



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Metropolis of Atlanta  
**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**  
255 Beauvoir Road  
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531  
(228) 388-6138  
[www.holytrinitybiloxi.org](http://www.holytrinitybiloxi.org)  
**July 2016 Bulletin**



### **From His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios**

My Beloved Ones,

Having just returned from Greece, I would like you to join me in giving glory to Almighty God for the beautiful meetings that took place during the Holy and Great Council in Crete, the island of Saints and Heroes of our Orthodox γένος.

I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, all throughout the Council: before we began, during the meetings, and especially during the Divine Liturgies which began and ended the Council; where all the Patriarchs and Archbishops of the autocephalous Churches celebrated together.

We missed the presence of the other Churches: the Antiochians, the Russians, the Georgians and the Bulgarians, who chose not to attend for personal reasons. To mention one, the Patriarchate of Antioch is involved in a dispute with the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, over land they claim falls under their jurisdiction. Indeed, it is unfortunate that what amounts to a relatively small piece of desert, prevented the Church of Antioch from attending, as to my mind it amounts to a person in a disagreement with the head of a utility company, depriving the other villagers of water—something that is of course, essential. I was naturally very sad, as were all the Archbishops and our Ecumenical Patriarch that these disputes led to some of our sister Churches to miss this very important historical event.

Even so, those of us who were present surely felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, because we did not simply have an open dialogue, or even just discuss the texts that the committees had prepared all the way back to the 1960s, but everyone was free to express his own thoughts and mind, and had the opportunity to convince others of their point of view. Therefore, many things have been changed from the proposals and texts that had been prepared, because situations that exist today were not in existence then.

Everyone had the opportunity to express his mind, and heart, and feelings. When where there were debates or arguments, they often came about because we were thinking of the best way to protect our church—until one party or another reminded us to think of the unified Church, and not simply our own.

I believe that all this happened because of the presence of the Holy Spirit, and of course I was praying to the Holy Spirit to prevail upon us to express God's will, and not our own thoughts and feelings. This succeeded no doubt because of the prayers offered by you, the laymen and the clergy. I am also very thankful for the emails and

letters I received supporting the Holy Council, praying for the Holy Spirit, and now I am sharing the results that I felt there. Therefore, I am very thankful to you all individually and as the Metropolis of Atlanta.

God bless us all, let us pray for a good and safe summer for ourselves and our children as we travel, and I look forward to seeing you in your communities when I begin to travel during the Ecclesiastical New Year in September.

### **A Message from Father Dean - July 4<sup>th</sup>**

We are very blessed....blessed to be Orthodox Christians, enjoying the fullness of being members of the Body of Christ. We are also blessed to be Americans, living in this great nation. Can there be any better combination of religious and national affiliation? We must be extremely careful, however, not to give into the temptation of taking either of these two blessings for granted because today our Christian morals and values and our American freedoms are being challenged and tested and some have already been taken away from us before our very eyes.

Almost 2000 years ago our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself on the Cross for all of us. Hundreds of thousands of devout Christians have given their lives in martyrdom, defending and standing up for their faith in Jesus Christ. Millions today in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world are being persecuted just because they are Christians. They are being given the choice of becoming Moslems, paying a tax or being killed.

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, we will pause to celebrate Independence Day. Our celebration will include picnics, family gatherings and fireworks. Few if any will think about the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence. Their conviction resulted in untold sufferings for themselves and their families. Of the 56 men, five were captured by the British and tortured before they died. 12 had their homes ransacked and burned. 2 lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army. Another had two sons captured. 9 of 56 fought and died from wounds and hardships of war.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships sunk by the British navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in poverty.

At the battle of Yorktown, the British General Cornwallis had taken over Thomas Nelson's home for his headquarters. Nelson quietly ordered General George Washington to open fire on the Nelson home. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields were destroyed. For over a year, he lived in the forest and in caves, returning home only to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion.

