

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
September 2019 Bulletin



From Father Dean

We are accustomed to thinking of January 1st as the beginning of the year. But the ancient tradition of computing the start of a new year with the beginning Fall was common. The summer harvest was at an end, the crops were stored, and people prepared for a new agricultural cycle. It was the appropriate time to begin a new year. When you think about it, this tradition still makes a lot of sense. The summer ends, vacations are over, schools open and we all get ready for another new year of activities.

September 1st for Orthodox Christians from the beginning to the present is the beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year. It is the beginning of the cycle of feast days. It is also the beginning of the cycle of hymns of our Orthodox Christian Church. And for us in Biloxi, September 1st marks the beginning of another exciting year of spiritual growth and community activities.

It is a new beginning to grow closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who loves us. It is a new beginning to become an important living part of the Church which is the body of Christ. It is the beginning of many programs we are familiar with and some new ones that are designed to bring us closer to our Lord and closer to each other in Christian fellowship.

The Church New Year offers us the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to our Faith and to recommit ourselves to be active and vital member of His Church. The Church New Year gives us an opportunity as individuals and as a parish to revitalize our energies and reevaluate our priorities to enable us to properly live our Orthodox Christian Faith and to uphold our spiritual and moral ideals. The Church New Year also gives us the opportunity to carry out all the promises of changed lives and commitments each of us makes to God during the year but don't always fulfill. We should all be very grateful that we have a loving and forgiving God Who continuously bestows blessings upon us even though we don't always keep our promises and commitments to Him. The only way to express our gratitude to Him is not with words but with changed lives!

With all these thoughts in mind, let us begin the New Church Year by "committing ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God".

Schedule of Services

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 1 with Fr. Paul Costopoulos
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 8 with Fr. Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 15 with Fr. Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 22 with Fr. Ernesto
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on September 20 with Fr. Dean

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 2019 . . . 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.

Yard Sale September 13-14 . . . Ladies of Agape will hold their annual yard sale on Saturday, September 14 from 9-3pm. Set up day is Friday, September 13, beginning at 9:00am. Please

volunteer to help with this fundraising event. Point of contact is Meri Ionescu, 228-547-0686. Donations are still being accepted and collected. Bring your donations to the church choir loft.

[Special General Assembly, Sunday, September 15](#) . . . There will be a special general assembly on Sunday, September 15 after fellowship hour. We will only address the following: management of church finances, which will be presented by Hugh Donohoe. Please be sure your stewardship pledge is up to date as of August 31.

[Yarmarka 2019 September 28](#) . . . South Alabama Russian speaking community will present their 4th annual multi-cultural festival at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Mobile, AL on Saturday, September 28, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Holy Trinity's Ukrainian Folk dancers, George & Sheila Yurchak will perform in addition, Tamara Manley will sing in Russian. Please come to support the Russian community in Mobile.

[Gifts from God Art Exhibit at Gulfport Galleria extended one month](#) . . . Holy Trinity's talented artists will have their artwork on exhibit for an additional month at the Gulfport Galleria. If you have not seen the amazing talent on display, make an effort to visit the exhibit before it ends at the end of September.

[International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale, December 14](#) . . . all parishioners are encouraged to help their church for the International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale this coming December 14. 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 – 6:00 pm. Nick Trivelas, Megan Jensen will be playing music and singing at our festival this year. Megan Jensen will also be singing songs from “Mama Mia.”

Polina, a 14 year old Ukrainian singer will make her first appearance at the 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 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 in the past, but we still need volunteers in the future.

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, Jeanne Trigas-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, Photine and Angelo Hagicostas, George Vaporis, Lela & Mitch Roberts, Nikki Arnold, Nancy Malek, and Virginia Freeman. 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.

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 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 Craig Henderson (Vice-President and Stewardship Chairman), George Yurchak (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 August 31, totaling \$37,980. Holy Trinity has received sixty pledges from the following:

Chrisanthi Beach
Stavroula 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
Dmitry Guzhvin
Angelo & Photine Hagicostas

Craig & Karen Henderson
Cristian & Meri Ionescu
Mihail Kastrinos
Chrisie Soula Kiessling
John & Cornelia Koniditsiotis
Irene Koskan
Oksana Kozhanova
Al & Kathy Lawson
George & Christina Loukatos
Maria & Peter Loukatos
Rena Lohrbach
Stratos Mandas
Eva Magiros
Carl & Nancy Malek
Sam Markopulos
Charikleia Mavros

George & Janie Mavromihalis
Louis & Linda Peters
Nataliya Petrovska Kirkby
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 – Lead, Angelos Vamvakas,
Rodney Bridges, Hugh Donohoe, Luke Pappas,
Haylie & Ryan Waldrop, CoCo Collins,
Akaterina Vamvakas

