



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



## From Fr Dean

### Lenten Prayer of Saint Ephraim

St. Ephraim of Syria lived in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century, and was a deacon monk of the Church. He is the author of many spiritual writings which are highly valued in the Orthodox Christian Church.

The prayer of St. Ephraim is a masterpiece of Christian supplication which in its beauty and simplicity touches in a few short words the essential elements of the Christian Church. It is offered at services of our Church during Great Lent.

In this prayer we ask God to steer us away from four passions that confront us on a daily basis...laziness, meddling in the affairs of others, a desire for power and gossip.

The prayer continues supplicating God to grant us the means to counteract our desire for those passions.....prudence, humility, patience and love.

The prayer then reminds us not to be like the Pharisee in the Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee, or like the elder son in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. They both compared themselves to others in order to appear righteous. Repentance is not looking at the faults of others, but looking only at ourselves and identifying our own faults in order to grow closer to God.

The brief prayer of St. Ephraim captures the spirit of Great Lent. Learn the prayer and make it a part of your daily prayers.

### **The Prayer of St. Ephraim**

**O Lord and Master of my life, deliver me from the spirit of laziness and meddling, the lust for power and idle talk.**

**Grant me, your servant, the spirit of prudence, humility, patience and love.**

**Yes, Lord and King, grant me the power to see my own faults, and not to judge the things other people do.**

**For You are blessed unto the ages of ages. Amen**

### **Schedule of Services**

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

**Sunday of Orthodoxy - March 5 . . .** The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of



Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy." As we celebrate this day in our faith we encourage all our parishioners bring an icon from their home to join us in the procession of icons. We'll strive to provide an icon for the

procession to those that may not have one or have forgotten to bring it.

**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.*

**Dinner with Corina Gestring – March 8** . . . Corina Gestring will be here on the Coast on Wednesday March 8 and we will be having a dinner at Mr. Greek's Restaurant in Biloxi at 6:30. Everyone is invited to attend. Please let George Yurchak know if you will be attending so that he can give a head count. 228-831-5820 or [georgeyurchak@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeyurchak@yahoo.com).

**Lenten Family Retreat – March 11** . . . Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New Orleans is hosting a Lenten Family Retreat on Saturday March 11 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. There is no charge. Guest Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh. There will be a panel discussion to address your questions about your Orthodox Faith. There will be breakout groups: Adults & High School Students, Middle Class Students and Elementary Students. If you plan to attend please let me know by March 6 because I need to let them know your coming by March 7 so they can plan for meals. If you want to make your own reservations contact them at [priest@holytrinitycathedral.org](mailto:priest@holytrinitycathedral.org) or call 504-282-0259.

**Dynamis: A Dialogue for Strengthening Our Parishes and Parishioners – March 11** . . . The Metropolis will be sharing their vision of Dynamis on Saturday March 11 from 6 - 9 pm at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Mobile. Why Mobile. It is center to several churches that are close by, Holy Trinity being one of them. Dynamis will present the Metropolis vision in their Strategic Plan, as well as many other life-changing ministries that will help parishes better meet both the practical and spiritual needs of our faithful. In particular the Parish Council Members, Strategic Plan Champion and Ladies of the Agape and other interested parishioners are invited to attend. Please plan to make it if you can. Light refreshments will be offered. Please let me know by Thursday March 9 if you plan on attending so I can give them a rough count of how many people will be coming from Holy Trinity. Hope to see you there.

**International Women's Day – March 12** . . . International Women's Day is celebrated to honor women of the world. Its celebrates the social, economic, and political achievement of women. In honor of this day we are going to give flowers to all the woman who attend Sunday service on March 12 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 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.

**Church 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, Allan Koskan, Antonio Loucangeli, March 15, Dina Craig, March 19, Alexandru Tulburi, Jr., March 26, Yelena Zheletkaya, March 27, and Julia Craig, March 28.

**Church Thanks** . . . Thanks to all those who have given their time and talents in helping out at Holy Trinity. 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 parishioners who have brought their special food items in February for our after Liturgy fellowship hour. Many thanks to Elizabeth and Katerina Vamvakas for making the Prosforo throughout the year.



**Get Well** . . . Prayers and blessings to Fr Jim Karagas, Photine Hagicostas, Irene Stevens, Alan Koskan, Angelo Hagicostas, George Vaporis, Dorothy Porter, Elizabeth and Katerina Vamvakas, John Curticapian. Fr Ezekiel or 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.

### **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)*

## **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 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 2017**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the 2017 Stewardship Program as of February 28. Holy Trinity has received pledges from the following:

Rodney & Karen Bridges	Cristian & Meri Ionescu	Melissa Schwartz
George Contas	Mihail Kastrinos	Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas
John Demetrakopoulos	Chrisie Soula Kiessling	Eleni Vganges
Hugh & Brandi Donohoe	Karen Kohl	Spiro Vganges
Virginia Freeman	Al & Kathy Lawson	George & Sheila Yurchak
Craig & Karen Henderson	Nancy & Carl Malek	

### **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, Lefteri & 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