



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Metropolis of Atlanta
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
255 Beauvoir Road
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531
(228) 388-6138
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September 2016 Bulletin



From Father Dean

January 1st marks the beginning of a New Year. People around the world celebrate with parties and fireworks and making New Year Resolutions that are quickly broken and forgotten within a few days. Orthodox Christian Churches around the world begin the New Year not on January 1st, but rather on September 1st which marks the beginning of a new Ecclesiastical year. For us in Biloxi, September 1st marks the beginning of another New Year filled with opportunities to grow closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ by worshiping at the liturgical services. When we worship regularly, we become true living parts of the Church, the body of Christ. The Church New Year gives us opportunities as individuals and as a parish to revitalize our energies and re-evaluate our priorities. By so doing, we enable ourselves to properly live our Orthodox Christian Faith, upholding all its spiritual and moral ideals and values. The Church New Year gives us the opportunity to carry out all the promises of changing our lives each of us make to God but never seem to get around to fulfill them. We must never forget to be grateful and thank God for the many blessings He bestows on us. The best way to express our gratitude and thanks is with changed lives. Changed lives only become possible when we commit our whole life to Him.

During these rough, corrupt and stressful economic, political and moral times that our nation and the world is facing, we need to remember that our nation was established on Judeo-Christian values. The time has come for us to stand up and proclaim those values, reclaim those values and make those values part of our daily lives! One changed life at a time can restore our families, our churches, our nation and yes, even the world. Are you willing to commit and become one of those changed lives?

Let us also reflect on an important holiday, an American Holiday, celebrated each year on the first Monday of September...Labor Day. Labor Day seems to have lost its real meaning. Now days it seems to be the last hurrah of Summer when we enjoy being with our families at picnics or going to the beach, etc. This Labor Day, pause and reflect on the true meaning of day. Pay tribute to the labors of all citizens, past and present who have made our nation the great country that it is. This Labor Day, let us pray that the unemployed will soon be employed in order to support their families. This Labor Day, perhaps we can reach out to someone we know who is unemployed and help them in whatever way we are able.

Let us all, young and old make the commitment TODAY to work the works of God during this New Church Year. *“Glory, honor and peace to everyone who works what is good.” Romans 2:10*

Schedule of Services

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 4 with Fr Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 11 with Fr Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 18 with Fr Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 25 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.



September 1st is the beginning of the Ecclesiastical year in the Orthodox Church. To the present day, the Church has always celebrated the beginning of the New Year on September 1. This was the custom in Constantinople until its fall in 1453 and in Russia until the reign of Peter I. September 1 is still festively celebrated as the New Year at the Patriarchate of Constantinople; among the Jews also the New Year, although reckoned according to a moveable calendar, usually falls in September.

Elevation of the Cross, September 14th. . . Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the

venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

Community Christmas Card 2016 . . . Chrisanthi Beach is in charge of the Christmas card this year. We encourage you to be part of the community Christmas card. Please provide a donation to Chrisanthi to have your name included on the card. We do not specify an amount, but average donations are between \$10-20.

Dancing With The Greek Stars, September 5 & 19 . . . The Gulf Coast Hellenic Dancers will meet at 6:30 pm on Monday, Sept. 5 and 19, to begin practicing dances for the International Christmas Festival held on Saturday, December 10.

Prayer Service/Study Group, September 7 & 21 . . . We will be starting up a Prayer Service Wednesday nights led by Nancy Malek at 6 – 6:30 pm, followed by a Study Group led by Nancy Malek at 6:30 – 7:30 pm. The study group will be reading “The Way of the Pilgrim” Chapter 6, which can be purchased from Nancy for \$12. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Church Yard Sale, September 24 . . . Holy Trinity will be holding its annual yard sale on Saturday September 24 from 8AM – 1PM. Everyone is encouraged to bring their yard sale donations to the church starting in September. Volunteers will be needed on Friday at 10AM to lay out and price all of the items, and also on Saturday starting at 7AM until 3PM. Contact Nancy Malek for more information at 228-265-1411.

