

The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



September 2020 ✦ Volume 44, Issue 4

holytrinity@htgocnj.org

908-233-8533

holytrinitywestfield.org

“Awake, O Sleeper. Arise from the dead and Christ will give you light!”

— *Ephesians 5:14*



■ BY REV. FR. PETER DELVIZIO

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

CoVid-19 has certainly played a number on us. It has utterly changed our lives in the way we move about, by the things that we do, and with what we wear. It has painfully kept us from friends and limited our church attendance. It has put us in a trance-like state, not knowing what to expect next from this disease.

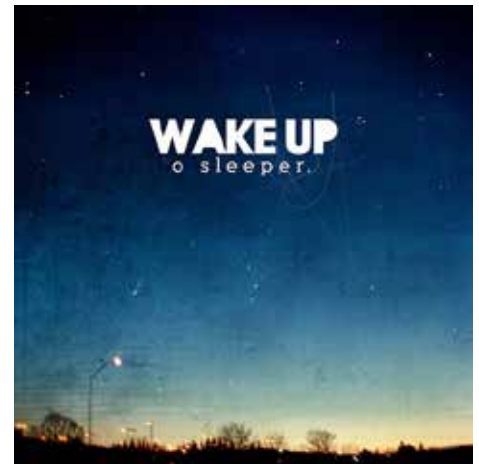
But now I believe it is time for us to wake from the long CoVid-sleep and to commune with the Lord, God Almighty, to be present in His house of worship. By way of analytics, it has been a consolation looking at the number of parishioners and friends of Holy Trinity who watch services online. But I think it's time to move beyond this and slowly return to normalcy. We are certainly seeing signs of this as many places are opening up, including restaurants, gyms, and our local school districts.

One evening I was contemplating the reopening of these places. I thought which place in our towns is the safest to visit during this present crisis. The first place that immediately came to my mind

was the church. But then I paused saying to myself, well you're a priest, that's what you're supposed to say.

But thinking critically, I came to the same conclusion. The church is definitely the safest place for us to be. I mean look at all the places we visit over the course of a week: schools, grocery stores, restaurants, doctor's offices, wine shops, etc... In these places, not only are we with other people, we touch a multitude of things recently handled by them. We sit in places where moments before another person was sitting or eating. We navigate blocked grocery store aisles trying to get around a person or shopping cart. We fiddle with the produce holding it in our hands and pack our carts with boxes, cans, bottles and an assortment of cleaning supplies. We touch menus and handle utensils set before us at tables just moments before previously occupied. We put our faith in the server or other employee who cleans the space that is now made ready for us.

Church is entirely different. If you've been recently, you'll see many controlled measures implemented to keep us safe. We handle nothing except a candle that



was laid out days before on the pangari. We sit in pews that have been disinfected and that adequately provide spacing for us. We wear masks when moving about. In my opinion, the safest place to be, outside our home, is the church! That's why as we begin the month of September, I'm inviting all of you back. Let us shake off that sluggishness that has kept us away and wake from this terrible dream. Let us receive the breath of God by entering the refreshing and joyous abode of God.

The Parish Council has implemented measures to make your visit as safe as possible. The lead verse of my message is taken from Ephesians 5:14. “Awake, O Sleeper! Arise....” This verse is your invitation to come to Christ and attend church once again. The verse that immediately follows describes how your safety will be safeguarded when you come, “see then that [we] walk circumspectly,

Continued on page 2 ⇨

Wait for the promise of the Father



Dates in the Life of Our Church

September–October 2020

✠ SEPTEMBER

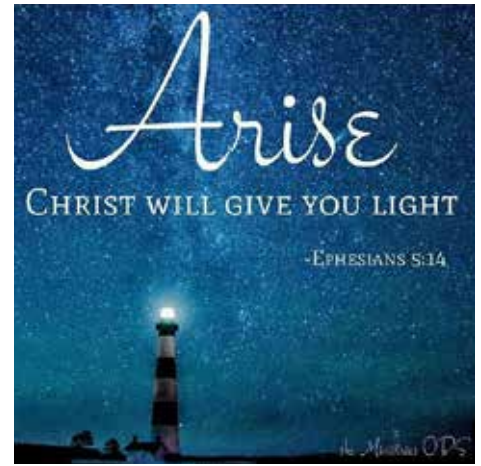
6	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
7	5:00 PM Great Vespers
8	Nativity of the Theotokos
	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	7:30 PM Parish Council
13	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	5:00 PM Great Vespers
14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
20	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
26	Falling Asleep of St. John
	8:30 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

27	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

✠ OCTOBER

4	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
6	St. Thomas the Apostle
	8:30 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
11	St. Philip the Apostle
	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
13	7:30 PM Parish Council
18	St. Luke the Evangelist
	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy



Awake, O Sleeper.

↳ Continued from page 1

not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” – 5:15

The Corona Virus has displaced and scattered us. It is an evil entity which has taken loved ones from us and filled us with uncertainties. But just as verse 15 states, we are wise towards our approach of attending the Divine Liturgy and dealing with this current predicament. As we are cautious and careful, let us take up the mantle of faith and walk towards Christ. Let us arise and being mindful of His Commandments come together as the family of Holy Trinity to receive His light. ❖

“I am grateful to have met with President Trump and Vice President Pence in the White House and communicated our grave dismay at the re-conversion of Hagia Sophia into a mosque, as well as ongoing security concerns for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and issues of religious liberty. In view of tomorrow’s day of mourning, we persevere in prayer but also bring our struggle to the highest levels of government for action and consideration.”



THE GREAT CHURCH IN CAPTIVITY

TURKISH GOVERNMENT ON THE MOVE AGAINST ORTHODOXY

The Great Church of Agia Sophia in Constantinople



6th Century Landmark Cathedral and Most Famous Example of Byzantine Architecture is converted into a mosque

Turkey seems to be determined to erase all forms of Christian culture from their land. Two important and venerable churches, Agia Sophia and Christ the Saviour Church in Chora both have been converted into mosques. Add to this the Turkish provocation by surveying for oil and natural gas in the Mediterranean Sea in Greek and Cypriot waters, it has become apparently clear that Turkey has contempt for its neighbors.

