



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)

**November 2018 Bulletin**



**From Fr Dean**

“Give thanks always, for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:20

On November 15th, forty days before Christmas Day, Orthodox Christians enter the Nativity Fast to begin our spiritual preparation for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to prepare ourselves to receive the gift of salvation which He offers us.

With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, families are deciding where they will gather for Thanksgiving Day and what the menu will be this year. But more important than this, hopefully we begin to develop a spirit of thankfulness. Here are four ways we can begin to develop a spirit of thankfulness, not just for Thanksgiving Day, but for the entire year.

**1. PRAY**

We should pray for blessings seen and unseen. In times of happiness, we can get distracted by good times and forget to give thanks to the Lord for the blessings He has granted us. So take time every day to list the many blessings in your life and thank God for them.

**2. GIVE**

God doesn't bless us so we can jealously keep good things for ourselves. God calls us to be good stewards who cultivate our blessings and share them. Perhaps God has blessed you with talent needed to sing, or lead, or work with youth, or cook, or serve in some other capacity in the church or community at large. Whatever God has blessed you with, don't bury it or hoard it: offer it up to the glory of God.

**3. PREPARE**

Unfortunately, the holiday season does not only bring joy. It can also bring stress of decorating, more meals to cook, more gifts to buy, etc. The best way to deal with stress is to take time to appreciate the little things. Take time every morning to simply be with Christ, and to ask for strength to approach each day. This special time can help re-center our lives on Christ and help jumpstart our spiritual lives.

#### 4. READ THE BIBLE

It has been said that when you carry the Bible, Satan has a headache. When you open it, he collapses. When he sees you reading it, he loses his strength. When you live your life according to the word of God, Satan can't harm you.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and for the birth of our Savior, now is the perfect time to develop an attitude of gratitude for the many blessings known and unknown that God grants us. Let us begin by thanking Him for everyone and everything in our lives.

Have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

#### **From Fr. George Tsahakis, Chancellor**

Thank you, God, that I can see. There are thousands who cannot see. For them, there is no sunrise or sunset; no autumn colors, no rainbow-tinted flowers, no movies, no delights of the eye.

Thank you, God, that I can hear. There are thousands who cannot hear the voice of their own mother, nor the singing of the birds, nor the radio, nor the laughter of children.

Thank you, God, that I can walk. How brave are those who live life without the use of their legs and are confined to a wheel chair, or even paralyzed from the waist down.

Thank you, God, that I can work. Look at the many who can do nothing with "brain or brawn or hands." There are so many who have been laid off due to the economy and the fear of uncertain times.

Thank you, God, that I have something to eat. Millions have little or nothing to eat. Thousands are dying of hunger, while I never miss a meal and enjoy the comforts of my home and family.

Thank you, God, for my Orthodox Faith, which teaches me to be thankful and to seek Your will in all that I do each day.

Thank you, God, for the freedom to worship You as You wish to be worshiped.

Thank you, God, for Your Holy Church and for welcoming me and everyone.

Thank you, God, for the privilege of attending the Divine Liturgy every Sunday and on special Feast Days.

Thank you, God, for permitting me to confess my sins and receive Your forgiveness, and likewise, to receive Your Divine Gifts, the Body and Blood of Your only Begotten Son and our Lord Jesus Christ.

For all these and more, O Lord, I thank You!

#### **From Presvytera Vassi Haros**

It's ok to pray for your priest. You can pray the Jesus Prayer. *Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on Your servant.* Or use the prayer from the Liturgical litany *For our Archbishop (Name), the honorable presbyters, the deacons in the service of Christ, and all the clergy and laity, let us pray to the Lord.* Prayer is always good. It would be the best gift you could offer.

## Schedule of Services

Matins (Orthos) will be at 9:30 every Sunday  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Nov 4 with Fr Dean  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Nov 11 with Fr Dean  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Nov 18 with Fr Dean  
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am on Nov 25 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.



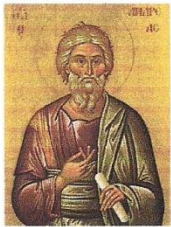
**Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & the other Bodiless Powers: Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, & Barachiel - November 8th.** . . . All the Angels, according to the Apostle Paul, are ministering spirits, - sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation - (Heb. 1:14). God set them as overseers of every nation and people, and guides to that which is profitable (Deut. 32:8); and while one

Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. He commands them to guard them that hope on Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Ps. 90:10-12). In the Heavens they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding with Him in our behalf, seeing they rejoice over one sinner that repents (Esaias 6:2-3; Matt. 18:10; Luke 15:7). In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit, that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with the histories thereof. It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Catholic Church, wisely honouring these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today the present Synaxis that is, our coming together in assembly for their common feast to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name. The name Michael means "Who is like God?" and Gabriel means "God is mighty."

