

# The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



May 2019 ✦ Volume 43, Issue 4

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## CHRIST IS RISEN! Χριστός Ανέστη!



Each year, the faithful are invited to accompany the parish on the long and emotional road of Holy Week, culminating with the joyous Resurrection of our Saviour.

As Orthodox Christians, we believe that salvation comes through the holy Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Our faith is centered on this fact. But before we arrive at the joyous celebration of Pascha, we need to experience the trials and tribulations leading up to Jesus' death. We need to be by His side when He encounters a shocking betrayal by one of His own disciples. We need to witness His un-



■ BY REV. FR. PETER DELVIZIS

conditional surrender as He is given over to the authorities and taken away like an innocent lamb led to slaughter. In His suffering, we too must suffer knowing that for our sake did He die upon a cross so that we might have life. By accompanying Jesus to His execution and seeing the destructive power of sin unfurled in all of its frenzied fury, we can witness clearly that victory comes only by the way of love,

*Continued on page 2* ⇨

### OVERVIEW OF GREAT & HOLY WEEK

**Saturday:** [of Lazarus] In Bethany, about two miles from Jerusalem, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. He stays there with His good friends.

**Sunday:** [Palm Sunday] Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph and drives the sellers from the Temple. He goes back to Bethany that night.

**Monday:** Jesus returns to Jerusalem and teaches and heals there. He also encounters the Pharisees and Sadducees.

**Tuesday:** Jesus comes to teach in the Temple, drawing the anger of the Jewish leaders.

**Wednesday:** A woman anoints Jesus with expensive perfume while He is at the house of Simon the Leper in Bethany. Judas continues plotting his betrayal of Jesus.

**Thursday:** Jesus and His disciples share the Passover meal in the Upper Room and then go to the garden at Gethsemane. There, Jesus is arrested and taken back to the city, where He is tried and beaten at the hands of the Sanhedrin (council of Jewish leaders.)

**Friday:** In the morning, the Sanhedrin turns Jesus over to the Romans. Jesus appears before Pilate, who has Him flogged, mocked and finally crucified. Jesus dies, and Joseph of Arimathea places His body in the tomb; this is considered the first day in the tomb.

**Saturday:** Jesus enters Hades and conquers Death – second day in the tomb.

**Sunday:** Jesus rises from the dead early in the morning, and the women find His tomb empty – third day in the tomb.

*Wait for the promise of the Father*



# Dates in the Life of Our Church

April–May 2019

## ✠ APRIL

<b>21</b> Palm Sunday
8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
7:00 PM Bridegroom Service
<b>22</b> Holy Monday
7:00 PM Bridegroom Service
<b>23</b> Holy Tuesday
9:00 AM Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 PM Bridegroom Service
<b>24</b> Holy Wednesday
3:00 PM Holy Unction
7:00 PM Holy Unction
<b>25</b> Holy Thursday
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper
7:00 PM Divine Passion and Crucifixion
<b>26</b> Holy Friday
9:30 AM Imperial Hours
10:00 AM Holy Friday Retreat
3:00 PM Apokathelosis/Unnailing
7:00 PM Lamentations
<b>27</b> Holy Saturday
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
11:00 PM Vigil of the Resurrection
<b>28</b> GREAT and HOLY PASCHA
12:00 AM Paschal Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM Agapi Vespers
<b>29</b> Bright Monday
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy, St. George in Piscataway, Trenton, Clifton
Church Office closed
<b>30</b> 4:00 PM Greek School