On July 10, 2020, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan formally re-converted Istanbul's sixth-century iconic Hagia Sophia into a mosque, hours after a high court annulled a 1934 decision that had turned it into a museum. Erdogan signed a decree handing over Hagia Sophia to Turkey's Religious Affairs Presidency and declaring it open to Muslim worship.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has demanded that the hugely symbolic World Heritage Site should be turned back into a mosque despite widespread international criticism, including from the United States and Orthodox Christian leaders. The move could also deepen tensions with neighboring Greece.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, warned in late June that the building's conversion into a mosque "will turn millions of Christians across the world against Islam."

Patriarch Kirill, the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, called for "prudence" and the preservation of the "current neutral status" for the Hagia Sophia, which he said was one of Christianity's "devoutly venerated symbols."

U.S. State Secretary Mike Pompeo said last month that the landmark should remain a museum to serve as bridge between faiths and cultures. His comments sparked a rebuke from Turkey's Foreign Ministry, which said Hagia Sophia was a domestic issue of Turkish national sovereignty.

Agia Sophia was built in 532–537 A.D. under the direction of the Byzantine emperor Justinian I. It served as the cathedral of Constantinople and largest Christian church in the world for nearly 1000 years. It was the shining example of Orthodoxy until the Ottoman conquest on Tuesday, May 29, 1453. The name Agia Sophia, by itself, de-

fines the reason and purpose for which it was built. Agia Sophia or Holy Wisdom is the Christian name for Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. This church was built for the glorification of Jesus Christ the Wisdom and Word of God.

This grand structure and architectural wonder is still the majestic symbol of Orthodoxy Christianity and the actions of President Erdogan is a great insult upon all Orthodox Christians and people of good will.



Turkey wiping Orthodox Christianity from the pages of world history.



The Great Monastery of Christ the Saviour in Chora is converted into a mosque

Originally built in the 4th century, the Church and Monastery in Chora was comprehensively rebuilt around 1077-81 and again after a partial collapse following an earthquake early in the 12th century and, like Aghia Sophia, is a world UNESCO heritage site.

Chora, which had been turned into the Kariye Museum after WWII and was then extensively restored, is covered with some of the finest Byzantine mosaics and frescoes that likely will be covered over for Muslim prayers as were those in Aghia Sophia.

The Greek Foreign Ministry in an announcement on Friday characterized the Turkish authorities' decision to turn the Monastery of Chora into a mosque another provocation against the religious people everywhere in the world and of the international community that respects the monuments of the human civilization.



Fresco of the Anastasi in the Church of Chora



Magnificent Mosaic of Christ "In the Land of the Living" and other frescos in the Church of Chora

Ankara is currently facing off against Greece and Cyprus over oil and gas exploration rights in the eastern Mediterranean. Greece and Turkey have deployed naval and air forces to assert their competing claims in the



region. These acts are leading to a major escalation between Greece and Turkey. Turkish seismic survey vessel Oruç Reis has routinely entered the south Aegean Sea in the area of the Greek continental shelf and dropped survey cables in the water. The vessel is accompanied

by two support research vessels and several Turkish warships.

"The Turkish leadership is unleashing, on a near daily basis, threats of war and makes provocative statements against Greece," Greek government spokesman Stelios Petsas said. "We respond with political, diplomatic and operational readiness, determined to do whatever is necessary to protect our sovereign rights."

"Solomon, I have surpassed you."

On the day when the Hagia Sophia basilica was first opened in 537 A.D., the Byzantine emperor Justinian is supposed to have entered the building and cried out, "Solomon, I have surpassed you." The reference in the Bible is to the building by King Solomon of a temple in Jerusalem.

The Great Church, as the Greeks called the Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople, is the spiritual center of the Byzantine world. The Church's survival during the four centuries of Ottoman Turkish rule which followed the Fall of Constantinople bore witness to its strength and to the unquenchable vitality of Orthodoxy and Hellenism.

The Tuesday morning of 29 May, 1453 was given over to rape, pillage and destruction. Those that could headed for the harbor where Genoese and Venetian ships were desperately preparing to leave the city. Hundreds of refugees joined the sailors and made their way down the Bosphorus. Those that remained behind to defend their families were cut down, their houses ransacked, their children sometimes impaled, their wives and daughters raped repeatedly. Churches were sacked and burned, icons smashed, and statues torn down. The streets ran with blood and would have been slippery from the blood and bodily parts that littered the streets. Citizens who had sought sanctuary in Hagia Sophia were dragged out, the best looking of both sexes were tied up and lead away, the poor and unattractive



massacred. The priests who continued the Liturgy were murdered at the altar. This was just the morning of day one of the promised and customary three days of pillage a victorious army could expect after a siege. However, the ferocity of the fighting and the fury of the initial orgy had exhausted everyone.

During the conquest of Constantinople, the Divine Liturgy was being celebrated in Agia Sophia (the last Christian service to be held in the Great Church). So that the Holy Gifts would not be defiled and desecrated by falling into the hands of Muslims who had passed through the Church's doors to ransack and pillage, the celebrant priest took the Holy Eucharist and miraculously disappeared into the rear apse of the Altar. Muslims who saw him pass

through the wall went to follow him, but suddenly the wall turned into stone. Legend says that when the Church is taken back, this priest will reappear from the Altar walls to finish celebrating that Divine Liturgy.

The Ottoman conquest was the end of the Byzantine Empire. But it was not the end of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, far less the end of Orthodoxy.

Patriarchal Divine Liturgy as celebrated in Agia Sophia



Folk Song

Στην Αγιά Σοφιά αγνάντια βλέπω τα ευζωνάκια (2)

Τα ευζωνάκια τα καημένα στους πολέμους μαυρισμένα κλέφτικο χορό χορεύουν και τ' αντίπερα αγναντεύουν.

