bypasses the need for spoken language. Ever since the Tower of Babel [Genesis 11], human language has divided nations and confused the people. Even to this day, a spoken language can create borders, excluding those who do not properly speak it. Yet much to our consternation, even people speaking the same language can be misunderstood. Misunderstandings develop when we don't properly communicate how we feel. For whatever reason we miscommunicate, the inability to correctly understand the thoughts and needs of others brings division. When divisions exist, people and nations exclude, dividing one against another.

Continued on page 2 ➡

Wait for the promise of the Father



Dates in the Life of Our Church

June – July 2026

JUNE

I	Holy Trinity and Parish Feast Day	II	4:00 PM Greek School Graduation
	9:15 AM Orthros	I3	3:30 PM Wedding
	10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	I4	8:15 AM Orthros
2	4:00 PM Greek School		9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
4	3:00 PM Wedding		11:00 AM Baptism
6	11:00 AM Baptism	I5	8:00 PM NNJYC
	3:00 PM Wedding	20	11:00 AM Baptism
7	Religious Education Classes Resume	21	8:15 AM Orthros
	8:15 AM Orthros		9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy		11:15 AM Religious Education Graduation
9	11:30 PM Trinity Circle Year-End Luncheon	24	Nativity of St. John the Baptist
	4:00 PM Greek School		8:30 AM Orthros
	7:00 PM Philoptochos Board Mtg.		9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	7:30 PM Parish Council	28	8:15 AM Orthros
			9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

June 29 – July 2 National Clergy/Laity

JULY

4	250th Anniversary of America		1:00 PM Baptism
5	8:15 AM Orthros	I9	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy		9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	10:30 AM Doxology for America's Independence	25	11:00 AM Wedding
II	11:00 AM Baptism		3:00 PM Wedding
I2	8:15 AM Orthros	26	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy		9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
			12:30 Baptism



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2026

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6:00PM HIERARCHICAL VESPERS
Celebrating the Name Day of
HIS EMINENCE
METROPOLITAN APOSTOLOS
OF NEW JERSEY



7:30PM LECTURE and
COMPLIMENTARY DINNER
Special Remarks by
DR. ANTHONY J. LIMBERAKIS
Archon Grand Aktouarios,
National Commander
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate;
Chair, EPBF Board of Trustees; Speaking
on the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
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DEMACOPOULOS, PhD
Historian and National Council Member,
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,
Presenting on the many historic initiatives
and accomplishments of His All-Holiness
during his remarkable tenure as Ecumenical
Patriarch



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Chaired by Archons Michael D. Camarinos, Esq. and George A. Tsougarakis
Members of the National Council and Regional Commanders

The Days of Pentecost

↳ Continued from page 1

Then “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” – Acts 2:4

Thankfully with God’s descent, the inclination to exclude has been erased. Inclusion, rather than exclusion, has become the new norm and default setting for all believers. All this is accomplished by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, no longer is brother set against brother, or nation against nation. The Tower of Babel is torn

down and now everyone is a brother being united in God. In God’s presence, nations no longer exist, for there is but one true kingdom – the Kingdom of God. God’s Kingdom is made a present reality by the descent of the Holy Spirit and through this Divine Presence confusion is replaced with confidence; and division, with unity. God can now dialog with us directly through His Spirit which surpasses the limitations and segregations of human language.

Pentecost is a witness that every person can now receive God indwelling within him, every person can now speak a holy and divine language. And today the message of the Gospel becomes universal, accessible to all men, to all races, and to all nations. On Holy Pentecost, God communicates to us not through the tongues of men but through that which surpasses human language – God speaks to us through tongues of fire.

Monday of the Holy Trinity

June 1

Both Pentecost and the Monday of the Holy Trinity are one day. It is a day of great celebration in our parish because this marks the parish’s Nameday. The Monday liturgy following Pentecost is a continuation of the intensely bright day of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. On Monday, we are reminded that humankind was created because the Holy Trinity, the three divine Persons, wished to communicate some measure of their own intimate life. Here on earth, already, the life of grace is participation in the life of the Trinity. The soul which dies to earthly things is united to God and now is called to enter

the circulation of love shared between the Holy Trinity. Their relationship constitutes the supreme model for the relationships that should exist between men.

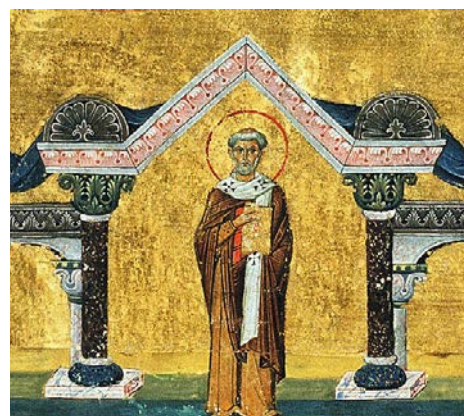
Pentecost is the final event in the history of our salvation. The gifts that flow from the Holy Spirit will not be followed by things greater, for nothing is superior to the fulfillment of God’s plan. We are now led by this into the heart of the mystery of the Trinity – the ocean which is both the source and the end of the flood of divine love which carries all towards God.



St. Leo the Great

“This day [Pentecost] holds within it great mysteries which relate both to the Old and New Dispensations [Covenant], whereas it is mostly clearly revealed to us that grace was foretold by the Law, and that the Law is made perfect through grace. For as of old, on the fiftieth day after the sacrifice of the lamb, the Law was given on Mount Sinai to the Hebrew people, now delivered from the Egyptians. So, after the Passion of Christ, in which the true

Lamb of God was slain, on the fiftieth day after His Resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and upon the people who believed. Now an earnest Christian may know beyond any uncertainty, that the sacred rites of the Old Testament had served as foundations for the Gospel, and that by this same Spirit was the second covenant laid down, by Whom the first had been established.” ✦





Philoptochos

■ KATHY MAGLARAS, PRESIDENT

We hope this season finds everyone well and filled with the joy of the Resurrection! As always, we're so grateful for our Philoptochos ladies and our entire Holy Trinity community who continue to volunteer and support one another in fulfilling our philanthropic mission.

