



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Metropolis of Atlanta
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
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June Bulletin 2018



From Fr. Dean



Each year on June 29th, we celebrate the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul. In preparation for this feast day, the Church has prescribed a fast period known as the “Apostles Fast”. This fast begins the second Monday after Pentecost (this year it begins on June 4th) and ends on June 28th. The length of the “Apostles Fast” varies from year to year depending on when Pentecost is celebrated.

One of the hymns from the Vesper Service states: *“Let us exalt Peter and Paul, those two great lights of the Church, for they shine in the firmament of the faith....”*

Peter and Paul are indeed great lights of the Church and their importance is marked by the fact that the Church established this special fast. It teaches us that there is an important spiritual link between the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul and Pentecost Sunday.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. They then went out to teach the message of the Resurrected Christ and in so doing the Christian Church came into existence.

The Orthros Gospel for the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul is from John 21:14-25. In this passage we hear our Lord ask Peter three times: “Do you love me?” And three times, Peter answers: “Yes Lord, You know that I love you.” And three times, Jesus tells Peter “Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep.”

This gospel passage has a very important teachings for us. Jesus asks a question very simply and very clearly. A question which each one us must also answer....and the question is.....*“Do you love me?”* Everything, in the Christian life, comes down to this question. Can we answer, like Peter, *“Yes Lord, you know that I love You?”* And if we answer, *Yes Lord, You know that I love You*, would our actions, words and way of life day in and day out substantiate the claim or would our words be untrue lies?

During the upcoming Apostles Fast period, let us carefully examine our lives and determine if we truly love the Lord. If we discover that we merely say with words that we love the Lord, but do not put these words into action, let us make the necessary changes in our lives so that our words and actions show that we truly Love the Lord. Let us never forget that Jesus taught us to “Love the Lord our God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:37 & 38

Schedule of Services for June

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am June 3 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am June 10 with Fr Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am June 17 with Fr Ezekiel
Saturday Vespers Service at 6:00 pm June 23 with Fr Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 pm June 24 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.

Special Parish General Assembly Meeting, June 3 . . . There will be a special general parish meeting scheduled for Sunday June 3 following Divine Liturgy. The only topic to be discussed will be removal of the bell tower and installation of the cross on top of the church.

Church Yard Sale June 8 & 9 . . . Ladies of the Agape will host our annual yard sale on Saturday June 9 from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon. Friday, June 8 will be used to set up and price all items. It is important that volunteers come on Friday to help with the set up and pricing of the items, and for volunteers to help on Saturday also. Point of contact is Nancy Malek 228-265-1411 or Karen Henderson 504-296-2160.

Father's Day – June 17. . . 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, Karen Komenko June 8, Pat Portaritis June 14, Marc Beddoe June 16, 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.

Parish General Assembly Meeting, June 17 . . . There will be a Parish General Assembly Meeting scheduled for Sunday June 17 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.

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.

Church Thanks . . . Many thanks to all who helped and volunteered their time and effort through out the month of May. 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.

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 Nosser, Tom Portaritis, Melissa Schwartz, George Vaporis, Elizabeth and Katerina Vamvakas, and Sheila Hemenway-Yurchak. 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 invites every parishioner to host a fellowship hour after Sunday Liturgy. 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 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 May 31. 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 Virvillis
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

