



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Metropolis of Atlanta  
**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**  
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**February 2019 Bulletin**



## **From Fr Dean**

I recently saw the following article by an unknown author. As the church begins preparing us for our 2019 spiritual journey to Holy Week, perhaps this article will help us make this year's journey fruitful.

“One day, I woke up early in the morning to watch a sunrise. The beauty of God's creation is beyond descriptions. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. As I sat there, I felt the Lord's presence with me. He asked me, Do you love me? I answered, of course, God! You are my Lord and Savior! Then He asked, if you were physically handicapped, would you still love me? I looked down upon my arms, legs and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I wouldn't be able to do, all the things that I took for granted. And I answered, it would be tough Lord, but I would still love you.

Then the Lord said if you were blind, would you still love my creation? How could I love something without being able to see it? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still loved God and His creation. So I answered, it's hard to think of it, but I would still love You.

The Lord then asked me, if you were deaf would you still listen to my word? How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, it would be tough but I would still listen to Your word.

Then the Lord asked if you were mute, would you still praise My Name? How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me. God wants us to sing from our very heart and soul. It never matters what we sound like. So I answered, though I could not physically sing, I would still praise Your name.

Then the Lord asked, do you really love me? With courage and strong conviction, I answered boldly, yes Lord! I love You because you are the One and True God. I thought I had answered well, but then God asked, then why do you sin? I answered, because I am only human. I am not perfect. Then why in times of peace do you stray the furthest? Why only in times of trouble do you pray? I had no answer, only tears. The Lord continued, why sing only in church, why seek Me only in times of worship, why ask things so selfishly and unfaithfully? Why are you ashamed of me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why do you make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in my name? You are blessed with life. I have blessed you with talents to serve me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed my word to you, but you do not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you, but your ears are closed. I

have shown you my blessings, but your eyes are turned away. Then the Lord asked me again, DO YOU TRULY LOVE ME?

I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say? Then my heart cried out and the tears flowed and I said, Please forgive me Lord. I am unworthy to be Your child. Why do you continue to forgive me? Why do you love me so?

The Lord answered, because you are My creation. You are my child, I will never abandon you. When you cry, I cry with you. When you shout with joy and laugh, I rejoice and laugh with you. When you are down, I encourage you. When you fall, I raise you up. When you are tired, I carry you. With tears in my eyes, I asked God, How much do you love me? The Lord said nothing, but only stretched out His arms and I saw His nail-pierced hands.”

May we all come to realize how much God loves us and commit our whole life to Him.

### **Schedule of Services**

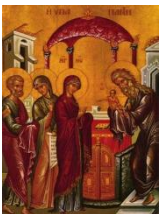
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Feb 3 with Fr. Dean  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Feb 10 with Fr. Dean  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Feb 17 with Fr. Dean  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Feb 24 with Fr. Dean

### **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*



### **Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple – February 2nd**

When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on this, the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke 2:22-24; Exodus. 13:2; Lev. 12:6-8). On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Symeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that

he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. Thus, when he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God, singing: "Now let us Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master . . ." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke 2:25-32). From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of the reading of prayers of purification.

**Souper Bowl Sunday February 3 . . .** February 3 will be "Souper" Bowl Sunday and the Youth of Holy Trinity will be taking a collection for Kids-Make-A-Wish Mississippi. We ask that all parishioners bring a non-perishable food item and dry bags of pet food and a small monetary contribution to Liturgy on Sunday, February 3. The non-perishable food items will go to a local food bank or soup kitchen. The pet food items will go to the Humane Society of South Mississippi. The monetary contribution will go to Kids-Make-A-Wish Mississippi, a charity that supports terminally ill youth.

**World Marriage Day, February 10 . . .** Holy Trinity will celebrate World Marriage Day with a special fellowship luncheon. This will honor husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice, and joy in daily life

**Malama Thrasivoulou Celebrates 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday, February 17 . . .** There will be a special Fellowship Hour this day as we will honor Malama Thrasivoulou, Maria Loukatos's mother, as we help her celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. Fr Dean had a birthday February 15<sup>th</sup> and we will also celebrate his birthday. Please attend Divine Liturgy and this birthday celebration on February 17 for these two special people.

**General Assembly Meeting, Sunday February 24. . .** At the General Assembly we will bring everyone up to date on business from 2018 and a look ahead into activities in 2019. Treasurer's report will also be provided along with a Stewardship update. Also, there will be a briefing by the Audit Committee and to address Wind Insurance for the church.

**Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) Cultural Day, February 25 . . . .** Holy Trinity will support AFRH 's Cultural Day on Feb. 25 at 2:30. The Gulf Coast Hellenic Dancers and the Ukrainian Dancers will provide entertainment. Additionally we will provide Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Belarusian, Moldovan, Uzbekistani, Kazakhstani and Georgian display tables that showcase unique Orthodox heritage. We will also have Steve Collins and Eyler Coates play the bagpipes and Eyler the harp as well as Tamara Manley and Larisa Levaugh singing Russian.

**2019 Church Calendars . . .** 2019 Church Calendars are available in the Church Narthex. They were donated by Nataliya Molsbee in memory of her loved ones.