Κι αγναντεύοντας την πόλη τραγουδούν και λένε: (2)
Τούτοι είν' οι χρυσοί της θόλοι, αχ κατακαημένη πόλη να η μεγάλη εκκλησιά μας, πάλι θα γενεί δικιά μας.

Στην κυρά τη Δέσποινά μας πες να μη λυπάται στις εικόνες να μη κλαίνε, τα Ευζωνάκια μας το λένε. (2)

Κι ο παπάς που 'ναι κλεισμένος μέσα στ' Αγιο Βήμα (2)
Τά Ευζωνάκια δε θ' αργήσει, νά 'βγει να τα κοινωνήσει και σε λίγο βγαίνουν τ' Αγια μέσα σε μυρτιές και βάγια. (2)

Translation of Folk Song

From Agia Sophia across, I see the Evzones
The poor Evzones, dirty from the wars
Kleftiko dance they dance as they look across.
And seeing the City [Constantinople] across, they sing and say:

Those are the golden domes, oh poor City
There our Great Church is, it will become ours again!
To our Lady Despina [Theotokos] tell us not to be sad
To the icons not to cry, our little Evzones say so
And the priest that is hidden in the Holy Sanctuary [who disappeared during the liturgy] will soon give Communion to the little Evzones

And in a little bit the Holy Gifts will come out [from the altar wall of Agia Sophia] with myrtle and bay leaves.

Hear the folk song: agiazoni.gr/audios.php?audioid=49548755265746909770

Importance of Buildings and Monuments

People are fixated on their buildings and monuments. Buildings and monuments help define a nation and the people who designed and built them. They are oftentimes a source of pride and can possess an identity all their own. They capture the history of a country, its associated glories, and its victories over oppression.

For the Greeks, we can look to the Parthenon or many of the other wonderful ancient temples or statues as a source of pride.

“Yet only one building, standing outside the borders of present-day Greece, elicits a far deeper surge of wonder, emotion, and nostalgia – the Church of Agia Sophia or “Divine Wisdom.”

“Greeks, like other Orthodox Christians, are fixated on their churches, which are not only places of worship but treasure houses of their material culture that survived the awful centuries of Ottoman rule.” As Greeks, we still maintain an emotional connection to the Great Church of Christ, Agia Sophia, in ways that move beyond any other ancient temple. Perhaps because Agia Sophia is a symbol of our Orthodox Faith as well as our inherited history. It is a symbol of our glory and the painful struggle to stay united in

the Faith of our Fathers. “Even today, stripped of its gold and silver, with its frescoes faded and begrimed, there is arguable no building in all the world whose interior conjures up such a sense of boundless wealth and mystical power.”

“Although Greek tourists travel to Turkey to visit the ‘Museum of Aya Sofya,’ many come home unsettled by the experience, and the overwhelming majority of Greeks cannot bring themselves even to go. ‘The idea of going to our church in what for us was the greatest of Greek cities and seeing those Muslim signs, I cannot tell you how it would make me feel. It is something terrible.’” ❖

**Italics quotes from Robert Kaplan’s, Balkan Ghosts*





Parish Council

Update

■ BY GEORGE COLONIAS, PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Holy Trinity Family

I hope that you are doing all as well as can be expected during these unprecedented times. In our large Holy Trinity family, we have experienced the full spectrum of impacts from this pandemic. We pray for those of us who have succumbed to the virus, those who have been stricken, and for those who are healthy so that they remain that way. Most importantly we should always stand in prayer for each other. One comment I have heard repeatedly is that although the dynamics of our lives have changed, our families are spending more time together and building stronger bonds. We have been forced to spend more time at home with each other as well as video calling friends and loved ones. The Parish Council has strived to bring our second home of Holy Trinity to you via digital platforms and we hope that we have been able to keep you connected from your homes. Now, as the phases of re-opening are progressing and clear safety protocols have been identified and followed, there is opportunity for more of us to physically

return to Holy Trinity, to our second home, and to our Orthodox family. The church has persevered. Father Peter has conducted services and has been praying for each and every one of us. The church has followed all safety and cleanliness protocols and parishioners, young and old, have attended. We hope to see more of our Holy Trinity family soon, especially now with summer passing and the ecclesiastical year beginning. Religious Education and Greek School teachers are planning for the year to offer classes with as much in person instruction that we can safely provide.

When we return to church, we must respect everyone's personal space and especially yield to those who need a bit more distance. We are doing our best to stay safe and offer the Divine Liturgy in the safest possible manner. Our procedures are imposed by both the State of NJ, the Archdiocese, and the Metropolis.

As we all know, many of our social and fundraising events have been cancelled. The church and the organizations that run them rely on the funds raised to operate and do their charitable work. I

would be remiss if I did not appeal to everyone to maintain their stewardship commitment to the church and in fact also contribute above and beyond; as if monies were spent at fundraisers. The church has cut expenses as much as practical, however our budget always has a shortfall without the fundraising. Please help us narrow and eliminate that gap.

I want to thank everyone; from the folks who have been present and active helping to plan any reopening, to those who have participated by celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us from home. It is rewarding to see the number of people who have activated the livestream and it is gratifying to know that we are all together in this new way. I encourage everyone to call the church office whenever you are ready to attend in person and register to come in on Sundays. We ask this so we are sure to stay within legal limits and to have a record of attendees.

We will slowly and safely plan our reopening. We thank you for your ideas, your patience, your understanding and your support. ❖

HOLY TRINITY GREEK SCHOOL

■ BY MRS. STAVROULA MERGOUPIS, HOLY TRINITY GREEK SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Beloved parents and guardians,

I hope that you have all enjoyed your summer vacation, despite our recent hardships which have been brought forth by the Covid-19 pandemic in the past months. The autumn season has begun and thus we too have slowly begun entering the academic school season with educational priorities and purpose of learning. This year will undoubtedly be a very difficult transition into the new academic school year. There will be many heartfelt sacrifices from all involved with-

in the school community, which includes our parents/guardians, faculty and staff, as well as from the wonderful students. We will have to go beyond the norm, beyond our comfort zone, if we would like to achieve the spectacular!

