



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Metropolis of Atlanta
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
255 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi, MS 39531
P.O. Box 8534, Biloxi MS 39535
(228) 388-6138
www.holytrinitybiloxi.org
November 2016 Bulletin



From Father Dean



As we enter the month of November, our thoughts go to Thanksgiving. The day set aside each year to offer our gratitude to God as a nation and as individuals for His blessings and love for us. On November 21st, our Orthodox Christian Church celebrates the Entry of the Theotokos to the Temple. The elderly Joachim and Anna were childless. They promised God that if they had a child, the child would be given to the service of God in the Temple. They were blessed with a child in their old age and when the child was three years old, Joachim and

Anna fulfilled their promise and presented Mary to Temple as an act of thanksgiving. The high priest, Zacharias, led Mary into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest was permitted to enter once a year. Zacharias was led by the Holy Spirit to take the three year old child into this most sacred area of the Temple because God was telling the world that Mary would become the new Temple. She would be the bearer of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

After the Pilgrims had landed in America, in the first year half of them died from a lack of food and a severe winter. The Indians taught them to plant corn, which prepared them and helped sustain them the following winter. In 1621, Governor William Bradford, set aside a day of feasting and prayer in thanksgiving to God for surviving the winter. The Pilgrims invited the Indians to this meal to give thanks to God for their many blessings. The Pilgrims recognized God as the Giver of all good things and offered Him thanksgiving and gratitude.

As Orthodox Christians, we are called upon to express our thanksgiving and gratitude to God like Joachim and Anna and the Pilgrims. “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” God gave the gift of His Son.

We must never forget that everything belongs to God and we are merely stewards of what is His. Everything we are and have are gifts from Him, our time, our talents and our treasures. He teaches us to give what is His in order to continue His work on earth and so that we may enjoy an abundant life now and the eternal life to come. We are responsible to fully support the work of Christ at our Church. As we prepare to begin a New Year, we are requested to fulfill our stewardship obligation for 2017. A pastor once said to his congregation: “My friends, it takes faith to make the church walk!” They shouted: “Let it walk, pastor, let it walk!” He went on, “Brethren, it takes love to make the church run!” They shouted: “Let it run, pastor, let it run!” “Beloved”

he continued, "It takes money to make the church fly!" Back came the answer: "Let it walk, pastor, let it walk!"

In Byzantine icons, the angels are pictured with wings to denote the speed with which they fly to carry out God's will. The Church should not walk or run; it should fly like the angels, because its purpose is to promote and expand the love of Christ among us. Whether the Church, walks, runs or flies depends on us. Stewardship is the privilege of responding to God's love with thanksgiving and gratitude. Share you time, your talents and your treasures by returning your 2017 Pledge of Support and help our parish FLY!

From Fr. George Tsahakis, Chancellor

Thank you, God, that I can see. There are thousands who cannot see. For them, there is no sunrise or sunset; no autumn colors, no rainbow-tinted flowers, no movies, no delights of the eye.

Thank you, God, that I can hear. There are thousands who cannot hear the voice of their own mother, nor the singing of the birds, nor the radio, nor the laughter of children.

Thank you, God, that I can walk. How brave are those who live life without the use of their legs and are confined to a wheel chair, or even paralyzed from the waist down.

Thank you, God, that I can work. Look at the many who can do nothing with "brain or brawn or hands." There are so many who have been laid off due to the economy and the fear of uncertain times.

Thank you, God, that I have something to eat. Millions have little or nothing to eat. Thousands are dying of hunger, while I never miss a meal and enjoy the comforts of my home and family.

Thank you, God, for my Orthodox Faith, which teaches me to be thankful and to seek Your will in all that I do each day.

Thank you, God, for the freedom to worship You as You wish to be worshiped.

Thank you, God, for Your Holy Church and for welcoming me and everyone.

Thank you, God, for the privilege of attending the Divine Liturgy every Sunday and on special Feast Days.

Thank you, God, for permitting me to confess my sins and receive Your forgiveness, and likewise, to receive Your Divine Gifts, the Body and Blood of Your only Begotten Son and our Lord Jesus Christ.

For all these and more, O Lord, I thank You!

From Presvytera Vassi Haros

It's ok to pray for your priest. You can pray the Jesus Prayer. *Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on Your servant.* Or use the prayer from the Liturgical litany *For our Archbishop (Name), the honorable presbyters, the deacons in the service of Christ, and all the clergy and laity, let us pray to the Lord.* Prayer is always good. It would be the best gift you could offer.

