

# The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



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## Who To Judge



Ancient Greek mythology describes that when Prometheus created people, he attached two bags to them. One was hung on the front, so that the person always had access to it and knew exactly what was inside. The second bag was tied to his back and therefore being inaccessible it was nearly impossible to see what was inside.

The bag in front was full of the mistakes of others, while the back bag was full of personal mistakes. Thus, it was very easy to see the mistakes of others and to judge them, while our own mistakes were very difficult to recognize. Without seeing them, a person

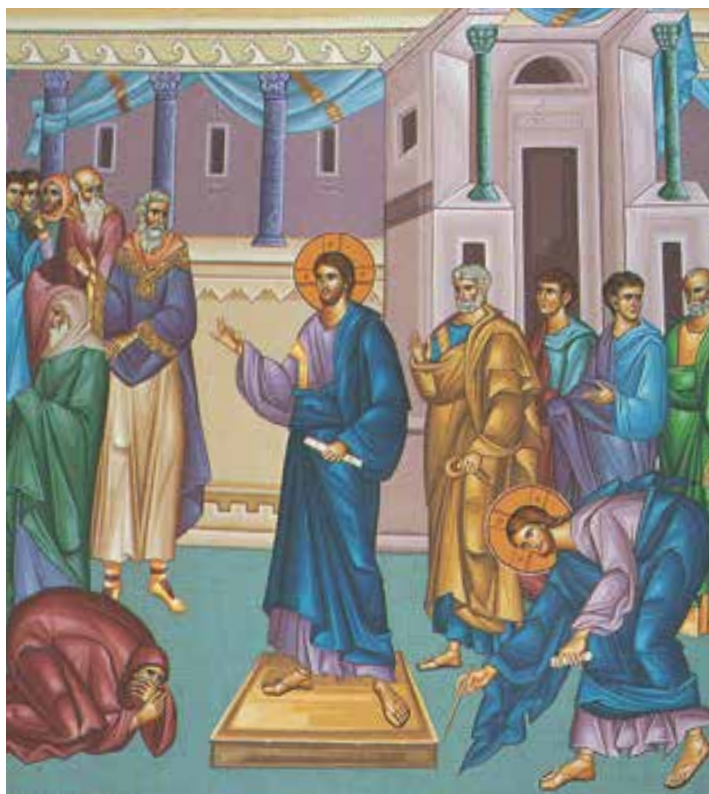


cannot admit that he has faults, nor can he take measures to correct them.

When it comes to judging others, it is important to keep this ancient myth in mind. For too often, we quickly see the mistakes, errors, and omissions of others but rarely see the things that fill our own bag. Instead of being prepared to judge or malign another for some oversight they have committed, perhaps we should examine ourselves first. I'm quite sure that the personal bag hanging on our back is much heavier than the one in front. Only by examining our own bag, can we then begin to make change by criticizing and correcting ourselves. And once we begin dealing with and correcting our own mistakes, then there really is no time left for us to judge another person.

A similar story exists in the New Testament. It is of a sinful woman brought to Christ by an angry and uncontrollable mob. She was accused of adultery and many other sins. The mob was ready, and some could say even eager to stone her to death. Yet, our Compassionate Lord, knowing human nature very well,

*Continued on page 4 ⇨*



*Wait for the promise of the Father*



# A Memorial Prayer

O Lord, our God, Creator and Sovereign ruler of all, who has put boundaries around the nations for the people to live in peace, and who has blessed our country with prosperity and freedom; we ask that You extend Your hand from heaven and place it upon our nation especially today, as we commemorate the Twentieth Anniversary of the unjustified and barbaric attack of September 11, 2001.

