



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Metropolis of Atlanta  
**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**  
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**February 2017 Bulletin**



### **From +Fr. George Tsahakis, Chancellor, Metropolis of Atlanta**

The story is told of a cold winter Sunday morning, when the parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. Church members were whispering among themselves as they walked into the church, skirting around the man leaning up against the wall outside the church. He was almost lying down as if he was asleep. His long trench coat was in shreds and a hat concealed his face. He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small, and so holey that his toes stuck out. He was homeless, asleep, and ignored.

The congregation gathered in the Narthex and fellowshiped for a few minutes, including some gossip about the man lying outside. But, no one went out to ask him to come in from the cold, let alone take him a cup of coffee.

As the Choir concluded the Great Doxology at the end of the Orthros Service, the church doors opened, and in shuffled the homeless man. A stunned gasp was loosed and faces made as he shambled up the aisle head down, making a bee-line for the door leading to the entrance of the side of the Altar. When he re-appeared in his priestly vestments, the hearts of the people sank as they recognized their Parish Priest.

No one said a word. When the time came for him to offer the sermon, the Priest took his Bible and opened it saying, *“My brothers and sisters in Christ, I don’t have to tell you what I am preaching about today. ‘For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”* (Gal. 5:14)

During this coming week, if our Lord suddenly appears in our midst and asks each of us whether or not we truly have obeyed this commandment, how will we answer Him? Furthermore, if He asks us whether we have forgiven those who have harmed or transgressed against us, what will we offer as a response? *The Good News, my brothers and sisters in Christ, is God’s mercy and forgiveness is unconditional and accessible to each of us every moment of our lives . . . there is still time to respond accordingly. **Glory to Him always!***

#### **Schedule of Services**

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Feb 5 with Fr Dean  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Feb 12 with Fr Ezekiel  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Feb 19 with Fr Dean  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Feb 26 with Fr Ezekiel

### **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*

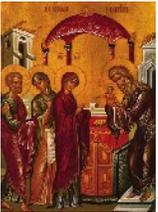
*remain until the end of the worship service,*

*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*



### **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 let us 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.

**Souper Bowl Sunday February 5 . . .** February 5 will be "Souper" Bowl Sunday and the Youth of Holy Trinity will be taking a collection for a charity of their choice. We ask that all parishioners bring a non-perishable food item and pet food items and a small monetary contribution to Liturgy on Sunday, February 5. The non-perishable food items will go to a local food bank or soup kitchen. The pet food items will go to the Humane Society of South Mississippi. The monetary contribution will go to a charity that supports local youth.

**Parish General Assembly Meeting, February 5. . .** There will be a Parish General Assembly Meeting scheduled for Sunday February 5 following Divine Liturgy. Please plan to attend as this is the first meeting of 2017. Financial reports will be provided for 2016. A proposed budget for 2017 will also be presented. Stewardship will be discussed. A recap of the Ethnic Christmas Festival and Pastry Sale will be provided. Pascha services will be discussed as well as our 2017 goals and where we plan to go

in 2017, and other new business. Please plan to be there for this very enlightening meeting. You will need to have filled out your stewardship pledge and be current through the end of 2016 to vote.

**Maslenitsa ~ Russian Mardi Gras 2017, February 17 . . .** Maslenitsa 2017 will be held on February 17 2017 at 7 pm at the Embassy of the Russian Federation Grand Ballroom in Washington DC. Some members of Holy Trinity are currently scheduled to attend this event. If anybody is interested in receiving a ticket and would like to attend, contact George Yurchak, [georgeyurchak@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeyurchak@yahoo.com), or 228-831-5820. Tickets are \$175 each which includes dinner, drinks, music, dance and entertainment. All who attended last years event enjoyed it and are returning again this year.

**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 ethnics foods. Hosting a fellowship hour makes everyone more a part of the church community. It is important everyone take their turn, even if you have to donate \$20 for the food, which a council member will buy. **Try before you buy** – see what it's like to be a **Fellowship Hour Volunteer**. Contact George Yurchak and we will find one Sunday in the next few weeks when you can “test drive” being a Fellowship Hour Volunteer. It involves buying and serving food during Fellowship Hour in our great kitchen space. It's a chance to fellowship with our fellow helpers and serve our parishioners and guests. Give it a try!

**2017 Church Calendars . . .** The 2017 Church Calendars are available in the Church Narthex. They were donated by Eleni Vganges in memory of her husband, Eleftherios.

**February Birthdays . . .** Happy Birthday to Kathy Grindstaff – Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, Kristin Beddoe – Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, John Peters – Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, Nataliya Molsbee – Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, John Michailos – Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, Kally Vlahos and Jessie Beddoe – Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. If we don't have your birthday or we missed you, please contact Sheila Yurchak at 228-831-5820 or [georgeyurchak@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeyurchak@yahoo.com).

**Anniversaries for February. . .** Rodney and Karen Bridges celebrate their 37<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Feb 1. Louis and Linda Peters will celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Feb. 19. If anyone else has an anniversary in February, please let Sheila Yurchak know so we can recognize your anniversary. And may God Grant you many, many years.

**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.



It is important everyone take their turn, even if you have to donate \$20 for the food, which a council member will buy. Many thanks to Elizabeth and Katerina Vamvakas for making the Prosforo throughout the year. HUUUGE thanks to all those who gave their time and talent to the 2016 International Christmas Festival and Pastry Sale in helping make this event a very successful fund raiser. 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 Ezekiel for driving from Louisiana on Sundays and all the other days for special events.