Schedule of Services

Matins (Orthos) will be at 9:30

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Nov 6 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Nov 13 with Fr Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Nov 20 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Nov 27 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 and Sacraments

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



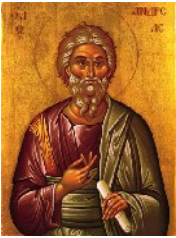
Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & the other Bodiless Powers: Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, & Barachiel - November 8th.

. . . All the Angels, according to the Apostle Paul, are ministering spirits, - sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation - (Heb. 1:14). God set them as overseers of every nation and people, and guides to that which is profitable (Deut. 32:8); and while one Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. He commands them to guard them that hope on Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Ps. 90:10-12). In the Heavens they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding with Him in our behalf, seeing they rejoice over one sinner that repents (Esaias 6:2-3; Matt. 18:10; Luke 15:7). In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit, that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with the histories thereof. It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Catholic Church, wisely honouring these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today the present Synaxis that is, our coming together in assembly for their common feast to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name. The name Michael means "Who is like God?" and Gabriel means "God is mighty."

Apostle/Evangelist Mathew, - November 16th. . . . This Apostle, who was also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus and had Galilee as his homeland. A publican before being called by Christ, he became one of the Twelve Apostles, and an Evangelist. While still in Palestine, he wrote his Gospel first in Hebrew, being also the first of all to write the Gospel. When he is depicted in icons, there is portrayed next to him the likeness of a man, one of the symbolic living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1.10), which, as Saint Irenaeus writes, is a symbol of our Saviour's Incarnation.



Katherine the Great Martyr of Alexandria - November 25th. . . . Saint Katherine, who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Conostas (or Cestus). She was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste, and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later; the famous monastery of Saint Katherine was originally dedicated to the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord and the Burning Bush, but later was dedicated to Saint Katherine.



Apostle Andrew, First Called - November 30th. . . . This Saint was from Bethsaida of Galilee; he was the son of Jonas and the brother of Peter, the chief of the Apostles. He had first been a disciple of John the Baptist; afterwards, on hearing the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus, when he pointed Him out with his finger and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1.29,36), he straightway followed Christ, and became His first disciple; wherefore he is called the First-called of the Apostles. After the Ascension of the Saviour, he preached in various lands; and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he died in Patras of Achaia, where he was crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X," the first letter of "Christ" in Greek; this cross is also the symbol of Saint Andrew.

A Special Thanks to our Veterans . . . We wish to honor our veterans this month and thank them for serving our great country and giving us the freedoms that our ancestors fought for. They are George Contas, Bernie DeSantis, Ken Gestring, Angelo Hagicostas, Craig Henderson, John Koniditsiotis, Dylan Monson, Tom Portaritis, George Vaporis, Demetri Vlahos, Adina Westmark, and George Yurchak. We salute you.



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.

Greek & Balkin Line Dance Tuesdays . . . **Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29.** At the Juke Joint 1911 Government St., Ocean Springs. No partner needed! Come get in the dance lines, led by local dancers, Steve & CoCo Collins. Learn the dances so you can join in the fun at these upcoming events (Bulgarika & International Christmas Festival). Easy

dances from Greece, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and other Balkan countries will be mixed with slightly more challenging dances that will be broken down so all can participate. Occasional Live Music! More info – Steve Collins 228-219-1382.

Bulgarika . . . Wed. Nov. 16, 7:00 – 10:00 pm. At the Juke Joint, 1911 Government St., Ocean Springs. Bulgarika is back! Come get in the dance lines led by local dancers. No partner needed! Or just watch while enjoying the music. Suggested donation \$5. More info – Steve Collins 228-219-1382.

2016 Orthodox Women's Retreat. Plans are underway for the second annual Orthodox women's retreat on November 12th at [Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church](#) in Clinton. Fr. Stephen Rogers of [St. Ignatius Orthodox Church](#) in Franklin, Tn., will speak on "God's Gardens." The topics of Fr. Stephen's three sessions are *The Garden of Purpose, The Garden of Propitiation, and The Garden of Participation/ The Garden of Promise.*

Registration for the retreat is \$20.00. This fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Information on scholarships will be available on the registration forms. Flyers and registration forms will be sent to your church on October 1. At last year's event it was wonderful to see so many of you at St. Peter. So, it is with great joy that the ladies of St. Peter, Holy Trinity-St. John the Theologian, and Holy Resurrection look forward to hosting you in November at Holy Resurrection.