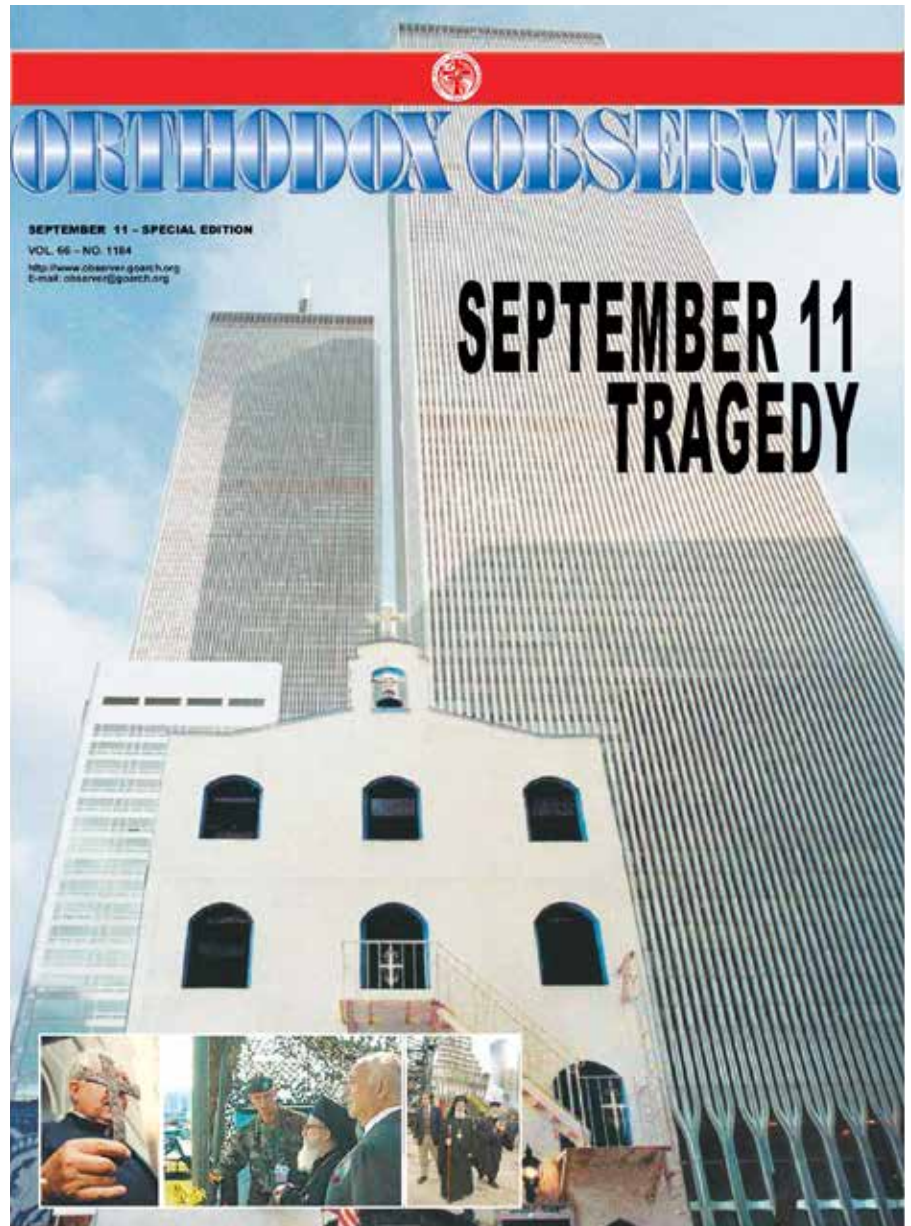
We pray that You will grant rest to the souls of all those who died in faith on that dark and sad day; that You will continue to grant healing to those who were wounded; and that You will grant comfort to those who still grieve over the loss of loved ones. Lord, protect the men and women of our armed forces, together with their families. We also ask that You will bless and guide our President and all the leaders of this nation, by inspiring them with Your love and understanding, enabling them to make the right decisions so the faithful may live in peace.

