

The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



November 2021 ✦ Volume 45, Issue 7

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A Christ-centered Thanksgiving



The quest for autonomy from God is a trap we all risk falling into. Like a self-inflicted wound its consequences can be deadly.

Oftentimes, we hear remarks during the Thanksgiving season such as, “let us be thankful” or “what are you thankful for.” Too often in reply we automatically utter about some material item that has made our lives easier or seemingly better. Legitimizing material items can be extremely dangerous when Christ is cut out of the reference.

When we have a close family, fine friends, and a well-paying job, we think all is fine. As good Christians, we go to church on Sunday and are respectable members of society and we think we are doing okay. But without Christ as the “Cornerstone” (Eph. 2:20) of our happiness then we live a spiritual scam.

Some may ask, what’s bad with all this? I work for my family’s well-being; I take care of them; I educate my children; I give of my time; and donate to various causes. How am I wrong for doing all this?

It is a good thing that you are doing these things, yet it is not enough. Doing

these things can even become an obstacle to salvation because they oftentimes create an idol out of an individual.

Anyone who says that my purpose in life since I got married is to have children and to educate them lives a fraud and has surrendered to the hoax of perishability becoming eternal.

Pagan religions teach that through the bearing of children we live forever. Christianity teaches that we encounter eternity only through Christ. Therefore, even children can become a golden idol and an obstacle to salvation when they become the sole reason for our existence.

The purpose of marriage, like the purpose of having children, is Christ. To declare that I am Christ-centered means that everything in my life is centered around the person of Christ. It is interesting how easily a person can replace Christ with substitutes.

What in life truly makes you a Christian man or woman? Is it because you have a family or many children? Because you have married well? Because you have a good paying job and are respected by others? Because you have sent your

children to the best schools and universities; Because you are an activist or philanthropist?

Even if you do all these things exceptionally well this does not mean you live a Christian life. Only those who live in Christ, and, for Him is a true Christian. If family, children, friends, career, activism are the purpose of your life, then you have erected a monument of personal glory, a golden idol that legitimizes the material and perishable above God. In this doing this, you seek autonomy from God by making the material of divine substance.

The center of humanity is not man, but Christ. The center of activism is not the seeking of some “right” or personal equality, but Christ. The center of the environment is not nature, but Christ. Everything is summarized in Christ, for He must be the source, path, and goal of our lives.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, let us be thankful for our loving and merciful Lord who has come into the world to save the sinner and bless us with His divine life. ❖

Wait for the promise of the Father



Dates in the Life of Our Church

November–December 2021

✝ NOVEMBER

- I** Sts. Cosmas and Damianos
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 2** 11:00 AM Trinity Circle
4:00 PM Greek School

- 4** 4:00 PM Greek School
7:00 PM Choir

- 5** 3:00 PM Baptism

- 6** 11:00 AM Baptism

- 7** Daylight Savings time ends
8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 8** Synaxis of the Holy Archangels
8:30 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 9** St. Nektarios the Wonderworker
8:30 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
4:00 PM Greek School
7:00 PM Philoptochos Board Meeting
7:30 PM Parish Council

- II** Sts. Menas, Victor, Vikenzios, Stephanie
Veterans Day
8:30 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
4:00 PM Greek School
7:00 PM Choir

- 12** 7:00 PM Great Vespers @ Metropolis of NJ

- 13** St. John Chrysostom @ Metropolis of NJ
9:00 AM Orthros and Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Elpidophoros

- 14** Philoptochos Sunday
8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 15** 8:00 PM State Meeting

- 16** 4:00 PM Greek School

- 18** 9:30 AM TOTS
4:00 PM Greek School
7:00 PM Choir

- 21** Entrance of the Theotokos
Stewardship Sunday
8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM Parish Assembly

- 23** 4:00 PM Greek School

- 25** Thanksgiving Day

- 26** Church office closed

- 28** 8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 30** St. Andrew the First-called
8:30 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
4:00 PM Greek School

✝ DECEMBER

- 2** 4:00 PM Greek School
7:00 PM Choir

- 5** 8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
12:00 PM Parish Council Elections

