

# The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



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## The Miraculous Draught of Fish

Luke 5:1-11



BY REV.  
FR. PETER DELVIZIO

Fishermen know that the best fishing at night is in shallow waters next to the shore. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, He was found sitting in a boat just offshore teaching a multitude of people. After Jesus finished, in order to pay Peter for the use of his fishing boat, He instructed him to go out into deeper water. Peter's initial response was to protest. After all, He was an experienced fisherman who had worked hard all night and caught nothing. He was entirely worn out and hesitated.

This story is analogous to Peter's faith at the time of the Lord's call. His faith was shallow. But Jesus was going to lead him to a deepening of faith and wanted to fill him with greater confidence. When Jesus calls a person, the response demands a new and deeper commitment.

Notice what Peter does even though he was extremely tired. At the Lord's command, he was willing to give it one more try. This is how Jesus works. When we think we have reached the limit of our abilities, Jesus asks us to go



a little bit further - out into deeper waters. Faith sometimes leads us to places that are further away from that which is familiar or comfortable. Faith always asks us to do what is right, which means to follow the Lord. This may require us to leave the security of resources, talents, and even a familial environment. By the shore, we feel safe and that we can handle everything. The security offered by the world is symbolized by the shoreline in this Gospel passage. On the shore, we just have to count on ourselves and not Jesus. By living life this way, our faith

cannot be tested and hence it can never grow. When we are afraid to leave the confines of the shore, our faith grows stagnant. Then we protest as Peter did and toil over things but in the end catch nothing. Foolishly, our logic says we've done everything needed.

In the distance however, a faint call demands a deeper commitment and greater courage. The Lord is calling us to something that has more meaning and to a depth of understanding much greater than we currently hold. But to

*Continued on page 2* ⇨

*Wait for the promise of the Father*



# Dates in the Life of Our Church

September–October 2019

## ✠ OCTOBER

I	11:00 AM Trinity Circle
	4:00 PM Greek School
3	4:00 PM Greek School
4-6	Christ Encounter Weekend
6	St. Thomas the Apostle
	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
8	4:00 PM Greek School
	7:30 PM Parish Council
10	9:30 AM TOTS
	4:00 PM Greek School
13	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	11:30 AM Sunday School Open House

	4:00 PM Mr/Ms GOYA, Pines Manor
14	11:00 AM Parish Golf Outing
18	7:00 PM Cultural Committee Event
19	3:30 PM Wedding
20	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
21	8:00 PM NNJYC
26	St. Demetrios in Union
	9:00 AM Orthros
	10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
27	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
8	Synaxis of the Archangels
	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
9	St. Nektarios
	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
10	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
11	Sts. Victor, Vikenzios, and Menas
	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

## ✠ NOVEMBER

3	Daylight Savings Ends
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15	Christmas Fast Begins
	7:00 Sacrament of Holy Unction in Fairview



## The Miraculous Draught of Fish

↔ *Continued from page 1*

achieve this, we must leave the confines of creature comforts. The Lord directs Peter to “launch out into the deep and let down your nets.” St. Ambrose of Milan sees the spiritual meaning of this request as an invitation to give one’s life over to the deeper mysteries of the knowledge of the Son of God.

Peter’s protest is quickly converted to obedience which shows something in his character. Notice how he welcomes Jesus onto his boat having never ever met the man. Notice how he is given over to Jesus’ words and obeys Him in everything. When he is asked to launch out into the deep, Peter does not become exasperated and ask the Lord to leave his boat but instead says, “At Your word I will let down the net.”

Isn’t it marvelous how the Lord works! Observe how wisely the Lord arranges our salvation, drawing to Himself each one by means of the things that are his own and with which he is familiar. As He attracted the Magi to Him with a star; as He attracted the tax collectors by a tax collector; here He attracts the fishermen by means of fish.

Peter’s trust in the Lord was so warm and authentic that it led him to deeper faith. When Peter followed the Lord, he experienced a catch beyond his wildest imaginings. The great catch of fish was an extraordinary miracle. The people were so amazed by the Lord that they wanted to follow Him to see other miracles performed. And I tell you that the Lord performed greater and even more marvelous miracles than this.

