



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Metropolis of Atlanta  
**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**  
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**May 2018 Bulletin**  
**Christ is Risen!**  
**Цррист ис Рисен! Христός Ανέστη!**  
**قام حقا قام لم سد يح!**  
**Hristos a inuiat!**

### **From Fr. Dean**



How Orthodox are we? We all say we are proud of our Orthodox Faith. That we are proud we recite the Creed exactly as it was written over 1600 years ago. That we are proud to belong to the Mother Church of Christendom, the Church of the East, the Church of the Ecumenical Councils, the Church of the Early Fathers. We believe that all these make for religious soundness, for Orthodoxy. It is time for us to realize that it is not enough to have correctness of faith, that it is not enough only to be Orthodox in what we believe. We must also have an orthodoxy in practice. We must be Orthodox in spirit, in attitude, in moral practice, in our sense of values. All too frequently, the modern Church does not emphasize the things the Early Church held dear, and the modern Christian does not display the sense of values that marked the faith and life of early Christians. Look at the emphasis early Christians put on God in their lives. To them, God was the ultimate reality, He gave meaning and substance to their lives. Their everyday living revolved about God. It seems that today we have lost the awesomeness, the fear of God.

Look at our attitude towards Jesus. The early Christians had a special relationship towards Him. They did not know all the theological implications of the Incarnation, but they had a beautiful, child-like love and feeling for Christ. Today He is not personal to us, but more theological. To them, He was all in all. He was so wonderful to them that they felt an ecstasy during worship. They truly believed Christ's words that "where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I amongst them." Today it is difficult to see the light of Christ on the faces of Christians during worship.

And what about the Holy Spirit. Early Orthodox believers were filled with the Spirit of God. When was the last time the Holy Spirit flooded your soul so much that you could cry out for joy? When is the last time you drank deeply of God's living water, His grace?

What is our attitude toward our neighbors? One of the first things the infant church in Antioch did was to take up special offerings to help the needy. Sadly, today the needy go to the welfare office to seek relief from their hunger.

How Orthodox are we in our attitude toward saintliness? The New Testament reflects the desire of early Christians to conform to the likeness of Christ. Today we use the wrong role models. People would rather be successful than saintly. The young aspire to become great writers, doctors, lawyers, scientists, and computer experts....precious few aspire to become great Christians.

How Orthodox are we in our attitude toward sins? Sin is no longer the poison that can destroy life for us. Jesus said: "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both body and soul in hell." Sin and Satan destroy, and yet we have compromised with sin and invited it to live with us day by day.

How Orthodox are we in our attitude towards eternity? Is there a longing in our hearts to be united with our Lord? The Scriptures end with the words: "Come Lord Jesus". But do we really yearn for Him to come?

We cannot just sit back and proclaim how proud we are of our Orthodox Faith. We must put our faith into action by fasting, by preparing for Holy Communion, by reading scripture, by offering sincere prayer, by loving not only our loved ones but even our enemies. Let us make a commitment as we hear over and over in the services to..."commit ourselves and one another and our **whole** life to Christ our God."

### **Schedule of Services for May**

**Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am May 6 with Fr Ezekiel**

**Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am May 13 with Fr Ezekiel**

**Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am May 20 with Fr Ezekiel**

**Saturday Vespers Service at 6:00 pm May 26 with Fr Ezekiel**

**Sunday Divine Liturgy (Pentacost) at 10:00 am May 27 with Fr Dean**

### **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.*

***Please remember to allow the children to receive Communion first.***

*Please join us for Fellowship Hour in our Social Hall after Liturgy*

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**Mother's Day Luncheon on Sunday May 13 . . .**The earliest known Mother's Day celebration dates back to ancient Greece. They honored Rhea (Mother of the Gods) at an annual Spring Festival, celebrating with flowers and honey cake. Holy Trinity will recognize the most senior and the youngest mother attending liturgy with half dozen

roses. All other women will receive a single rose. A Special Luncheon will be hosted for the mothers/women of the Church after Liturgy.

**Parish General Assembly Meeting, May 20 . . .** There will be a Parish General Assembly Meeting scheduled for Sunday May 20 following Divine Liturgy. Financial reports will be provided. Stewardship will be discussed. A recap of the International Christmas Festival will be provided. We will discuss our 2018 goals, where we plan to go in 2018 and other new business. We will also discuss the bell tower and our outdoor sign. Please plan to be there for this very enlightening meeting. You will need to have filled out your stewardship pledge and be current through the end of April to vote.

**New Orleans Greek Festival May 25-27 . . .** Let's support our sister church, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New Orleans on Friday May 25, Saturday May 26 or Sunday May 27. The Greek Festival is always fun, with good food, entertainment and family fun.