## ✠ MAY

<b>2</b> 4:00 PM Greek School
<b>3</b> The Life-giving Spring
8:45 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
<b>4</b> 3:00 PM Wedding
<b>5</b> Sunday of Thomas
8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
<b>7</b> 4:00 PM Greek School
6:00 PM Philoptochos Fashion Show, Brooklake CC
<b>8</b> St. John the Theologian
8:30 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
<b>9</b> 9:30 AM TOTS
4:00 PM Greek School
7:30 PM Choir
<b>12</b> Mother's Day
8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
<b>14</b> 4:00 PM Greek School
7:30 PM Parish Council
<b>15</b> 7:00 PM Philoptochos General Meeting
<b>16</b> 4:00 PM Greek School
7:30 PM Choir
<b>18</b> 4:30 PM Wedding
<b>19</b> 8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM Parish Assembly
3:00 PM Wedding
<b>20</b> 7:00 PM Great Vespers in Roseland
<b>21</b> Sts. Constantine and Helen
8:30 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
11:00 AM Trinity Circle
4:00 PM Greek School
<b>23</b> 9:30 AM TOTS
4:00 PM Greek School
7:30 PM Choir
<b>26</b> 8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
3:00 PM Wedding
<b>27</b> Memorial Day
Church office closed

## Paschal article

↳ [Continued from page 1](#)

perfectly demonstrated on the cross by Christ, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." – Luke 23:34

Holy Week is a glorious display of God's love and abundant mercy richly lavished upon us. The entire week is a

contrast between the themes of light and darkness; holiness and sinfulness; enlightenment and ignorance; and finally, between life and death. During the course of this week, it is unmistakably exhibited that sin usurps authority and uses it to its own advantage. In the misapplication of justice, we are shown that sin will always rebel against good-

ness and will use any tool available in order to dominate and destroy the things in its path. Christ's life upon the earth was not about dominance or control. His life was a noble confluence of the human and divine natures. His modesty showed us that strength and true power is attained only by the keeping of God's commandments. Our Lord

perfectly demonstrated fidelity to His Father through obedience and absolute humility. In His voluntary surrender, these virtues are shown as being the pathways towards flawless love. Thus, when we observe the convergence of good and evil on Holy Thursday night, we are made even more secure in Christ's victory, as His love increasingly gives us confidence that divine power will utterly defeat the dark origins of despair and death.

So, when one questions, "Do we really need to spend so much time in church during Holy Week?", the answer is an emphatic and undeniable, "yes"!

We do need to spend a lot of time in church precisely to experience the hidden mysteries found in Christ's powerful and life-changing Passion and Holy Resurrection. Holy Week inspires inner personal discovery as it guides us to spiritual growth. As we internally probe our souls and further surrender ourselves, as did Jesus, with obedience and extreme humility, then the mysteries of faith become much clearer. Just as a window bearing no marks or debris allows us to see beyond the horizon, so too does faith allow us to clearly visualize God's eternal Kingdom with no hindrance or confusion.

So, my dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us pass each consecutive day of Holy Week alongside Jesus. Let's grow together spiritually, not only by becoming witnesses of Christ's suffering, but also by experiencing His powerful and ultimate victory over death. The divine moments offered throughout this blessed week will allow us to grow closer in our relationship with God and one another. And thus, by experiencing God's glories first-hand, we can become modern disciples, totally dedicated to our Saviour and His life-giving message of the salvation brought to us and presented by His Holy Church.

Wishing all of you a most blessed and spiritually uplifting Holy Week and a joyous Paschal celebration, I remain,

In Christ,  
Fr. Peter ❖



# Parish Council

Update

■ BY GEORGE COLONIAS, PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

In my last letter, I mentioned the special place that Church holds in our lives; it is critical as a personal and family cornerstone as we navigate the world. I couldn't imagine my life as one in which the Church was not present. It's that simple to me. It is a glorious blessing to be an Orthodox Christian, to be part of this very special parish, and to work on both the short and long terms tasks needed for its existence.

We have many demands on our lives which compete for our attention. In a world that is becoming more secular, I hope that as Orthodox Christians we all truly appreciate the fact that not only are we in full communion with Christ, but also with each other. Our parish has always been blessed with amazing pastoral leadership. Together with Fr. Peter and his spiritual guidance we offer a busy calendar of ministries, events and resources for all ages. Please make use of them and participate in as many as you can. They bring us closer and help us grow together in our faith.