- 6** St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
8:30 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

- 7** 11:00 AM Trinity Circle
4:00 PM Greek School

- 8** 6:00 PM Philoptochos General Meeting/
Christmas Party

- 9** 4:00 PM Greek School
7:00 PM Choir

- 12** 8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
Religious Ed. Christmas Program
12:00 PM Philoptochos Bake Sale

- 14** 12:00 PM Trinity Circle Christmas Lunch
4:00 PM Greek School
7:00 PM Philoptochos Board Meeting
7:30 PM Parish Council

- 16** 9:30 AM TOTS
4:00 PM Greek School Christmas Program
7:00 PM Choir

- 19** 8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy



Philoptochos

Acts of Love and Kindness

■ BY MARIA KANARAS, PRESIDENT

Thanksgiving is about being thankful for the good things and people in our lives. Philoptochos is truly blessed to have the opportunity to make a difference in our church, congregation, and community at large through your generosity, support, and sacrifice.

This November, we are accepting donations to support Market Street Mission's 2021 Thanksgiving Dinner Campaign. Every \$3.00 you give provides one hungry person with a traditional Thanksgiving meal. A meal often opens the door to safe shelter, Christ-centered counseling and recovery programs that help people embrace a new life with

hope and promise. Together, we can make this holiday season extra special for those most in need. For further information, please contact Debra Vlahakis at debvlahakis@gmail.com

In addition, there is still time to support the 2021 Community Christmas Card (Deadline is December 5). All donations are gratefully accepted to support our philanthropic endeavors and thank you to those who have

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

I THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

contributed. In helping others, we help ourselves, and every act of kindness enriches our lives. With the love and blessings of God, we can lessen the pain, loss and suffering of our brothers and sisters wherever they may be. This is the work of Philoptochos. ❖



Trinity Circle

Update

■ BY AVI KIRIAKATIS, PRESIDENT

Our October gathering was very well attended and enjoyed by our members as we welcomed the speaker for the day, Joanne Rajoppi on “Women’s Suffrage Movement”.

We would like to welcome 3 new members to Trinity Circle. They are Marigo Markos, Despina O’Neill and Maria Stevens. Very happy to have some younger members joining us.

The Hunterdon Hills Playhouse show, The Jersey Tenors, was wonderful and enjoyed by 31 members.

Happy Thanksgiving to all, as we thank God for all our many blessings!

Members Christmas Luncheon will be here before you know it. Kindly reserve Tuesday, December 7th as it will be again held at Galloping Hill Caterers 12:00 noon. Kindly sign up with Cassandra Romas – the cost is \$20. ❖



Save These 2021-2022 Dates



Tuesday (12:00noon)
Members Christmas Luncheon at Galloping Hill Caterers. Kindly sign up with Cassandra Romas - \$20.



Tuesday (11:00-2:00 pm)
Vasilopeta Luncheon donated by Avi Kiriakatis, Hellen Kiriakatis and Marina LoAlbo. For all members good health.



Tuesday (11:00-2:00 pm)
Meeting/Lunch donated by Angela & Clem Thomas in memory of beloved family members



Tuesday (11:00-2:00 pm)
Meeting/Lunch donated by Cassandra Romas in memory of beloved husband Chris Romas



Tuesday (11:00-2:00 pm)
Meeting/Lunch donated by Jasmine Mestanas in memory of beloved sister Barbara Manos Cemetery Palm Cross Sale Today - \$10 each



PRAY..GIVE..GO

"make disciples of all nations"

On Sunday, October 17 the parish of Holy Trinity was honored to host a special presentation of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). Many thanks are extended to Jeannie Arida and Marina Zazanis for the delicious meal that was served and the delightful program that featured the ministries of the OCMC based in St. Augustine, FL. With over 90 guests attending, the parish gifted OCMC over \$8,000 that day. Praise the Lord!

Fr. Martin Ritsi, Executive Director of OCMC presided over the Divine Liturgy in the morning with Fr. Peter and Fr. John and offered remarks about OCMC just after communion. Later in the Bouras Center Fr. Martin spoke again with Dan Christopoulos, Development Director. Also, Vasiliki Tsigas Fotinis shared heartfelt testimony about her OCMC mission experiences in Kenya and Albania. A special zoom appearance by Nathan Hoppe from Albania rounded out the presentations. Nathan has been a missionary with his wife Gabriella and children for over 23 years.