Our Greek School will have to open its arms and embrace our wonderful children, in open love and gratitude, with all the necessary precautions, in order to keep our students on the educational path, as well as keeping them safe. Most importantly, safety for all the children's health and the health of our teachers

as well is paramount. Registration, for student enrollment for this upcoming academic school year, has begun. I, along with the fellow teachers and our parish council, will do our absolute best work in order to ensure that the education of our children continues to be the best (whether this is virtual one-to-one instruction, virtual group instruction and/or in-person instruction). I wish to all a happy start to our Greek School Academic Year of 2020-2021. May the Holy Trinity of the Living God bless you all and keep you safe! ❖



Sacraments & Rites

August 2019–September 2020

FUNERALS

- 8/6/19 +Thomas Pagoulatos
10/3/19 +John Fotios Sipsis
10/28/19 +Dimitrios Zafiriou
11/21/19 +Helen D. Mavraganis
12/15/19 +Fotini Mavros
12/13/19 +Panagiotis Vassopoulos
12/23/19 +Andrew H. Philippou
1/2/20 +Euphrosyne Levas
1/28/20 +Loretta M. Garo
1/29/20 +Christine Kyritsis
3/5/20 +Costas Paisis
3/12/20 +Evelyn Skorinko
3/19/20 +James T. Baboukis
3/27/20 +Stavroula Grafas
4/9/20 +James Dokas
4/9/20 +Barbara M. Manos
4/16/20 +Joseph Conti Jr.
4/24/20 +Mary Coutros
4/28/20 +Peggy Demas
5/5/20 +Dorothy Greberis
5/18/20 +Petros E. Litos
5/18/20 +John Hadzitheodorou
7/21/20 +Constantinos D. Xarhoulakos
7/22/20 +Mary Thomas
8/5/20 +Sylvia T. Lucarelli
8/7/20 +Frieda Anast

WEDDINGS

- 8/17/19 Daniela R. P. Weiner and Thomas V. Karathanos, Evangelia Spyrou as sponsor.
9/28/19 Caitlin J. Harmon and Andrew M. Rose, Kaliope M. Rose and Michael Triantafellou as sponsors.

WEDDINGS (continued)

- 10/19/19 Alexandra A. Apruzzese and Bradley W. Butkowski, Dana M. Apruzzese as sponsor.
6/27/20 Jessica M. Rios and Lucas J. Kallinosis, Diana and Christina Kallinosis as sponsors
8/16/20 Lauren Micchelli and Scott Sperone, Christina Miccelli Young as sponsor.

CHURCHINGS

- 8/18/19 Katherine Sophia, daughter of Ioanna and Gerry Kitsopoulos
10/13/19 Katerina Dale, daughter of Andrea Roscoe and Jon Quintanilla
10/19/19 Anastasia, daughter of Athena Danalakis and David Burke
3/1/20 Emilia Jade, daughter of Ariana Banos and Blake Anderson

- 8/7/20 Ella, daughter of Carolyn Roscoe and Joshua Navikonis

BAPTISMS

- 8/4/29 Remington George Christou, son of Jodi Raslowsky and George Christou Jr., Godparent is Madelyne Viera

BAPTISMS (continued)

- 11/9/19 Oliver Michael Sharma, son of Nicole Kounalakis and Ashis Sharma, Godparents are Michael and Catherine Mantinaos
11/9/19 Nicholas Santino Rentas, son of Maria Barberi and Nicholas J. Rentas, Godparent is Nikki Murale
11/16/19 Patrick Kevin Fontana, son of Andrea Yeager and Kevin Fontana, Godparent is Diane Hiotakis Narvaez
11/24/19 William (Liam) A. Faella, son of Stacey O'Sullivan and Jude Faella, Godparent is Christopher O'Sullivan
11/30/19 Kylan Alexander Kiprotich, son of Elizabeth Kyriakoulis and Ronald Kiprotich
11/30/19 Anthony James Gavakos, son of Marguerite Porfiris and Antonios Gavakos, Godparent is Depina Gavakos
11/30/19 Billy John Gavakos, son of Marguerite Porfiris and Antonios Gavakos, Godparent is James Porfiris
1/11/20 Nicholas Theo and Nicholas Emmanuel Liakas, twin sons of Irenise Hernandez and Nicholas Emmanuel Liakas, Godparent is Stephen Liakas

BAPTISMS (continued)

2/22/20 Katerina Dale Quintanilla, daughter of Andrea Roscoe and Jon Quintanilla, Godparent is Penelope Malakates.

7/12/20 Emilia Jade Anderson, daughter of Ariana Banos and Blake Anderson, Godparent is Cassandra Shepard

8/23/20 Tyler David (Gregory), son of Christian and Michael Bohmerwalk, Godparent is Gail Cavallaro

9/5/20 Jackson (Stylian) Ford, son of Jason and Jessica Wacker Lohner, Godparent Zachery Wacker

9/6/20 Zacharias and Georgios, twin sons of Paul and Alyssa Gentile Salvesen, sponsors are Thomas Andresakes and Andrea Roon

CHRISMATION

2/23/20 Allison Arethas; sponsor Lauren Karanikolas

2/23/20 Mary O'Brien Carayannopoulos; sponsor Kim and John Mellas

2/23/20 Audrey Lowe, sponsor Lia Lewis

NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Nikki Murale
57 Manitou Circle
Westfield, NJ 07090

Christos and Sophia Koutzoulis
234 Myrtle Ave
Garwood, NJ 07027

NEW MEMBERS (continued)

