



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Metropolis of Atlanta

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

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June 2017 Bulletin



From Fr Dean:

Fifty days after Pascha, we celebrate the feast day of Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles who then went out and began to preach and teach the resurrected Christ, thus establishing the Christian Church. It is often said that Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church. The Sunday following Pentecost is All Saints Day. Pentecost gives the Holy Spirit, and the Sunday of All Saints bears witness to the fruit of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

St. Paul, in Hebrews 11:33-12:2, sets the mood for the commemoration of the Saints. He speaks of their great patience, their perseverance in persecution, their virtues, their contempt for sin, their suffering for Christ and their full and complete dedication to Him.

Early Christians, witnessing the sufferings and saintly lives of followers of Christ, felt that their memories should be perpetuated. Annual prayers were held at their graves and with the passing of time the church began to offer prayers on the day these faithful died to this world. Every day of the year on the day of their death, commemoration is made of the known Saints of the Church. But in addition to these great heroes who left bold traces of their dedication to the Christian cause, there were countless others, whose names are not even known who lived out their lives committed to Christ. No wonder then, that the church in her wisdom, set aside this Sunday of remembrance for all the Saints of the church, known and unknown. These faithful who are our heroes, our role models.

In our great country, up to now, we are free to worship with no fear of persecution. This is not the case for today's Christians in the Middle East and it certainly was not the case for early Christians. In the Roman Empire, everyone was required once every year to appear before a statue of Caesar, throw incense into the burning flame and say, "Caesar is Lord." A Christian could have gone through the procedure and continued to worship the one true God with no fear of persecution. But hundreds of thousands of Christians died rather throw that incense into the fire and confess with their lips that "Caesar is Lord." It was unthinkable to them that they confess publicly any other God but Jesus. They wanted the world to know where they stood, Whom they worshiped; Who their real God was; where they had found the way, the Truth and the Life. And they paid an expensive price for that confession....St. Paul tells us that they were "stoned, they were sawed in two, they were killed with the sword." History tells us that they were also slain by lions and gladiators, burned alive,

crucified and suffered many other tortures.

These unknown saints whom we remember came from every walk and station of life. They were fathers, mothers, children, soldiers, cooks, laborers, skilled, unskilled, educated, illiterate, black, white, rich, poor, old and young.

But they all had one thing in common...they loved the Lord and faithfully served Him. And that love and faith was only possible because they had prepared themselves to receive the Holy Spirit. With this love and faith in Christ, they never hesitated to witness the power of Christ in their lives by the way they lived and the way they talked. Through example they brought many more to Christ.

Does our example bring others to Christ? Today it seems like everyone is striving to become great and successful in the eyes of the world. Far too many have forgotten that we cannot be great and successful unless we have first committed our whole life to Christ and through that commitment display love, faith, belief, prayer, virtues, morals, values, hate of sin, knowledge of the scriptures, humility, piety, forgiveness, and alms giving.

The secret of a successful and meaningful life is to do the right thing in the right way in the right place at the right time. Or to put it in other words, the secret to a successful and meaningful life is to always remember that **God is with us** and to so live, day by day, remembering that God is standing there beside us, knowing every thought we have; hearing every word we utter; observing everything we do.

The Saints we honor understood this, and lived this, and proved to us that a life totally committed to Christ is indeed possible.

As we honor the known saints on their feast day during the year and the unknown saints on the Sunday following Pentecost, let us ask them to intercede to God in our behalf so that we may successfully complete our spiritual journey and inherit eternal life as they have.

Schedule of Services for June

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am June 4 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am June 11 with Fr Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am June 18 with Fr Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am June 25 with Fr Ezekiel

Visitors

*A warm welcome to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.
We are glad to have you worship with us today.
While Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians,
we invite those who are not Orthodox Christians to
remain until the end of the worship service,
and receive a blessing from our Lord Jesus Christ,
through the offering of the Blessed Bread.*

Holy Pentecost, Holy Trinity Name Day, Sunday June 6. . . There will be a special luncheon provided by the Church on Sunday June 6 to honor of Pentecost and Holy Trinity Name Day. There will be a pot luck luncheon after Liturgy. The Church will provide a baked ham, all other parishioners are requested to bring a favorite ethnic dish to share.