OCMC is the official global mission agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops and as such 52 countries have been impacted by OCMC ministries, almost 2,800 people have



Fr. Peter welcoming Fr. Martin



Fr. Martin, Helen Nicozisis, Dan Christopulos

participated in short-term mission trips, 560 priests across the globe have received monthly support through SAMP (Support A Mission Priest program), 57 building projects have been completed (churches, schools, medical clinics, mission centers, digging of water wells, and a seminary have been funded). All this takes place with the blessings of the local hierarchs and the 113 missionaries that

have been sent since 1985.

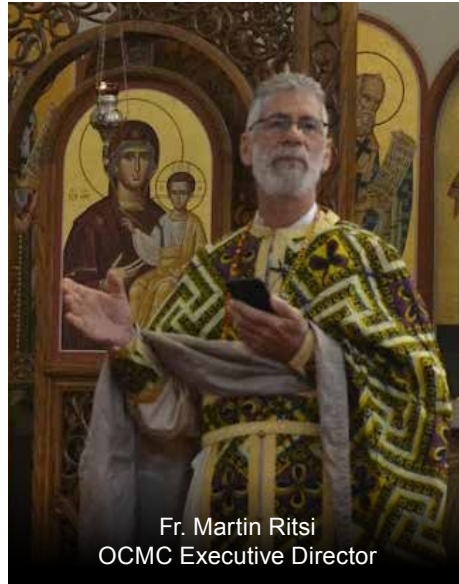
Thank you for your love, prayers and continued support of OCMC. Know that the sun never sets on the global ministries of OCMC because of you! ❖

To learn more visit:

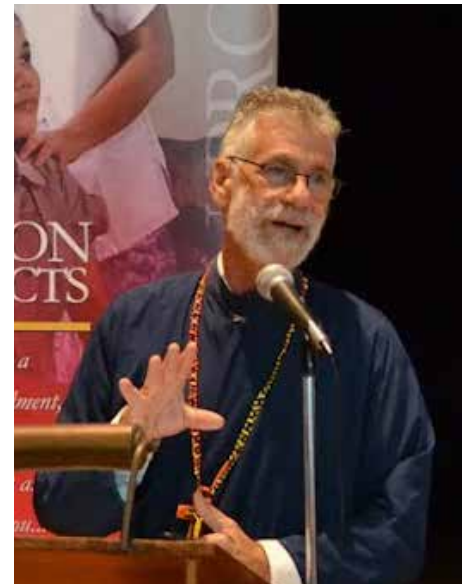
OCMC.org



Dan Christopoulos, First OCMC Missionary and Development Officer



Fr. Martin Ritsi
OCMC Executive Director



OCMC Board Members and Hosts





Sacraments & Rites

August 2020–October 2021

FUNERALS

- 8/8/20 +Frieda Anast
- 9/22/20 +Demetrios C. Apostolou
- 10/19/20 +Andrew S. Bogeatzes
- 11/2/20 +Helen A. Constas
- 11/20/20 +Petros Tsimboukis
- 12/11/20 +Frieda Halivopoulos
- 12/28/20 +Ann Costalas
- 1/7/21 +Fotini Greberis
- 1/13/21 +Doris Balatsos
- 2/3/21 +Mary Cortese
- 2/8/21 +John B. Jaghab
- 2/13/21 +Helen Geotakes
- 2/23/21 +Savvas G. Cassotis
- 2/25/21 +Violet S. Kiame
- 3/1/21 +Harry Demas
- 3/11/21 +James William Matthews III
- 4/16/21 +John Petris
- 5/14/21 +Fotios Sipsis
- 5/15/21 +Theresa V. Kotsolios
- 5/18/21 +Demetra Gianacakes
- 6/5/21 +Theodore Biniaris
- 6/25/21 +Peter Markos
- 7/7/21 +Theone Ladopoulos
- 8/13/21 +Olga Angilella Sens
- 9/8/21 +Katherine Verenes
- 9/9/21 +Eleftheria Chronis
- 9/28/21 +Georgia Liadis
- 10/4/21 +Anthony Alvanos