Peter’s life is a testimony to the greater things experienced with the Lord. After the miracle of the catching of fish, Peter left his livelihood as a fisherman and

exchanged the net of his trade for the net of the Gospel. No longer would he let down a net to catch fish but rather he would now let down the Gospel to catch such a great number of men that the apostles themselves could not handle the haul. They would need other men and women of faith laboring with the apostles for that great catch that still is being taken to this day through the power of the Gospel.

Continually in His ministry Jesus called sinners and brings them into a deeper commitment and intimacy to Him. This is the sign of what He now does through the Church. He takes sinners and makes them His own. Every day the humble words of the Gospel reach down and shower us with the grace of God. These sacred words seek after us until we have faith enough to leave the shoreline and venture off into the deeper parts of faith and God’s majesty. ❖



# Parish Council

Update

■ BY GEORGE COLONIAS, PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

After a long holiday it is always good to finally get home to your routine, your comfort zone, and your bed. After a summer of travel, going to Greece, the beach or simply spending time with family and friends; it is nice to settle back to our church routine, church programs and your pew. It's comforting to be at our spiritual home that we love and know so well; where we spend time reflecting with God and congregate as brothers and sisters in Christ. Welcome Home!

Over the summer, Holy Trinity was very busy. Some of us travelled over the 4th of July holiday to West Virginia. We participated in the Appalachian Service Project, along with another Greek Orthodox Parish from Wilmington, NC, and spent a week working on the homes of various people who did not have the means or ability to make repairs and improvements themselves. We really made a difference in the lives of a few families, and they truly also had a wonderfully enriching impact on all of us. We should all be very proud of our youth that attended. They worked hard, bonded with the families they were assigned to and on the last night at the center, they had all of the kids and counselors Greek Dancing till very late at night.

As you may have noticed, we have been working on improving the physical

condition of Holy Trinity. The exterior brick and stucco has been cleaned, our driveway and parking lot were resealed and lines repainted, our courtyard beautified, and our Narthex, Exo-Narthex, halls and classrooms were repainted with new darker floor moldings added. Behind the scenes we are cleaning out clutter to make more room for storage. There is more work to do so if anyone is in a business or has the ability to help the church with any of the needs inherent to a facility such as ours, please approach or write to me. Thank you all.

Also, over the summer and as part of the mission trip, we commenced the roll-out of requiring background checks for all volunteers that interact with youth, have fiduciary responsibilities or who are employed by the church. Fr. Peter was first, followed by me and all of the ASP chaperones. We need to be as vigilant as we can in ensuring the protection of our youth and parish. Background checks are a useful tool to research for certain dangers; however, it is all of our responsibility to be forward looking and vigilant. "If you see something, say something" applies to church also. If you see anything unusual or have concerns about anything or anyone, please approach me, a parish council member, and of course Fr. Peter, especially with sensitive issues. It is much better to have said something

than not. Security is a focus for us and on occasion you may see the Westfield Police visiting. Please welcome them.

Lastly, we have finally completed all steps in creating our Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Endowment Fund. Once this fund reaches \$1 million, we can access up to 2/3 of the interest to be used for the ministries of the church or towards major capital items. Proceeds will not go to the general operation of the parish. Currently our balance is close to \$900,000. This was achieved by aggregating all of the IMO funds that have been donated over the years (yes, we accounted for all of them), and all restricted donations. For a long time, there was the optic that we had plenty of money, when in fact a good portion was restricted. We can now put these restricted funds to good use.

We are close to our mark and we want to surpass the \$1 million mark. Our community is blessed to be rich in spirit and rich with God's blessings. Please help us reach this goal. Gifts of cash, marketable securities, or bequests are all appreciated. I look forward to seeing you all soon and please get involved. There are many great people to get to know. Let me know if you have any questions on these items or anything else happening at the parish, or if you need help finding a place to pitch in. ❖