Patrick Henry wrote: "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ." George Washington wrote: "Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

In 1831, the French writer Alexis de Tocqueville, after visiting America said: "I sought for the greatness of the United States in her harbors, her ample rivers, her

fertile fields, and boundless forests....and it was not there. I looked for America's greatness in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in her institutions of higher learning.....and it was not there. I looked for America's greatness in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution....and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of American's genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

America from its beginning and throughout most of its history has been a Christian nation, founded for the express purpose of practicing religious freedom. Our founding fathers and founding papers clearly speak of this. The ideas and ideals which they established were founded upon Christian ideas and ideals. Whether or not America is still or should still be a Christian nation is debatable. What cannot be debated is the fact that America and the American people are and have been the most generous people in the world, caring for their neighbors here and around the world. This is only due to the fact that the Love of Christ exists in our lives and in the life of our nation. God has established mankind as a steward over His Creation. Let us do our best to be found good and faithful servants in the Church and in His Creation. As Christians, we are first and foremost citizens of heaven, however, we are also citizens of this great nation and citizens of the world. We must take both our citizenships seriously.

In our Country and even in our Church, there have been many decisions, mistakes and questionable laws made by imperfect people and elected officials along the way that have not been good, however, in the end, even these have made us stronger, more compassionate, and more united. We are blessed with "freedom of speech" and therefore we must never fear to express our beliefs and feelings when things go off track. The most dynamic way to speak out is to exercise our right to vote. Vote only for those who are like minded and who have the same morals, beliefs and values you adhere to.

I cannot get the words of the French writer I mentioned earlier out of my mind. Remember he wrote: "America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great". On this July 4<sup>th</sup>, may God continue to Bless America! On this July 4<sup>th</sup> my prayer will be and I hope yours also will be: that America will forever be good in order to remain great so that the generations to come may enjoy the American adventure and the American Dream.

### **Schedule of Services**

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am July 3 with Fr Ezekiel

Saturday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am July 10 with Fr Dean

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am July 17 with Fr Dean

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am July 24 with Fr Ezekiel

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am July 31 with Fr Ezekiel

## Visitors

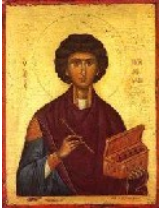
A warm welcome to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church!

We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Please join us for Fellowship Hour in our social hall after Liturgy.

## Visitors & Sacraments

Everyone is welcome in the Orthodox Church & may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) at the end of the service, but only practicing Orthodox Christians may receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.



**The Great Martyr Panteleimonon, July 27th . . .** This Saint, who had Nicomedia as his homeland, was the son of Eustorgius and Eubula. His father was an idolater, but his mother was a Christian from her ancestors. It was through her that he was instructed in piety, and still later, he was catechized in the Faith of Christ by Saint Hermolaus (see July 26) and baptized by him. Being proficient in the physician's vocation, he practiced it in a philanthropic manner, healing every illness more by the grace of Christ than by medicines. Thus, although his parents had named him Pantoleon ("in all things a lion"), because of the compassion he showed for the souls and bodies of all, he was worthily renamed Panteleimon, meaning "all-merciful." On one occasion, when he restored the sight of a certain blind man by calling on the Divine Name, he enlightened also the eyes of this man's soul to the knowledge of the truth. This also became the cause for the martyrdom of him who had been blind, since when he was asked by whom and in what manner his eyes had been opened, in imitation of that blind man of the Gospel he confessed with boldness both who the physician was and the manner of his healing. For this he was put to death immediately. Panteleimon was arrested also, and having endured many wounds, he was finally beheaded in the year 305, during the reign of Maximian. Saint Panteleimon is one of the Holy Unmercenaries, and is held in special honor among them, even as Saint George is among the Martyrs.

**Kyriake the Great Martyr, July 7 -** Saint Kyriake was the daughter of Christian



parents, Dorotheus and Eusebia. She was given her name because she was born on Sunday, the day of the Lord (in Greek, Kyriake). She contested in Nicomedia during the reign of Diocletian, in the year 300. After many bitter torments she was condemned to suffer beheading, but being granted time to pray first, she made her prayer and gave up her holy soul in peace.