WEDDINGS

- 8/16/20 Lauren M. Micchelli and Scott H. Sperone, Christina Micchelli Young as sponsor
- 10/3/20 Christina E. Roros and Ryan R. Callanan, Kaliope Roros as sponsor

- 12/6/20 Alexandra G. Alonso and Nickolas T. Agathis, William Agathis as sponsor
- 5/27/21 Sophia M. Baurkot and Kurt A. Coutu, Christopher Baurkot as sponsor
- 6/5/21 Alexandra M. Tsakos and Raymond E. Blackford, Daniella Kaiserman as sponsor
- 6/12/21 Erica Alexis Fidali and Frank Peter Ferrante, George Leichtling as sponsor
- 7/5/21 Stephanie A. John and Nikolas C. Karsos, John D. Tsamutalis and Dina M. Savva as sponsors

CHURCHINGS

- 10/18/20 Luca Nicholas, son of Ioanna and Razvan Cojucaru
- 12/6/20 Sofia Jaclyn, daughter of Sarah and Nick Apostolou
- 1/24/21 Zoe and Anastasia, twin daughters of Michelle and John Vasiliadis
- 2/24/21 Eliana Valentina, daughter of Ronnie and Gerardo Fernandez
- 3/7/21 Ella Marie, daughter of Daniella and William Kaiserman
- 4/18/21 Luke Edward and George William, twin sons of Leela and Justin Bozonelis
- 4/27/21 Eliana, daughter of Gerri and Peter Guastella
- 6/14/21 Iakovos, son of Sophia and John Naglieri

BAPTISMS

- 8/23/20 Tyler David Bohmerwald, son of Christina Cavallaro and Michael Bohmerwald, Godparent is Gail Cavallaro
- 9/5/20 Jackson Ford Lohner, son of Jessica Marie Wacker and Jason Edward Lohner, Godparent is Zachery Wacker
- 9/6/20 Zac Thomas Salvesen, sons of Alyssa Gentile and Paul Salvesen, Godparent is Thomas Andresakes
- 9/6/20 Beau G. Salvesen, son of Alyssa Gentile and Paul Salvesen, Godparent is Andrea Roon
- 10/17/20 Ella Roscoe Navikonis, daughter of Carolyn Marie Roscoe and Joshua Michael Navikonis, Godparent is Michael Dimitrios Hoffman
- 11/1/20 Sienna Maria Marschke, daughter of Alana Vlahakes Steele and Derek Joseph Marschke, Godparent is Mia Mitchell
- 11/14/20 Melina Eleftheria Arethas, daughter of Allison Sadoian and Stefanos Arethas, Godparents are AJ and Lauren Karanikolas
- 1/31/21 Alesso Joseph Moudatsos, son of Cristina Karg and Andreas Moudatsos, Godparent is Alexandra Moudatsos
- 4/10/21 Luca Nicholas Cojocaru, son of Iaona Donose and Razvan Cojocaru, Godparents are Carla and Max Caponegro

6/13/21 Emilia Joyce Quagliarello, daughter of Elena D. Constantinou and Timothy Quagliarello, Godparent is Maria quinn

6/19/21 Olive James Pulito, daughter of Andrea Verenes and Dan Pulito, Godparent is Olivia Spathakis

6/26/21 Thalia Eleni Seaton, daughter of Elektra Milatos and Matthew Seaton, Godparent is Pauline Kakkos

7/10/21 Eliana Valentina Fernandez, daughter of Ronnie Filippatos and Gerardo Fernanadez, Godparent is Eleni Filippatos

7/18/21 Isla Elizabeth Anderson Leonard, daughter of Kathryn Anderson and Robert Leonard, Godparent is Victoria Anderson

7/24/21 Ava Rose Grieco, daughter of Christina A. Caselle and Francis J. Grieco, Godparent is Alexis Bancroft