The Parish Council is extremely dedicated to the institution, our ministries, events and the physical continuance of our parish. We persevere to keep Holy Trinity of Westfield NJ a thriving example of what does work. Our parish has always risen above various issues and challenges and has endured. We must continue on this path. We are diligent to be economically prudent and strive to keep our aging facility vibrant; and you will soon see some examples of this. It is our desire that the church continues to offer diverse and meaningful programs as well as ensure it is solid both financially and physically so that our children can celebrate the 75th and

100th anniversaries at 250 Gallows Hill Road. We should all focus on this. As we all know, Stewardship is a unique Christian application. It is defined as the giving of time, talent, and treasure. We thankfully have many that work so hard for the church, yet we need broader participation not only since there is more to do; but because getting involved together helps us bond as a community.

The Church has been and will always be there for us and we all need to strive to be there for her. This is the most important institution in our lives. Let us all work to support it accordingly. In the coming months we will be further addressing stewardship. Simply put we have gaps which must be closed, and every little bit helps. Please assist us in this tremendously important undertaking and work with us to narrow our deficiencies. Let's all participate more and help others to do so as well. Your time, expertise or resources could be helpful. If you have a particular interest, idea, talent, resource, etc., please approach me or Fr. Peter. We sincerely welcome and value your support. We will help you find the right fit.

You will also soon see literature to help educate you on our new endowment, created to allow our faithful to include Holy Trinity and its ministries as part of their estate plan or gifting, confident that their contribution will be invested and grow to perpetuate the parish and its ministries. These topics and any questions you may have can be addressed at the May 19 Parish Assembly. Please attend. This is the ideal forum to meet, share ideas, learn, ask questions and participate.

I wish you all a blessed Lenten season and a glorious Pascha. ❖

# The Sunday of Orthodoxy

On March 17, the First Sunday of Great Lent, known as Sunday of Orthodoxy, Holy Trinity welcomed our spiritual father and shepherd Metropolitan Evangelos. His Eminence presided over a most beautiful liturgy which was concluded with the Procession of Icons. As we carried these holy images throughout the church, we were reminded that Christ's victory on the Cross is the greatest victory given to us. Orthodox Theology has overcome ignorance and alienation from God and we are reassured that the divine image resting within each of us is holy. ❖



# Proclamation on Greek Independence Day, 2019

On the 198th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day, we celebrate the rich history and enduring bond between the United States and Greece. Our strong alliance and unwavering friendship are rooted in mutual respect and a shared commitment to freedom, justice, and democracy. The common bond between the United States and Greece is rooted in thousands of years of tradition, stretching back to ancient Greece. The lessons of ancient Greek democracies are among the greatest and most enduring ever taught. From them the world came to know and understand the foundational principles of human liberty, self-government, and the rule of law -- the very principles that fueled America's own drive for independence and shaped our Republic. Decades after securing our independence, American citizens expressed their appreciation by supporting the people of Greece in their fight for their own freedom.

Holy Trinity parishioners attend proclamation signing at the White House. ❖





# Philoptochos

## Update

■ BY ELLEN MANOS-ATHENSON, PRESIDENT



On Wednesday, March 6th, at our Philoptochos General Meeting, we were honored to welcome Despina C. Kartson, author of "Last Night's Soup Run" to share the incredibly inspirational story about the outreach initiative of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, New Rochelle, NY. Accompanying Despina, Susan Panagos Russon (originally from Holy Trinity, Westfield) and now also a member of Holy Trinity, New Rochelle helped to organize the book signing event.

