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Metropolis of Atlanta
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
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February 2012 Bulletin



Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple – February 2nd

When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on this, the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke 2:22-24; Exodus. 13:2; Lev. 12:6-8). On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Symeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. Thus, when he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God, singing: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master . . ." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke 2:25-32). From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of the reading of prayers of purification.

Schedule of Upcoming Pascha Events . . . The schedule of events leading to Pascha is broken down in to four areas. The Triodion, Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha. They begin with the start of the Triodion which is Feb 5th. Take a journey within each of these areas by going to the website <http://lent.goarch.org/>. Click on the picture that says "Finding Your Way." A menu will open showing each event. Click on the event and enjoy the journey.

Parish General Assembly Meeting . . . There will be a Parish General Assembly Meeting scheduled for Sunday February 19th following Liturgy. Please plan to attend as this is the first meeting of 2012. Financial reports will be provided for 2011 and 2012. A proposed budget for 2012 will also be presented. Stewardship will be discussed, Greek Night 2012 will be discussed as well as a recap of the Christmas Pastry Sale, Pascha Services, and where we plan to go in 2012.





Stewardship . . . Stewardship forms for 2012 were passed out in Church on January 15th, others were mailed to those not in Church. Our first year was very successful. This year we would like to get 100 per cent participation, giving your time, talent and treasure. Some of you may not be able to afford much, but look at your budgets and keep the church in mind. Please give something and remember – IT MUST COME FROM THE HEART. Stewardship forms is attached to this bulletin, are available in the church Narthex and on the church website http://www.holytrinitybiloxi.org/docs/2012member_pledge.pdf. Please return your stewardship forms to Craig Henderson, George Yurchak, or George Contas. Any questions contact George Yurchak at 228-832-5820/georgeyurchak@yahoo.com or Craig Henderson at 228-206-0462/craig13014@gmail.com

Church Beautification and Clean-Up . . . In preparation of the Great Feast we are going to host a clean up and beautification day(s) at Holy Trinity. We will be cleaning out the choir loft, under the stairs, the copy room, the youth room, the storage shed out back and the storage unit. The day(s) of the clean up will be in March and details will be provided at the Parish General Assembly Meeting on Feb 19th. Any questions please contact George Yurchak or George Contas.



Mississippi Coast History Week 2012 . . . Our parish will be providing a Greek Community Exhibit at the Gulf Coast Society's Exhibit from February 13th through the 15th at the Biloxi Visitors Center located at 1051 Beach Boulevard in Biloxi. Please plan to visit and see our great exhibit, it has been the best every year. In the past we have just had a Greek exhibit. We'd really like to include all ethnicities of the Orthodox faith in the exhibit. Please see our parish point of contact Corina Gestring at 251-751-2270/corina_gestring@yahoo.com for more information.

COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP



Social Hour After Liturgy . . . Holy Trinity needs every parishioner to sign up and host a coffee hour after Sunday Liturgy. Everyone should be proud to host a coffee hour. Show your culinary creativity. Bring your favorite ethnic foods. Hosting a coffee hour makes everyone more a part of the church community.

“Souper” Bowl Sunday . . . February 5th is “Souper” Bowl Sunday and the Youth of Holy Trinity will be taking a collection for a Charity of their choice and the Humane Society. Also, it would be appreciated if you could bring a non-perishable food item for the charity and a small bad of dog or cat food for the pets. Your support will be appreciated. The Youth will also host coffee hour this Sunday.



February Birthdays . . . Happy birthday Catherine Mary Grindstaff - Feb 4th, Kristin Beddoe and Benji Thames - Feb 7th, John Peters - Feb 9th, Adrianna Goundas - Feb 24th, Kally Vlahos and Jessie Beddoe - Feb 28th.

Get Well . . . Get well wishes for Toula Contas, Dorothy Porter, Vangie Roybal, and Irene Stevens. We pray for them and hope they are feeling better soon.



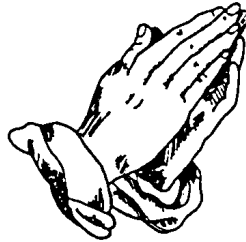
In Memoriam



Fallen asleep in the Lord during January was Mary Psikogious. Our condolences to the Psikogious family. She will be missed. May her memory be eternal.

Thank you . . . Thanks to all who help out with cleaning the church, helping with coffee hour, making the Prosforo, and helping Fr Nabil. Your help is greatly appreciated.

What is Prayer?



Prayer is doxology, praise, thanksgiving, confession, supplication and intercession to God. "When I prayed I was new," wrote a great theologian of Christian antiquity, "but when I stopped praying I became old." Prayer is the way to renewal and spiritual life. Prayer is aliveness to God. Prayer is strength, refreshment, and joy. Through the grace of God and our disciplined efforts prayer lifts us up from our isolation to a conscious, loving communion with God in which everything is experienced in a new light. Prayer becomes a personal dialogue with God, a spiritual breathing of the soul, a foretaste of the bliss of God's kingdom.

As we pray deeply within our hearts we grow in prayer. By the grace of God we suddenly catch a glimpse of the miracle of the presence of the Holy Spirit working within us. At first it is only a spark but later it becomes a flame freeing and energizing our whole being. To experience the fire of God's holy love, to give it space within us to do its cleansing and healing work as a breath of the Holy Spirit, and to use it as light and power for daily living -- such are the goals as well as the fruits of true prayer.

The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner

The Holy Prayer Rope

See a video explaining the Orthodox Prayer Rope at the following website:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZxfW5TgRxQ>