### **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).

**Church Thanks . . .** Many thanks to all who helped and volunteered their time and effort through out the Lenten Season and especially through Holy Week. It was 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.

**Anniversaries. . .** Craig and Karen Henderson May 2, Alan and Irene Koskan May 6. We would like to honor your anniversary. Contact George Yurchak 228-831-5820 or [georgeyurchak@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeyurchak@yahoo.com) with your anniversary date if we missed you. May God grant you many years.

**May Birthdays . . .** Happy birthday to Christopher Peters, May 6, Nancy Malek, May 8, Craig Henderson, May 10, Costa Vganges, May 17. If we don't have your birthday please tell us.



**Get Well . . .** Prayers and blessings to Fr Jim Karagas, Karen Bridges, Lela & Mitch Roberts, Photine Hagicostas, Angelo Hagicostas, Alan Koskan, Virginia Freeman, Nancy Malek, Freddie Nossier, Tom Portaritis, Nicki Arnold, George Vaporis, Elizabeth and Katerina Vamvakas. Fr Ezekiel or Fr Dean 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.

**Fellowship Hour After Liturgy . . .** Holy Trinity needs every parishioner to sign up to host a fellowship hour after Sunday Liturgy. Everyone should be proud to host a fellowship hour. Show your culinary creativity or bring your favorite ethnic foods. Hosting a fellowship hour makes everyone more a part of the church community.

### **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)*

### **STEWARDSHIP**

#### **PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE FOR 2018**

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 2018. 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. 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 (President and Stewardship Chairman), George Yurchak (Vice-President, Parish Council), or Rodney Bridges (Treasurer, Parish Council).

## HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH STEWARDS FOR 2018

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the 2018 Stewardship Program as of April 30. Holy Trinity has received forty-one pledges totaling \$34,645 from the following:

Chrisanthi Beach  
Mike Bodisch  
Caleb Bridges  
Rodney & Karen Bridges  
Robert Brouillette III  
John & Donna Collins  
Steve & CoCo Collins  
Nicoletta Conner  
George Contas  
John Demetrakopoulos  
Bernie & Callie DeSantis  
Hugh & Brandi Donohoe  
Norman & Shelby Foskey  
Terry & Julia Foskey  
Virginia Freeman  
Natalya Gray

Angelo & Photine Hagicostas  
Craig & Karen Henderson  
Elen Ifantis  
Cristian & Meri Ionescu  
Mihail Kastrinos  
Chrisie Soula Kiessling  
Karen Kohl  
Karen Komenko  
John & Cornelia Koniditsiotis  
Allen & Irene Koskan  
Al & Kathy Lawson  
Rena Lohrbach  
Eva Magiros  
Karl & Nancy Malek  
Kyriaki Jessie Martin  
Louis & Linda Peters

Nataliya Petrovska  
Tom & Pat Portaritis  
Melissa Schwartz  
Jerry Strickland  
Leah Summers  
Lisa Taylor  
Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas  
Katerina Vamvakas  
George Vaporis  
Eleni Vganges  
Spiro Vganges  
Dimitrius & Stamatina Virvilllis  
Costa Vlahos  
Demetri Vlahos  
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, Haylie &  
Ryan Waldrop

#### **2018 Parish Council**

President – Craig Henderson  
Vice President – George Yurchak  
Treasurer – Rodney Bridges  
Secretary – Brandi Donohoe  
Member – Cristian Ionescu

**Librarian** Hugh Donohoe, Brandi Donohoe

**Historian** Brandi Donohoe

#### **Facilities**

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 – Oksana Kozhanova

**Kazakhstan Culture** Chair - Natalya Gray

**Belarousian Culture** Chair – Darya Borst

#### **Staff**

Kiosk – George Yurchak

Office Administrator – Sheila Yurchak, Karen Henderson

Publications Editor – Sheila Yurchak

Cleaning – Chrisanthi Beach, Fanoula Christidis,  
Virginia Freeman, Akaterina Vamvakas,

#### **Parish Ministries**

Altar Boys – Joseph Lawson

Youth Ministries – George Yurchak

Youth Group Chair – Joseph Lawson, Korina Bodisch

Feed the Hungry – Jerry Strickland, Virginia Freeman,  
Nancy Malek

Sunday School – Akaterina Vamvakas

Ladies of the Agape Chair – Nancy Malek

Stewardship Chair – Craig Henderson

Reader – Rodney Bridges, John Collins, CoCo Collins

Adult Education – George Yurchak

Prayer/Study Group – Nancy Malek

Outreach – Karen Komenko, Akaterina Vamvakas

Technology – Karen Kohl, Spiro Vganges

Pastoral Assistant – Craig Henderson, Caleb Bridges

Society of Wisdom – George Vaporis

Strategic Planning – Chair, CoCo Collins

Web Master – Steve Collins

