The Promise

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Westfield ✝ New Jersey

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Westfield, NJ 1966 60th 2026 Anniversary

November 2026 ✝ Volume 50, Issue 7 holytrinity@htgocnj.org 908-233-8533 holytrinitywestfield.org

The Metropolis of New Jersey Welcomes His Eminence Metropolitan ✝ATHENAGORAS



On Thursday, October 1, 2026 the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople elected His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos as the new Metropolitan of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey.

The clergy and laity are elated by the news of the election and give thanks to our Lord and say AXIOS!

His Eminence will be enthroned on November 7, 2026 at the Cathedral of St. John the Theologian in Tenafly at 11:00 AM.

His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras of New Jersey was born Christos Ziliaskopoulos in 1970 in Reutlingen, Germany, and was raised in both Germany and Greece. During his young adulthood, he spent several formative years in the monastic life on Mount Athos, an experience that profoundly shaped his vocation and lifelong devotion to Christ and His Church.

He was ordained to the Holy Diaconate in 1997 and to the Holy Priesthood in 1998 by His Eminence Metropolitan Augoustinos of Germany.

For more than twenty years, His Eminence served the Church in Germany in extensive parish, pastoral, and administrative ministry, including as Hierarchical Vicar of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Germany for the states of Hessen and Rhineland-Palatinate. He also represented the Ecumenical Patriarchate in ecumenical theological dialogues and was active in Christian and interfaith initiatives. Among his pastoral accomplishments were the establishment of the first Orthodox chapel at Frankfurt International Airport, a 24-hour Orthodox crisis hotline, and

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Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and All Bodiless Powers

November 8

The Synaxis of the Chief of the Heavenly Hosts, Archangel Michael and the Other Heavenly Bodiless Powers: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel was established at the beginning of the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea, which met several years before the First Ecumenical Council. The 35th Canon of the Council of Laodicea condemned

Continued on page 2 ⇨



Dates in the Life of Our Church

November – December 2026

NOVEMBER

1	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
3	11:00 AM Trinity Circle Meeting
7	11:00 AM Baptism
	1:00 PM Wedding
8	Synaxis of the Archangels
	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	3:00 PM Basketball
9	St. Nektarios the Wonderworker
	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
10	6:30 PM Philoptochos Board
	7:30 PM Parish Council
11	Sts. Victor, Vikenzios, Menas
	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	9:30 AM TOTS
12	7:00 PM Adult Greek Dance
14	6:00 PM 60th Diamond Anniversary Gala
15	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
16	7:30 PM NNJYC Meeting
17	5:00 PM Wedding
21	Entry into the Temple
	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
22	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
26	Thanksgiving Day
27	Office Closed
29	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
30	St. Andrew the Apostle
	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

DECEMBER

1	11:00 AM Trinity Circle
4	St. Barbara
	9:30 AM Liturgy
5	11:00 AM Baptism
6	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	12:00 PM Parish Council Elections
8	7:30 PM Parish Council
10	6:00 PM Philoptochos Christmas Party
13	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Synaxis

⇦ *Continued from page 1*

and denounced as heretical the worship of angels as gods and rulers of the world but affirmed their proper veneration.

A Feastday was established in November, the ninth month after March (with which the year began in ancient times) since there are Nine Ranks of Angels. The eighth day of the month was chosen for the Synaxis of all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven since the Day of the Dread Last Judgment is called the Eighth Day by the holy Fathers. After the end of this age (characterized by its seven days of Creation) will come the Eighth Day, and then "the Son of Man shall come in His Glory and all the holy Angels with Him" (Mt. 25:31).

The Angelic Ranks are divided into three Hierarchies: highest, middle, and lowest.

The Highest Hierarchy includes: the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones

The six-winged SERAPHIM (Flaming, Fiery) (Is 6:2) stand closest of all to the Most Holy Trinity. They blaze with love for God and kindle such love in others.

The many-eyed CHERUBIM (outpouring of wisdom, enlightenment) (Gen 3:24) stand before the Lord after the Seraphim. They are radiant with the light of knowledge of God, and knowledge of the mysteries of God. Through them wisdom is poured forth, and people's minds are enlightened so they may know God and behold His glory.

The THRONES (Col 1:16) stand after the Cherubim, mysteriously and incomprehensibly bearing God through the grace given them for their service. They are ministers of God's justice, giving to tribunals, kings, etc. the capacity for righteous judgment.