"Last Night's Soup Run", is a memoir of stories about the often-overlooked homeless population. The Parish is embarking on its 2nd decade of this Outreach Ministry, where every month

volunteers bring a warm meal and other items that include clothing and toiletries to 33rd street in New York City where they serve 125 meals a month. Despina's presentation included touching stories about the people they have met and how the mission operates. They have served more than 10,000 meals to the hungry on the streets of NYC. All proceeds from the book are donated to Philoxenia, Inc a non-profit founded by Despina to provide funding for organizations that feed and care for the homeless. Please contact Ellen if you are interested in purchasing a book. Feeding the Hungry is a nationwide initiative of Philoptochos. ❖



# Trinity Circle

## Update

■ BY AVI KIRIAKATIS, PRESIDENT

Trinity Circles welcomes all parishioners 55 and over to join for fellowship and fun on the third Tuesday of each month. 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.

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



**Sunday – 1:30 pm**  
Greek Play with wine & cheese "TO ONEIRO" at St. Demetrios GO Church, Union \$15.



**Tuesday – 11:00 am**  
Meeting & lunch donated by Frieda Anast in memory of her loved ones. May their memories be eternal.



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





# Sights & Sounds

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019

In the midst of snow, sleet, rain, and general weather mayhem, God bestowed His blessings upon us at the 48th Sights & Sounds Invitational Festival. What a beautiful day it eventually became as we hosted approximately 800 NJ youth members, advisors, chaperones, judges, priests, presvyteres, and Westfield volunteers. Our congratulations to all the participating youth for their efforts, courage and humility. It is amazing to see our collective youth members share their God-given talents with each other in Christian unity.

We were especially blessed to have in our presence, our founder and the inspiration of Sights & Sounds, Angeliki

Anderson who now resides out of state. We appreciate her beautiful words to all the audience along with her spirit and excitement of being with us throughout the day.

Sights & Sounds requires many months of preparation. As in a symphony orchestra, independent parts work collaboratively to deliver a beautiful concert. Such is the case when orchestrating the various components needed to conduct this beautiful event. Sights & Sounds is blessed to have a dedicated Host Committee, all of whom give of themselves selflessly and endlessly, and play their individual parts flawlessly. The committee extends special thanks to all the numerous volunteers recruited

to help. Holy Trinity is a unique and special community that exemplifies the principles of our Christian beliefs. We pray that God will bless us as we continue to host this very special annual event.

We note the following recognitions:

**Chairs:** Pamela and Eugene Gentile

**Our Host Committee:** Notis Kotso-  
lios, Marigo Markos, Ellen Athenson,  
George and Alison Youlios, Maria  
Kanaras, Keli Leunes, Ellen Conti,  
Stephen Ladas, Debbie Vlahakis,  
Peter Boutsikaris, Evans John, Yiana  
Leichtling, Sandy Boutsikaris, and  
Maria Tarhanidis.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

Since the inception of Sights & Sounds, there has been a legacy of amazing leadership. Our current Chairs, Pamela and Eugene (Gino) Gentile, have been instrumental these past 10 years as the Holy Trinity family hosted this invitational for the NJ Greek Orthodox youth. On this Sunday we celebrated their talent and efforts in directing the success of this event. Father Peter gave an icon of The Holy

Trinity to Pam and Gina, and thanked them for their faithful and selfless service. The committee also saluted all their efforts and presented them with an engraved crystal award. We truly thank them for their love and dedication to Sights & Sounds and look forward to their support as the "new" consultants, especially as we approach the 50th anniversary in 2021. ❖

**Sights & Sounds Chairmen 1972-2019**

Angeliki and Lou Anderson; Angelica and Louis Mouras: 1972-1977  
Elaine and Peter Markos: 1978-1986  
Euphraxia Gianakis and Irene Panagakos: 1987-1989  
Anita and Stamati Kartalopoulos: 1990-2009  
Eugene and Pamela Gentile, Marigo Markos, George and Alison Youlios: 2016  
Eugene and Pamela Gentile: 2010-2019



# GOYA

Update

■ BY AVA LEICHTLING, PRESIDENT

The GOYA athletic season concluded mid-January. The girls progressed to the finals after beating Toms River in the playoffs. The championship game was a nail biter as Piscataway won the first game, we won the second game but lost the third. Congratulations girls on your 2nd place victory! Thank you to the coaches Miss Vicki Zourzoukis, Mr. Zenon Christodoulou, Mr. Op Kristis and Mr. Jaime Kallinos and to all the parents and fans!