**February Birthdays . . .** Happy Birthday to Kathy Grindstaff – Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, Kristin Beddoe – Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, John Peters – Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Dean – Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, Malama Thrasivoulou – Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, Nataliya Molsbee – Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, John Michailos – Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, George Trigas – Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, Kally Vlahos and Jessie Beddoe – Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. If we don't have your birthday or we missed you, please contact Sheila Yurchak at 228-297-0526 or [georgeyurchak@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeyurchak@yahoo.com).

**Anniversaries for February. . .** Rodney and Karen Bridges celebrate their 4<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on Feb 1. Louis and Linda Peters will celebrate their 41<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Feb. 19. If anyone else has an anniversary in February, please let Sheila Yurchak know so we can recognize your anniversary. And may God Grant you many, many years.

**Church Thanks . . .** Thanks to all those who have given their time and talents in helping out at Holy Trinity throughout the year. Your time and help contributes significantly in welcoming new parishioners, keeping up the church/grounds and keeping the church available for all Orthodox to attend. Thanks again to those generous parishioners who have brought their special food items for our after Liturgy social hour.



Many thanks to Eleni Vganges, Virginia Freeman, and Nancy Malek for making the Prosforo. Thanks to George & Sheila Yurchak for putting together our Bulletin and Newsletter each month. Our sincere appreciation goes out to Fr Dean for driving from Mobile on Sundays and all the other days for special events.

**Get Well . . .** Prayers and blessings to Fr Jim Karagas, Karen Bridges, Elizabeth Vamvakas, Photine and Angelo Hagicostas, George Vaporis, Lela & Mitch Roberts, Nancy Malek, Virginia Freeman, Tom Portaritis, Katerina Vamvakas and Nikki Arnold. 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.

### **Religious Education**

Fr Dean will continue the 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, etc. 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](mailto:georgeyurchak@yahoo.com).

## **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 2019. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church wants to have all pledges in as soon as possible but no later than January 31 and 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 2019. 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. We will be mailing you a stewardship form in the event you are unable to come to church. Please take a few minutes to fill out the pledge form and submit it to Craig Henderson (Stewardship Chairman), George Yurchak (Vice President, Parish Council) or Rodney Bridges (Treasurer, Parish Council).

### **HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH STEWARDS FOR 2019**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the 2019 Stewardship Program as of January 31. Stewardship family is forty and total stewardship is \$34,264.

Chrisanthi Beach  
Mike Bodisch  
Caleb Bridges  
Rodney & Karen Bridges  
Robert Brouillette III  
John & Donna Collins  
Steve & CoCo Collins  
Nicoletta Conner  
George Contas  
John Demetrakopoulos  
Hugh & Brandi Donohoe  
Virginia Freeman  
Natalya Gray  
Angelo & Photine Hagicostas

Craig & Karen Henderson  
Cristian & Meri Ionescu  
Mihail Kastrinos  
Chrisie Soula Kiessling  
John & Cornelia Koniditsiotis  
Irene Koskan  
Al & Kathy Lawson  
George & Christina Loukatos  
Maria & Peter Loukatos  
Rena Lohrbach  
Eva Magiros  
Karl & Nancy Malek  
Sam Markopulos  
Louis & Linda Peters

Nataliya Petrovska Kirby  
Tom & Pat Portaritis  
Melissa Schwartz  
Jerry Strickland  
Malama Thrasivoulou  
Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas  
Katerina Vamvakas  
George Vaporis  
Eleni Vganges  
Spiro Vganges  
Kosta Vlahos  
Demetri Vlahos  
George & Sheila Yurchak

## **Church Directory**

### **Liturgical Services**

Sundays – Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

### **Church Clergy**

Rev. Fr. Dean Gigicos

**Chanters** – Angelos Vamvakas, Rodney Bridges, Hugh Donohoe, Luke Pappas, Haylie & Ryan Wal-drop,

CoCo Collins, Katerina Vamvakas

### **2018 Parish Council**

President – George Yurchak

Vice President – Craig Henderson

Treasurer – Rodney Bridges

Alternate Treasurer – Donna Collins

Secretary – Brandi Donohoe

**Librarian** Hugh Donohoe, Brandi Donohoe

**Historian** Brandi Donohoe, Akaterina Vamvakas

### **Facilities**

Chair – Craig Henderson

Cristian Ionescu

### **Youth Education & Culture Committee**

Chair – George Yurchak

**Greek Culture** Chair – Maria Loukatos

**Ukrainian Culture** Chair – Nataliya Petrovska Kirby

**Romanian Culture** Chair – Meri Ionescu

**Moldovan Culture** Chair – Alexandru Tulburi

**Russian Culture** Chair – George Yurchak

**Kazakhstan Culture** Chair - Natalya Gray

### **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**

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 – Meri Ionescu

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

Web Master – Steve Collins

Pastoral Assistant – Craig Henderson, Caleb Bridges

Altar Boys – Joseph Lawson

Society of Wisdom – George Vaporis

Strategic Planning – Chair, CoCo Collins

Greek Dance Instruction – Steve & CoCo Collins