Facilities Chair – Craig Henderson, Cristian Ionescu

Youth Education & Culture Committee

Chair – George Yurchak

International Christmas Festival

Chair – George Yurchak

Greek Culture Chair – Maria Loukatos

Ukrainian Culture Chair – Nataliya Petrovska Kirkby

Romanian Culture Chair – Meri Ionescu

Moldovan Culture Chair – Alexandru Tulburi

Russian Culture Chair – George Yurchak

Kazakhstan Culture Chair – Natalya Gray

Czech Republic Culture Chair – Helena Docherty

Parish Ministries

Youth Ministries – George Yurchak

Youth Group Chair – Joseph Lawson

Feed the Hungry – Jerry Strickland, Virginia Freeman,
Nancy Malek

Sunday School – Akaterina Vamvakas

Greek School – Vacant

Russian School – Tamara Manley

Ladies of the Agape Chair – Meri Ionescu

Stewardship Chair – Craig Henderson

Reader – Rodney Bridges, John Collins, CoCo Collins

2019 Parish Council

President – George Yurchak

Vice President – Craig Henderson

Treasurer – Rodney Bridges

Alternate Treasurer – Donna Collins

Secretary – Brandi Donohoe

Safety Officer – George Yurchak

Staff

Librarian Hugh Donohoe, Brandi Donohoe

Historian Brandi Donohoe, Akaterina Vamvakas

Marketplace – Manager, George Yurchak

Purchasing, George Yurchak, George Vaporis
Sales, Chrisanthi Beach, Sheila Yurchak

Kiosk – George Yurchak

Publications Editor – Sheila Hemenway-Yurchak

Artist in Residence – Sheila Hemenway

Cleaning – Chrisanthi Beach, Fanoula Christidis, Virginia
Freeman, Akaterina Vamvakas

Adult Education – George Yurchak

Prayer/Study Group – Nancy Malek

Outreach – George Yurchak, Brandi Donohoe, Akaterina
Vamvakas

Web Master – Steve Collins

Pastoral Assistant – Craig Henderson, Caleb Bridges,
Cristian Ionescu

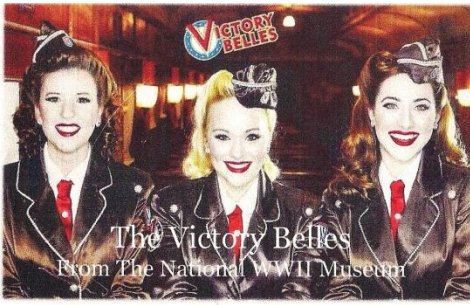
Altar Boys – Joseph Lawson

Society of Wisdom – George Vaporis

Strategic Planning – Chair, CoCo Collins

Greek Dance Instruction – Steve & CoCo Collins

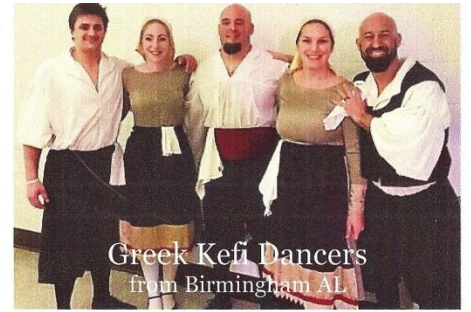
Art Coordinator – Helena Docherty



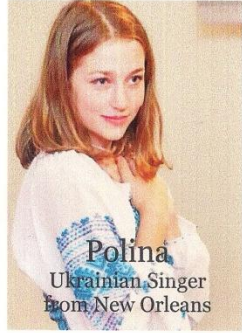
The Victory Belles
From The National WWII Museum



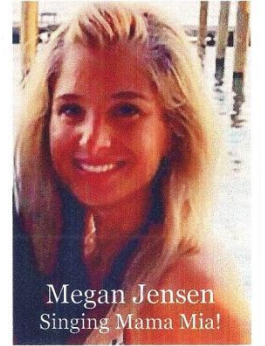
Nick Trivelas & Megan Jensen
Greek Music & Songs



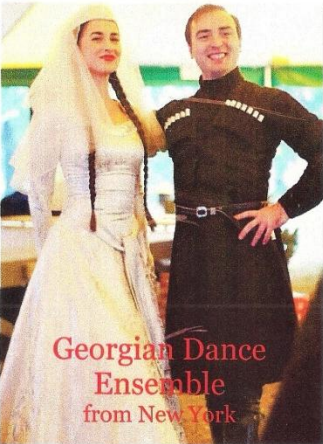
Greek Kefi Dancers
from Birmingham AL



Polina
Ukrainian Singer
from New Orleans



Megan Jensen
Singing Mama Mia!



Georgian Dance
Ensemble
from New York

2019 International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale

Greek Food & Pastries
Eastern European Food & Pastries
Live Entertainment & Dancing
Fun Family Activities
Marketplace Gifts & Church Tours

Saturday, December 14, 2019

10:00 am – 6:00 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!



Gulf Coast Hellenic &
Ukrainian Dancers

Saturday December 14, 2019

10 am – 6 pm

Save the Date!