Outreach efforts continue throughout the year. In addition to our "Feed a Friend" and "Eyeglasses for the Needy", GOYANs collected 163 pairs of socks during the January sock drive. The socks were donated to The Hoboken Shelter to help the needy keep warm. Thank you Christopher Warnick for leading the project!

The annual Souper Bowl Sunday collection was held on Sunday, 2/3 and was again a success. The collection raised \$600, which was donated to the IOCC. Several bags of non-perishable food items were collected and distributed to the Emanuel Cancer Foundation. All organizations are truly grateful for these contributions. Thank you to the Holy Trinity family for your charitable



donations and continued support for our outreach projects.

Bridges took place on Friday, 2/8 at St. Demetrios Union. GOYANs from Clifton, Roseland, Union and Westfield gathered to prepare 250 brown bag lunches for the cause. St. Demetrios graciously served attendees dinner. On March 29th Holmdel hosted Bridges. Both were a fulfilling evening spending time with our friends for a good cause.

Sights & Sounds - GOYANs worked feverishly to claim 1st place again this year. Many participants are involved in several solo and group categories and you pulled it off! We thank the endless amounts of time the advisors, directors and Sights & Sounds host committee put into making our performances and this day spectacular.

This year was especially meaningful to me, not only because it was my final Sights & Sounds but because I had the honor to hear from the founder of Sights & Sounds, Mrs. Kiki Anderson. Mrs. Anderson spoke to the group

on how Sights & Sounds began. 2019 marked the 48th Anniversary of Sights & Sounds! It was an amazing story and Mrs. Anderson received a standing ovation from the crowd and well as a special recognition plaque.

A team of our Goyans and adults will head to West Virginia in June to help repair and restore individual families' homes and make them warmer, safer and drier through the Appalachian Service Project (ASPhome.org) and OYMT (Orthodox Youth Mission Team). The Holy Trinity mission team members, under the leadership and guidance of Father Peter Delvizi, are looking forward to the trip scheduled June 29-July 6th, 2019. Thank you to all that have been, and continue to be, generous during our fundraising for this trip. The Mission Team will be bringing many needed supplies to the 3 families that they will be working with to improve their homes and spreading our Christian love. ❖

## Good Friend Award

Every year, as part of Sights & Sounds Preview Show, we present the "Good Friend Award". The "Good Friend Award" allows GOYANs to reflect on an individual who has volunteered countless hours to help our GOYA in many ways. This person is voted on and is one who shows a continuous commitment to the youth. Sometimes their support we don't

always see however, is always working behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly.

The person chosen this year is one that greets us every Sunday with a smile. He knows audio and visual equipment, and technology better than any of us. You can always count on his help at all of our events.

Personally, he has helped our senior

technology day with our Trinity Circle to be a huge success! Everyone knows him! He makes each and every one of us feel special. On behalf of the entire Goya, I am happy to present our Good Friend award to Notis Kotsolios. ❖



# Holy Trinity Hosts Metropolis of NJ Teacher's Seminar



On Saturday, March 23, Holy Trinity was honored to host this year's Teacher's Seminar. His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos was in attendance leading us and welcoming Rev. Fr. George Parsenios, Professor of Theology at Princeton University, as the day's speaker. Area clergy along with Religious Educators from the Metropolis participated in this uplifting and educational forum." ❖



## Religious Education

■ BY ANTHONY BOSCO

Our Holy Orthodox Church does a great job teaching us that Christ is always present. We collectively say over and over on the Anastasi, Christ "IS" risen from the dead. We never say Christ rose from the dead. This is an important lesson not only for our children but for everyone. Christ is always present. A hundred years ago Orthodox Christians were singing Christ is risen from the dead, we sing it today and a hundred years from now Orthodox faithful will be singing Christ "IS" risen from the dead. This is an important distinction because Christ being always present makes Him relevant to every generation. Christ is not an ancient figure in history, He is the Son of God for all generations to know

and develop their own personal relationship with.

