



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Metropolis of Atlanta

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

255 Beauvoir Rd., Biloxi, MS 39531

P.O. Box 8534, Biloxi, MS 39535

(228) 388-6138

www.holytrinitybiloxi.org

October 2018 Bulletin



From Father Dean

If someone asks you if you are a Christian, how would you answer?

Perhaps you would reply, I am a Christian because I acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God. Or perhaps you would reply, I am a Christian because I have been baptized and I am a member of the church and worship regularly and receive the sacraments.

These are good definitions, but they are not complete because they have left out the single most important thing about being a true Christian. The true Christian is the one in whom Christ lives. St. Paul said it this way, "It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me." In John 15:5 Jesus said, "I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who lives in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

God in us, is the very essence of Christianity. In fact St. Paul's favorite expression is the phrase "in Christ." He uses it 164 times in his letters to express the closeness of his union with Christ. To this day, we use the phrase "in Christ".

How do we know if we have really committed our whole life to Christ? How do we know if God is in us?

We know God is in us when we are overlooked, forgotten, or neglected, and our hearts continue to be a peace.

We know God is in us when our wishes are crossed, our suggestions are ignored and our advice ridiculed, and we continue to be patient and loving.

We know God is in us when we overcome difficulties and when we successfully meet adversity.

We know God is in us when we return good for evil and when we forgive and turn the other cheek.

We know God is in us when we see and speak only good of others.

We know God is in us when we help others, when we go the extra mile and when we do more than is expected.

We know God is in us when we speak the truth, but more importantly when we live the truth.

How many of these are a part of your life? Have you committed your whole life to Christ? Is God in you? Does God dwell in you? Are you a temple of the living God? Does the light of faith shine in you? Can you say with St. Paul, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me?

If you answered yes, you are enjoying an abundant life filled with joy, peace and love.

If you answered no to any of these questions, then you need to examine your life, make changes and make the decision to commit your whole life to Christ before it is too late.

We are called upon to be “lights in the world” demonstrating our faith through stewardship, acts of mercy, and sacramental participation. Christ is counting on us, you and me, to witness to everyone in words and actions the message of salvation that Christ offers. Can he depend on us?

Schedule of Services

Matins (Orthos) will be at 9:30 every Sunday

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on October 7 with Fr Ezekiel

Saturday Vespers Service at 6:00 pm on October 13 with Fr Ezekiel

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on October 14 with Fr Ezekiel

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on October 21 with Fr Ezekiel

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on October 28 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.



Luke the Evangelist, October 18th This Apostle was an Antiochean, a physician by trade, and a disciple and companion of Paul. He wrote his Gospel in Greek after Matthew and Mark, after which he wrote the Acts of the Apostles, and dedicated both works to Theophilus, who, according to some, was Governor of Achaia. He lived some eighty-six years and died in Achaia, perhaps in Patras, the capital of this district. His emblem is the calf, the third symbolical beast mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), which is a symbol of Christ's sacrificial and priestly office, as Saint Irenaeus says.



James (Iakovos) the Apostle, brother of Our Lord, October 23rd According to some, this Saint was a son of Joseph the Betrothed, born of the wife that the latter had before he was betrothed to the Ever-virgin. Hence he was the brother of the Lord, Who was also thought to be the son of Joseph (Matt. 13: 55). He was still called, according to the idiom of the Scriptures, the Lord's brother because of their kinship. This Iakovos is called the Less (Mark 15:4) by the Evangelists to distinguish him from Iakovos, the son of Zebedee, who was called the

Great. Having ascended the crest of the Temple on the day of the Passover at the prompting of all, he bore testimony from there concerning his belief in Jesus, and he proclaimed with a great voice that Jesus sits at the right hand of the great power of God and shall come again upon the clouds of heaven. On hearing this testimony, many of those present cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David." But the Scribes and Pharisees cried, "So, even the just one hath been led astray," and at the command of Ananias the high priest, the Apostle was cast down headlong from thence, then was stoned, and while he prayed for his slayers, his head was crushed by the wooden club wielded by a certain scribe.