**Parish General Assembly Meeting – July 17 . . .** The next Parish General Assembly Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 30, after Church Services. Please put it on your calendar as we have various items to discuss. We will discuss old items, stewardship, financial update, etc. Plan to attend this very important meeting as it is a way we update everyone on what the church is doing, advise the many new items that are coming up, and where you can provide feedback to the Parish Council. Please insure

you are up to date with your stewardship pledge in order to vote. A list of those current in their pledge will be posted on the bulletin board in the social hall on July 10.

**Happy Name Day in July** . . .Kyraiki, July 7, Marina, July 17, Elias, July 20 and Panteleimonon, July 27.

**Fellowship Hour After Liturgy** . . .Holy Trinity needs every parishioner to sign up and host a fellowship hour after Sunday Liturgy. Everyone should be proud to host a fellowship hour. Show your culinary creativity. Bring your favorite ethnic foods. Hosting a fellowship hour makes everyone more a part of the church community. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up to host fellowship, but we still need volunteers in the future.

**July Birthdays** . . . Happy Birthday! Many Years! Adriana Boloni July 4<sup>th</sup>, Marina Lucangeli July 5<sup>th</sup>, Chysanthi & Richard Beach July 6<sup>th</sup>, Korina Bodisch, Sophia Beddoe & Brandi Turner, July 8<sup>th</sup>, Stephen Collins July 10<sup>th</sup>, George Vaporis July 14<sup>th</sup>, Katarina Vamvakas July 18<sup>th</sup>, John Collins July 20<sup>th</sup>, Lisa Taylor July 25<sup>th</sup>, Stratos Mandas July 27<sup>th</sup>, Greg Wawryszcuk July 29<sup>th</sup>.



**July Anniversaries** . . . Happy Anniversary to George & Sheila Yurchak July 12, and Cristian & Meri Ionescu July 19. May God grant you many more years together.

**Chrismation in July** . . . Donna Ricconi will be chrismated on Sunday, July 31.

**Fellowship Hour After Liturgy** . . .Holy Trinity needs every parishioner to sign up and host a fellowship hour after Sunday Liturgy. Everyone should be proud to host a fellowship hour. Show your culinary creativity. Bring your favorite ethnic foods. Hosting a fellowship hour makes everyone more a part of the church community. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up to host fellowship for the next month, but we still need volunteers in the future.

### **Religious Education**

Fr Dean and Fr Ezekiel will continue their weekly religious education classes after Sunday Coffee Hour. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

### **Religious Needs**

Clergy are available for talk, confession, pastoral counseling, spiritual care, individual prayer, etc. Tours of our church can be arranged. If you want to set up an appointment, please contact George Yurchak – 228-831-5820 or [georgeyurchak@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeyurchak@yahoo.com).

**Many thanks** to all who helped and volunteered their time and effort at Holy Trinity. It is hard work but spiritually rewarding. It shows us how we can all come together as an Orthodox Family and grow spiritually by giving of ourselves.



**Get Well . . .** Prayers and blessings to Fr Jim Karagas, Karen Bridges, John Curticapian, Elizabeth Vamvakas, Irene Stevens, Alan Koskan, Photine and Angelo Hagicostas, George Vaporis, Lela Roberts, Melissa Swartz, Nikki Arnold, Nancy Malek, Virginia Freeman, and Dorothy Porter. Fr Dean or Fr Ezekiel will conduct home visitations and give communion to those parishioners who are ill and can't be with us for Liturgy. Please contact a parish council member or the priest to make arrangements. If we missed someone please contact Nancy Malek at 228-265-1411. We want to pray as a community for those that may be too ill to be with us during church services.



**Prayer Box. . .** We have a prayer box in the Narthex. If there is anyone you wish a prayer said, place their name in the box, or contact Nancy Malek at 228-265-1411.