Pennie Anast
130 Winding Hill Rd.
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Stephen and Michelle Voice
1742 Florida St.
Westfield, NJ 07090

Andrew and Caitlin Rose
330 Mt. Kemble Ave.
Morristown, NJ 07960

Joseph and Angela Fisher
6 Heritage Ct.
Randolph, NJ 07869

Christopher O'Sullivan
232 Kings St.
Mountainside, NJ 07092

James Porfiris
28 Greenwood Drive
Millington, NJ 07946

Anthony and Alexa Ciccone
27 Deer Path Circle
Green Brook, NJ 08812

Stephanie Bosco
65 Price St.
Denville, NJ 07834

Harry and Amanda Hatzikyriakou
28 Cedar Rd.
Watchung, NJ 07069

Paraskevi Vlassopoulos
900 South Ave. W #11
Westfield, NJ 07090

Nicholas Emmanuel Liakas
2459 Stuart St.
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Tom and Alexis Bannos
110 Lawrence Drive
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

NEW MEMBERS (continued)

Nikos and Sophia Saketos
68 Ellisen Road
Watchung, NJ 07069

Ioannis Sasopoulos
310 East 44th St. Apt. 1120
New York, NY 10017

Richard and Karen Roscoe
19 Magnolia Terrace
Springfield, NJ 07081

Dean and Fotini Handrinos
114 Glenmere Drive
Chatham, NJ 07928

Chris and Anna Georgiou
330 Rolling Rock Rd.
Mountainside, NJ 07092

Phillip and Maria Gaito
219 Greenbrook Rd.
Greenbrook, NJ 08812

Sophia Baurkot
28 Flintlock Ct.
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Stephen and Vivian Herd
82 Briarheath Ln.
Clark, NJ 07066

John Koulouthros
625 Chandler Ave.
Roselle, NJ 07203

Christina Kallinosis
479 Sampton Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Diana Kallinosis
1065 Madison Ave.
Rahway, NJ 07065



WHAT CAN WE LEARN from the CoVid Pandemic

Our world has been turned upside down, but this time has led many of us to realize important life-changing truths.

The coronavirus has destabilized the economic, political, and social life of many countries around the world and has affected the way of life of millions of

people. The changes it has brought have led us to a greater awareness of the lack of control we have over our lives.

This disruption reminds us that something very small and invisible can make us vulnerable, and it forces us to think about where we stand and how we're facing this challenge. Looking

forward in the light of this experience and the lessons it can teach us, should we persevere in familiar habits and patterns of life, or commit ourselves to a change of course?

Here are some symbols that reflect the experiences of this period, which can point to lessons for our future.

1 Staying at home: Returning to the intimacy of family life.

By staying at home, we've regained the courage to look inward, to share more with our loved ones and to live the sacrifice of being part of a greater good as a family. It's helped us to understand that there's a whole universe to be discovered in the intimacy of our homes and within ourselves, a universe that we could easily ignore before because of our busy daily routines.

2 Face masks: Learning to keep silent.

Spending more time at home could motivate us to talk more, but face masks help remind us to keep our mouths closed. Instead of rushing to talk, interrupting or ignoring others while pretending to listen, we're being invited to practice a little silence. Being silent gives us the opportunity to discover and understand other people's point of view. Listening more closely takes us away from our own egos to let in the hearts and minds of others.

3 Places transformed into hospitals: Making room for everyone.

This period has been a time of change in favor of common objectives. Buildings such as schools and hotels have been transformed into hospitals, providing space to help others. We learned that we need to cultivate mutual help and practice solidarity in order to take care of each other and assume more responsibility.

It's helped us, in a way, to see that loneliness is inhuman and destructive, and that we are more than a set of random individuals; we are a society, a human family. Our personal good is inseparable from the common good; we cannot really progress if each one of us seeks solutions totally independently and without regard for the whole community.

4 Deserted streets and famous places: Leaving aside the superficial.

The virus has brought down many of our plans, programs and scheduled trips. We've had to abandon some pleasures we were used to: comforts, places and spaces with which we filled our lives, but which in the end offered us nothing that would last.

Stay-at-home orders have been an occasion to abandon the bad habit of making plans as ends in themselves, and to free ourselves from "doing for the sake of doing" without finding the true meaning of things. It's taken us away from distractions, and has helped us to put the focus back on what really matters. This brings us closer to understanding the true purpose and value of things.

5 Fewer cars on the road: A moment of rest on the way.

The period of staying home seems to have taught us that when we stop for a moment on the journey of life, it can serve as an opportunity to reflect and renew our plans for the future. There are benefits in breaks!



GOYA

Update

■ BY ARIANA TARHANIDIS, GOYA PRESIDENT

It's summertime! Remember back in March, when time was moving as slow as molasses and the uncertainty of what was to come in the months ahead convinced us summer 2020 was doomed? Flash forward to the present; I hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful summer by practicing social distancing.

The majority of our GOYA responsibilities and activities are carried out in-person. Although Covid-19 cancelled the end of our year, our Olympics - in addition to other events such as our Sights & Sounds Post-Show - we managed to find new ways of doing what we do best with the help of modern technology. Firstly, I'm sure I can say that

we've all become zoom experts - we've held several zoom calls to have meetings and elections, and I think we all really enjoyed getting to see and talk to each other, for being separated so suddenly after Sights & Sounds.