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 Fellowship Hour. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

Religious Needs

Clergy are available for talk, confession, pastoral counseling, spiritual care, individual prayer. 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.

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.

September Birthdays . . . Happy Birthday to Ioan Curticapian-Sept 2, Gus Ravanos-Sept 5, Eleni Michailo-Sept 7, Ruthie Beach & Maria Koskan-Sept 11, Melissa Schwartz-Sept 12, Fr. Ezekiel & Freddie Nosser-Sept 13, Adrianna Vaporis-Sept 15, Helen Cardaciotto-Sept 17, Anastasia Lawson-Sept 19, Presvytera Joanie Mayenick-Sept 20, George Contas-Sept 27, and Eva Magiros-Sept 30. If we missed your birthday it means we don't have your info. Let us know. We love to recognize you on this wonderful day.



Happy Anniversary . . . If you have a September anniversary, please let us know. May God grant you many for more years together.

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 Schwartz, Nikki Arnold, Nancy Malek, Virginia Freeman, CoCo Collins, Soula Kiessling, Freddie Nosser, Tom Portaritis, 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)

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 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 August 31, Holy Trinity has received pledges from 63 parishioners for a total of \$36,840.

Chrisanthi Beach
Mike Bodisch
Rodney & Karen Bridges
CoCo & Steve Collins
John Collins
Nicoletta Conner
George Contas
John Demetrakopoulos
Cally & Bernie DeSantis
Hugh & Brandi Donohoe
Norman Foskey
Terry & Julia Foskey
Virginia Freeman
Nataliya Grey
Angelo & Photine Hagicostas
Craig & Karen Henderson

Cristian & Meri Ionescu
Mihail Kastrinos
Chrisie (Soula) Kiessling
Karen Kohl
John & Cornelia Koniditsiotis
Al & Cathy Lawson
Rena Lohrbach
Eva Magiros
Mary Makris
Nancy & Karl Malek
Stratos Mandas
George & Janie Mavormihalis
Jessie Mavromihalis Martin
Louis & Linda Peters
Nataliya Petrovska
Tom & Pat Portaritis

Donna Rocconi
Jerry Strickland
Melissa & Giorgios Swartz
Lisa Taylor
Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas
Akaterina Vamvakas
Vasili & Maria Vamvakas
George Vaporis
Eleni Vganges
Demetri Vlahos
Vona & Creg Wawryszcuk
Karen Weinberg
George & Sheila Yurchak
Yelena Zheletskaia

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

50th Anniversary Celebration

Chair- George & Sheila Yurchak

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

Chair - Natalya Grey

Parish Ministries

Youth Ministries – George Yurchak

Youth Group Chair – Joseph Lawson, Korina Bodisch

Feed the Hungry Chair – Donna Ricconi, Virginia Freeman

Sunday School – Akaterina Vamvakas

Ladies of the Agape 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

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Presents



Under One Sky



Russian
Ukrainian
Kazakhstan
Uzbekistan
Belarus
German



Greek
Romanian
Georgian
Moldovan
American
Hungarian

International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale



Music by Nick Trivelas

Ethnic Foods, Baked Goods, & Gifts
Kids Activities, Dancing, Church Tours
Saturday, December 10, 2016, 10 am--7 pm
255 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi MS 39531



International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale, December 10 . . . all parishioners will need to help their church for the International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale this coming December 10. Please do not plan any vacations for this date, and mark your calendar for this event. Youth can bring their friends to help out, as in the past, they have been a tremendous help in making our festival successful.

This year's festival has many changes: The event will run from 10:00 am – 7:00 pm. It will not start at 9:00 am as in the past. Nick Trivelas will be playing music at our festival this year. We have added five new ethnic groups to be represented with food and dancing. These groups are: Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus. Traditional foods will be provided from all of these countries and pastries from some of the countries. A complete menu will be available by the end of September. We are hoping to have beer and wine available to sell. For further information contact George or Sheila Yurchak at georgeyurchak@yahoo.com or 228-831-5820.