### **Ethnic Marketplace & Gift Corner**

Please remember the Ethnic Marketplace and Gift Corner for your shopping needs. We have many ethnic items for sale. Included in the Marketplace are olive oil, halva, olives, jellies, pickled tomatoes, seaweed salad, candies, Greek cheeses and coffee, etc. In the Gift Corner we have Greek tablecloths and aprons, icons, bracelets, Greek coffeepot & coffee, jewelry, Greek CDs, incense and charcoal, Russian dolls, nesting dolls, lacquered Russian products, Russian kitchen supplies, Greek T-shirts, etc.

### ***Prioritize Sunday as the Anchor of Your Family's Week***

*The Divine Liturgy is the primary worship service in the life of the Orthodox Church. It is where the Body and Blood of Our Lord and Savior is offered for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Simply put, attending the Divine Liturgy as a family should be a priority. The Lord's Day isn't merely the day we go to church – it is the primary day we become the Church – the people of God. (By George Tsongranis)*

**Sts Markella & Demetrios Seminar, July 23 . . .** Sts. Markella and Demetrios would like to invite you and your parishioners to attend a Seminar we have the privilege of hosting in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Deacon Stephen Muse, the Director of Education and Counselor Training at the Pastoral Institute, Inc. in Columbus, Georgia, will be offering a Seminar on: *Remembering Ourselves in Christ: Healing, Forgiveness and Growth through acknowledging and Grieving Spiritual Pain*. The event is on Saturday July 23 from 9am to 4pm. Lunch and snacks will be provided. There is no charge to attend, although we will be accepting contributions. To those of us who have had the experience of Dcn. Stephen presentations at the Diakonia Center Syndesmos meetings, you know how capable and insightful his messages are. We would love to see you and/or your people here for this event. If you could kindly ask your people to phone or email us ahead that they are coming. We need to plan food and space is limited. Point of contact is [office@stmarkella.org](mailto:office@stmarkella.org). Phone is 850-244-0822.

### **Prayer for the Military**

We thank Thee, O Lord our God for all the blessings which Thou givest us. Thou has kept us by Thy power in good health during the night and Thou has called us up from sleep, that we may enjoy the light of day and to marvel at Thy Majesty. We entreat Thee, O Lord, grant that we may live this day without danger or sin, but full of Thy mercies and Thy divine care. Protect my family and the families of my fellow-servicemen from all evil. Enlighten the peoples who conquer and torture other nations; make them repent and seek peace, leaving other lands and their dwellers free. Open Thou the eyes of our mind to see Thy divine law and incline our hearts ever to do Thy commandments, to the glory of Thine all-holy Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

O Thou Loving Father of us all, Who are here and everywhere, let Thy blessing be upon my loved ones at home. Keep them in Thy gracious care, protect them by Thy power and make their hearts glad in the thought of Thy nearness. Help them and help me to feel that however separated we are by distance, in Thee we are close to each other. Amen.

Chaplain W. Basil Stroyen, USAF, wrote to Metropolitan Leonty during the Korean War, asking him for a prayer which would be appropriate for use the servicemen under his care. This prayer was sent to him. He had copies made for distribution and for pasting in the Divine Liturgy book, which was used at Services. It was recited by the congregation following the Services and used by many of the servicemen in their daily lives. Just two years ago a copy was sent to him a serviceman, who had kept it in his wallet since 1955. (Source: The Orthodox Herald, May 2003)

### **STEWARDSHIP**

#### **PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE FOR 2016**

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is grateful for every donation received throughout the year. Your generous support enables Holy Trinity to spread the teaching of Our Lord Jesus Christ, serve regular Divine Liturgies and Sacraments and provide spiritual nourishment to our faithful, their families and those in need. Your pledge of support is a sign of your heartfelt participation in the life of our parish family and it plays a vital role enabling us to meet our financial responsibilities.