Flag Day, June 14. . . Don't forget to fly your American Flag proudly and show your support for America and for what we stand.

Father's Day – June 18. . . To all dads a Happy Fathers Day. There is no one like a father to care so completely, give so quietly, teach so gently, and love so much. Look at the adoration in your sons and daughters eyes when they look at you. Look at the shine in their eyes when they see you on the sidelines at their sporting events, knowing you're there, you care about them to give your time, cheering them on. You're that special dad, so keep up the loving, gentleness, kindness and guidance that your children so need and want. **There will be a special luncheon to honor all fathers in our church and the most senior and youngest fathers will be recognized.**

Happy Name Day in June. . . Peter and Paul June 29th, we will celebrate those of you who have this name day.

June Birthdays . . . Happy June Birthdays to: Karen Kohl June 7, Anna Slepova & Karen Komenko June 8, Pat Portaritis June 14, Marc Beddoe June 16, and John David Burkart June 21, Paul Ionescu June 29.

June Anniversaries . . . Happy Anniversary to Marina and Antonio Lucangeli, and Nataliya Petrovska and her husband Joe, all on June 8, Nata and Ricky Molsbee, June 15, Maria Liapustina and her husband, Vikas, June 19.

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.

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, Elizabeth Vamvakas, Katerina Vamvakas, Irene Stevens, Alan Koskan, Photine and Angelo Hagicostas, George Vaporis, Lela Roberts 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 Greek olive oil, halva, olives, jellies, oregano, candies, cheeses and coffee, Russian caviar, buckwheat, Kvas, Hungarian paprika, and other delicacies of other countries.. 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 2017

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 2017. 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. You need to make a pledge as soon as possible. Pledge forms will be available at 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 2017

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the 2017 Stewardship Program as of May 31. Holy Trinity has received pledges totaling \$23,220 from the following:

Chrisanthi Beach
Mike Bodisch
Rodney & Karen Bridges
Steve & CoCo Collins

George Contas
John Demetrakopoulos
Hugh & Brandi Donohoe
Julia Foskey

Norman Foskey
Virginia Freeman
Stamatina Giallourakis
Angelo & Photine Hagicostas

Craig & Karen Henderson
Cristian & Meri Ionescu
Mihail Kastrinos
Karen Komenko
Chrisie Soula Kiessling
Karen Kohl
Irene & Alan Koskan

Al & Kathy Lawson
Eva Magiros
Shelby McCloud
Nataliya Petrovska
Tom & Pat Portaritis
Nancy & Carl Malek
Melissa Schwartz

Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas
Akaterina Vamvakas
George Vaporis
Eleni Vganges
Spiro Vganges
Demitrios Virvilis
George & Sheila Yurchak

Church Directory

Liturgical Services

Sundays – Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Church Clergy

Rev. Fr. Dean Gigicos
Rev. Fr. Ezekiel Vieages

Chanters – Angelos Vamvakas, Rodney Bridges,
Hugh Donohoe, Luke Pappas, Ryan Waldrop

2017 Parish Council

President – George Yurchak
Vice President – Craig Henderson
Treasurer – Rodney Bridges
Secretary – Jerry Strickland
Member – Cristian Ionescu

Librarian

Hugh Donohoe, Brandi Donohoe

Historian

Brandi Donohoe, Akaterina Vamvakas

Maintenance and Repair

Chair – Craig Henderson

50th Anniversary Celebration

Commemorative Album - Brandi Donohoe

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 Gray

Belarousian Culture

Chair – Darya Borst

Parish Ministries

Youth Ministries – George Yurchak
Youth Group Chair – Joseph Lawson,
Korina Bodisch
Feed the Hungry Chair – Jerry Strickland,
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 Weinberg,
Akaterina Vamvakas
Technology – Karen Kohl, Spiro Vganges
Web Master – Steve Collins
Pastoral Assistant – Craig Henderson,
Caleb Bridges
Altar Boys – Joseph Lawson
Society of Wisdom – George Vaporis
Strategic Planning – Chair, CoCo Collins
Staff
Kiosk – George Yurchak
Office Administrator – Sheila Yurchak,
Karen Henderson
Publications Editor – Sheila Yurchak
Cleaning – Chrisanthi Beach, Virginia
Freeman, Akaterina Vamvakas, Fanula