



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Metropolis of Atlanta
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
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March 2020 Bulletin



ENCYCLICAL OF ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS FOR HOLY AND GREAT LENT 2020

Protocol Number 31/2020

March 2, 2020

The Beginning of the Holy and Great Lent

“You may freely eat of every tree of the garden”

(Genesis 2:16)

The Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today we commence our journey of the Great Lent that leads us inexorably to the Holy Passion of the Lord and the Pascha of unending joy. It is a time of determination and concentration, one in which we are encouraged to abstain from certain foods and drink, to practice more active charity and philanthropy, and to look within at the values and principles by which we live our lives.

Yesterday, on the last Sunday before the Fast, we commemorated the story of the “fall” of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Paradise. They were cast out because they ate of the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” from which they had been forbidden by the commandment of God. Most of us know the story from our youth, but we often miss the verse before, that every other tree was theirs to enjoy. The denial of the one tree was not a punishment, but an opportunity. It was a calling for Adam and Eve to exceed themselves, and to give up something for the sake of love. Real love cannot be forced; it can only be offered freely. The seeming prohibition was in fact an invitation for them (and us!) to become truly free.

Therefore, as you fast for the next forty days, take time to offer whatever your strength allows in the freedom of love, always remembering every other “tree of the garden” with which you have been so richly blessed. Then, Lent will not be a season of deprivation, but one of abundance, an overflowing of the love, mercy, and forgiveness for which we journey to the Holy Resurrection of the Conqueror of death.

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† **ELPIDOPHOROS**

Archbishop of America

Schedule of Services

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Mar 1 with Fr Paul
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Mar 8 with Fr Stephen
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Mar 15 with Fr Ernesto
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Mar 22 with Fr Dean(?)
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on March 29 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 8 . . . 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 8 and serve luncheon to honor them.

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



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, Antonio Loucangeli, March 15, Margarita Lopareva, March 17, Dina Craig, March 19, Alexandru Tulburi, Jr., March 26, 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, Donna Collins, 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 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 and Nikki Arnold. A priest 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 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 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 228-860-3376 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 2020

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 2020. 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 (Stewardship Chairman), Donna Collins (Vice President, Parish Council) or Rodney Bridges (Treasurer, Parish Council).

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH STEWARDS FOR 2020

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the 2020 Stewardship Program as of February 29, totaling \$23,250. Holy Trinity has received thirty two (32) pledges from the following:

Chrisanthi Beach
Caleb Bridges
Rodney & Karen Bridges
Robert Brouillette III
Steve & CoCo Collins
Nicoletta Conner
George Contas
John Demetrakopoulos
Hugh & Brandi Donohoe
Angelo & Photine Hagicostas
Craig & Karen Henderson
Cristian & Meri Ionescu

Mihail Kastrinos
Chrisie Soula Kiessling
John & Cornelia Koniditsiotis
Irene Koskan
John Kunellis
Al & Kathy Lawson
Maria & Peter Loukatos
Eva Magiros
Karl & Nancy Malek
Louis & Linda Peters
Nataliya Petrovska Kirby
Tom & Pat Portaritis

Melissa Schwartz
Jerry Strickland
Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas
Katerina Vamvakas
George Vaparis
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, 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

Czech Republic Culture Chair – Helena Docherty

Russian Culture Chair – George Yurchak

Kazakhstan Culture Chair - Natalya Gray

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

2020 Parish Council

President – George Yurchak

Vice President – Donna Collins

Treasurer – Rodney Bridges

Secretary – Craig Henderson

Member at Large – Jerry Strickland

Safety Officer – George Yurchak

Staff

Librarian Hugh Donohoe, Brandi Donohoe

Historian Brandi Donohoe, Akaterina Vamvakas

Purchasing, George Yurchak, George Vaporis

Sales, Chrisanthi Beach, Sheila Yurchak

Kiosk – George Yurchak

Publications Editor – Sheila Hemenway-Yurchak

Artist in Residence – Sheila Hemenway

Condolence Writer – Photine Hagicostas

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

Marketplace Chair – George Yurchak

Stewardship Chair – Craig Henderson

Reader – Rodney Bridges, John Collins, CoCo Collins

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