The Middle Angelic Hierarchy consists of three Ranks: Dominions, Powers, and Authorities:

DOMINIONS (Col 1:16) hold dominion over the angels subject to them. They instruct the earthly authorities, established by God, to rule wisely, and to govern their lands well. The Dominions teach us to subdue sinful impulses, to subject the flesh to the spirit, to master our will, and to conquer temptation.

POWERS (1 Pet 3:22) fulfill the will of God without hesitation. They work great miracles and give the grace of wonderworking and clairvoyance to saints pleasing to God. The Powers assist people in fulfilling obediences. They also encourage them to be patient and give them spiritual strength and fortitude.

AUTHORITIES (1 Pet 3:22, Col 1:16) have authority over the devil. They protect people from demonic temptations, and prevent demons from harming people as they would wish. They also uphold ascetics and guard them, helping people in the struggle with evil thoughts.

The Lowest Hierarchy includes the three Ranks: Principalities, Archangels, and Angels

PRINCIPALITIES (Col 1:16) have command over the lower angels, instructing them in the fulfilling of God's commands. They watch over the world and protect lands, nations and peoples. Principalities instruct people to render proper honor to those in authority, as befits their station. They teach those in authority to use their position, not for personal glory and gain, but to honor God, and to spread word of Him, for the benefit of those under them.

ARCHANGELS (1 Thess 4:16) are messengers of great and wondrous tidings. They reveal prophecies and the mysteries of the faith. They enlighten people to know and understand the will of God, they spread faith in God among the people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel.

ANGELS (1 Pet 3:22) are in the lowest rank of the heavenly hierarchy, and closest to people. They reveal the lesser mysteries of God and His intentions, guiding people to virtuous and holy life. They support those who remain steadfast, and they raise up the fallen. They never abandon us and they are always prepared to help us, if we desire it.

All the Ranks of the Heavenly Powers are called angels, although each has its own name and position by virtue of their service. The Lord reveals His will to the highest ranks of the angels, and they in turn inform the others.

Holy Scripture and Tradition give us the names of the Archangels

Gabriel: strength (power) of God, herald and servitor of Divine omnipotence (Dan 8:16, Luke 1:26). He announces the mysteries of God.

Raphael: the healing of God, the curer of human infirmities (Tobit 3:16, 12:15)

Uriel: the fire or light of God, enlightener (2 Esdras 5:20). We pray for him to enlighten those with darkened minds.

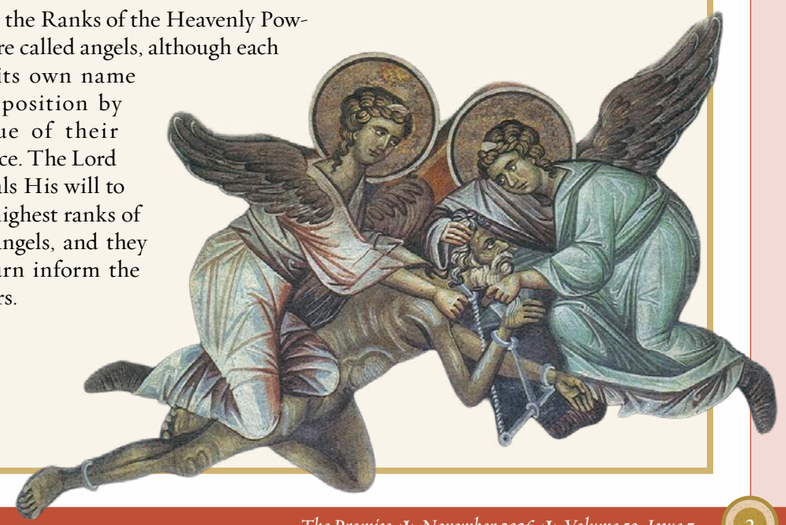
Selaphiel: the prayer of God, impelling to prayer (2 Esdras 5:15). He prays to God for mankind.

Jehudiel: the glorifying of God, encouraging exertion for the glory of the Lord and interceding for the reward of efforts.

Barachiel: distributor of the blessings of God for good deeds, entreats the mercy of God for people.

