



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

November 2019 Bulletin

From Fr. Dean Gigicos

During the month of November, our Holy Orthodox Christian Church celebrates many important feast days.

- 1st - Cosmos and Damian
- 8th - Archangels Michael and Gabriel
- 9th - St. Nectarios the Wonderworker
- 13th - St. John Chrysostom
- 16th - St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist
- 21st - Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple
- 25th - St. Catherine
- 30th - St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle

And we cannot forget that on November 15th, the Nativity Fast in spiritual preparation for Christmas begins.

During November we also celebrate an American holiday...Thanksgiving Day.

From our study of American history, we know that Governor Bradford of Massachusetts told the Pilgrims: "I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye pilgrims gather at ye meeting house on ye hill between the hours of 9 and 1 to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings." The Pilgrims had survived diseases, harvested crops, shot game and now they gave thanks. But people began to forget to give thanks, and soon Thanksgiving faded away.

After the Revolution, as our country was getting started and settled, President George Washington proclaimed: "All should unite in rendering unto God our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country." Great idea, but it was only a few years later before Thomas Jefferson our 3rd president discontinued Thanksgiving Day.

In 1828 Sarah Hale began a campaign to **restore** Thanksgiving as a national holiday. She felt our country should be thankful for what the Lord had given it. For years she went to one official after another and heard over and over that her proposal of a Thanksgiving Day was "impractical" and "impossible". Finally, she met with President Abraham Lincoln. He liked her idea and set aside the 4th Thursday of November to be "National Thanksgiving Day", but Congress did **not** approve it.

It was not until 1941, when our country was involved in World War II, that Congress finally set aside a day of Thanksgiving that is still on today's calendar. I fear however, that the true meaning of the day has been lost and most people view it merely as a holiday from work and school.

Even though this great nation was founded on Judeo-Christian principles, religion today is being persecuted. Prayer has been forbidden in our schools and at most public events. There is a movement to do away with the motto "In God We Trust". It is time for us to stand up and remind everyone on what principles this nation was founded.

We Christians know that true thankfulness cannot be based on the temporary, the transient, the worldly. We Christians know that true thankfulness can only come from an unchanging, always caring God.

This Thanksgiving Day, let us pray for our Country.

This Thanksgiving Day, let us pray for all those in the service of our Country.

This Thanksgiving Day, let us give God our thanks for all He does for us daily.

This Thanksgiving Day, let us give God thanks **not** only for all that we have, but also for all that we do **not** have.

Yes, read correctly...give God thanks even for all that we do **not** have. Be thankful for the accidents we were not involved in, the illnesses that never came and the times we could have fallen, but didn't. Be thankful that when the phone rings in the middle of the night, it is just a wrong number and not someone calling to tell us about a family accident, illness or death.

This Thanksgiving Day, give thanks to God for **all** His blessings.

This Thanksgiving Day, give thanks for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and for the great gift of salvation He offers.

Schedule of Services

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Nov 3 with Fr Dean

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Nov 10 with Fr Dean

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Nov 17 with Fr Dean

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Nov 24 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.



Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & the other Bodiless Powers: Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, & Barachiel - November 8th.

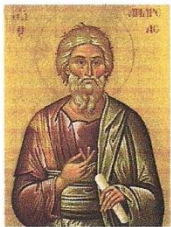
. . . All the Angels, according to the Apostle Paul, are ministering spirits, - sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation - (Heb. 1:14). God set them as overseers of every nation and people, and guides to that which is profitable (Deut. 32:8); and while one

Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. He commands them to guard them that hope on Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Ps. 90:10-12). In the Heavens they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding with Him in our behalf, seeing they rejoice over one sinner that repents (Esaias 6:2-3; Matt. 18:10; Luke 15:7). In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit, that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with the histories thereof. It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Catholic Church, wisely honouring these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today the present Synaxis that is, our coming together in assembly for their common feast to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name. The name Michael means "Who is like God?" and Gabriel means "God is mighty."

Apostle/Evangelist Mathew, - November 16th. . . . This Apostle, who was also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus and had Galilee as his homeland. A publican before being called by Christ, he became one of the Twelve Apostles, and an Evangelist. While still in Palestine, he wrote his Gospel first in Hebrew, being also the first of all to write the Gospel. When he is depicted in icons, there is portrayed next to him the likeness of a man, one of the symbolic living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1.10), which, as Saint Irenaeus writes, is a symbol of our Saviour's Incarnation.



Katherine the Great Martyr of Alexandria - November 25th. . . . Saint Katherine, who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Constatas (or Cestus). She was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste, and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later; the famous monastery of Saint Katherine was originally dedicated to the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord and the Burning Bush, but later was dedicated to Saint Katherine.



Apostle Andrew, First Called - November 30th. . . . This Saint was from Bethsaida of Galilee; he was the son of Jonas and the brother of Peter, the chief of the Apostles. He had first been a disciple of John the Baptist; afterwards, on hearing the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus, when he pointed Him out with his finger and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1.29,36), he straightway followed Christ, and became His first disciple; wherefore he is called the First-called of the Apostles. After the Ascension of the Saviour, he preached in various lands; and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he died in Patras of Achaia, where he was crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X," the first letter of "Christ" in Greek; this cross is also the symbol of Saint Andrew.