**Apostle/Evangelist Mathew, - November 16th.** . . . This Apostle, who was also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus and had Galilee as his homeland. A publican before being called by Christ, he became one of the Twelve Apostles, and an Evangelist. While still in Palestine, he wrote his Gospel first in Hebrew, being also the first of all to write the Gospel. When he is depicted in icons, there is portrayed next to him the likeness of a man, one of the symbolic living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1.10), which, as Saint Irenaeus writes, is a symbol of our Saviour's Incarnation.



**Katherine the Great Martyr of Alexandria - November 25th.** . . . Saint Katherine, who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Conostas (or Cestus). She was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste, and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later; the famous monastery of Saint Katherine was originally dedicated to the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord and the Burning Bush, but later was dedicated to Saint Katherine.



**Apostle Andrew, First Called - November 30th.** . . . This Saint was from Bethsaida of Galilee; he was the son of Jonas and the brother of Peter, the chief of the Apostles. He had first been a disciple of John the Baptist; afterwards, on hearing the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus, when he pointed Him out with his finger and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1.29,36), he straightway followed Christ, and became His first disciple; wherefore he is called the First-called of the Apostles. After the Ascension of the Saviour, he preached in various lands; and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he died in Patras of Achaia, where he was crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X," the first letter of "Christ" in Greek; this cross is also the symbol of Saint Andrew.

**A Special Thanks to our Veterans . . .** We wish to honor our veterans this month and thank them for serving our great country and giving us the freedoms that our ancestors fought for. They are George Contas, Bernie DeSantis, Ken Gestring, Angelo Hagicostas, Craig Henderson, John Koniditsiotis, Adam Nasi, Tom Portaritis, George Vaporis, Demetri Vlahos, Adina Westmark and George Yurchak. We salute you.

**2018 Orthodox Women's Retreat Nov 10 . . .** The 4th annual Orthodox Women's Retreat will be hosted by St Peter Orthodox Church in Madison, in Madison Mississippi on November 10. Please see Church email on October 25 for details about registration and reservations if you plan to attend. Registration for the Retreat is \$25 and this includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Response needed by Nov 5.

**International Men's Day Nov 19 . . .** International Men's Day will be celebrated on Nov 18. The theme for 2018 is Men's Health. It is celebrated in over 60 countries. Holy Trinity will honor our men and boys with a special luncheon. Join us in celebrating the contribution our men and boys make to Holy Trinity, to those around them, to their family and friends, their work place and community and America.

**Parish General Assembly Nov 4 . . .** We will have our fall Parish General Assembly on Nov 4. Please mark your calendars as we give an update on the several items to include the Treasurer's Report, the International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale, nominating Parish Council Members, the Election Committee and Audit Committee, modifying Parish Bylaws, and Stewardship 2019. Please insure you are up to date with your pledge as of October 31. Our treasurer will email a list of those current with their pledge and it will be posted on the bulletin board.

**Happy Thanksgiving . . .** Wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving are sent to all. May the joy, peace and sharing that was shown to the pilgrims from the American Indians, be with you and your family and that you pass it on as they did. Share the horn of plenty with love in your heart. May your families get together and share the spirit of Thanksgiving.

**Thanksgiving Offering Box . . .** We will again have a container in the Church Fellowship Hall for each of us to make a food donation for a Thanksgiving offering (non-perishables only). We will donate it to a needy family or a charity organization on the coast. If you want to bring a bag of cat or dog food we will also take it to the Humane Society. Remember the pets. We have three more weeks to collect the food, so please bring with you when coming to Liturgy on Sundays. Any questions see Meri Ionescu. Thank you.

**Community Christmas Card . . .** Christ is Born, Glorify Him. Once again, our community will be preparing a Holy Trinity Christmas Card. We are certain all of you will want to extend your heartfelt Christmas greeting to all people in our community instead of mailing costly cards to members separately. A special card will be mailed to Holy Trinity members separately. Please provide donations (\$10 - \$20) by Sunday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Chrysanthi Beach if you wish to be included in this year's Christmas card.

**November Birthdays . . .** Happy birthday to Christopher Tulberi Nov 1, Theodore Chelmis Nov 2, Kosta Vlahos Nov 3, Spiro Vganges Nov 5, Bernie DeSantis Nov 8, Nick Miniotis Nov 10, Greg Fhaires Nov 15, Cristina Macovei Nov 16, Photine Vlahos Nov 19, Calliope DeSantis Nov 22, Karen Bridges Nov 23 and Karen Henderson Nov 28.

**November Anniversaries . . .** Congratulations to Chrysanthi and Richard Beach who celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on November 27. May God grant them many years.

