



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Metropolis of Atlanta

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**

255 Beauvoir Rd., Biloxi, MS 39531

P.O. Box 8534, Biloxi, MS 39535

(228) 388-6138

[www.holytrinitybiloxi.org](http://www.holytrinitybiloxi.org)

**October 2017 Bulletin**



### **From Father Elias**

It dawned on me that several times during the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom we hear the command “Let us be attentive”, (to take heed, give heed.) Really, this is a form of nepsis, being attentive to our inner being in which we use our senses to filter out anything that could harm our Soul. It is an act of nepsis in terms of allowing the good to enter into our inner most being and being feed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We hear the words “Let us be attentive’, several times in the Divine Liturgy; these times are:

1. Before the Prokeimenon
2. Before the Epistle
3. Before the Gospel
4. Before Communion

The command is issued because something important is about to happen in the Holy Divine Liturgy. St Nicholas Cavasilas says the priest admonished all present to cast away negligence and inattention and to listen carefully to what is being said and done, for that is the meaning of proshomen, “let us pay attention”. Why is it necessary? It is because forgetfulness is a great tyrant; not other human frailty defeats men so often and so easily. Now, it is necessary that our minds and hearts be in accord with the mysteries when we assist at the sacred prayers and ceremonies of the liturgy, unless we wish to attend in vain, and spend our time to no purpose.

St John Chrysostom says that we do not pay attention because we hear the same thing over and over again and we should be ashamed because it is not possible, ever to exhaust the mind of the Scriptures. It is a well which has no bottom.

St Maximos the Confessor says we should be paying attention at these times because they manifest the precepts and the will of God, according to which the way we are trained and the way we should live.

In closing, I pray that we are attentive to the wisdom of these three church fathers and do not allow forgetfulness nor repetition derail us from pursuing our relationship with Jesus Christ, but we are attentive to the will of God. We should never miss an opportunity to be fed by Christ nor should we allow time to pass and not give God His due Glory.

## **From the Metropolis of Atlanta Chancellor's Desk, Fr George Tsahakis**

This Sunday is National Church Musician Sunday. I thank and recognize the contributions of all of our church musicians. What a blessing that it is the Feast Day of St. Romanos the Melodiost, the patron saint music.

## **Reflections from Fr James Rousakis**

If music be the food of love, play on, give me excess of it." Wrote Shakespeare in Twelfth Night. Throughout my lifetime I have been lovingly feed with music: secular, classical and ecclesiastical.

It was dedication that St. Romanos, who is hailed as the Melodiost, emulated through his gift and talent of the composition of sacred Orthodox hymns. He expressed his love by writing about 1,000 other feast day hymn, feeding us through his music, even today. His feast day is October 1<sup>st</sup>, which falls on a Sunday this year; however, the first Sunday of October is proclaimed by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as National Church Musicians Sunday, to honor and respect our Church musicians, the choir and the chanters of the parishes. On this day, church choirs are appreciated for their volunteer stewardship of time and talent, enhancing the worship service or the Holy Orthodox Church. God loves them for their commitment and He blesses them and multiplies those blessings in their lives. The love of music is expressed through their dedication to the Church and they "...play on".

### **Schedule of Services**

Matins (Orthos) will be at 9:30 every Sunday  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on October 1 with Fr Ezekiel  
Saturday Divine Liturgy at 6:00 pm on October 7 with Fr Dean  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on October 15 with Fr Dean  
Saturday Vespers Service at 6:00 pm on October 21 with Fr Ezekiel  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on October 22 with Fr Dean  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on October 29 with Fr Dean

### **Visitors**

A warm welcome to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Please join us for Fellowship Hour in our Social Hall after Liturgy.

### **Visitors & Sacraments**

Everyone is welcome in the Orthodox Church & may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) at the end of the service, but only practicing Orthodox Christians may receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.



**Luke the Evangelist, October 18<sup>th</sup>** This Apostle was an Antiochean, a physician by trade, and a disciple and companion of Paul. He wrote his Gospel in Greek after Matthew and Mark, after which he wrote the Acts of the Apostles, and dedicated both works to Theophilus, who, according to some, was Governor of Achaia. He lived some eighty-six years and died

in Achaia, perhaps in Patras, the capital of this district. His emblem is the calf, the third symbolical beast mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), which is a symbol of Christ's sacrificial and priestly office, as Saint Irenaeus says.