A Special Thanks to our Veterans . . . We wish to honor our veterans this month and thank them for serving our great country and giving us the freedoms that our ancestors fought for. They are Mike Bodisch, Robert Brouillette III, John Collins, George Contas, Bernie DeSantis, Ken Gestring, Angelo Hagicostas, Craig Henderson, John Koniditsiotis, Tom Portaritis, Elena Shilova, Jerry Strickland, George Vaporis, Demetri Vlahos, and George Yurchak.

We salute you.

St. Athanasios Greek Night, Nov. 16 . . . Greek Night will be held in Orange Beach at the Wharf Convention Center from 6pm – midnight. Tickets are \$65 per person all inclusive. Nick Trivelas on the bouzouki and Greek dancers from Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New Orleans. Tickets can be purchased on the St. Athanasios website:
<http://www.stathanasios.al.goarch.org/>

International Men's Day Nov 17 . . . International Men's Day will be celebrated on Nov 19. The theme for 2019 is "Men Leading by Example." It is celebrated in over 60 countries. Holy Trinity will honor our men and boys with a special luncheon. Join us in celebrating the contribution our men and boys make to Holy Trinity, to those around them, to their family and friends, their work place and community and America.

Happy Thanksgiving . . . Wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving are sent to all. May the joy, peace and sharing that was shown to the pilgrims from the American Indians, be with you and your family and that you pass it on as they did. Share the horn of plenty with love in your heart. May your families get together and share the spirit of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Offering Box . . . We will again have a container in the Church Fellowship Hall for each of us to make a food donation for a Thanksgiving offering (non-perishables only). We will donate it to a needy family or a charity organization on the coast. If you want to bring a bag of cat or dog food we will also take it to the Humane Society. Remember the pets. We have three more weeks to collect the food, so please bring with you when coming to Liturgy on Sundays. Thank you.

Community Christmas Card . . . Christ is Born, Glorify Him. Once again, our community will be preparing a Holy Trinity Christmas Card. We are certain all of you will want to extend your heartfelt Christmas greeting to all people in our community instead of mailing costly cards to members separately. A special card will be mailed to Holy Trinity members separately. Please provide donations (\$10 - \$20) by Sunday Dec. 1st to Chrysanthi Beach if you wish to be included in this year's Christmas card.

November Birthdays . . . Happy birthday to Christopher Tulberi-Nov 1, Theodore Chelmiss-Nov 2, Kosta Vlahos-Nov 3, Spiro Vganges-Nov 5, Bernie DeSantis & Maria Loukatos-Nov 8, Nick Miniotis-Nov 10, Greg Fhaires-Nov 15, Cristina Macovei- Nov 16, Photine Vlahos-Nov 19, Calliope DeSantis-Nov 22, Karen Bridges-Nov 23 and Karen Henderson-Nov 28.

November Anniversaries . . . Congratulations to Chrysanthi and Richard Beach who celebrate their 26th wedding anniversary on November 27. May God grant them many years.

[Pastry Sale Items are now being ordered. Order online at holytrinitybiloxi.org or pick up a form at church. Please turn in your forms before Sunday Dec. 8, or use the online ordering system.](http://holytrinitybiloxi.org)

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.

Get Well . . . Prayers and blessings to Fr Jim Karagas, Karen Bridges, Elizabeth Vamvakas, Photine and Angelo Hagicostas, George Vapouris, 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 cashmere scarves, wool shawls, baby shirts, temple candle holders, paintable vases, Tsolias Greek Soldier Christmas ornaments, Greek Krater vases, amphora jars Spartan helmets, shields and swords Greek coffee cup set, Greek silverware set, bellydance skirts, 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)

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. 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, such as Face Painting, Biloxi Firetruck Display, & Inflatable Rock Wall/Slide. 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 holytrinitybiloxi.org. For further information contact George at georgeyurchak@yahoo.com or 228-860-3376.

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 (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 Oct.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 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

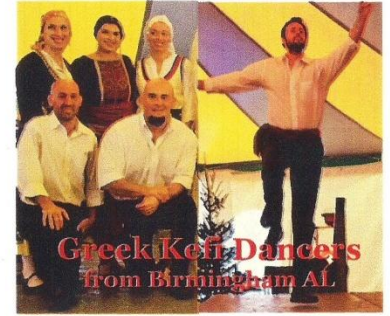
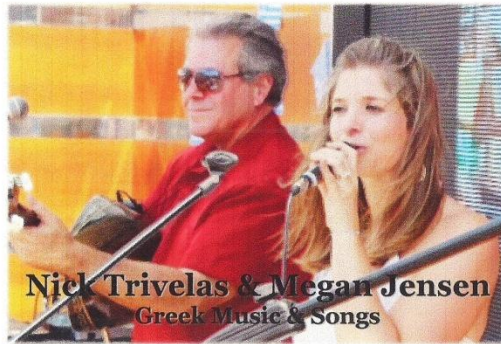
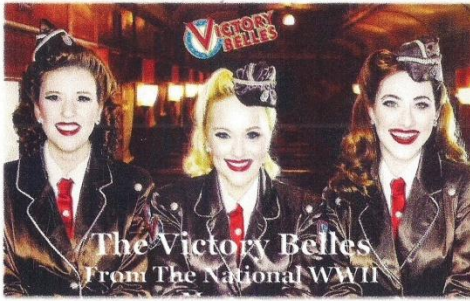
Altar Boys – Joseph Lawson

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!!!

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
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228-860-3376

holytrinitybiloxi.org

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

