



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Metropolis of Atlanta

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

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May 2017 Bulletin

Christ is Risen!

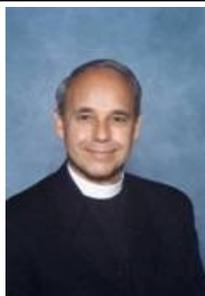
Цхрист ис Рисен! Христός Ανέστη!

المسيح قام حقا قام!

Hristos a înviat!



From Fr. Dean



CHRIST IS RISEN!

St. Paul writes in 2nd Corinthians chapter 7 verse 5 “For when we came to Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, and everywhere we went, we had trouble and conflicts.”

Nobody knew more about adversities and hardships than St. Paul. And one reason I believe he faced such tremendous obstacles and challenges in life was because he was always doing so many great things for the Lord. I believe that God has for the past 50 years called the faithful of Holy Trinity of Biloxi to do some unusual, exciting, extra-ordinary things for Him. Looking back over the past 50 years, we realize that this parish has faced many obstacles, challenges, adversities and hardships, but the faithful never lost their faith and like St. Paul they did great things for the Lord.

When we make small plans, we can expect small problems. But when we have a strong desire to do great things for the Lord, and when we step out in faith, and when we dream big dreams, and when we make big plans, then we can expect the devil to fight us in a big way with big problems. That is why St. Paul said “Fight the good fight of faith.”

I would love to be able tell you that if you serve God, you will never have another problem or face another challenge. But that would not be true. God never promised that we would have a problem free life, a life free of challenges. As a matter of fact, Jesus told us just the opposite. In John 16:33, He says, “In this life, you are going to have all kinds of trouble, hardships, trials, and frustrations, but don’t get discouraged. Don’t let that get you down. Always stay full of joy and keep your eyes on Me, for I have overcome the world. And I am not going to allow it to harm you.”

We need to understand that problems and challenges of life don’t have anything to do with how spiritual we are or how dedicated or committed we are. Problems and challenges are just a part of this life. Everyone here has faced problems at one time or another. Today, maybe someone is facing some difficulty that is totally out of their

control. Maybe it is a life threatening disease. Maybe their company is downsizing and all of a sudden they don't need you anymore.

The problem, the challenge, whatever we choose to call it, is not really the problem. The real problem is how we respond to it...this is what really matters. Problems responded to correctly in our lives move us forward on our spiritual journey. They make us stronger. They make us more mature. And eventually even large adversities and large obstacles become easy to overcome. God uses any situation we face in life to help us mature and to develop us and to draw us closer to Him. If we have the right attitude, we come out stronger and with greater confidence in God and in His word. On the other hand, if we have a bad attitude, we come out weaker, less confident, and possibly even a little angry and bitter on the inside.

The best way to solve a problem is to deal with it. The saying "Don't put off until tomorrow what should be done today" is so true. So many times in life, we try to ignore problems, sweep them under the rug, and deny they exist. Problems don't magically disappear simply because we ignore them, they only become worse and when they do, we begin to become bitter and start pointing our finger blaming God or blaming other people, forgetting that there are three fingers pointing back at us.

When we commit our whole life to God as we say over and over in the Divine Liturgy, we can rest assured that even though we cannot see the reason at the time, we are fully confident that God has something much better in store for us in the future. Proverbs 3:5 says "if we put God first, He will direct and crown your efforts with success." Over these past 50 years, our parish has indeed put God first and He has and will continue to bless us, direct us and crown our efforts with success.

Schedule of Services for May

Sunday Vespers at 2:00 pm May 7 with Fr Ezekiel

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am May 14 with Fr Ezekiel

**Saturday Great Vespers at 6:00 pm May 20 with Metropolitan Alexios,
Fr Dean, Fr Ezekiel, Fr Paul & Fr George**

**Sunday Orthos at 9:00 am with Metropolitan Alexios,
Fr Dean, Fr Ezekiel & Fr Paul**

**Sunday Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am May 21 with
Metropolitan Alexios, Fr Dean, Fr Ezekiel & Fr Paul**

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am May 29 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

Mother's Day Luncheon on Sunday May 14 . . . The earliest known Mother's Day



celebration dates back to ancient Greece. They honored Rhea (Mother of the Gods) at an annual Spring Festival, celebrating with flowers and honey cake. The most senior and youngest mother attending liturgy will be recognized with roses. A Special Luncheon will be hosted for the mothers/women of the Church after Liturgy.

50th Anniversary Celebration Events, May 20 & 21 . . . Holy Trinity will celebrate its Golden Anniversary 1967-2017. Gala events are scheduled for Saturday May 20 and Sunday May 21.

On Saturday May 20, Great Vespers will be followed by a complementary Hors d'oeuvres Reception. On Sunday May 21, a Celebration Luncheon will follow Orthos/Divine Liturgy at 1:00 pm. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for youth 12 and under.

Invitations and RSVP cards were mailed or handed out at the beginning of April. RSVP cards were due no later than May 1. This deadline has been extended to May 7. No RSVPs will be taken after this date. All RSVPs must be received by Karen Henderson, with payment, by Sunday May 7.

