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June 2019 Newsletter

A Word from our Council President, George Yurchak

I wish all of you a beautiful summer as many of you will take trips back to Greece, Russia, Romania and the Ukraine as well as in the United States to visit family and enjoy family vacations. John and Donna Collins will also talk about their Journey to Orthodoxy. This newsletter will primarily be devoted to Father's Day. Some of our parishioners wrote Tributes to their fathers for Father's Day. Holy Trinity recognized all the fathers on Father's Day. Fr Dean's family came over from Mobile for the service. We honored the Most Senior Father Stylianos Christidis and the Youngest Father Hugh Donohoe. Margarita Lopareva was named Academic All-American.

Journey to Orthodoxy - John and Donna Collins



John Collins . . . Having gone through 12 years of Catholic School, I wanted to belong to a church with a connection to the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. On my first visit to an Orthodox Church at age 35, I knew I was home.

Donna Collins . . . Growing up Baptist and then being Catholic for 34 years, I always felt there was another church where I could find peace. I found solace in the adage "The Catholic Church is a courtroom, the Orthodox Church is a hospital."

Memories . . . Cristian and Meri Ionescu



For over half a century, Holy Trinity has been a lighthouse of Orthodoxy on the Mississippi Gulf Coast which welcomes everybody in their life's journey. Our family is grateful for the rich history of this church and for all the members which came together to establish and through the years, build this church. It is the place where we are coming together as we are with our life's seasons and we learn to worship, celebrate, mourn, help and care for each other, and in the



same time we are shaped, transformed and enriched through our relationships. Our church is like a beautiful tapestry which is weaved in time with the threads of our lives.

Lopareva Named Academic All American

Mississippi Gulf Coast women's tennis player Margarita Lopareva, a Moscow, Russian resident, was named to the 2018-2019 Academic All-American College Division Women's At Large Team, released by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

"I am so glad that I was chosen for this award. It is an honor for me, and I am very happy. I am glad that I could represent Gulf Coast in this way. Thank you to Gulf Coast for giving me all of these sports and academic opportunities."



Margarita finished with a perfect 4.00 grade-point average, graduating with an Associate of Arts Degree in Business Prep. She is a two-time MACJC/Region 23 champion in singles, winning at No. 2 as a freshman and No.1 as a sophomore. Margarita signed a scholarship to continue her collegiate career at Chowan University in Murfreesboro, N.C.

Margarita will spend the summer in Moscow working and visiting family before returning to the United States. She plans to visit Holy Trinity on her return to visit her Orthodox family before going to North Carolina. Congratulations Margarita!

**The greatest gift I had came from God:
I call him Dad!
--Anonymous**

Father's Day

Fatherhood has, and continues to be, both a demanding and gratifying endeavor. Father's Day is an occasion to thank every person who has embraced the challenging role. Holy Trinity honored all Father's in attendance on Father's Day. Fr Dean's family came over from Mobile for the service. We honored the most senior father Stylianos Christidis, who was 96 and came over from New Orleans and was escorted by his 3 daughters, Chrisanthe, Fanoula and Violet, with a bottle of Greek wine. We honored the youngest father Hugh Donohoe, who was escorted by his wife Brandi, with a bottle of Greek wine. All other fathers were recognized and given a bottle of Dad's Root Beer or Dad's Cream Soda. The Ladies of the Agape presented a fabulous Father's Day Luncheon with ham and chicken, potatoes and several different salads and vegetables and 9 different desserts. Everyone enjoyed the delicious Father's Day Feast.

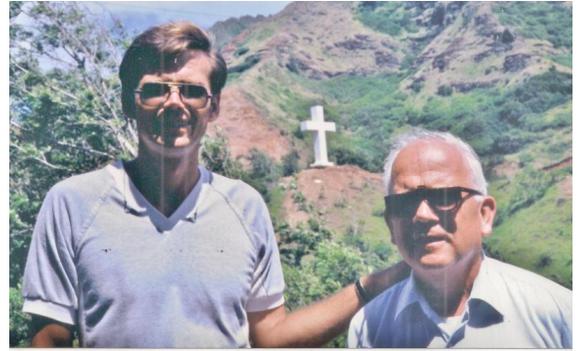
***"If the father's responsibilities are many,
his rewards are also great - the love,
appreciation, and respect of children and spouse."
President Lyndon B. Johnson***