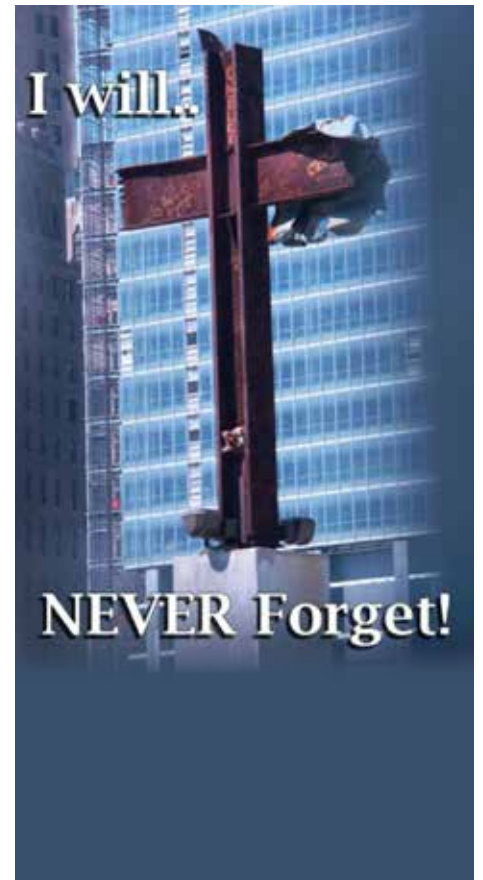
In places where there is violence, bring peace. In places of spiritual darkness, bring the Light of Christ. In places of sadness, bring joy. In places of hate, bring love and reconciliation. And in places of despair, bring hope. All in all, we ask You to bless us with Your presence and make us faithful followers of Your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## 9/11 Memorial Service Sunday, September 12

Despite our shared grief in the aftermath of 9/11; hope, resilience, and unity lifted us up as a nation. Twenty years later, these lessons are more important than ever. America still faces challenges in a chaotic world.

Please join the faithful of Holy Trinity as we commemorate the Twenty-Year Anniversary of 9/11. On Sunday, September 12, a memorial service will be offered for those who lost their lives in this horrific and unjustified attack on our country.







# Dates in the Life of Our Church

September–October 2021

## ✠ SEPTEMBER

- 5 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 8 Nativity of the Theotokos
- 8:30 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 12 8:30 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 13 6:00 PM Great Vespers
- 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 8:30 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 7:30 PM Parish Council
- 19 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 20 Metropolis of NJ Clergy/Laity
- 21 7:30 PM NNJYC
- 25 11:00 AM Baptism
- 26 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

## ✠ OCTOBER

- 2 11:00 AM Baptism
- 3 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 6 St. Thomas the Apostle
- 8:30 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 10 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 12 7:30 PM Parish Council
- 16 1:00 PM Wedding
- 3:30 PM Baptism
- 17 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 24 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

## Stewardship Family Picnic

*A day of family fun!*

Sunday  
Sept 26

On Sunday, September 26, the Annual Stewardship Family Picnic & BBQ will be held immediately after Sunday School. All Stewards of Holy Trinity are invited for a day of thanksgiving to God for our wonderful and Christ-centered community of Holy Trinity. Please prepare to receive Holy Communion as a family. By offering ourselves to Christ and receiving Him, we become united with one another and God; through this linkage we make our parish stronger in faith and love.

The Parish Council will offer the main course for the picnic; you are asked to bring a side-dish or salad, snacks, dessert to share.

*Please remember to bring a covered dish.*



## Who To Judge

⇐ *Continued from page 1*

stopped the eruption of violence with His wise and gentle words, “He who is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone.” – John 8:7 The Saviour took control of this nearly disastrous situation with His statement, for it led each person to self-accusation and self-awareness of their own personal sins.

In response to this, the dangerous and damaging stones fell to the ground. Bowing their heads in shame each accuser went away, as did all accusations. Being that no one was left to endorse the death penalty, the Lord turns to the sinful woman to lift her off the ground and to tell her that her accusers had gone, and on one was left to indict her.

Having given her a reprieve, our Lord tells her to leave this whole embarrassing and sinful situation behind. Appealing to her better judgment, He tells her

not to repeat the sins for which she was accused. This soft rebuke offers her the encouragement to change the ways of her sinful past, while at the same time reminding her that spiritual death is greater than from the death she was just delivered.