**International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale, December 8 . . .** all parishioners are encouraged to help their church for the International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale this coming December 8. ***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: Free pictures and hot chocolate with Santa and Mrs. Claus. 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, Joanna and Megan 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, and the Greek Kefi Dancers from Birmingham, AL. 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 228-860-3376.

**Pastry Sale Items are now being ordered. Order online at [holytrinitybiloxi.org](http://holytrinitybiloxi.org) or pick up a form at church. Get your order turned in ASAP!**

**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 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 – 228-860-3376 or [georgeyurchak@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

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

### **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 our 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 2018**

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 2018. 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 (President & Stewardship Chairman), George Yurchak (Vice-President, Parish Council) or Rodney Bridges (Treasurer, Parish Council).

## **HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH STEWARDS FOR 2018**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the 2018 Stewardship Program as of October 31. Holy Trinity has received pledges totaling \$36,195 from the following Parishioners:

Chrisanthi Beach  
Mike Bodisch  
Caleb Bridges  
Rodney & Karen Bridges  
Robert Brouillette III  
John & Donna Collins  
Steve & CoCo Collins  
Nicoletta Conner  
George Contas  
John Demetrakopoulos  
Bernie & Callie DeSantis  
Hugh & Brandi Donohoe  
Norman & Shelby Foskey  
Terry & Julia Foskey  
Virginia Freeman  
Natalya Gray  
Angelo & Photine Hagicostas

Craig & Karen Henderson  
Elen Ifantis  
Cristian & Meri Ionescu  
Mihail Kastrinos  
Chrisie Soula Kiessling  
Karen Kohl  
Karen Komenko  
John & Cornelia Koniditsiotis  
Allen & Irene Koskan  
Al & Kathy Lawson  
Maria & Peter Loukatos  
Rena Lohrbach  
Cristina Macovei  
Eva Magiros  
Karl & Nancy Malek  
Kyriaki Jessie Martin  
Louis & Linda Peters

Nataliya Petrovska  
Tom & Pat Portaritis  
Melissa Schwartz  
Jerry Strickland  
Leah Summers  
Lisa Taylor  
Alexandru Tulburi  
Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas  
Katerina Vamvakas  
George Vaporis  
Eleni Vganges  
Spiro Vganges  
Dimitrius & Stamatina Virvillis  
Costa Vlahos  
Demetri Vlahos  
George & Sheila Yurchak

### **Church Directory**

#### **Liturgical Services**

Sundays – Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

#### **Church Clergy**

Rev. Fr. Dean Gigicos

**Chanters** – Angelos Vamvakas, Rodney Bridges,  
Hugh Donohoe, Luke Pappas, Haylie & Ryan Waldrop,  
CoCo Collins

#### **2018 Parish Council**

President – Craig Henderson

Vice President – George Yurchak

Treasurer – Rodney Bridges

Secretary – Brandi Donohoe

Member – Cristian Ionescu

**Librarian** Hugh Donohoe, Brandi Donohoe

**Historian** Brandi Donohoe, Akaterina Vamvakas

#### **Facilities**

Chair – Craig Henderson

Cristian Ionescu

#### **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 – George Yurchak

**Kazakhstan Culture** Chair – Natalya Gray

**Belarousian Culture** Chair – TBD



**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 – Meri Ionescu

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



**The Victory Belles**  
From The National WWII Museum



**Georgian Dance Ensemble**  
from New York



**Nick Trivelas**  
**Joanna & Megan**  
Greek Music and Songs



**Kefi Dancers**  
from Birmingham AL



**Oksana Kozhanova**  
Russian Ballet Master

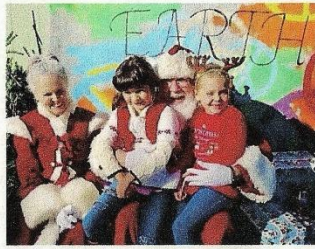
***Free Pictures & Hot Chocolate with Santa***  
**Eastern European & Greek Food & Pastries**  
**Marketplace Gifts, Fun Family Activities**  
**Live Music & Dancing, Church Tours**  
**Saturday, December 8, 2018**  
**10:00 am – 5:00 pm – *Free Admission!!!***  
**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**  
**255 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi MS 39531**  
**228-860-3376 [holytrinitybiloxi.org](http://holytrinitybiloxi.org)**



**Gulf Coast**  
**Hellenic Dancers**  
**& Ukrainian**  
**Dancers**

***We Honor Our Military and Our Blue!***

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
International Christmas Festival  
& Pastry Sale



Pictures with Santa  
& Mrs. Claus



Fun & Free  
Kids

Activities

Saturday

Dec. 8, 10-5

255 Beauvoir Rd

Biloxi



Fire Engine Truck  
& Fireman Hats



Jumpin Joe's Inflatables  
30 ft Obstacle Course  
w/17' rock wall  
& dual lane slide



Copypat  
Face Painting  
By Catherine Ha