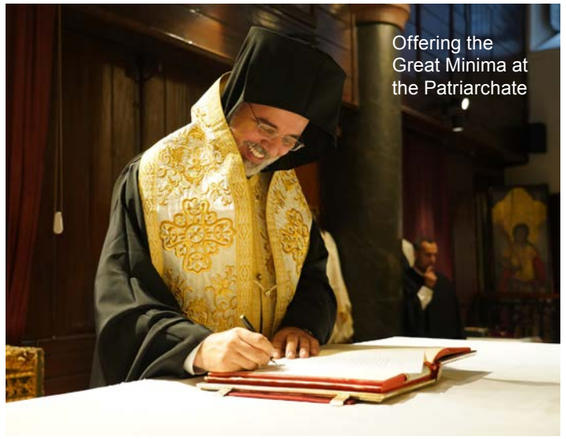
Jeremiel: the raising up to God (2 Esdras 4:36)

Each person has a guardian angel (Matt 18:10), and every nation also receives its own guardian angel from God (Dan. 10:13). When a church is consecrated, it also receives a guardian angel as well. Our guardian angel protects and shelters us from the enemy and the harm the devil seeks to inflict on us. ❖



Welcome Metropolitan Athenagoras

⇦ *Continued from page 1*


Offering the Great Minima at the Patriarchate

the first Greek Orthodox youth camp in Germany. He also oversaw significant parish building and restoration projects.

In 2017, he relocated to Toronto, Canada, at the invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Sotirios of Canada, where he served as Dean of the Patriarchal Toronto Orthodox Theological Academy and as Office Director of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada.

In 2019, His Eminence came to the United States to offer his ministry to the Sacred Archdiocese of America and Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, where he initially served as Chaplain. In 2021, he was appointed Chief Secretary of the Holy Eparchial Synod and Spiritual Advisor of the National Philoptochos Society and was subsequently entrusted with the direction of the Archdiocesan Department of Religious Education.

On May 19, 2021, he was ordained to the Holy Episcopacy on June 5, 2021, at Holy Cross Chapel in Brookline, Massachusetts, with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America presiding.

Metropolitan Athenagoras has an extensive academic background. He holds degrees in German Language and Orthodox Theology, including a Master of Theology and a Doctorate in Orthodox Theology from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. His studies have also included pedagogy, German literature, Roman Catholic and Protestant theology, Judaism, Islamic studies, and comparative religion. His scholarly and ecclesiastical work has been particularly engaged with Orthodox theology, religious education, ecumenical dialogue, and interfaith relations. ❖



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
in Westfield, New Jersey

Cordially invites you to attend the

Diamond Anniversary Gala

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Westfield, NJ

1966 60th 2026

Anniversary

Reception - 6:30 pm
Dinner & Dancing - 7:30 pm

Music Featuring
Fantasia

Saturday, November 14, 2026
Brooklake Country Club
139 Brooklake Road, Florham Park, New Jersey

SEE ENCLOSED REPLY CARD FOR DETAILS

Kyria Voula



In July 2026, Kyria Voula, the Director of Holy Trinity Greek School, was chosen from amongst thousands of candidates to be part of a two-week educational seminar held at the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute in Nicosia, Cyprus. The educators shared their educational experiences, teaching styles and methodologies, while also learning about new methods of teaching the Greek language and culture within daily intensive workshops. The seminar group had a private audience with His Eminence Archbishop George of Cyprus.

Our parish is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated director who seeks ways to enhance her own methodology of teaching and who encourages each teacher to further develop their teaching ability and curriculum. We congratulate Kyria Voula for this milestone. ❖







Farewell Banquet Honors the Ministry of Archbishop Apostolos

On September 8, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and the Metropolis of New Jersey hosted a farewell banquet honoring the ministry of His Eminence Apostolos, newly-elected Archbishop of Canada and former Metropolitan of New Jersey. The event was held at the Venetian in Garfield.

Archbishop-elect Apostolos offered a farewell address, expressing gratitude to God for giving him the strength and energy to serve the Metropolis of New Jersey. He closed his remarks with a message to the faithful:

"I will never forget my ministry in the New Jersey Metropolis," Archbishop-elect Apostolos said. "You're amazing people … Don't lose your faith. Keep your faith strong and your ministry visible to everyone in this beautiful Metropolis. I love you and I pray for you."

Archbishop Elpidophoros also offered remarks, thanking Archbishop-elect Apostolos for his service to the Archdiocese of America and wishing him prayers for his ministry in the Archdiocese of Canada. On behalf of the clergy of the Metropolis of New Jersey, Fr. Peter Delvizis offered comments on the ministry of His Eminence Archbishop Apostolos of Canada.



Here are excerpts from Fr. Peter's remarks:

I am very honored this evening to offer some remarks on behalf of the clergy of the Metropolis of New Jersey. The Brotherhood is a tight-knit community, and His Eminence from the very beginning of His ministry here sought to strengthen us by fully embracing the clergy and caring for us and our many needs.