Holy Trinity  
Cultural Committee

*Presents:*

*A Musical Tribute*  
to **ASIA MINOR**

The Cultural Committee cordially invites you to A Musical Tribute to Asia Minor, on Friday, October 18, 2019, 7:00 PM in the Bouras Center. Free admission and refreshments. Holy Trinity parishioners with Asia Minor lineage are invited to provide us with photos of ancestors, artifacts, documents, etc. for display the night of the event. Deadline for display items is Sunday, October 13. Please mark the items with names of ancestors, location in Asia Minor and your name in parenthesis. Please see Nitsa Bruno or Celia Kapsomera at the Cultural Committee table during fellowship hour or email Nitsa Bruno [backtotheisland@comcast.net](mailto:backtotheisland@comcast.net) for additional information. ❖



# Philoptochos

## Update

■ BY ELLEN MANOS-ATHENSON, PRESIDENT

The new Ecclesiastical year is upon us and we very much look forward to another productive and rewarding year fulfilling the mission of Philoptochos. We are grateful to our 212 loyal stewards and the Holy Trinity Community whose support enables us to continue to deliver on our commitments and to strive to exceed our goals.

### Mission Statement

- To aid the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fund raising efforts; and
- To promote the charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars and other educational resources;
- To preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions, in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages and customs;
- To promote participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, with the cooperation of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council.

*The charitable work of the Society shall be performed with discretion, courtesy and kindness.*

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity, a self-funding ministry, works diligently to stay true to our mission and to responsibly manage the funds raised to meet our commitments and respond to urgent social service requests.

In addition, we pride ourselves in our long-standing commitment to education by awarding annual scholarships to our graduating seniors. Remembering our homebound parishioners, at Christmas and Easter we prepare and deliver holiday packages. Each year, our chapter donates more than \$45,000 to numerous organizations and individuals including our National, Metropolis and Community obligations.

### The list below are the budgeted donations from September through December 2019

- Children's Gaucher Research Fund
- IOCC
- St Michaels Home Ad Journal
- Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Ovarian Cancer Education
- Doctors Without Borders
- National Forum of Greek Orthodox Musicians
- Breast Cancer Research Foundation
- HomeFirst – Homeless in Union County
- Orthodox Mission to Sierra Leone
- GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services)
- Holy Cross/Hellenic College
- Tabeh Education Fund
- GOYA NJ State Scholarship Ad
- Sunday School Christmas Party
- College Care Packages
- Retired Clergy and Widowed Presbyters Benevolent Fund
- National Philoptochos Emergency Fund
- Ecumenical Patriarchate
- National Sisterhood of Presbyters
- General Medical Fund
- UNICEF
- Social Services
- St Basil Academy

In addition to our monetary commitments, Philoptochos stewards generously give of their time and talent to support our many activities. Philoptochos is also dedicated to assisting the other ministries of our Parish.

We urge all women 18 years and older to join this group of women who put their faith into action. Our stewardship drive begins in January. We must continue to build the strength of our chapter, infuse new ideas and encourage new generations of women to carry on the philanthropic mission of Philoptochos. ❖

# Fellowship Committee

■ BY AJ KARANIKOLAS- CHAIRPERSON

*“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”*

Romans 15:7

Fellowship is a spiritual unity of believers through our Lord Jesus Christ. It is where church members join together to fulfill the mission of the Gospel by worshiping and glorifying God together. The Greek word for fellowship is “koinonia”, which refers to a “sharing of life”. This does not mean merely getting together for social/cultural events, but also getting together for spiritual purposes. Sharing the needs of others, reading scripture, praying for one another, edifying one another. When we share a meal, enjoy an event together, or simply gather, we grow together in Christ. “For where two or three are gathered together in my

name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20.

While visiting the parish of Holy Trinity, it is our hope that the visitor experiences our authentic Orthodox Christian hospitality and the joys of our Lord that comes through association with fellow Christians. Having experienced the warmth, dedication, and love of our congregation, the visitor may consider becoming a Steward of our parish and it is our hope that the Steward will begin to experience the fullness of our spiritual fellowship in Christ. The Fellowship Committee serves to welcome and integrate our new parishioners as well as seeks to serve our

current parishioners through promotion of fellowship through spiritual, social and cultural events. We also ask that our parishioners engage our visitors and new families- please reach out and say hello and give them a warm Holy Trinity welcome!