International Men's Day Nov. 20 . . . International Men's Day will be celebrated on Nov 19. Church will honor the mean of Holy Trinity with a special luncheon.

Marriage Blessing of David AbouDaoud, Nov. 20. . . The marriage blessing of David AbouDaoud and his wife will be scheduled for Nov. 20 following Divine Liturgy and Fellowship Hour.

Happy Thanksgiving . . . Wishes for a HAPPY THANKSGIVING are sent to all. May the joy, peace, and sharing that was shown to the pilgrims from the American Indians, be with you and your family and that you pass it on as they did. Share the horn of plenty with love in your heart. May your families get together and share the spirit of Thanksgiving.



Thanksgiving Offering Box . . . We will have a container in the Church Social Hall for each of us to make a food donation for a Thanksgiving offering (non-perishables only). We will donate it to a needy family or a charity organization on the coast. We have three more weeks to collect the food, so please bring it with you when coming to Liturgy on Sundays. Any questions see Nancy Malek. Thank you.

Community Christmas Card . . . Christ is Born, Glorify Him. Once again, our community will be preparing a Holy Trinity Christmas Card. We are certain all of you will want to extend your heartfelt Christmas greetings to all people in our community.

Instead of mailing costly cards to all members separately, a special community card will be mailed to all members of the Holy Trinity community. Please provide your donations (\$10 - \$20) by Sunday, December 4th to Chrysanthi Beach if you wish to be included in this year's Christmas Card.

November Birthdays . . . Happy birthday to Christopher Tulburi, Nov. 1, Theodore Chelmis, Nov. 2, Kosta Vlahos, Nov. 3, Spiro Vganges, Nov. 5, Bernie DeSantis, Nov. 8, Nick Miniotis, Nov. 10, Greg Fhiaras, Nov. 15, Cristina Macovei Nov. 16, Photine Vlahos, Nov. 19, Calliope DeSantis, Nov. 22, Karen Bridges, Nov. 23, and Karen Henderson, Nov. 28.



November Anniversaries. . . Congratulations to Chrysanthe and Richard Beach celebrate their 23rd wedding anniversary on November 27th. May God grant them many years.

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.

Get Well . . .Prayers and blessings to Fr Jim Karagas, Karen Bridges, Ioan (John) Curticapian, Elizabeth Vamvakas, Irene Stevens, Alan Koskan, Photine and Angelo Hagicostas, George Vaporis, Lela Roberts, Nancy Malek, Virginia Freeman, CoCo Collins, Soula Kiessling, Freddie Nossier, 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)

International Christmas Festival, December 10 . . . Holy Trinity will hold our Annual International Christmas Festival on Saturday, December 10, 2015, from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. Music will be provided by **Nick Trivelas**. Food items will include Greek, Russian, Romanian, Georgian, Ukrainian, Uzbekistan, Moldovan, Kazakhstan, Hungary, Germany, Belarus, and American. There will be an exhibition of Greek, Russian, German and Ukrainian dancing. There will also be international items for sale (in our marketplace and gift center), as well as activities for children. Vendors will have booths to sell their wares. This Festival will be held in conjunction with the annual Pastry Sale. This year we will Honor Our Military and Honor Our Blue for their service by offering them lunch and dinner discounts. Please reserve this date to volunteer your time. The Church needs everyone to help in order to make it a success. George & Sheila Yurchak will be contacting each church member to assign everyone a place to

work. **Mark Your Calendars. Holy Trinity needs your support!** More information will be provided to everyone at a later date.

Christmas Pastry Sale, December 10 . . . Holy Trinity's Annual Christmas Pastry Sale will be held on Saturday, December 10 from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. Pastries will include delicacies from the ethnic countries listed above. Pastry order forms are now available and information on ordering will be sent to you via email. **Help will be needed from Dec. 1 through Dec. 7 to package pastries. A schedule of times to help with packaging will be posted later this month.**

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 October 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
Natalya Gray
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 Mavrormihalis
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 & Greg Wawryszcuk
Karen Weinberg
George & Sheila Yurchak
Yelena Zheletkaya

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

Belarousian Culture

Chair – Darya Borst

Parish Ministries

Youth Ministries – George Yurchak

Youth Group Chair – Joseph Lawson, Korina Bodisch

Feed the Hungry Chair – Donna Riconni, 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. This year we will Honor Our Military and Honor Our Blue for their service by offering them lunch and dinner discounts. For further information contact George or Sheila Yurchak at georgeyurchak@yahoo.com or 228-831-5820.