Tonight we celebrate with deepest gratitude and remember fondly the pastoral care, spiritual leadership, and fatherly love that His Eminence Archbishop Apostolos has shown over these past few years.

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, in 2021 you sent the Metropolis of New Jersey a remarkable man - *a treasured gem* - in the person of His Eminence Archbishop Apostolos.

His Eminence established himself as a spiritual father and true shepherd by endearing himself to the faithful and by embracing them wholeheartedly, showing great affection and kindness.

For the clergy of the Metropolis of New Jersey, may I say, His Eminence inspired the clergy in many ways. But one critical way was that His Eminence sought to uplift the spirit of the clergy and this merits public acknowledgment.

His Eminence uplifted the clergy by honoring and affirming the sacred office held by each clergyman. Simply by acknowledging the dignity of the priesthood and showing us respect, the authenticity of his character was disclosed.

Whenever he presided over a service, the reverence he extended to the clergy who encircled the holy table together with him, speaks volumes, not only of his own humanity and kindness, but also outwardly of his mindfulness of the clergy's welfare.



His kindness, mindfulness, gentle nature, humor *(which we all adore and will miss)*, and prayerfulness made us at easy, inviting us – in an unspoken way - to pray alongside him asking for the Lord to act.

"O how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell in unity. It is like fragrant oil running down the beard, even the beard of Aaron" This verse from Psalm 132 offers, for those who put on the petrahili (priestly stole) before each service, a unique perspective and parallel imagery.

The clergy of the Metropolis of New Jersey are thankful to God for giving us such a man.

I close with the words I shared with His Eminence on Wednesday, July 22 of this year, the day when the announcement of the new archbishop of Canada was announced at the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Greeting you with much respect and happiness upon hearing of Your Eminence's election as the new Archbishop of Canada. I wish you all the best and know this is a great selection for that Archdiocese.

As a brotherhood in New Jersey and for me personally, we are joyful for you but also saddened that such a wonderful, caring, and capable man such as yourself will no longer be our Metropolitan and more importantly our loving spiritual father.

Your Eminence, the clergy of the Metropolis offer many profound thanks for your leadership, friendship, and acts of kindness over these past few years. You leave a lasting impression and indelible mark on the clergy here and we thank you. AXIOS! ❖



Westfield "Rise Against Hunger"

Holy Trinity Parish Lenten project "Rise Against Hunger" was the catalyst inspiring the Town of Westfield and other houses of worship to join together for a one-day town-wide "Rise Against Hunger" event help on October 10! Our parish joined the United Methodist Church, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, St. Helen's Catholic Church, and the First Congregational Church of Westfield, in this important effort. Westfield community partners also include: The Westfield Food Pantry, Westfield High School Community Service Club, and the Westfield Police Department. Many thanks to parish liaison, Georgeann Papadakos, who helped coordinate this event. She stated, "First and foremost, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for your dedication, hard work, and commitment to helping turn our vision into a reality! What we accomplished together was truly amazing, and I am so grateful for the role each of you played in making this event a success."

Together, the town packed 40,872 meals! This was an incredible accomplishment, and we should all be extremely proud of the impact. ❖







Philoptochos

Update

KATHY MAGLARAS, PRESIDENT

Our chapter has been incredibly blessed with so much volunteer outreach, celebration, and wonderful fellowship lately. We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who always steps up to share their time, to make our mission possible. We especially appreciate everyone's recent donations to support Hellenic College Holy Cross. Your generosity makes a difference, and we are so proud to support students in the college.

We kicked off our recent highlights on September 13 by hosting a special Fellowship Hour to honor our local First Responders. A big thank you goes out to Elise and all the ladies who helped set-up, host, and bake to make this so meaningful. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and you will see beautiful pink ribbons tied around our trees. We thank Sandy B. and Ellen C. for organizing and tying these ribbons.

Leadership and dedication have also been at the forefront this month. On September 27, we officially affirmed our 2026–2027 Board. We extend a warm welcome to our newest board members: Michelle Kallinosis, Annette Romas, and Mary Carayannopoulos. Just a few days later on September 29, with nearly 30 ladies in attendance, we celebrated four remarkable women; Avi Kiriakatis, Marina LoAlbo, Mary Skiadas, and Phyllis Verenes who officially stepped into "retirement" after 40 years of dedicated service to Philoptochos. We thank them for their continued commitment to our mission.