If you are new to the parish and would like information on how to get more involved or upcoming fellowship events, please email us or stop by the Fellowship Table on Sunday during fellowship hour following the Liturgy. ❖

Lauren Karanikolas  
lkaranikolas@msn.com, or  
Lia Lewis lialew@gmail.com



## Trinity Circle

Update

■ BY AVI KIRIAKATIS, PRESIDENT

All members were very happy to see one another at our first Trinity Circle Meeting and all shared their summer adventure stories. Elections were held and the board decided to stay the same with the exception of Hellen Kiriakatis who is retiring from her position as VP after many years of wonderful leadership as President and Vice President. We thank Hellen very much for all her hard work to keep Trinity Circle booming! Kassandra Romas was nominated and gladly accepted to fill the VP position. Thank you Kassandra and we welcome you with open arms to bring new and exciting ideas to the club.

Our highlight of the day was celebrating Father Peter’s birthday with a delicious luncheon and special Birthday Cake – HAPPY & HEALTHY BIRTHDAY FATHER PETER!

This year we will be meeting twice a month from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. starting with: The first Tuesday of each month socializing, playing games and lunch. The third Tuesday of each month with monthly meeting, Speaker & luncheon. ❖

### Trinity Circle’s 2019 Events



**Tuesday – 11:00 am**

Games and Socializing

Kindly sign-up for bake sale with Marina LoAlbo



**Tuesday**

Lunch/Meeting & Speaker on Healthy Lifestyle including Nutrition with Anastasia Papadimitriou, PhD – Rutgers



**Saturday**

Packaging for Bake Sale in kitchen



**Sunday**

Bake Sale – at Fellowship Hour Bouras Center



**Tuesday – 11:00 am**

Games and Socializing



**Thursday – 9:45 am** Bus leaves Holy Trinity returns 4:30 pm to see Christmas Holiday Musical With The Three Scrooges Lunch & Show at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. \$70. pp Members - \$80. pp N/Members - Kindly sign up with Kassandra Romas



**Tuesday – 11:00 am** Meeting/Lunch & Speaker Chrysanthy (Chrys) Grieco with topic on Biographical writing. Chris will present writing biographies from the viewpoint of putting to print the stories of our parents, even of our youth, that will disappear with us as seniors if we don’t memorialize them. These stories must be told to preserve the legacy of our faith and our culture.



# GOYA

## Update

■ BY ARIANA TARHANIDIS, GOYA PRESIDENT

**M**y name is Ariana Tarhanidis, and I am thrilled to participate in my sixth and final year of GOYA as President. I would like to begin by thanking the outgoing class of 2019 and advisors for their dedication and the great work they undertook for us GOYANs. I would also like to welcome and congratulate the newly elected 2019-2020 Executive Board, Board Members, and Outreach Committee and look forward to supporting them. We will rely on the basic principles of the GOYA Ministry (worship, fellowship, service, and witness) to accomplish our 2019-2020 goals.

The Executive Board held a meeting at the end of August to discuss our upcoming year; our roles and respon-

sibilities as individuals, and various opportunities for us to become more involved as active participants in our GOYA. We are aiming to be more proactive and less reliant on our (amazing) advisors. Our first goal is to take on the responsibility of facilitating our communications through emails and utilizing the Remind app.

The Executive Board agreed that we would like to build a more inclusive and inviting environment, so we can see more participation from all, especially the younger grades. We approved a new goal to launch a “Big Brother/Big Sister” program for the sixth and seventh grade members. Our mentors are excited to start working with their younger “siblings” and encourage them to join

GOYA by sharing what GOYA means to them. Additionally, we established new liaison roles for our various groups; for example, the volleyball liaison might facilitate communication between the coaches and players about practice and game attendance, ensure all equipment has been stored properly, and send scores and highlights to the advisors after the games. Each Board Member is taking on a liaison role, which we created as an additional opportunity for the Board Members to be more involved in their positions as officers.

I would like to share what I am (arguably) most excited about - our schedule of events!