### **James (Iakovos) the Apostle, brother of Our Lord, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

According to some, this Saint was a son of Joseph the Betrothed, born of the wife that the latter had before he was betrothed to the Ever-virgin. Hence he was the brother of the Lord, Who was also thought to be the son of Joseph (Matt. 13: 55). He was still called, according to the idiom of the Scriptures, the Lord's brother because of their kinship. This Iakovos is called the Less (Mark 15:4) by the Evangelists to distinguish him from Iakovos, the son of Zebedee, who was called the

Great. Having ascended the crest of the Temple on the day of the Passover at the prompting of all, he bore testimony from there concerning his belief in Jesus, and he proclaimed with a great voice that Jesus sits at the right hand of the great power of God and shall come again upon the clouds of heaven. On hearing this testimony, many of those present cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David." But the Scribes and Pharisees cried, "So, even the just one hath been led astray," and at the command of Ananias the high priest, the Apostle was cast down headlong from thence, then was stoned, and while he prayed for his slayers, his head was crushed by the wooden club wielded by a certain scribe.

### **The Holy Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-streamer, October 26<sup>th</sup>**

Saint Demetrius was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of pious and noble parents, and a teacher of the Faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessalonica in 290, he raised the Saint to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. But when it was discovered that the Saint was a Christian, he was arrested and kept bound in a bath-house. While the games were under way in the city, Maximian was a spectator there. A certain friend of his, a barbarian who was a notable wrestler, Lyaeus by name, waxing haughty because of the height and strength of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought with him were defeated. Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, acquaintance of Demetrius', came to the Saint in the bath-house and asked his blessing to fight Lyaeus single-handed. Receiving this blessing and sealing himself with the sign of the precious Cross, he presented himself in the stadium, and said, "O God of Demetrius, help me!" and straightway he engaged Lyaeus in combat and smote him with a mortal blow to the heart, leaving the former boaster lifeless upon the earth. Maximian was sorely grieved over this, and when he learned who was the cause of this defeat, he commanded straightway and Demetrius was pierced with lances while he was yet in the bath-house, As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword.



**Community Christmas Card 2017 . . .** Chrisanthi Beach is in charge of the Christmas card this year. We encourage you to be part of the community Christmas card. Please provide a donation to Chrisanthi to have your name included on the card. We do not

specify an amount, but average donations are between \$10-20. Please get your donations done early. The deadline is December 3.

**Parish General Assembly Meeting, October 1 . . .** Please put this on your calendar. We have three items to discuss – vote on a new shed to replace our old storage and shed and storage rental unit, nomination of members for the Parish Council, and a quick update on the Christmas Festival and Pastry Sale. Please insure you are up to date on your stewardship pledge in order to vote. Our treasurer has emailed a list of those who are current, and also posted on our bulletin board.

**Prayer Service/Study Group, Wednesday, October 11 & 25 . . .** We will be having a Lay Prayer Service at 5:30 pm, followed by our new book study at 6:00 pm led by Nancy Malek. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

**Mobile Greek Festival, October 12, 13, & 14 . . .** Come out and support Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church's Greek Festival on October 12, 13, & 14. Enjoy delicious Greek food, pastries, music, dances, and lots of good fellowship. For info go to [www.greekfestmobile.org](http://www.greekfestmobile.org).

**International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale, December 9 . . .** all parishioners will need to help their church for the International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale this coming December 9. ***Please do not plan any vacations for this date, and mark your calendar for this event.*** Youth can bring their friends to help out, as in the past, they have been a tremendous help in making our festival successful.

This year's festival has many changes: The event will run from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. It will not start at 9:00 am as in the past. Nick Trivelas will be playing music at our festival this year. We will have the Victory Belles from the National WWII Museum in NOLA do three performances. We also have the Georgian Dance Ensemble from NYC performing their traditional folk dances. We have Greek, Russian, and Ukrainian dancers performing folk dances. Traditional foods will be provided from 13 countries and pastries from some of the countries. As of October 1, all information on the festival and pastry sale is available on our website [holytrinitybiloxi.org](http://holytrinitybiloxi.org). For further information contact George or Sheila Yurchak at [georgeyurchak@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeyurchak@yahoo.com) or 228-831-5820.

**Fellowship Hour After Liturgy . . .** Holy Trinity encourages our parishioners to sign up to host a fellowship hour after Sunday Liturgy. Thanks to everyone who has donated their delicious foods while hosting fellowship hour. Please continue to volunteer whenever you can. We all appreciate your generosity.

#### **Religious Education**

Fr Dean and Fr Ezekiel will continue their 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. 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.

**Many thanks** to all who helped and volunteered their time and effort at Holy Trinity. It is 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.