We pray that everybody who attends Holy Trinity and cares for its financial security will make a pledge for 2016. If you haven't received a pledge form you can download it from [www/holytrinitybiloxi.org](http://www/holytrinitybiloxi.org) website, under Stewardship or pick up a hard copy either at the candle counter or from any Parish Council member. We will be mailing you a stewardship form in the event you are unable to come to church.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the pledge form and submit it to Craig Henderson (Stewardship Chairman), George Yurchak (President, Parish Council) or Rodney Bridges (Treasurer, Parish Council).

## HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH STEWARDS FOR 2016

Thank you to everyone who has filled out and returned their 2016 Stewardship Commitment Pledge Form. As of July 1, Holy Trinity has received pledges from 63 parishioners for a total of \$36,840.

Chrisanthi Beach	Cristian & Meri Ionescu	Donna Rocconi
Mike Bodisch	Mihail Kastrinos	Jerry Strickland
Rodney & Karen Bridges	Chrisie (Soula) Kiessling	Melissa & Giorgios Swartz
CoCo & Steve Collins	Karen Kohl	Lisa Taylor
John Collins	John & Cornelia Koniditsiotis	Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas
Nicoletta Conner	Al & Cathy Lawson	Akaterina Vamvakas
George Contas	Rena Lohrbach	Vasili & Maria Vamvakas
John Demetrakopoulos	Eva Magiros	George Vaporis
Cally & Bernie DeSantis	Mary Makris	Eleni Vganges
Hugh & Brandi Donohoe	Nancy & Karl Malek	Demetri Vlahos
Norman Foskey	Stratos Mandas	Vona & Creg Wawryszcuk
Terry & Julia Foskey	George & Janie Mavormihalis	Karen Weinberg
Virginia Freeman	Jessie Mavromihalis Martin	George & Sheila Yurchak
Nataliya Grey	Louis & Linda Peters	Yelena Zheletskaia
Angelo & Photine Hagicostas	Nataliya Petrovska	
Craig & Karen Henderson	Tom & Pat Portaritis	

### Church Directory

#### **Liturgical Services**

Sundays – Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

#### **Church Clergy**

Rev. Fr. Dean Gigicos

Rev. Fr. Ezekiel Vieages

**Chanter** – Angelos Vamvakas

#### **2016 Parish Council**

President – George Yurchak

Vice President – Craig Henderson

Treasurer – Rodney Bridges

Secretary – CoCo Collins

Member – Jerry Strickland

#### **Librarian**

Hugh Donohoe, Brandi Donohoe

#### **Historian**

Brandi Donohoe, Akaterina Vamvakas

#### **Maintenance and Repair**

Chair – Craig Henderson

#### **Youth Education & Culture Committee**

Chair – George Yurchak

#### **Greek Culture**

Chair – George Yurchak

#### **Ukrainian Culture**

Chair – Nataliya Petrovska

#### **Romanian Culture**

Chair – Meri Ionescu

#### **Georgian Culture**

Chair – Medea Ghurtskaia

#### **Moldovan Culture**

Chair – Alexandru Tulburi

#### **Russian Culture**

Chair – Anna Slepova

#### **Kazakhstan Culture**

Natalya Grey

#### **Parish Ministries**

Youth Ministries – George Yurchak

Youth Group Chair – Joseph Lawson, Korina Bodisch

Sunday School – Akaterina Vamvakas

Ladies Group Chair – Nancy Malek

Stewardship Chair – Craig Henderson

Reader – Rodney Bridges, John Collins

Adult Education – George Yurchak

Prayer/Study Group – Nancy Malek

Outreach – Karen Komenko Weinberg, Akaterina Vamvakas

Technology – Karen Kohl, Spiro Vganges

Web Master – Steve Collins, Spiro Vganges

Pastoral Assistant – Craig Henderson, Spiro Vganges

Alter Boys – Joseph Lawson, Lefteri & Costas

Vganges

Sunshiners – George Vaporis

Strategic Planning – Chair, CoCo Collins

#### **Staff**

Kiosk – George Yurchak

Office Administrator – Sheila Yurchak

Publications Editor – Sheila Yurchak

Cleaning – Chrisanthi Beach, Akaterina Vamvakas