On October 3, we had a meaningful day volunteering at the Soup Kitchen at the Social Service Center in Elizabeth, where we served a hot lunch to nearly 180 people. Thank you to our volunteers Mary C, Maria K, Denise, Karen, Alexandra, and Kathy. for giving their time to serve others. We also celebrated our historic 60th Diamond Anniversary Luncheon on October 4. A big thank you to Debbie K. and Ellen Manos for leading the Saturday setup and ensuring Sunday's celebration was an absolute success!



On Saturday, October 17, 17 ladies from our chapter walked together in the annual Mary's Place by the Sea Walkathon. Despite the chilly weather, we were proud to support this beautiful home in Ocean Grove, NJ, which provides a comforting, free weekend retreat for cancer survivors. Thanks to our volunteers and generous donors, we met our fundraising goal! Our chapter also served as an official event sponsor, contributing a portion of the proceeds from our recent Rummage Sale (Thank you Elise and Ellen). A big thank you to Maria Stevens for being a fantastic team captain and motivating us all to participate. Thanks to everyone's incredible efforts, our chapter is being featured on their homepage for the second year in a row!

During the month of October, our Philoptochos and GOYA chapters teamed up to sponsor a Halloween costume collection drive for Jersey Cares. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we collected 72 full costumes along with tons of accessories! While we know it was a little hard for some of our families to part with those cherished dress-up memories, this drive was a massive success. Brand-new costumes can be incredibly expensive, and your donations will directly help so many families in need enjoy a happy Halloween. A huge thank you to everyone who donated and helped us make a difference! ❖

November & December 2026

- All Month: Thanksgiving Food Drive (Collecting donations to support the Market Street Mission).
- Nov 14: 60th Diamond Anniversary Gala at the beautiful Brooklake Country Club
- Nov 15 Vasilopita Bread Sale
- Dec 10: Philoptochos Christmas Party!
- Jan 17th: Vasilopita Luncheon

Thank you again for all your support
and please stop by our table if you want to volunteer!



















Trinity Circle

The parish of Holy Trinity gives us many blessings. Trinity Circle is a group of parishioners aged 55 and over that meet to socialize and be together. Trinity Circle helps to develop lifelong friendships between members. You are welcome to join and attend our monthly meetings and go on wonderful outings. Annual dues are only $15. Meetings always start with a prayer by Fr. Peter followed by a short business meeting, an interesting speaker, then lunch with plenty camaraderie. ❖



Our monthly luncheons are donated and celebrated, in honor of or in memory of loved ones:

- **September 8** - In memory of Mary & Lefteris Demiris beloved parents.
- **October 6** - In memory of Gayle Conomos Stroh's beloved husband and parents.
- **November 3** - In memory of beloved Theresa & Notis Kotsolios donated by Marigo Markos.
- **November 21** - Bus outing to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Christmas Show, lunch & shopping.
- **December 5th** - Annual Members Christmas luncheon at Galloping Hill Caterers



Holy Trinity 2026 *Community Christmas Card*

O Holy Night

Our dear Holy Trinity Parishioners, we invite you to participate in this community expression of joy over our Lord's birth. Philoptochos continues its philanthropic work to assist those in need, and we are counting on your kindness, support, and generosity to help us make a difference together! Please join your fellow parishioners by donating to our annual Christmas Card to enable the purchase of an *outdoor Nativity Scene for the front of the church* and support our Philoptochos charities.

- COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT IN WITH YOUR DONATION.
- ALL DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
250 Gallows Hill Road Westfield, NJ 07090-1109

I/We wish to add my/our name(s) to the Community Christmas Card.

_____ PLEASE USE THE SAME WORDING AS LAST YEAR.
_____ PLEASE CHANGE THE WORDING TO THE FOLLOWING:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Donation $: _____

Online: _____ Cash: _____ Check #: _____

RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2026

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY HTGOC
For convenience in handling, you can make your payment by check, credit card, Apple Pay, Google or PayPal.

Include your information with the payment and how your family name(s) should appear. Contact:
Contact Karen Roscoe 609-213-3486 or
Kristin Tencza 732-816-1094 for more information.

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

A Wonderful Start to Greek School

Holy Trinity Greek School has had a wonderful start to the new school year! To kick things off students gathered in church and received a beautiful Agiasmos blessing from Father Peter. Students felt the connection between their language and religion as they listened to prayers, partook in the holy water with fresh basil and listened to a reading by Greek School Principal, Kyria Stavroula Mergoupis.

