



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

From Father Alexander Leong

On September 1st, we begin the New Ecclesiastical Year. We must wonder why we celebrate this new beginning on this appointed day. Vincent Gabriel answers this question most adequately in a “blog” from Ancient Faith Radio entitled “Why Orthodox Christians Celebrate the New Year on the First of September. Here is what the celebration of the Ecclesiastical New Year is in a “nutshell.” In Vincent Gabriel’s conclusion to the blog, he writes:

“Our Church Year begins and ends with the life of Mary. The Nativity of Mary is the first Great Feast of the year, while her Dormition or “falling asleep” is the last. In this cycle we see the Incarnation of the God-man Jesus Christ at the heart of our story as God’s people.

The Ecclesiastical New Year serves as the crux for our entire liturgical life each and every year.

We say goodbye to the old and welcome the new. We give thanks for what the Lord has done and petition His loving-kindness and protection for the days yet to come. We take a moment to consider our impact on the world around us and whether our actions proceed from hearts of selfishness or hearts of compassion.

This a feast day that points to the very core of Christ’s message of true, Christian spirituality: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Prayers for blessings seen and unseen, fasting for the sake of the world and our own mortification, and almsgiving for the care of others. Self-sacrifice and promise, beauty and self-restraint. So pop open a bottle of champagne and bring your petitions to the Lord. It is the start of a new year.”

I pray that this information is helpful in your understand of this Great Feast . I wish all of you a prosperous and great beginning.

Schedule of Services

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 2 with Fr Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 9 with Fr Dean
Saturday Vesper Service at 6:00 pm on September 15 with Fr. Ezekiel
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 16 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 23 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 30, 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 & Sacraments

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

September 1st is the beginning of the Ecclesiastical year in the Orthodox Church.

To the present day, the Church has always celebrated the beginning of the New Year on September 1. This was the custom in Constantinople until its fall in 1453 and in Russia until the reign of Peter I. September 1 is still festively celebrated as the New Year at the Patriarchate of Constantinople; among the Jews also the New Year, although reckoned according to a moveable calendar, usually falls in September.

Elevation of the Cross, September 14th. . . Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

Community Christmas Card 2018 . . . Chrisanthi Beach is in charge of the Christmas card this year. We encourage you to be part of the community Christmas card. Please provide a donation to Chrisanthi to have your name included on the card. We do not

specify an amount, but average donations are between \$10-20. Please get your donations done early. The deadline is December 3.

Prayer Service/Study Group, Wednesday, September 5 & 19 . . . We will be starting up a Lay Prayer Service at 5:30 pm, followed by our new book study at 6:00 pm led by Nancy Malek. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Yarmarka 2018 September 8 . . . South Alabama Russian speaking community will present their 3rd annual festival at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Mobile, AL on Saturday, September 8, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Holy Trinity's Ukrainian Folk dancers, George & Sheila Yurchak will perform. Please come to support the Russian community in Mobile.

Ladies of the Agape Sunday September 9, Grandparents Day Luncheon . . . Ladies of Agape will prepare a luncheon in honor of Grandparents Day on Sunday, September 9, 2018.

International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale, December 8 . . . all parishioners are encouraged to help their church for the International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale this coming December 8. 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 will run from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Nick Trivelas, Megan Jensen, Joann Kartsionis will be playing music and singing at our festival this year.

We will again have the Victory Belles from the National WWII Museum in NOLA to do three performances. The Georgian Dance Ensemble from New York, and the Greek Kefi Dancers from Birmingham will perform their native folk dances for entertainment. We also have Holy Trinity Greek, Russian and Ukrainian dancers perform folk dances.

Traditional foods will be provided from 12 countries and pastries from some of the countries. A complete menu will be available by the end of September. For further information contact George or Sheila Yurchak at georgeyurchak@yahoo.com or 228-860-3376 or 228-297-0526.

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. 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 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 – 228-860-3376 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.

September Birthdays . . . Happy Birthday to Gus Ravanos-Sep 5, Eleni Michailo-Sep 7, Ruthie Beach & Maria Koskan-Sep 11, Leah Sommers & Melissa Schwartz-Sep 12, Fr. Ezekiel-Sep 13, Adrianna Vaporis-Sep 15, Helen Cardaciotto-Sep 17, Anastasia Lawson-Sep 19, Presvytera Joanie Mayenick-Sep 20, Fr Paul Mayernick-Sep 22, George Contas-Sep 27, and Eva Magiros-Sep 30. If we missed your birthday it means we don't have your info. Let us know. We love to recognize you on this wonderful day.

Happy Anniversary . . . If you have a September anniversary, please let us know. May God grant you many for more years together.

Get Well . . . Prayers and blessings to Fr Jim Karagas, Tom Portaritis, Karen Bridges, Elizabeth Vamvakas, Katerina Vanvakas, Alan Koskan, Photine and Angelo Hagicostas, George Vaporis, Lela & Mitch Roberts, Nikki Arnold, Nancy Malek, and Virginia Freeman. 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 provide these items as a service to our parishioners and mark up the price we pay by only 10%. This allows Holy Trinity a small margin of fundraising profit and allows our parishioners the convenience of shopping at church.

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 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 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 August 31. Holy Trinity has received forty-one pledges totaling \$35,545 from the following:

Chrisanthi Beach	Angelo & Photine Hagicostas	Louis & Linda Peters
Mike Bodisch	Craig & Karen Henderson	Nataliya Petrovska
Caleb Bridges	Elen Ifantis	Tom & Pat Portaritis
Rodney & Karen Bridges	Cristian & Meri Ionescu	Melissa Schwartz
Robert Brouillette III	Mihail Kastrinos	Jerry Strickland
John & Donna Collins	Chrisie Soula Kiessling	Leah Summers
Steve & CoCo Collins	Karen Kohl	Lisa Taylor
Nicoletta Conner	Karen Komenko	Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas
George Contas	John & Cornelia Koniditsiotis	Katerina Vamvakas
John Demetrakopoulos	Allen & Irene Koskan	George Vaporis
Bernie & Callie DeSantis	Al & Kathy Lawson	Eleni Vganges
Hugh & Brandi Donohoe	Maria & Peter Loukatos	Spiro Vganges
Norman & Shelby Foskey	Rena Lohrbach	Dimitrius & Stamatina Virvillis
Terry & Julia Foskey	Eva Magiros	Costa Vlahos
Virginia Freeman	Karl & Nancy Malek	Demetri Vlahos
Natalya Gray	Kyriaki Jessie Martin	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



The Victory Belles
From The National WWII Museum



Georgian Dance Ensemble
of New York
(pictured with
The Victory Belles)



International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale

Free Pictures & Hot Chocolate with Santa
Eastern European & Greek Food & Pastries
Marketplace Gifts, Fun Family Activities
Live Music & Dancing, Church Tours
Saturday, December 8, 2018
10:00 am – 5:00 pm – *Free Admission!!!*
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
255 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi MS 39531
228-860-3376 holytrinitybiloxi.org

We Honor Our Military and Our Blue!



Nick Trivelas
Joanna & Megan
Greek Music and Songs



Kefi Dancers
from Birmingham AL



Oksana Kozhanova
Russian Ballet Master



Gulf Coast
Hellenic Dancers
& Ukrainian
Dancers

Saturday December 8, 2018

10 am - 5 pm

Save the Date!