7/24/21 Iakkovos Naglieri, son of Sophia Savva and John Naglieri, Godparent is Artemis Savva

7/25/21 Nikolas Joseph D'Angelo son of Kristina Zias and Stefano D'Angelo, Godparents are Kathryn Zias and Dimitri Leles

8/21/21 Ella Marie Kaiserman, daughter of Daniella Tsakos and William Kaiserman, Godparent is Alexandra Tsakos

9/25/21 Lucas Gus McCarthy, son of Amanda Pagoulatos and Michael McCarthy, Godparent is Alexis Pagoulatos

10/2/21 Lia Stephanie Piluso, daughter of Mia Pappas and Steven Piluso, Godparent is Stephanie Kaye Lenge

NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Joshua and Carolyn Navakonis
6 Stowcroft Road
Melrose, MA 02176

Robert and Gina Sikellis
55 Pomeroy Road
Madison, NJ 07940

Ryan and Christina Callanan
1 River Road
Frenchtown, NJ 08825

Evangeline Tzatzalos
75 Potomac Dr.
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Nicholas and Sarah Apostolou
333 Central Ave. Apt 404
Westfield, NJ 07090

Andreas and Christina Moudatsos
1130 Plymouth Dr.
Rahway, NJ 07065

Nickolas and Alexandra Agathis
220 Ponce De Leon, apt 260
Decatur, GA 30030

Despina Konstas
390 Morris Ave. Unit 28
Summit, NJ 07901

Timothy and Mariana Schlock
64 Oakland Place
Summit, NJ 07901

Steven Rose
1181 Main St., Apt. 6K
Rahway, NJ 07065

Alexandra Argiro Moudatsos
13 Gordon St.
Woodbridge, NJ 07065

Paul Arfanis
228 St. Paul St.
Westfield, NJ 07090

George Nicolakakis
7 Hazelwood Ct.
Warren, NJ 07059

Robert and Dawn Maroldi
9779 Kingsbridge Circle
Sarasota, FL 34238

Frank and Erica Ferrante
739 Jane Dr.
Manahawken, NJ 08050

Michael Flood
200 New York Blvd.
Sea Girt, NJ 08750

Justin and Leela Bozonelis
15 Highland Avenue
Chatham, NJ 07928

Raymond and Alexandra Blackford
406 Grand St. Apt 5
Hoboken, NJ 07030

Francis and Christina Grieco
429 Davis Terrace
Union, NJ 07083

Nick and Eugenia Nikolopoulos
10 Sycamore Drive
Chatham, NJ 07928

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NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Timothy and Elena Quagliarello
1 Independence Ct. Apt 406
Hoboken, NJ 07030

Peter Markos
543 Arlington Ave.
Westfield, NJ 07090

Matthew and Elektra Seaton
1925 Evelyn St.
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Dina Savva
12 Waverly Place
Cranford, NJ 07016

Olivia Spathakis
6 Brookrace Dr.
Mendham, NJ 07945

Mrs. Maria Carranza
227 Oak Ridge Ave.
Summit, NJ 07901

Mr. Eleni Filippatos
227 Oak Ridge Ave.
Hoboken, NJ 07030

Christopher and Sophia Vasilow
1047 Rutgers Rd.
Mountainside, NJ 07092

John and Sophia Naglieri
25 Park Ave.
Cranford, NJ 07016

Dimitri and Kathryn Leles
1550 Harbor Blvd.
Wehawken, NJ 07086

Koula Louros
146 S. 4th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11211

Evangelos and Kristen Eleftheriou
95 Cameo Place
Colonia, NJ 07067

Dave and Christine Kiefer
603 Shadowlawn Dr.
Westfield, NJ 07090

Holy Trinity 2021 Community Christmas Card



Our dear Holy Trinity Parishioners, even though we have weathered some of the limitations we had with the pandemic, it is still clear that we have a way to go. Our face to face interactions and fund-raising efforts are still limited. Despite the challenges, the philanthropic work of Philoptochos has not stopped. The demand to help those in need continues and we are counting on your support and generosity to enable us to fulfill our mission.

Please join your fellow parishioners by donating to our annual Holy Trinity Christmas Card.