As I mentioned earlier, we held elections during our meetings and here are the results:

President: Thomas Savorgiannakis

Vice President: Julia Love

Treasurer: John Colonias

Recording Secretary: Francesca Kastanos

Corresponding Secretary: Despina Tarhanidis

Board Members: Athena Ioannou, Bobby Liberatos, Molly Love, Matt Sales, Niko Skalkotos, Alex Tauber, Alexandra Vasilopoulos, Maggie Vasilopoulos

Outreach Coordinators: George Leunes & Lia Ioannou

Outreach Committee: Catie Carayannopoulos, Nadia Tarhanidis, Maria Vitoroulis

Mr. Westfield Goya: Nicholas Zotos,

Miss Westfield Goya: Despina Tarhanidis

Divers: Jr. Girl - Catie Carayannopoulos, Sr. Girl - Molly Love, Jr. Boy - Bobby Liberatos, Sr. Boy - Thomas Savorgiannakis

As restrictions eased, we were also able to surprise Mr. Ron Cerini by presenting him with the Good Friend Award on May 20th. The Executive Board and Advisors gathered in the Cerini's backyard, where Stamati Angelides and John Colonias presented Mr. Cerini with the plaque that would have been presented to him at our Sights and Sounds Post-Show in March. We thank you Mr. Cerini for all of your hard work and contribution to our GOYA; especially with our band and in the kitchen, putting smiles on our faces and keeping us well-fed with your delicious food.

On May 9, our GOYA held a Clothing and Food Drive. The clothing (including bedding, blankets, sheets, towels, shoes and toys) will go to people who are in need, and the food that was collected was delivered to The Cranford

Family Care and the Food Bank Network of Somerset delivering to Cranford, Bound Brook, North Plainfield and Bridgewater areas. It was a huge success - we received \$843.53 that will be used for the 2021 Mission Trip. Safe distancing was practiced and everyone was happy to reconnect with some of our Church family!

On June 4, GOYA delivered \$340 worth of frozen food and diapers to the Holy Trinity Catholic Church Food Bank in Westfield, NJ. They were very appreciative. Due to the high volume of people that are in need now, they are having a hard time keeping up with inventory. We also donated \$500 to ASP (Appalachia Service Project). This money will be used to help ASP complete some of their more critical home projects in West Virginia.

During these troubling times, it is

important that we remember those who are struggling - those who started recently or who have been for a while - and give back in any way we can, whether it be by volunteering or making monetary or material item donations. We thank those who donated and those who helped us hold these successful, social-distancing style events!

As this is my final Promise article, I would like to take a moment to reflect and share my gratitude for leading this exceptional GOYA. I am proud of what we have accomplished under these distressed times. I am humbled by being around a community that is so supportive and will help me and my fellow seniors in our future endeavors. I hope to see our GOYA flourish under new leadership next year and continue to build on the foundation of the GOYA mission. ❖



Senior Speakers
 Sophia Carayannopoulos, *left*
 Christian Agathis, *right*

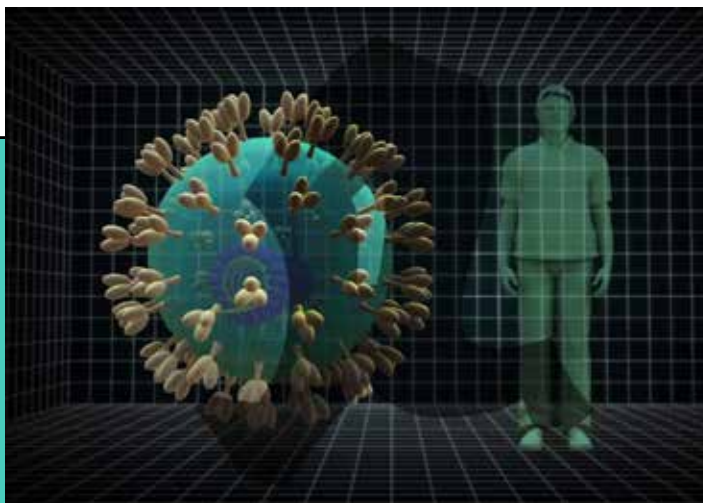
2020 Holy Trinity Graduates, *below*





Tremendous Thanks

■ BY REV. FR. PETER DELVIZIS



I would like to commend all those faithful individuals who selflessly have given of themselves in service to the church during this CoVid-10 Pandemic. While the chanters and I have not missed conducting a single service in face of this disease, these key figures also have been constantly here ensuring that you, the faithful, do not miss any service celebrated at Holy Trinity. Even in the early days of this pandemic they braved the uncertainty of this virus and were present in church doing their Christian duty undeterred.

It is important that we stay connected with each other during these difficult times. And there is no better way to do this than

through prayer. When we pray to our merciful Lord asking for His grace, not only are we protected by His care but also are mystically connected to each other. The very definition of the Church is the Body of Christ - each of us connected to one another and the whole body connected to Christ as the Head. The Church uses the imagery of a Bridegroom and the Bride to illustrate this intimate and joyous relationship. This is the Eucharistic Assembly.

The divine services use prayer to keep us united. In recent months, the faithful were unable to attend services. I cannot thank these people for stepping forward to make sure every service was

conducted and live-streamed. It would do us well to thank our chanters, parish council members, and faithful parishioners who have been here filling the church with their love and commitment.

Additionally, many of these same people helped me develop procedures that adhere to state and federal guidelines for re-opening. Currently now that the church is open, they help guide the faithful when attending services, maintain logs and registration platforms, in addition to their regular responsibilities. Each of us are indebted to them and thank them profusely for their faithful works. ❖



Anne Kernoski
Private Music Lessons
Violin * Viola * Cello
Beginners to Advanced
In my home or yours
Rahway, NJ
and surrounding towns
(908) 494-3200
amkviolin@yahoo.com

Galloping Hill Caterers
We offer a unique atmosphere of elegance, romance and warmth at a price that is very reasonable.
The Galloping Hill Inn
www.gallopinghillcaterers.com
325 Chestnut Street, Union NJ 07003
Tel: (908) 686-2683 • Fax: (908) 688-2376

The Rug Source & Home, LLC
Oriental Rugs & Home Furnishings
Jeannie Arida
Two Naworth Pass
Westfield, NJ 07090
Phone: (908) 654-RUGS
(908) 654-7847
Fax: (908) 654-5767
E-mail: rugbroker@aol.com
www.rugbroker.com