As we know, there is no human being without faults and sins. Each of us must acknowledge personal sin and cease focusing on the sins committed by another. The entirety of our time and effort should be spent confessing our sins to the Lord while also making every attempt to stop repeating personal sin. ❖



■ BY REV. FR. PETER DELVIZIO



# Philoptochos

## Philoptochos... An Army of Women

2021 has remained a challenging year, and yet the Philoptochos Board and Stewards adapted, and rose to every challenge. We kept working virtually, and at times in person, to ensure that our philanthropic endeavors would not be a casualty of COVID but be fulfilled through the generosity of our 200+ loyal stewards of Holy Trinity. What had seemed impossible became "Mission Possible!" We are grateful to all those who contributed to our success by donating and supporting us so that we

can deliver on our commitments and not only achieve our goals but exceed them. Please take a moment to rejoice with us and then look ahead to the new Ecclesiastical Year, with hope and gratitude, working together to fulfill the mission of Philoptochos!

The Holy Trinity Ladies Philoptochos Society (501c3), a self-funding ministry, works hard to stay true to our missions and to responsibly manage funds raised to meet our commitments and respond to urgent social service requests. Each

year, our chapter donates more than \$45,000 to numerous organizations and individuals, including our National, Metropolis and Community obligations. With many requests to consider, the Board utilizes a variety of tools (e.g., Charity Navigator, Charity Watch & 1099 searches) to ensure we support highly rated organizations, to review our annual budget. Below are the budgeted donations for September - December 2021.

### SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER BUDGETED DONATIONS:

- Children's Gaucher Research Fund
- IOCC
- St Michael's Home Ad Journal
- Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Ovarian Cancer Foundation
- Doctors Without Borders, USA
- National Forum of Greek Orthodox Musicians
- Breast Cancer Research Foundation
- HomeFirst – Homeless in Union County
- Orthodox Mission to Sierra Leone
- GEMS (Girls Educational & Mentoring Svcs.
- UNICEF
- Holy Cross/Hellenic College
- Taybeh Education Fund
- GOYA NJ State Scholarship Ad
- Sunday School Christmas Party
- Y2AM College Care Packages
- Retired Clergy & Widowed Presbyters
- Benevolent Fund
- National Philoptochos Emergency Fund
- Ecumenical Patriarchate
- National Sisterhood of Presbyters
- General Medical Fund
- St Basil Academy

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."  
- Mother Teresa With that beautiful

thought in mind, we urge all women 18 years and older to join or renew your membership to Philoptochos, if you have

not already done so. Please mark your calendar for our first General Meeting on October 13, 2021 ❖



# GOYA

## Update

■ BY MAGGIE VASILOPOULOS

Welcome back from summer break! We are all deeply grateful and very excited to be back together in person after this unanticipated disruption in our lives. Together, we will overcome any and all obstacles as a church family.

All youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to register and participate in GOYA. Westfield GOYA is welcoming, inclusive, and truly has something for everyone. During our GOYA years, we are offered the opportunity to grow as Orthodox Christians, enhance our faith and establish lifelong meaningful

friendships. Holy Trinity GOYA offers many events and experiences including basketball, volleyball, an annual youth retreat, GOYA dances, outreach events, Greek folk dance, Sights and Sounds, Indoor/Outdoor Olympics, indoor soccer, and much more. These events help to solidify our faith and form ties that will bind us in friendship that will last throughout our lifetimes. Our goal is to impact many lives while simply having fun!!

Some upcoming fall events include basketball and volleyball, the 45 Annual Christ Encounter Retreat, Har-

vest Dance, and our Mr./Miss GOYA Pageant during which we will be represented by John Colonias and Despina Tarhanides. You are all welcome to try any of these events to see if you would like to join GOYA. For more information, or to be put on the email list for weekly bulletins, please send a message to [goya@htgocnj.org](mailto:goya@htgocnj.org).

We are all brothers and sisters in Christ and what better way to get to know your church family than through GOYA! We look forward to seeing new faces as we start our year! ❖

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Vice President: Despina Tarhanidis  
Treasurer: Francesca Kastanos  
Recording Secretary: Molly Love  
Corresponding Secretary: Alexandra Vasilopoulos

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Outreach Coordinator: Grace Warnick  
Outreach Committee: Ari Frantzeskakis, Zoe Frantzeskakis



# Trinity Circle

## Update

■ BY KASSANDRA ROMAS

We wish Trinity Circle members a blessed, healthy and happy start to the Ecclesiastical Year!