Complete the Form below
and send it with Your Donation

All Donations are gratefully received and
will support Philoptochos Charities

Thank You For Your Generosity!

THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME(S) CLEARLY AND AS YOU WISH
IT TO APPEAR ON THE CHRISTMAS CARD.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Donation Amount: _____

RETURN FORM NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 5, 2021
Make Checks Payable To: Ladies Philoptochos Society Of Htgc

Payment also can be made using VENMO@Maria-Kanaras. Include your
information with the payment and how your family name(s) should appear.

Contact Mary Demiris at 908-209-8203 or
Mary Skiadas at 732-469-4988

The Ladies Philoptochos Society - HTGOC is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.



Thank you to all the children, parents and grandparents that joined the Joy Hope Annual Apple Picking in October.





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 in the next issue of *The Promise!*

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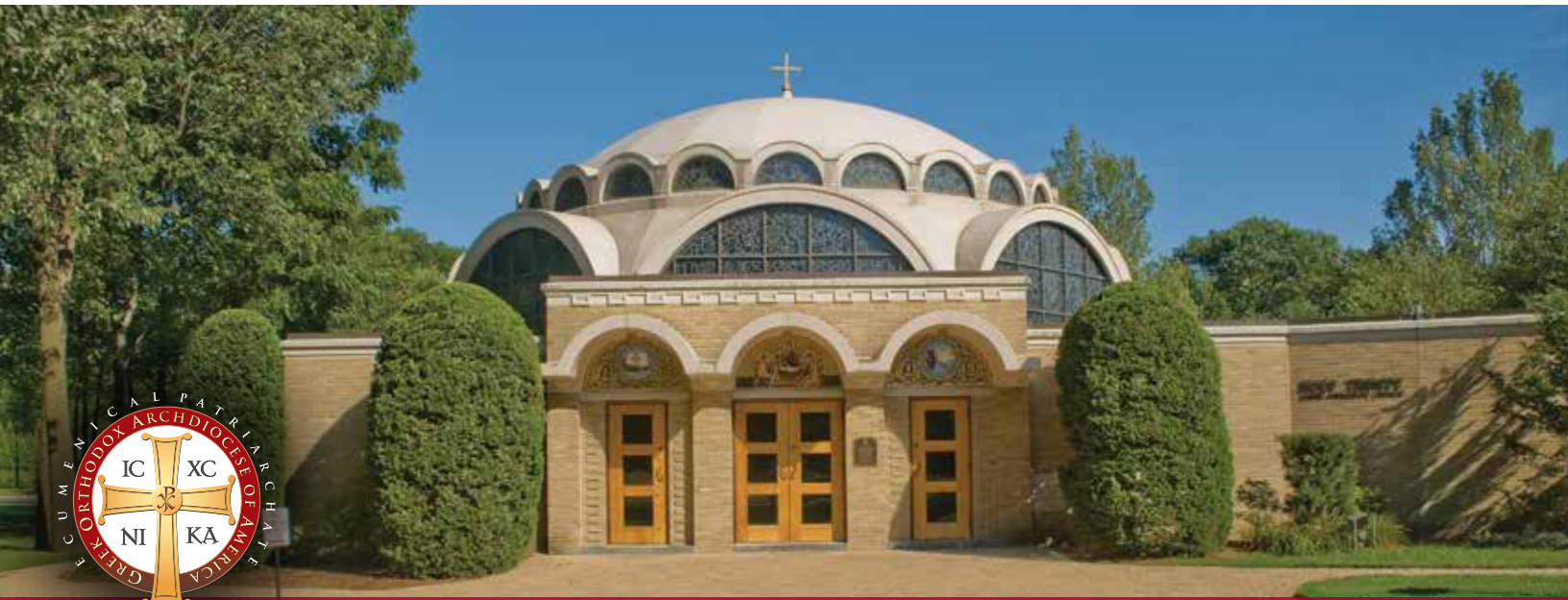
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	<i>Sundays</i>	<i>Weekdays</i>
<i>Orthros</i>	8:15 AM	8:30 AM
<i>Divine Liturgy</i>	9:30 AM	9:30 AM

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