### In September we attended:

- Our GOYA Kickoff meeting in the Bouras Center, then moved the fun to YESTERcades for the rest of the night.
- The Celebration of the Holy Cross in Asbury Park; congratulations to our divers - Melina Christodoulou (who captured the Cross), Matt Sales, Niko Skalkotos, and Nadia Tarhanidis!
- The Harvest Dance at St. George’s Greek Orthodox Church in Clifton
- Parish Picnic and Youth Sundaes

### In October, we are looking forward to

- The 43rd Annual Christ Encounter Retreat - at Camp Mason in NJ
- Mr./Miss GOYA - Best of luck to our Mr. and Miss Westfield, Will Arida and Melina Christodoulou!

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

Ariana Tarhanidis  
 Stamati Angelides  
 Julia Love  
 Christina Arida  
 Maggie Vasilopoulos

#### BOARD MEMBERS:

Lea Cerini  
 Johnny Colonias  
 Francesca Kastanos  
 Evan Koniaris  
 Molly Love  
 Matt Sales  
 Despina Tarhanidis  
 Nick Zotos

#### OUTREACH COORDINATOR:

Thomas Savorgiannakis



Holy Trinity Divers with Fr. Peter– Melina Christodoulou (who captured the Cross in her age division), Nadia Tarhanidis, Niko Skalkotos, and Matt Sales!

## Book Store

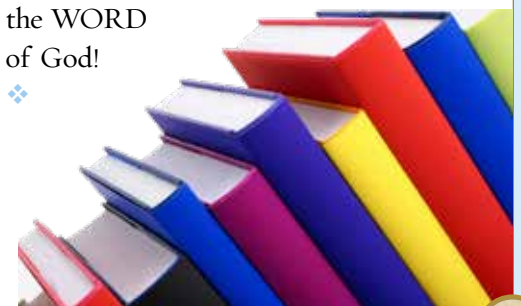
In October we think of harvest time. The Book Store has a cornucopia of treasures for you and your loved ones! We have cookbooks, travel books, novels, and icons. But the greatest things we have are prayer books, books by religious authors, and books about the Divine Liturgy. Some examples are:

Children's books such as Sing Out

Loud, Celebrate the Earth and Let's Take a Walk Through the Orthodox Church. Cook books such as The Complete Book of Greek Cooking and Around a Greek Table: Recipes and Stories. Religious books such as Becoming a Healing Presence, My Daily ORTHODOX Prayer Book, and the Orthodox Study Bible. Stop by and browse our offerings. If you don't see what you want, we can order it for you.

In addition, please consider becoming a Book Store Steward, for as little or as

much time suits your schedule! This will give you the opportunity to browse our offerings, meet new friends, and most of all, to enhance your Stewardship by helping to spread the WORD of God!



# Holy Trinity Greek School

Holy Trinity Greek School began its year with an agiasmos service on Tuesday, September 10 and Thursday, September 12. Fr. Peter welcomed the new and continuing students. He expressed how happy he is to see all the children. He also commented on the importance of the Greek language and quizzed the kids from what part of Greece do they come. After each child received a blessing, they returned to their classes for the beginning of the year.





# Stewardship

As individuals, when we become burdened with a mindset of materialism. In this, we incorporate a non-stewardship focused type of giving. When one pursues materialism, he become a slaves wealth instead of wealth becoming our servants for the promotion of God's Kingdom. Think how wonderful it is to give of yourself and how great it is to participate in the advancement of the Gospel message. True riches come by means of counting your blessings instead of counting your money.

St. John Chrysostom teaches: “Some people see the houses in which they live as their kingdom; and although in their minds they know that death will one day force them to leave this abode, in their hearts they feel they will stay forever. They take pride in the size of their houses and the fine materials with which they are built. They take pleasure in decorating their houses with bright colors, and in obtaining the best and most solid furniture to fill the rooms. They imagine that they can find peace and security by owning a house whose walls and roof will last for many generations. We [Christians], by contrast, know that we are only temporary guests on earth. We recognize that the houses in which we live serve only as hostels on the road to eternal life. We do not seek peace or security from the material walls around us or the roof above our heads. Rather, we want to surround ourselves with a wall of divine grace; and we look upward to heaven as our roof. And the furniture of our lives should be good works, performed in a spirit of love.”