Trinity Circle members will be welcomed to the 2021-2022 season with membership meetings, special events and an opportunity to gather and enjoy each other's company. If the mandates regarding COVID remain stable, regular meetings will resume and be held on the first Tuesday of each month, starting at 11:00 am. Please put Trinity Circle dates on your calendar and invite everyone to attend our Trinity Circle meetings,

programs and special events, sharing good times and camaraderie. In addition, Trinity Circle members are encouraged to attend any church service that Fr. Peter is celebrating on those mornings prior to our Trinity Circle meeting.

Membership to Trinity Circle is encouraged for all Holy Trinity seniors. Membership is \$15 each. Please invite your friends to join the dynamic and friendly Trinity Circle for good company and lots of stories and smiles. The bonds of long-term friendships, as well as new friendships, add to the quality of all of our lives and sense of community. ❖

## Save These Dates



**September 21, 2021**  
11am: Welcome Back Lunch Meeting (Special Date)



**October 5, 2021**  
11am: Meeting/Lunch/Socialize



**October 21, 2021**  
Special Event: 10am – 4pm Bus To Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Lunch And Show To See "The Tenors"



**November 2, 2021**  
11am: Meeting/Lunch/Socialize



**December 7, 2021**  
11am: Meeting/Lunch/Socialize



**December 14, 2021**  
Special Event: 12pm Christmas Luncheon At Galloping Hill Caterers

# The Exaltation of the Precious and Holy Cross

September 14

Pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulcher of the Lord, and to build a temple to the pagan goddess Venus and another to Jupiter. Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifices to idols. Eventually after 300 years and by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulcher and the Life-Creating Cross were discovered and opened for veneration under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337). In 313, he had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized, and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were ordered stopped. Although he had signed the Edict, Emperor Licinius of the Eastern Roman Empire still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the Edict of 313 AD of toleration extend also to the eastern parts and beyond. The Holy Equal of the Apostles, Emperor Constantine, gained victory over his enemies when he saw a vision of the Cross in the sky with “By this, conquer” (IC/XC - NIKA) written beneath.

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St. Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter

to St. Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Although she was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. St. Helen gave orders to destroy the pagan temples and the pagan statues in Jerusalem.

Searching for the Cross of the Resurrection, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search was unsuccessful. Finally, they directed her to the elderly Hebrew, Jude, who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord’s Body (March 6). In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched one body, the man came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in huge throngs to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St. Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying “Lord have mercy,” reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elderly Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Kyriacos and afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem. During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363), he accepted a martyr’s death for Christ (see October 28).

St. Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after her death. St. Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople where St. Constantine gave orders to build a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ in Jerusalem, including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. St. Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple; she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established. ❖



Online Registration now available

<https://tinyurl.com/HTReligiousEd2021-22>

We are happy to welcome back all students to in-person classes for Religious Education on Sunday, September 26, 2021! Please register your children using the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/HTReligiousEd2021-22>. All students are also invited to the Religious Education Welcome Back Party after classes on September 26, 2021. The party will be outside in the church parking lot and will take place at the same time as the Stewardship picnic. Please come to the party to see old friends and meet new ones!

Our Religious Education program will be following NJ guidelines for schools and will require masks for all students and teachers and will have appropriate distancing.

## Greek Fires Appeal

### Please help, Donate Today!



On behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and the entire Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, we ask for contributions towards the devastating fires in Greece. With your support, the Archdiocese will provide support and assistance to the countless individuals that are in need during this difficult time. While the fires have upended the lives of so many, your gift, along with the gifts of others will add a positive light to this sad situation. We are truly blessed to have caring people like you support this mission.