During the early weeks of school, our students have been busy learning, growing, and reconnecting with the Greek language and culture after a summer away. We are grateful to our dedicated teachers for creating a welcoming and engaging environment where our children can learn and appreciate their Greek heritage.

We would also like to thank our families for their continued support and commitment. Their encouragement helps make the Greek School a meaningful part of our parish community. The PTO works hard to support each facet of the program. Special activities are organized throughout the year like the very memorable first day of classes an ice cream truck.

We look forward to all that the coming months will bring and to another year of learning, fellowship, and celebrating our beautiful Greek heritage together!

Καλή σχολική χρονιά!
Have a wonderful school year! ❖















GOYA

Update

■ BY ANDONI SAKETOS, GOYA PRESIDENT

My name is Andoni Saketos and I am ecstatic to serve as this year's GOYA President. I would like to congratulate my fellow board members. I look forward to working with them in accomplishing our common goal of building a stronger, more united youth community centered around our faith.

I invite everyone in grades 6 -12 to join GOYA. I really want to see more participation this year, especially from our younger members. The board and I encourage all GOYA members to join the BAND app and read the weekly emails to stay updated with activities and events. We are excited for our basketball season and are eagerly anticipating the games against other GOYA's. We had a great time at the Goya kickoff event on 9/11/26. Advisors gave an overview of all that GOYA has to offer. Father Peter also spoke to the GOYA about the significant impact that the terrorist attacks on September 11th 2001 had on Americans. Although many of us were not born to live through this tragic event, it is important that we never forget those who perished on that day or because of that day. May their memories be eternal.

On October 2 we attended the Harvest Dance. A big shout out to AP/Ocean for hosting and making this a fun event. GOYA is excited to attend the 50th Annual Christ Encounter Retreat on October 23 - 25, at Fairview Lake YMCA Camp. We get to grow spiritually while engaging in interesting religious sessions and fun camp activities. The Mr. /Miss GOYA pageant took place on Sunday, October 11. We are so proud of our representatives Lucas Nadgauda and Sophia Skalkotos. ❖

Executive Board Members:

President- Andoni Saketos

Vice President- Kalliope Koutzoulis

Treasurer - Minas Saketos

Recording Secretary - Dylan West

Corresponding Secretary - Alexandra Kotsonis

Outreach Coordinator - Sophia Drivas

Mr./Ms. Westfield









2026 Holy Trinity Choir



50th Christ Encounter Anniversary GOYA Retreat


















HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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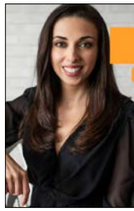


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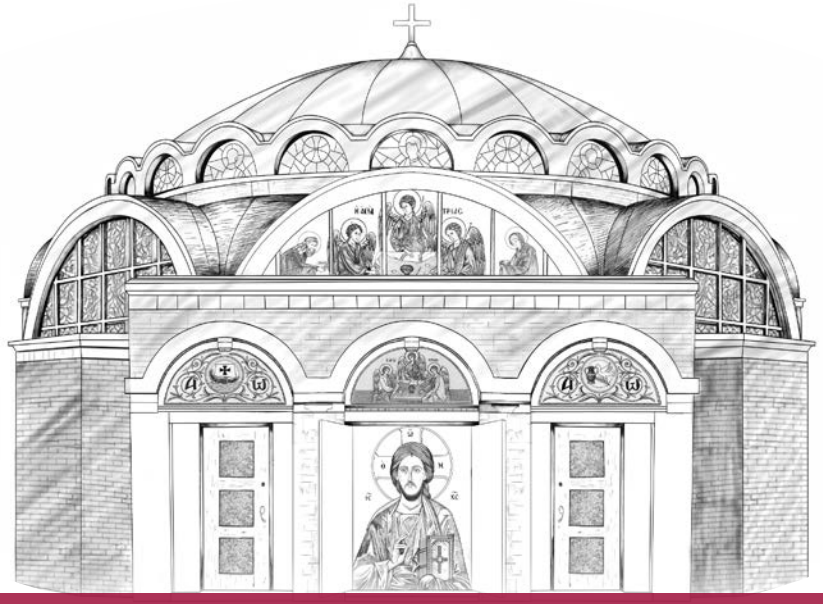
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E-mail	HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org
Web site	holytrinitywestfield.org
Presiding Priest	Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis
E-mail	FrPeter@htgocnj.org

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