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CLASSIFIEDS

Contact the Church Office if you would like to advertise in the next issue of *The Promise!*

DIRECTORS
 Evy Zavolas, MA Dance
 Christina Manousos, BFA Dance
 75 Bartell Place, Clark, NJ
 732-388-6088
 www.CenterForDanceEducation.com
 we educate ages 2.5 & up

Center For Dance Education

Ballet
 Pointe
 Jazz
 Lyrical
 Modern
 Hip-Hop
 Theatre
 Yoga
 Tap

GERRY KITSOPOULOS, ESQ.
 MEMBER NJ & NY BAR

KITSOPOULOS LAW FIRM, PC
 63 MOUNTAIN BOULEVARD
 WATCHUNG, NJ 07069

gerryklaw@gmail.com Phone: (908) 222-3737

PAUL ARFANIS D.D.S.
 A Comprehensive, Patient-Centered Dental Practice

228 Saint Paul Street
 Westfield, NJ 07090
 www.paularfandisdds.com
 908-232-0074



WELLS FARGO ADVISORS

Nicholas J. Minas, CFP®, CRPC®
 Senior Vice President - Investment Officer

600 South Avenue West 2nd Floor
 Westfield, NJ 07090
 Tel: 908-654-6380
 Fax: 908-789-7830
 Toll Free: 800-777-8625
 nicholas.minas@wfsadvisors.com

Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member FINRA/SIPC.

Allyson Agathis, M.D.
 Diplomate Of The American Board Of Pediatrics
 Fellow Of The American Academy Of Pediatrics

395 Main Street
 Bedminster, NJ 07921
 (908) 719-2626
 Fax (908) 719-2671

AG Electrical Contractors

- Industrial
- Commercial
- Residential

Aldo Galleli
 President

222 Harvard Avenue
 Metuchen, NJ 08840

Contractors Lic. # 9024
 H.H.S Inspectors Lic. # 7778
 aldo@agelectric-inc.com

Tel: 732-548-3995
 Fax: 732-548-5243
 Mobile: 732-580-0007

marcopolo
 Restaurant & Tavern Since 1934

Your Hosts
 Agapios Kyritsis
 Apostolos Apostolou

Open 7 days, Lunch & Dinner,
 Catering, Wines & Spirits.

www.marcopolonj.com

527 Morris Ave., Summit, NJ 07901
 908-277-4492 - email: marcopolo1934@aol.com

Vasilow Electric, LLC

Chris L. Vasilow
 Lic. #17954

1047 Rutgers Road
 Mountainside, NJ 07092

Licensed & Bonded
 vasilowelectric@gmail.com

908-228-2444

Orthodox Christian Cemetery
 Hillsborough, NJ
 Serving All Orthodox Christians

918-685-1452, Fr. James
 www.orthodoxchristiancemetery.org



DALE SORENSEN REAL ESTATE INC.
 THE RIGHT MOVE™

Audonia K. Tsoupanos
 Sales Associate

3206 Cardinal Drive
 Vero Beach, FL 32963

c 561.997.4644
 o 772.231.4712
 f 772.365.8282

aktsoupanos@sorensenrealestate.com

sorensenrealestate.com

Morgan Stanley

Georgia Alexis
 Assistant Vice President
 Financial Advisor

Wealth Management
 150 JFK Parkway
 2nd Floor
 Short Hills, NJ 07078

tel 973 912 7769
 fax 973 376 5813
 toll free 800 526 4931

CA Insurance Lic. # OD26865

NMLS # 1261768
 www.morganstanley.com/georgia.alexis
 georgia.alexis@morganstanley.com

Hours by Appointment
 Lic. #OA5119, OM269

Dr. Spiro Antonacos
 OPTOMETRIST
 Eye Diseases, Infections &
 Disorders
 Eyeglasses - Contact Lenses

466 Pompton Avenue (Route 23)
 Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
 Tel. (973) 239-8381
 Text: (862) 400-1588
 www.drantonacos.com

582 Central Avenue
 East Orange, NJ 07018
 (973) 673-7700



RUTGERS HEALTH
 University Dental Associates

Ioanna Tsolaki, DDS, DMD, MS
 Board Certified Periodontist

Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
 135 Somerset Street, Suite A
 New Brunswick, NJ 08901

p. 732-235-5050 f. 732-220-0045
 it120@sdm.rutgers.edu
 rutgersdentists.org

Permit #: 6526

PARAS & PARAS METRO APPRAISAL

343 MAIN STREET
 MADISON, NJ 07940

GEORGE PARAS S.C.G.R.E.A.
 Appraisal/Consulting

TEL 973-236-0300
 FAX 908-277-3950
 CELL 201-681-5366

EMAIL: gparas@parasandparas.com

Michael T. Paskas
 Manager N.J. Lic. No. 3933

PASKAS Funeral Service

The "Funeral Home of Choice"
 specializing in Greek Orthodox funerals
 for over 65 years.

For help & information contact
 Michael T. Paskas at: (973) 467-1882
 Fax: (973) 467-5157 or
 E-mail: paskasfuneralsvc@aol.com

ΕΛΛΗΝΕΣ ΝΕΚΡΟΒΟΜΠΟΙ Web: www.paskasfuneralsvc.com



KENNETH W. ARIDA, DDS

WHERE PERSONALIZED CARE & HEALTHY, BEAUTIFUL SMILES MEET

131 SOUTH EUCLID AVENUE
 WESTFIELD, NJ 07090
 WWW.DRARIDA.COM

CALL (908) 654-6262

MARIA SIKOUTRIS DI IORIO, MA, Ed.S, LPC
 — HELLENIC THERAPY CENTER —
 INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY AND COUPLE COUNSELING

WWW.HELLENICTHERAPY.COM

567 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 203
 SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

908-322-0112
 Lic.# 37PC00356200

THE GREEK STORE
 LIBERTY FOOD MARKET

EST. 1950

• STEVE DIAMANDAS • LIA DIAMANDAS
 • VASILIKI DIAMANDAS

612 Boulevard
 Kenilworth, NJ 07033
 T: (908) 272-2550
 F: (732) 382-2894

Web: www.eatgreek.com
 e-mail: grkstore@aol.com



Century 21

Louis Pompilio Inc.