**October Birthdays . . .** Louie Peters and Nikol Michailos-Oct 4, Nina Gestring- Oct 6, Elizabeth Vamvakas-Oct 8, Jessie Mavromihalis-Martin-Oct 9, Cristian Aron-Oct 10, George Yurchak-Oct 11, Natalya Gray-Oct 16, Liliana Aron-Oct 17, John Pappas-Oct 19, Pete Psikogios- Oct 20, Christopher Mavromihalis-Oct 22. If we missed your birthday, apologies.

**October Anniversaries . . .** Congratulations to Aaron and Christina Mohler on their 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (October 15). Congratulations to CoCo and Steve Collins on their 39<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (October 31). We wish you many, many more years of wedded bliss.

**Get Well . . .**Prayers and blessings to Fr Jim Karagas, Karen Bridges, Elizabeth Vamvakas, Alan Koskan, Photine and Angelo Hagicostas, George Vaporis, Lela Roberts, Nikki Arnold, Virginia Freeman, and Tom Portaritis. 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.

## Ethnic Marketplace & Gift Corner

Please remember the Ethnic Marketplace and Gift Corner for your shopping needs. We provide these items as a service to our parishioners and mark up the price we pay by only 10%. This allows Holy Trinity a small margin of fundraising profit and allows our parishioners the convenience of shopping at church.

***We have a whole bunch of new 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 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 are 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)*

#### **Prayer for the Military**

We thank Thee, O Lord our God for all the blessings which Thou givest us. Thou has kept us by Thy power in good health during the night and Thou has called us up from sleep, that we may enjoy the light of day and to marvel at Thy Majesty. We entreat Thee, O Lord; grant that we may live this day without danger or sin, but full of Thy mercies and Thy divine care. Protect my family and the families of my fellow-servicemen from all evil. Enlighten the peoples who conquer and torture other nations; make them repent and seek peace, leaving other lands and their dwellers free. Open Thou the eyes of our mind to see Thy divine law and incline our hearts ever to do Thy commandments, to the glory of Thine all-holy Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

O Thou Loving Father of us all, Who are here and everywhere, let Thy blessing be upon my loved ones at home. Keep them in Thy gracious care, protect them by Thy power and make their hearts glad in the thought of Thy nearness. Help them and help me to feel that however separated we are by distance, in Thee we are close to each other. Amen.

Chaplain W. Basil Stroyen, USAF, wrote to Metropolitan Leonty during the Korean War, asking him for a prayer which would be appropriate for use the servicemen under his care. This prayer was sent to him. He had copies made for distribution and for pasting in the Divine Liturgy book, which was used at Services. It was recited by the congregation following the Services and used by many of the servicemen in their daily lives. Just two years ago a copy was sent to him a serviceman, who had kept it in his wallet since 1955. (Source: The Orthodox Herald, May 2003)

#### **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 September 30. Holy Trinity has received pledges totaling \$35,390 from the following Parishioners:

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

Craig & Karen Henderson  
Cristian & Meri Ionescu  
Mihail Kastrinos  
Karen Komenko  
Chrisie Soula Kiessling  
Karen Kohl  
John & Cornelia Koniditsiotis  
Irene & Alan Koskan  
Al & Kathy Lawson  
Eva Magiros  
Nancy & Carl Malek  
George & Janie Mavromahalas  
Shelby McCloud  
Louis & Linda Peters  
Nataliya Petrovska

Tom & Pat Portaritis  
Melissa Schwartz  
Jerry Strickland  
Lisa Taylor  
Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas  
Akaterina Vamvakas  
George Vaporis  
Eleni Vganges  
Spiro Vganges  
Dimitrios Virvilis  
Kosta Vlahos  
Demetri Vlahos  
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, Haylie & 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**

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

#### **Staff**

Kiosk – George Yurchak

Office Administrator – Sheila Yurchak, Karen Henderson

Publications Editor – Sheila Yurchak

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

#### **Parish Ministries**

Youth Ministries – George Yurchak

Youth Group Chair – Joseph Lawson, Korina Bodisch

Feed the Hungry – Jerry Strickland, Virginia Freeman, Nancy Malek

Sunday School – Akaterina Vamvakas

Ladies of the Agape Chair – Nancy Malek

Stewardship Chair – Craig Henderson

Reader – Rodney Bridges, John Collins, CoCo 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

Altar Boys – Joseph Lawson

Society of Wisdom – George Vaporis

Strategic Planning – Chair, CoCo Collins