As we reflect on the Passion of our Lord and we relive that experience every year in our minds and hearts we are quickly moved to the joy and confidence in knowing that the love Christ shares with everyone is for every generation. I encourage all students and families to continue the joy of the Resurrection throughout the year. God bless all our children and the beautiful families of our Holy Trinity family. ❖





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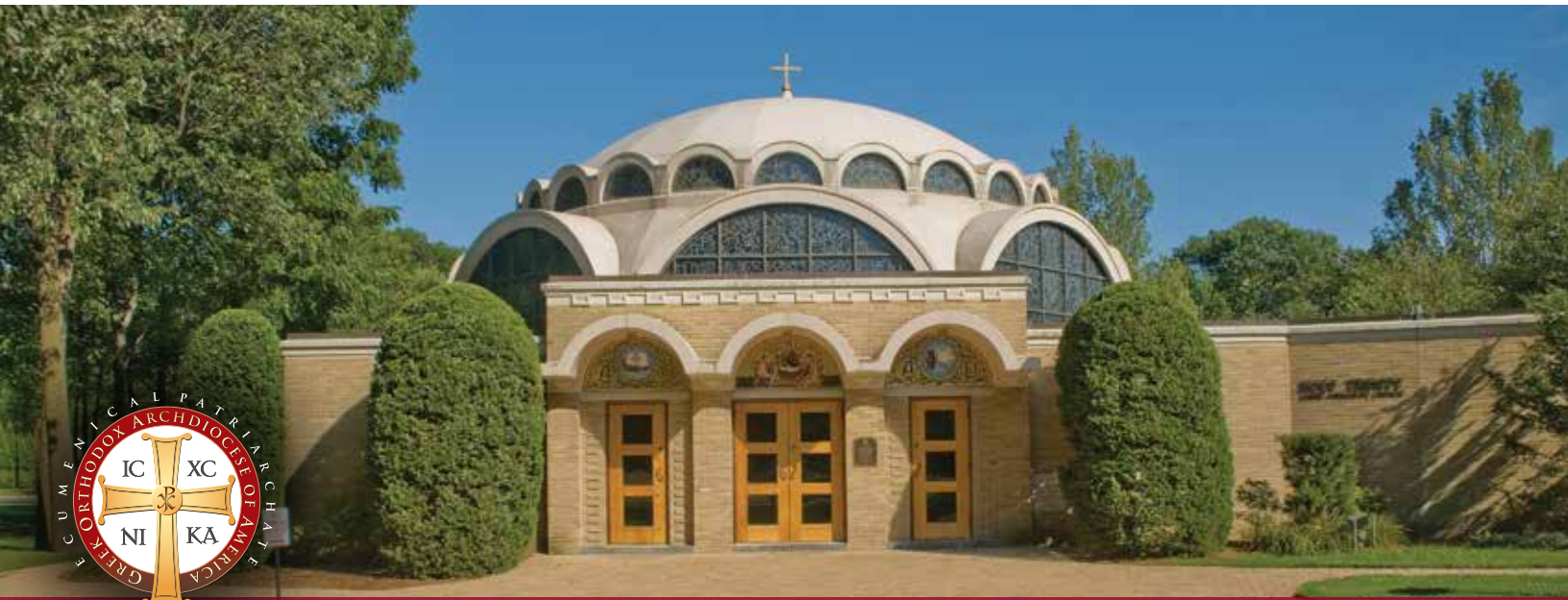
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*Web site* holytrinitywestfield.org  
*Presiding Priest* Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis  
*E-mail* FrPeter@htgocnj.org

## OFFICE STAFF

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*Admin. Assistant* E. Joy Daniledes  
*Caretaker* Ocione Nunes

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## 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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