—*On Living Simply*

Poet and author Scott Cairns offers us this further thought: “Salvation is a continuing process of being redeemed; it is our recovery from our chronic separation from God, both now and ever, and it includes our becoming increasingly aware of Who our God is. Our miraculous salvation has very little to do with the popular notion of ‘dying and going to heaven,’ and has far more to do with finally living, and with entering the kingdom of God, here and now.”

—*The End of Suffering: Finding Purpose in Pain*

Abba Ephrem: “God sells righteousness at a very low price to those who wish to buy it: a little piece of bread, a cloak of no value, a cup of cold water, a mite”.



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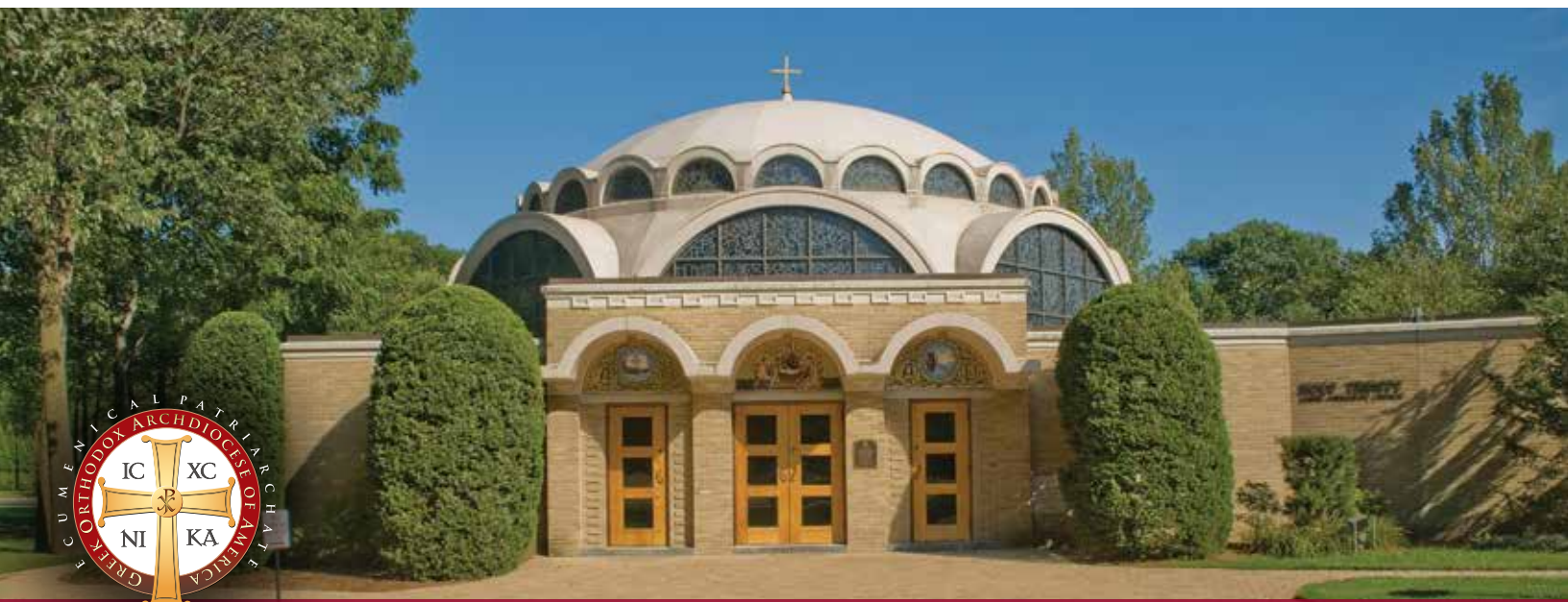
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*Web site* holytrinitywestfield.org  
*Presiding Priest* Rev. Fr. Peter Delviziis  
*E-mail* FrPeter@htgocnj.org

## OFFICE STAFF

*Office Manager* Diana R. Waltsak  
*Admin. Assistant* E. Joy Daniledes  
*Caretaker* Ocione Nunes

## WORSHIP

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*Head Acolyte* Elias Carayannopoulos

## MINISTRIES

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*Fellowship* Lauren Karanikolas

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

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