**Get Well . . .** Prayers and blessings to Fr Jim Karagas, Karen Bridges, Ioan (John) Curticapian, Elizabeth Vamvakas, Irene Stevens, Alan Koskan, Photine and Angelo Hagicostas, George Vaporis, Lela Roberts, Nancy Malek, Virginia Freeman, Freddie Nossier, Tom Portaritis, Cristian Ionescu, George Mavromihalis, Katerina Vamvakas, and Dorothy Porter. Fr Dean or Fr Ezekiel 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.

### **Religious Education**

Fr Dean and Fr Ezekiel will continue the weekly religious education classes after Fellowship Hour. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

### **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 – 228-831-5820 or [georgeyurchak@yahoo.com](mailto: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)*

**2017 Orthodox Mission Teams . . .** Contact Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) to join a mission team in 2017. *Share in a journey of faith.* Volunteers are needed for Orthodox Mission Teams for Youth Outreach, Teaching Outreach, Outreach, Construction, and Health Care in Alaska, Albania, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico. Details are posted on our Church Bulletin Board for those interested.

**Eleventh Annual Philoptochos Spiritual Retreat, March 17-19 . . .** New Orleans Philoptochos is hoping to get a bus to travel to the Metropolis Lenten Retreat at the Diakonia Center in Salem, South Carolina. They would like to know if any of our ladies would like to attend this retreat. It would be a good opportunity to meet other members of our faith. Please contact Sheila Yurchak by February 12 if you are interested in attending the retreat. Cost will depend on the cost of the bus and number of attendees. You will have an unforgettable weekend of friendship, fellowship, inspiring discussions, deep spiritual reflections, surrounded by the breathtaking natural beauty of the Diakonia Retreat Center. Theme of retreat is “Encouraging each other: Who I am and who God wants me to be, encouraging one another to be the best version of ourselves, and the art of encouragement.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

### **PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE FOR 2017**

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 2017. If you haven't received a pledge form you can download it from [www/holytrinitybiloxi.org](http://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 by January 29. Pledge forms will be available on January 15. We will be mailing you a stewardship form in the event you are unable to come to 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 2016

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the 2016 Stewardship Program as of December 31. Holy Trinity has received pledges from 63 parishioners for a total of \$36,840.

Chrisanthi Beach  
Mike Bodisch  
Rodney & Karen Bridges  
CoCo & Steve Collins  
John Collins  
Nicoletta Conner  
George Contas  
John Demetrakopoulos  
Cally & Bernie DeSantis  
Hugh & Brandi Donohoe  
Norman Foskey  
Terry & Julia Foskey  
Virginia Freeman  
Natalya Gray  
Angelo & Photine Hagicostas  
Craig & Karen Henderson

Cristian & Meri Ionescu  
Mihail Kastrinos  
Chrisie (Soula) Kiessling  
Karen Kohl  
John & Cornelia Koniditsiotis  
Al & Cathy Lawson  
Rena Lohrbach  
Eva Magiros  
Mary Makris  
Nancy & Karl Malek  
Stratos Mandas  
George & Janie Mavromihalis  
Jessie Mavromihalis Martin  
Louis & Linda Peters  
Nataliya Petrovska  
Tom & Pat Portaritis

Donna Rocconi  
Jerry Strickland  
Melissa & Giorgios Swartz  
Lisa Taylor  
Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas  
Akaterina Vamvakas  
Vasili & Maria Vamvakas  
George Vaporis  
Eleni Vganges  
Demetri Vlahos  
Vona & Greg Wawryszcuk  
Karen Weinberg  
George & Sheila Yurchak  
Yelena Zheletskaia

## Church Directory

### **Liturgical Services**

Sundays – Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

### **Church Clergy**

Rev. Fr. Dean Gigicos  
Rev. Fr. Ezekiel Vieages

**Chanter** – Angelos Vamvakas

### **2016 Parish Council**

President – George Yurchak  
Vice President – Craig Henderson  
Treasurer – Rodney Bridges  
Secretary – CoCo Collins  
Member – Jerry Strickland

### **Librarian**

Hugh Donohoe, Brandi Donohoe

### **Historian**

Brandi Donohoe, Akaterina Vamvakas

### **Maintenance and Repair**

Chair – Craig Henderson

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Chair - George & Sheila Yurchak

### **Youth Education & Culture Committee**

Chair – George Yurchak

### **Greek Culture**

Chair – George Yurchak

### **Ukrainian Culture**

Chair – Nataliya Petrovska

### **Romanian Culture**

Chair – Meri Ionescu

### **Georgian Culture**

Chair – Medea Ghurtskaia

### **Moldovan Culture**

Chair – Alexandru Tulburi

### **Russian Culture**

Chair – Anna Slepova

### **Kazakhstan Culture**

Chair - Natalya Grey

### **Belarousian Culture**

Chair – Darya Borst

### **Parish Ministries**

Youth Ministries – George Yurchak  
Youth Group Chair – Joseph Lawson, Korina Bodisch  
Feed the Hungry Chair – Donna Ricconi, Virginia Freeman

Sunday School – Akaterina Vamvakas

Ladies of the Agape Chair – Nancy Malek

Stewardship Chair – Craig Henderson

Reader – Rodney Bridges, John Collins

Adult Education – George Yurchak

Prayer/Study Group – Nancy Malek

Outreach – Karen Weinberg, Akaterina Vamvakas

Technology – Karen Kohl, Spiro Vganges

Web Master – Steve Collins, Spiro Vganges

Pastoral Assistant – Craig Henderson, Spiro Vganges

Alter Boys – Joseph Lawson, Leferi & Costas Vganges

Sunshiners – George Vaporis

Strategic Planning – Chair, CoCo Collins

### **Staff**

Kiosk – George Yurchak

Office Administrator – Sheila Yurchak

Publications Editor – Sheila Yurchak

Cleaning – Chrisanthi Beach, Akaterina Vamvakas