PLEASE NOTE: SHEILA YURCHAK WILL MEET WITH THE CATERER ON MONDAY, MAY 8 TO GIVE THE FINAL HEAD COUNT FOR BOTH EVENTS. KAREN HENDERSON WILL GIVE NAME TAGS FOR ENTRANCE TO BOTH THE RECEPTION (EVEN THOUGH ITS COMPLEMENTARY) AND THE LUNCHEON.

Nataliya Petrovsky-Molsbee, Karen Henderson, Natalia Martin (from Pensacola), will entertain guests with their singing, and Oksana Kozhanova will perform a Russian folk dance. Also 50th Anniversary coffee mugs will be available for purchase. The mugs are black with gold lettering.

Holy Trinity will publish a Commemorative Album to celebrate this Golden 50th Anniversary. We are asking for your help to make our album special. We will include articles and photographs that encompass activities, celebrations, and milestones from the previous fifty years of Holy Trinity's history. Our parish has grown to include Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Moldovan, Georgian, Belarusian, Kazakhstani, as well as many converts to the Orthodox Church. We want each ethnic group to be recognized in the album. Therefore, it is crucial that each member takes the time to submit information or photos. Also we will have a section in the album which includes member's reflections about why Holy Trinity is important to your life. Please submit your items (documents, photos, etc.) to Brandi Donohoe before the May 20-21 celebration.

A separate letter was emailed to members regarding a sponsorship donation. A sponsorship donation allows you to dedicate up to a full page to your family. If you need more information please see Brandi Donohoe or contact at bturner@bellsouth.net or 228-861-4376.

New Orleans Greek Festival May 26-28 . . . Let's support our sister church, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New Orleans on Friday May 26, Saturday May 27 or Sunday May 28. The Greek Festival is always fun, with good food, entertainment and family fun. This year George and Sheila Yurchak will compete in the toga costume contest on Sunday afternoon.

Religious Education

Fr Dean and Fr Ezekiel will continue their weekly religious education classes after Sunday Coffee 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.

Church Thanks . . . Many thanks to all who helped and volunteered their time and effort through out the Lenten Season and especially through Holy Week. It was hard work but spiritually rewarding. It shows us how we can all come together as an Orthodox Family and grow spiritually by giving of ourselves.



Anniversaries. . . Craig and Karen Henderson May 2, Alan and Irene Koskan May 6. We would like to honor your anniversary. Contact George Yurchak 228-831-5820 or georgeyurchak@yahoo.com with your anniversary date if we missed you. May God grant you many years.

May Birthdays . . . Happy birthday to Christopher Peters, May 6, Nancy Malek, May 8, Craig Henderson, May 10, Costa Vganges, May 17. If we don't have your birthday please tell us.



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.

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

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 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 April 30. Holy Trinity has received pledges totaling \$22,920 from the following:

Chrisanthi Beach
Mike Bodisch
Rodney & Karen Bridges
Steve & CoCo Collins
George Contas
John Demetrakopoulos
Hugh & Brandi Donohoe
Virginia Freeman
Stamatina Giallourakis
Angelo & Photine Hagicostas

Craig & Karen Henderson
Cristian & Meri Ionescu
Mihail Kastrinos
Karen Komenko
Chrisie Soula Kiessling
Karen Kohl
Irene & Alan Koskan
Al & Kathy Lawson
Eva Magiros
Nataliya Petrovska

Tom & Pat Portaritis
Nancy & Carl Malek
Melissa Schwartz
Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas
Akaterina Vamvakas
George Vaporis
Eleni Vganges
Spiro Vganges
Demitrios Virvilis
George & Sheila Yurchak

Church Directory

Liturgical Services

Sundays – Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Church Clergy

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

Chanters – Angelos Vamvakas, Rodney Bridges,
Hugh Donohoe, Luke Pappas, Ryan Waldrop

2017 Parish Council

President – George Yurchak
Vice President – Craig Henderson
Treasurer – Rodney Bridges
Secretary – Jerry Strickland
Member – Cristian Ionescu

Librarian

Hugh Donohoe, Brandi Donohoe

Historian

Brandi Donohoe, Akaterina Vamvakas

Maintenance and Repair

Chair – Craig Henderson

50th Anniversary Celebration

Chairs - George & Sheila Yurchak,
Invitations - Karen Henderson,
Commemorative Album - Brandi Donohoe

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 Gray

Belarousian Culture

Chair – Darya Borst

Parish Ministries

Youth Ministries – George Yurchak
Youth Group Chair – Joseph Lawson,
Korina Bodisch
Feed the Hungry Chair – Jerry Strickland,
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
Pastoral Assistant – Craig Henderson,
Caleb Bridges
Alter Boys – Joseph Lawson
Sunshiners – George Vaporis
Strategic Planning – Chair, CoCo Collins
Staff
Kiosk – George Yurchak
Office Administrator – Sheila Yurchak,
Karen Henderson
Publications Editor – Sheila Yurchak
Cleaning – Chrisanthi Beach,
Akaterina Vamvakas