Father's Day Tributes

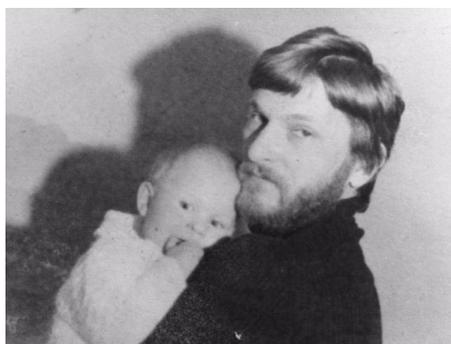
George Yurchak to his father George Yurchak, Sr

I have the fondest memories of my father as we go through this thing called life. My father gave me the greatest gift a son could receive. He believed in me. His humble roots from the coal mining town of Coaldale, Pennsylvania guided him throughout his life – God, Country and Family – the three most important things. He sacrificed for me, and with my father, that is where the magic began 71 years ago in that little town called Coaldale.



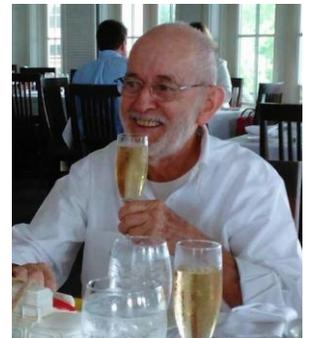
Nataliya Petrovska-Molsbee's to her father Valeriy Petrovskiy

My dear Father, who is in heaven, thank you for giving this precious life to me. I will try



to do my best. I will remember him all my life and I hope that he is proud of me and my sister.

And Happy Father's Day to my dear stepfather, Joe Kirkby, who means the world to me.

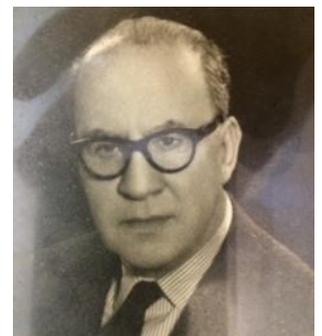


From Oleksandra Petrovska to my father, Valeriy Petrovska

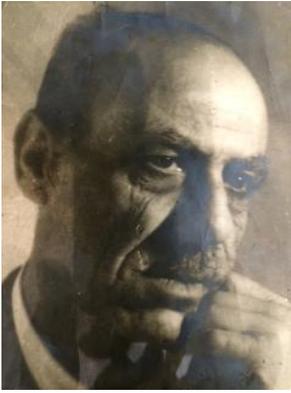
Father, a long time ago I wanted to say how I found it hard to lose you from my life. I know when we lose loved ones, we lose a part of ourselves. I find it easier to live with the belief that there is heaven: *And there it all is*. I believe you are flying somewhere above the ground, on a huge beautiful ship. You look down at the world and me. This image as my icon floating above me. Father is greatness, courage, strength and goodness. Father is immutable, like a guiding star. Thank you for the gift – the life you gave to my sister and me.

Angelos Vamvakas to his father Vasileios Vamvakas

Vasileios Vamvakas was born in Constantinople, Turkey to a Greek family in 1906. Following the defeat of the Greek Armed Forces in Turkey in 1922 and the subsequent Turkish legislation to draft all Turkish citizens to the Turkish Armed Forces regardless of their ethnicity, he left Turkey in 1924 and came to Greece to avoid the draft. He got married to Penelope Papapanayotou and had two children, Ioannis and Angelos. Well educated and fluent in 4 languages, he became a bank employee and following WW II worked for the United Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and for the USA Embassy in Athens. He passed away in peace on 1/1/1983, commemoration day of St. Vasileios (Basil) the Great.



Elizabeth Vamvakas to her father Anton Chrysafis



Anton Chrysafis was born in Jaffa, Palestine in 1908 to a Greek family from Lemnos. He married Zahia Azar and had 11 children one of whom is Elizabeth Vamvakas. He worked for the British Army in Palestine and became a British citizen. After the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 he left his home with his family and lived in Egypt. In 1970 he immigrated to the USA. He was a devout Orthodox Christian and passed away in peace in 1980.

Sheila Hemenway-Yurchak to her father Colin Hemenway

My father, Colin Hemenway, was a great example of what it takes to be a good father: strength, compassion, humor, and love. Dad loved gardening, painting, cooking and playing Scrabble – activities that kept him close at home. He had experienced many hardships and family turmoil in his early life growing up in New Orleans. When he had his own family, he was determined to give his wife and children security and stability, and to always be there for his family. Thank you Dad for taking good care of us!



Looking ahead to the Fourth of July

God Bless America