While our last *Promise* update covered February, we realized we missed sharing one of our favorite traditions—the Vasilopita Luncheon! It's always such a special way to start the New Year, and it was wonderful to see such a full room as we gathered for this combined Vasilopita and Communion Luncheon.

A big thank you to our Philoptochos co-chairs, Yiana Leichtling and Mary Carayannopoulos; Ron and Andrea Cerini; Pete Markos from Sunday School; and the Vardas family for their continued support. Thank you as well to Michael Savvis for his donations—they all did a great job, along

with everyone who helped make the day so special! We were also so happy to have Metropolis President Eleni Constantinides with us. Best of all, the luncheon helped support Saint Basil Academy, our youth programs, and our Sunday School—such a great reminder of what Philoptochos is all about.

On March 28, 2026, we came together for our Lenten project, Rise Against Hunger, and it was such a meaningful morning. Father Peter started us off with a beautiful blessing and shared a few words about March 25, reminding us of both the Annunciation and Greek Independence Day, and how faith, service, and gratitude are all connected. He encouraged us to go into the day with love and purpose, keeping in mind those we were helping.

We then lifted our voices together in *Ti Ypermaho*, which made the morning feel even more special and brought 95 Holy Trinity

family and friends together. In total, we packed 13,000 meals that will be sent to those in need around the world! It was truly inspiring to see so many people come together in fellowship with one purpose which is to help others who have food insecurities. We look forward to sharing where the meals will be going once, we hear. A big thank you to everyone including our set up crew for getting us started on time!

The Ladies of Philoptochos also prepared and beautifully decorated the church for Easter. A big, heartfelt thank you to all the ladies who did tray collection and who came on Good Friday morning. We appreciate your time, care, and dedication to making everything special for Holy Week.

Thank you to all our volunteers and for your continued support, it truly means so much and reflects the heart and philanthropy of our Holy Trinity community! ❖

54th Annual Sights and Sounds

Holy Trinity's signature youth event, Sights and Sounds, celebrated its 54th annual festival on Saturday, March 7, 2026. This year's festival was a vibrant gathering of GOYANs from 15 parishes across the Northern Metropolis of New Jersey, competing in literature, art, music, theater, and dance. The event welcomed over 600 youth, advisors, chaperones, judges, clergy, and Westfield volunteers, all coming together to celebrate creativity and faith.

The misty and cold weather did not deter the excitement and anticipation of the performers. After months of rehearsals, everyone was ready to showcase their God-given talents. The Bouras Center was transformed into a breathtaking gallery, filled with over 1,200 visual entries and hosting more than 200 live performances throughout the day.

It was truly inspiring to witness our youth share their talents with one another in Christian unity. Every participant de-

serves congratulations for their dedication, passion, and effort, which made this event both enjoyable and meaningful.

We were especially honored to welcome clergy from across the Metropolis. Metropolitan Apostolos also offered his encouragement to the GOYANs, praising their artistic achievements and urging them to continue growing in their faith while embracing the unique talents God has bestowed upon them.

The award ceremony at this year's festival included a special and heartfelt tribute to the late Kiki Anderson, one of the founding members of Sights and Sounds and the visionary who helped create this beloved program. Her legacy was honored with deep gratitude for the countless lives she impacted through her dedication to the youth, faith, and the arts. Fr. Peter read a letter from Metropolitan Apostolos, who paid tribute to Kiki's lasting influence and recognized the profound legacy she leaves behind in this enduring ministry.

Sights and Sounds is the result of many months of careful preparation, and its success reflects the hard work and dedication of our Host Committee. Their selfless commitment honors the tradition that Holy Trinity began over 50 years ago. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the many parish volunteers whose support made this event possible. We pray that God continues to bless Holy Trinity and feel privileged to serve as chairs of this remarkable celebration. ❖

Special Recognitions

Chairs:

Peter and Alexandra Boutsikaris

Host Committee:

Marigo Markos, Ellen Manos-Athenson, Yiana Leichtling, Maria Kanaras, Roula Ioannou, Keli Leunes, George Colonias, Ron Cerini, Andrea Cerini, Stephen Ladas, Debbie Vlahakis, Ellen Conti, and Sophia Saketos

Moments IN PARISH LIFE

Walking
For Christ



Thomas Seckinger, new seminarian from Holy Trinity



Greek
Independence
Day Parade

Newly
Chrismated



Moments IN PARISH LIFE

Rise Against Hunger



Holy Trinity Parishioners Honored

On Monday, May 11 parishioners from Holy Trinity were honored at the Metropolis of NJ Grand Banquet. We thank this year's honorees who give selflessly of themselves to help benefit parish ministries: Avi Kiriakatis - Senior Parish Member; Zaharoula Ioannou - Steward of the Community; James Angelides - Parish Council; Kassandra Romas - Philoptochos; Maria Stamataki - Greek Education Teacher; Sophia Saketos - Youth Advisor; Sophia Skalkotos - GOYA; Alexandra Mavridis - Religious Education Teacher. The event will be held at the Venetian in Garfield, 6 PM. ❖



Moments
IN
PARISH LIFE

Holy Trinity
Choir Dinner



Pentecost Sunday and GreekFest





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

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