#### Here's how you can help:

- a) A special collection will be taken after the Liturgy on Sunday.
- b) Direct Donation to the Archdiocese: [Greece Fires - Donate - Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America \(goarch.org\)](https://www.goarch.org)
- c) GoFund Me Page: [Fundraiser by Greek Orthodox Archdiocese : Greece Fire Relief Fund \(gofundme.com\)](https://www.gofundme.com)

*"Even now as I speak to you, the fires are still ravaging Greece. And when this horror is over, thousands of our Greek brethren will be left without their homes and possessions. I am inviting whoever wishes to make a direct donation, to do so by visiting the website of our Archdiocese. May God, the Comforter, through the Holy Intercessions of the Virgin Mother of God, whose sacred Dormition we will celebrate in a few short days, send speedy relief to the people of Greece, and bring to an end this terrible inferno that continues to devastate our Ellada, την Ελλάδα μας."*

*-His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America*

Watch the Archbishop's request: <https://youtu.be/MLN-5lmFJKo>



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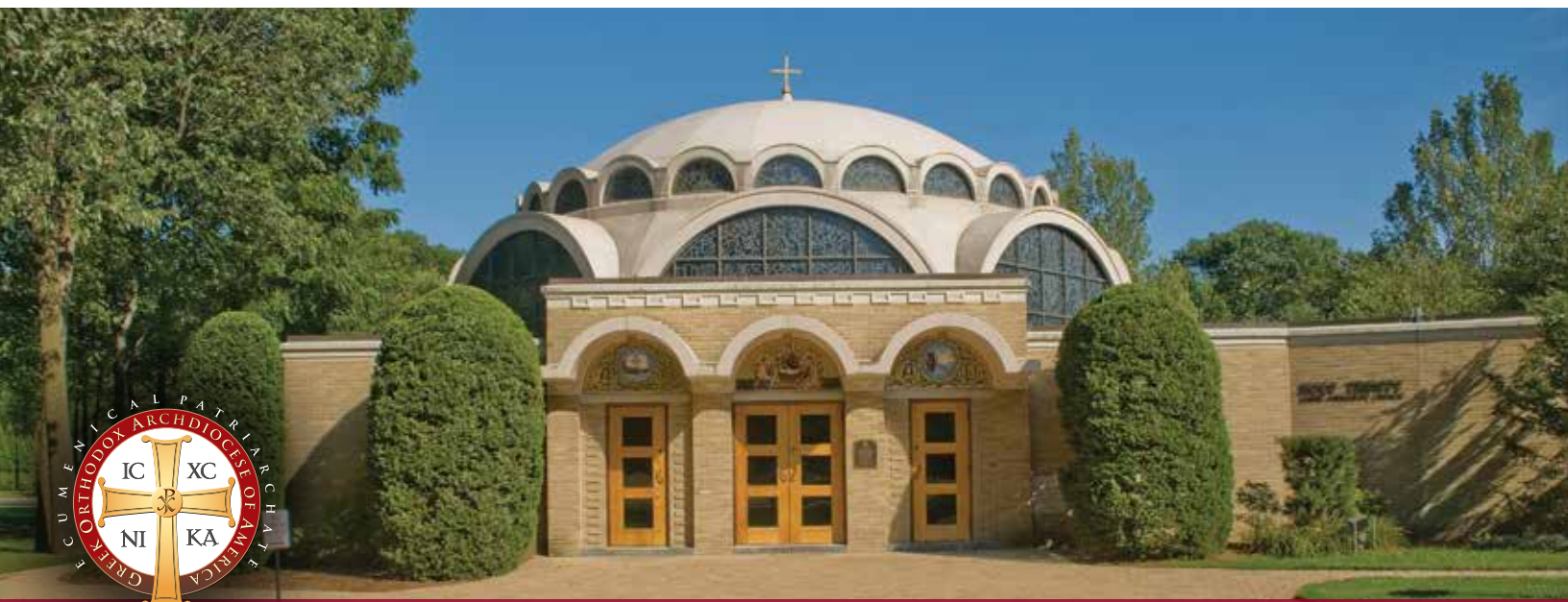
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## OFFICE STAFF

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

## WORSHIP

*Lead Psaltis* Pascalis Kувalakis  
*Choir Director* Kathryn Athanasoulas  
*Organist* Phyllis Verenes  
*Head Acolyte* John Colonias

## MINISTRIES

*Parish Council* Felicia Karsos  
*Philoptochos* Maria Kanaras  
*Religious Education* Katherine Kelley  
*Greek School* Stavroula Mergoupis  
*Greek School PTO* Melissa Krikos  
*Youth (GOYA)* Maggie Vassilopoulos  
*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  
*Scouting* Miriam Kotsonis

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

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