



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



Reflections from Fr James Rousakis

How many activities are there in your life that do nothing but drain your energy? We are perhaps the busiest and most active people in the world. Have we ever stopped to ask ourselves what we are busy about? I think not! One can be busy about one thing to the neglect of another which is actually more important. To keep the vine from wasting all its on leaves and dead wood, the vinedresser prunes away the unnecessary branches. The vinedresser is the Lord, if we only let Him do His thing in our lives. During the spring time, if I don't prune my crape myrtles and fig tree, there will be no flowers or figs to enjoy. If our many activities as Orthodox Christians keep us from our vital source of contact with Christ, or if they absorb all the energy that should be channeled to more important things, then we need to prune them away. We must keep only those branches of our life-tree that bear fruit for God and man: "You must love God with all your heart and mind and your neighbor as yourself," are the words of Christ to us.

Summer activities should not and must not become our excuse for not attending Church! If we, in the thousands of hours we have to ourselves for summer recreation, cannot set an hour or two aside in order to refuel our spiritual life by going to Church, then we need more pruning that meets the eye. Before you become victims to your summer activities, or in-activities, please open your New Testament to the Gospel of St. Luke 14:16-24. When it comes to finding excuses, man has mastered the art. I extend to you an invitation to climb the spiritual mountain and to be at the Lord's banquet on Sunday. If you lose your footing during the climb, the Lord will be there to extend His helping hand so you will blossom in His name. Enjoy the summer!

Schedule of Services for July

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am July 1 with Fr Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am July 8 with Fr Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am July 15 with Fr Dean
Saturday Vespers Service at 6:00 pm July 21 with Fr Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am June 22 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am July 29 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.*

***Please remember to allow the children to receive Communion first.
Please join us for Fellowship Hour in our Social Hall after Liturgy.***

Kyriake the Great Martyr, July 7. . . Saint Kyriake was the daughter of Christian parents, Dorotheus and Eusebia. She was given her name because she was born on Sunday, the day of the Lord (in Greek, Kyriake). She contested in Nicomedia during the reign of Diocletian, in the year 300. After many bitter torments she was condemned to suffer beheading, but being granted time to pray first, she made her prayer and gave up her holy soul in peace.

The Great Martyr Panteleimonon, July 27th . . . This Saint, who had Nicomedia as his homeland, was the son of Eustorgius and Eubula. His father was an idolater, but his mother was a Christian from her ancestors. It was through her that he was instructed in piety, and still later, he was catechized in the Faith of Christ by Saint Hermolaus (see July 26) and baptized by him. Being proficient in the physician's vocation, he practiced it in a philanthropic manner, healing every illness more by the grace of Christ than by medicines. Thus, although his parents had named him Pantoleon ("in all things a lion"), because of the compassion he showed for the souls and bodies of all, he was worthily renamed Panteleimon, meaning "all-merciful." On one occasion, when he restored the sight of a certain blind man by calling on the Divine Name, he enlightened also the eyes of this man's soul to the knowledge of the truth. This also became the cause for the martyrdom of him who had been blind, since when he was asked by whom and in what manner his eyes had been opened, in imitation of that blind man of the Gospel he confessed with boldness both who the physician was and the manner of his healing. For this he was put to death immediately. Panteleimon was arrested also, and having endured many wounds, he was finally beheaded in the year 305, during the reign of Maximian. Saint Panteleimon is one of the Holy Unmercenaries, and is held in special honor among them, even as Saint George is among the Martyrs.

Parish General Assembly Meeting, July 15 . . . There will be a Parish General Assembly Meeting scheduled for Sunday July 15 following Divine Liturgy. Financial reports will be provided. Stewardship will be discussed. 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 and other things. 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 June to vote.

Disability Connection: Cultural Heritage Program, July 16 . . . Holy Trinity will be participating in Disability Connection's Cultural Heritage Program which reflects the multi-ethnic makeup of the lower six counties. As a matter of fact they have advised that our annual International Christmas Festival is the largest heritage celebration/cultural event. George Yurchak has provided them pictures from our International Christmas Festivals and will be meeting with Walt Grayson of Mississippi Roads on Monday July 16 to go over our multi-ethnic makeup.

Libraries Rock July 19 . . . Holy Trinity will continue participating in the Mississippi Gulf Coast Libraries Summer Program on Thursday July 19 from 9:30 – 11:30 am at the Gulfport Library in downtown Gulfport. We will set up our Greek, Russian and Romanian display tables at 9:30 am with our Greek (Gulf Coast Hellenic Dancers) and Ukrainian ethnic folk dancing starting at 10:30 am. And we will have musicians playing bagpipes, drum, harp, flute, etc. We have enjoyed helping the libraries with their Libraries Rock Program which features ethnic music and dance. The kids have really enjoyed us as well as learning the Greek dance.

Happy Name Day in July . . . Kyraiki, July 7, Marina, July 17, Elias, July 20 and Panteleimonon, July 27.

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, but we still need volunteers in the future.

July Birthdays . . . Happy Birthday! Many Years! Adriana Boloni July 4th, Marina Lucangeli July 5th, Chysanthi & Richard Beach July 6th, Korina Bodisch, Sophia Beddoe & Brandi Donohoe, July 8th, Stephen Collins July 10th, George Vaporis and Dan Cerempei July 14th, Katarina Vamvakas and Darya Borst July 18th, John Collins July 20th, Lisa Taylor July 25th, Stratos Mandas July 27th, Greg Wawryszcuk July 29th.

July Anniversaries . . . Happy Anniversary to George & Sheila Yurchak July 12, and Cristian & Meri Ionescu July 19.. May God grant you many more years together.

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 throughout the month of June. 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. 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 June 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 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 Collin