



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Metropolis of Atlanta
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
255 Beauvoir Rd., Biloxi, MS 39531
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(228) 388-6138
www.holytrinitybiloxi.org
October 2019 Bulletin



From Sasha Turkic

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to share with you an interesting writing from St. Nikolai Velimirovich: Why do we light candles before Icons?

FIRST - because our faith is light. Christ said: "I am the light of the world (John 8:12). The light of the vigil lamp reminds us of that light by which Christ illumines our souls.

SECOND - in order to remind us of the radiant character of the saint before whose icons we light the vigil lamp, for saints are called the sons of light. (John 12:36, Luke 16:18).

THIRD - in order to serve as a reproach to us for our dark deeds, for our evil thoughts and desires, and in order to call us to the path of evangelical light; and so that we would more zealously try to fulfill the commandments of the Savior. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works." (Matthew 5:16)

FOURTH - so that the vigil lamp would be our small sacrifice to God, who gave Himself completely as a sacrifice to us, and as a small sign of our great gratitude and radiant love for Him from Whom we ask in prayer for life, health, salvation and everything that only boundless heavenly love can bestow.

FIFTH - so that terror would strike the evil powers who sometimes assail us even at the time of prayer and lead away our thoughts from the Creator. The evil posers love the darkness and tremble at every light, especially at that which belongs to God and to those who please Him.

SIXTH - so that this light would rouse us to selflessness. Just as the oil and wick (or candle) burn in the vigil lamp submissive to our will, so let our souls burn with the flame of the love in all our sufferings, always being submissive to God's will.

SEVENTH - in order to teach us that just as the vigil lamp cannot be lit without the holy fire of God's grace, even if it were to be filled with all the virtues. All these virtues of ours are, after all combustible material, but the fire which ignites them proceeds from God.

EIGHTH - in order to remind us that before anything else the Creator of the world created light, and after that everything else in order. And, it must be so also at the beginning of our

spiritual life, so that before anything else the light of Christ's truth would shine within us. May the Light of Christ illumine you as well!

NINE - as a remembrance of those who we are praying for. For the good health and healing of the living and for the eternal rest of our departed loved ones who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

"Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light of revelation to the Gentiles, And to be the glory of Your people Israel." Luke 2: 29-32

May God bless you all!

Schedule of Services

Matins (Orthos) will be at 9:30 every Sunday
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on October 6 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on October 13 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on October 20 with Fr Dean
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on October 27 with Fr Dean

Visitors

A warm welcome to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

We are glad to have you worship with us today.

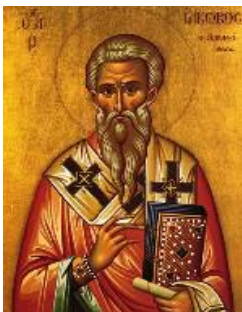
Please join us for Fellowship Hour in our Social Hall after Liturgy.

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.



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 2019 . . . Chrisanthi Beach is in charge of the Christmas card this year. We encourage you to be part of Holy Trinity's 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 Sunday December 1.

Parish General Assembly Meeting, October 27 . . . Please put this on your calendar. We have four items to discuss – nomination of members for the Parish Council, nominations for the audit committee, ceiling repair, 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 17, 18, & 19 . . . Come out and support Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church's Greek Festival on October 17, 18, & 19. 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 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, 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.

The event will run from 10:00 am – 6:00 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. We will have the Victory Belles from the National WWII Museum in NOLA do three performances. We also have the Fesebi Dance Ensemble from NYC performing their traditional Georgian folk dances. The Kefi Dancers from Birmingham AL will be performing Greek dances. Our Gulf Coast Hellenic Dancers will perform Greek folk dances. New this year will be Megan Jensen bringing the songs of Mama Mia to the Festival and a young 14 year old Ukrainian singing sensation Polina will make her debut. 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 13, all information on the festival and pastry sale is available on our website holyltrinitybiloxi.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 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, Kyriaki Mavromihalis-Martin-Oct 9, Cristian Aron-Oct 10, George Yurchak-Oct 11, James Edwards-Oct 13, Natalya Gray-Oct 16, Liliana Aron-Oct 17, Al Lawson-Oct 18, John Pappas-Oct 19, Christopher Mavromihalis-Oct 22. If we missed your birthday, apologies

October Anniversaries . . . Congratulations to Aaron and Christina Mohler on their 8th wedding anniversary (October 15). Congratulations to CoCo and Steve Collins on their 41th 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, and Tom Portaritis. 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 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 2019

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the 2019 Stewardship Program as of September 30, 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 Markopoulos
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

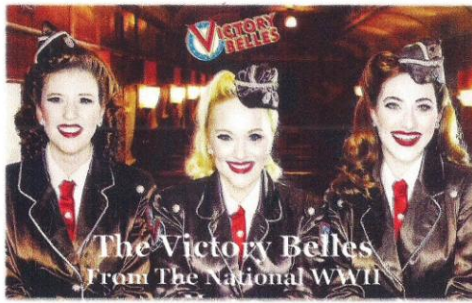
Altar Boys – Joseph Lawson

Society of Wisdom – George Vaporis

Strategic Planning – Chair, CoCo Collins

Greek Dance Instruction – Steve & CoCo Collins

Art Coordinator – Helena Docherty



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!!!

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228-860-3376

holytrinitybiloxi.org

***We Honor Our Military
and Our Blue!***

