



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Metropolis of Atlanta

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

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March 2019 Bulletin



From Fr. Dean

We are about to once again embark on the spiritual journey of Great Lent. Great Lent is the Church's sacred season that spiritually prepares us to be **participants** and not merely *observers* of the Great Feast of Pascha when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On that day, we will joyfully proclaim that "Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling death with death and granting life to those in the tombs."

To proclaim those words from the depth of our soul and not only with our lips, we must prepare ourselves spiritually. Our Holy Orthodox Christian Church wisely helps prepare us with a season known as Great Lent. When we mention Great Lent, the thought of many goes to what we can eat and what we can't eat. Great Lent is much more than food.

In one of St. John Chrysostom's homilies, he writes: "The value of fasting consists not in abstinence only from food, but in a relinquishment of sinful practices. Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works. If you see a poor man, take pity on him. If you see a friend enjoying honor, envy him not. Let not the mouth only fast, but also the eyes, the ears, the feet, the hands, and all members of our bodies. Let the hands fast by being pure from avarice. Let the feet fast by ceasing from running to forbidden spectacles. Let the eyes fast by being taught never to fix themselves rudely upon handsome countenances. The fasting of the ear is not to receive evil speaking and calumnies. Let also the mouth fast from foul words."

During Great Lent, we must also give greater attention to prayer, both private and public. Make the commitment to not only attend but to truly participate in the special services of Great Lent and Holy Week. Give more attention to Christian living! Seek forgiveness from God and others. All of the above will guide us to the path that leads to our Lord and Savior, to an abundant life now and eternal life in the Kingdom to come. As we travel on this 2019 Spiritual Journey of Great Lent, let us also make the prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian a part of daily prayers.

"O Lord and Master of my life, deliver me the spirit of indolence, meddling, vain ambition, and idle talk. Grant to me, Your servant, the spirit of prudence, humility, patience, and love. Yea, Lord and King, grant me, that I may see my own faults, and not to judge my brother. For You are blessed unto the ages of ages. Amen."

St Paul stated that “You are not your own, you are bought with a price.” During Great Lent, we are reminded of what that price was: the physical and spiritual anguish of the Son of God and His crucifixion.

Schedule of Services

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Mar 3 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Mar 10 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Mar 17 with Fr Ernesto
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Mar 24 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on March 31 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.

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Annunciation of the Theotokos - March 25 . . . The biblical story of the Feast of the Annunciation is found in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke (1:26-39). The Archangel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary, who was living in Nazareth, and said to her, “Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you.” Mary was perplexed and wondered what kind of greeting this was. The angel told her not to be afraid, for she had found favor with God. He said, “You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary responded to the angel by asking how this could happen since she had no husband. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit and the power of God would come upon her, and that the child to be born of her would be called holy, the “Son of God.” In faith and obedience to the will of God, Mary replied to the angel, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be according to your word.” Upon her response, the angel departed. It is on the Feast of the Annunciation, that Orthodox Christians commemorate both the divine initiative of God, whereby He took on flesh from the Virgin for our salvation, and the human response, whereby Mary freely accepted the vocation offered to her. *Mary could have refused, for she was not a passive instrument, but an active participant with a free and positive part to play in God’s plan for our salvation. Thus, when on this and*

other feasts the Orthodox Church honors the Theotokos, the Mother of God, it is not just because God chose her but also because she herself chose to follow His will.

International Women's Day – March 10 . . . International Women's Day is officially celebrated on March 8 to honor women of the world. It celebrates the social, economic, and political achievement of women. In honor of this day we are going to give flowers to all the woman of Holy Trinity who attend Sunday service on March 10 and serve luncheon to honor them.

Lay Prayer Service/Book Study , March 6 & 20 . . . Nancy Malek will conduct a lay prayer service and book study from 5:30 – 7:00 on Wednesday, March 6 and 20.

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 ethnics foods. Hosting a fellowship hour makes everyone more a part of the church community



2019 Church Calendars . . . The 2019 Church Calendars are available in the Church Narthex. They were donated by Nataliya Petrovska in memory of Domenika, Alexander, Lidiya, Vladimir, Valeriy, Vitaliy, Antonia, Irina, Nikolay, Tatiyana, Sergey, and Dimitriy.

Birthdays for March . . . Happy Birthday to Virginia Freeman, March 1, Alexandru Tulburi, March 2, Eleftheri Vganges, March 3, Nicholas Gestring, March 4, Angelo Hagicostas, March 7, Jerry Strickland, March 8, Alexander Michailos, March 9, Ken Gestring, March 10, Allan Koskan, Antonio Loucangeli, March 15, Margarita Lopareva, March 17, Dina Craig, March 19, Alexandru Tulburi, Jr., March 26, Yelena Zheletkaya, March 27, and Julia Craig, March 28.

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 and Fr Paul for driving from Florida and Fr Ernesto from Alabama, 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, Tom Portaritis, Katerina Vamvakas,



Nikki Arnold, and Sheila Yurchak. 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 228-831-5820 or 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 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 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 George Yurchak (President, Parish Council) Craig Henderson (Vice-President, Parish Council/Stewardship Chairman), 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 February 22, totaling \$37,070. Holy Trinity has received fifty-seven pledges 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
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 Waldrop, 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

Artist in Residence – Sheila Hemenway

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