The Holy Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-streamer, October 26th

Saint Demetrius was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of pious and noble parents, and a teacher of the Faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessalonica in 290, he raised the Saint to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. But when it was discovered that the Saint was a Christian, he was arrested and kept bound in a bath-house. While the games were under way in the city, Maximian was a spectator there. A certain friend of his, a barbarian who was a notable wrestler, Lyaeus by name, waxing haughty because of the height and strength of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought with him were defeated. Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, acquaintance of Demetrius', came to the Saint in the bath-house and asked his blessing to fight Lyaeus single-handed. Receiving this blessing and sealing himself with the sign of the precious Cross, he presented himself in the stadium, and said, "O God of Demetrius, help me!" and straightway he engaged Lyaeus in combat and smote him with a mortal blow to the heart, leaving the former boaster lifeless upon the earth. Maximian was sorely grieved over this, and when he learned who was the cause of this defeat, he commanded straightway and Demetrius was pierced with lances while he was yet in the bath-house, As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword.



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 2.

Parish General Assembly Meeting, October 28 . . . Please put this on your calendar. We have four items to discuss – nomination of members for the Parish Council, nominations for the audit committee, amending the Parish Bylaws regarding finances, and a quick update on the Christmas Festival and Pastry Sale. Please insure you are up to date on your stewardship pledge in order to vote. Our treasurer will email a list of those who are current, and also post on our bulletin board.

Mobile Greek Festival, October 18, 19, & 20 . . . Come out and support Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church's Greek Festival on October 18, 19, & 20. Enjoy delicious Greek food, pastries, music, dances, and lots of good fellowship. For info go to www.greekfestmobile.org.

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 9. ***Please do not plan any vacations for this date, if possible, 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 has many changes: The event will run from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. It will not start at 9:00 am as in the past. Nick Trivelas will be playing music at our festival this year. His daughter, Megan Jensen of the Greek band "The Aegeans" will sing and be on keyboards. Joanna Kartsonis-Nixon from the Greek band "A Night in Athens" will also sing. We will have the Victory Belles from the National WWII Museum in NOLA do three performances. We also have the Georgian Dance Ensemble from NYC performing their traditional folk dances. The Kefi Dancers from Birmingham AL will be performing Greek dances. Russian Ballet Master Oksana Kozhanova will perform a ballet from Swan Lake. Our Gulf Coast Hellenic Dancers will perform Greek folk dances. The Ukrainian duo will perform folk dances. Free pictures with Santa for the kids and plenty of free kids activities. Traditional foods will be provided from 12 countries and pastries from some of the countries. As of October 1, all information on the festival and pastry sale is available on our website holytrinitybiloxi.org. For further information contact George or Sheila Yurchak at georgeyurchak@yahoo.com or 228-860-3376 or 297-0526.

Fellowship Hour After Liturgy . . . Holy Trinity encourages our parishioners to sign up to host a fellowship hour after Sunday Liturgy. Thanks to everyone who has donated their delicious foods while hosting fellowship hour. Please continue to volunteer whenever you can. We all appreciate your generosity.

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.

October Birthdays . . . Louie Peters and Nikol Michailos-Oct 4, Nina Gestring- Oct 6, Elizabeth Vamvakas-Oct 8, Jessie Mavromihalis-Martin-Oct 9, Cristian Aron-Oct 10, George Yurchak-Oct 11, Natalya Gray-Oct 16, Liliana Aron-Oct 17, John Pappas-Oct 19, Christopher Mavromihalis-Oct 22. If we missed your birthday, apologies

October Anniversaries . . . Congratulations to Aaron and Christina Mohler on their 7th wedding anniversary (October 15). Congratulations to CoCo and Steve Collins on their 40th wedding anniversary (October 31). We wish you many, many more years of wedded bliss.

Get Well . . . Prayers and blessings to Fr Jim Karagas, Karen Bridges, Nancy Malek, Elizabeth Vamvakas, Katerina Vamvakas, Photine and Angelo Hagicostas, George Vaporis, Lela & Mitch Roberts, Nikki Arnold, Virginia Freeman, and Tom Portaritis. 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 a whole bunch of new 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 are 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 (Stewardship Chairman), George Yurchak (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 September 30. Holy Trinity has received pledges totaling \$36,045 from the following Parishioners:

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
Maria & Peter Loukatos
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



The Victory Belles
From The National WWII Museum



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



Oksana Kozhanova
Russian Ballet Master



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



Gulf Coast
Hellenic Dancers
& Ukrainian
Dancers

Saturday December 8, 2018

10 am - 5 pm

Save the Date!