223 Park Avenue
 Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
 Cell (908) 230-6930
 Office (908) 322-2202
 Fax (908) 322-4670
 robertcalbo@gmail.com

Robert V. LoAlbo
 Real Estate Consultant



MLS

LEVS CONSTRUCTION
 ROOFING • SIDING
 Somerville, NJ

- Shingles
- Tile
- Torch down
- Shakes
- Residential
- Commercial
- Fully Insured
- Reasonable Rates

Tel: 908-393-4723
 Email: levsconstruction@yahoo.com

Levani Tatishvili
 www.levsconstruction.com

FISH WINDOW CLEANING
 BETWEEN YOUR WORLD

Mark Stoeklin

732.360.8191 (Office)
 732.360.8192 (Office 2)
 732.360.8186 (Fax)
 732.347.9360 (Cell)

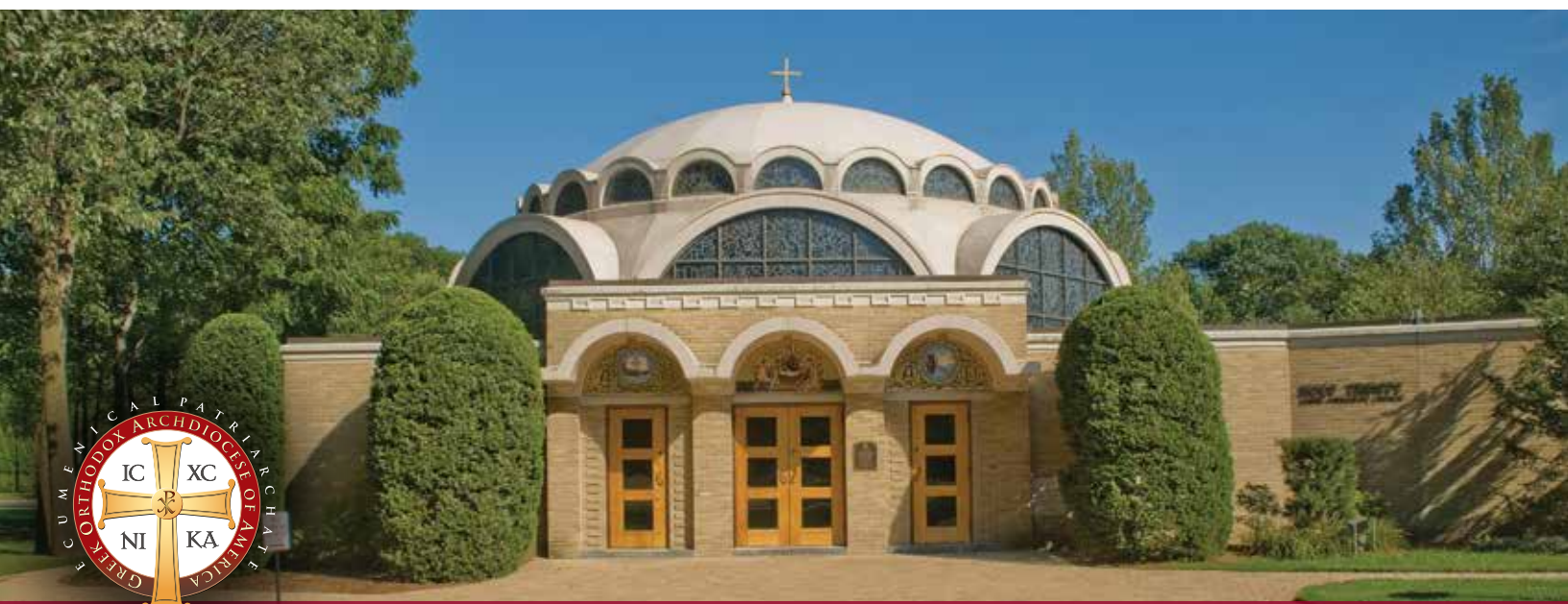
16 Emerson St.
 East Brunswick, NJ 08816

mstoeklin@fishwindowcleaning.com
 www.fishwindowcleaning.com/3154
 Commercial and Residential - Independently Owned & Operated

Wait for
The
Promise of the Father

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Road * Westfield, NJ 07090
Change Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
US postage
PAID
Rahway, NJ
Permit No. 654



METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address 250 Gallows Hill Rd.
Westfield, NJ 07090-1109
Phone 908-233-8533
Fax 908-233-0623
E-mail HolyTrinity@htgocnj.org
Web site holytrinitywestfield.org
Presiding Priest Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis
E-mail FrPeter@htgocnj.org

OFFICE STAFF

Office Manager Diana R. Waltsak
Admin. Assistant E. Joy Daniledes
Caretaker Madalena Czachor

WORSHIP

Lead Psaltis Pascalis Kuvalakis
Choir Director Kathryn Athanasoulas
Organist Phyllis Verenes
Head Acolyte Elias Carayannopoulos

MINISTRIES

Parish Council George Colonias
Philoptochos Ellen Manos-Athenson
Religious Education Anthony Bosco
Greek School Stavroula Mergoupis
Greek School PTO Melissa Krikos
Youth (GOYA) Ariana Tarhanidis
JOY/HOPE Kathy Drivas
TOTS Valerie Comprelli
Bookstore Sandy Mouratoglou
Cultural Celia Kapsomera, Co-chair
Nitsa Bruno, Co-chair
Trinity Circle Avi Kiriakatis
Fellowship Lauren Karanikolas

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

THE PROMISE: VOLUME 44, ISSUE 4

10 issues published annually.
No subscription fee.
Article deadline - 10th of the preceding month