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Metropolis of Atlanta  
**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**  
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**May 2021 Bulletin**

**Christ is Risen!**

**Цррист ис Рисен! Христός Ανέστη!**

**قام حقا قام لمسيح!**

**Hristos a inuiat!**

### Easter Wisdom From Fr. Dean

*Christ is Risen!*

*Truly He is Risen!*

*Glory to His Third Day Resurrection!*

*We worship His Third Day Resurrection!*



For 40 days after Pascha, until the Feast of our Lord's Ascension, we greet each other not with "Hi" or "Hello", but with "Christ is Risen", and respond with "Truly He is Risen!" These words are a proclamation and an affirmation of what we believe to be the essential message of the Christian gospel. This is the good news, or perhaps we should say the GREAT news! All that we are as Christians hinges upon these words. Although we never hear it said outside of our worship services, we must never forget the second half of the dialogue. "Glory to His third day Resurrection! We worship His third day Resurrection!" These words are a proclamation and an affirmation of the significance of Christ's triumph over death.

These words set a tone for **action**. "We worship His third day Resurrection" is a statement of **action**. **It is faith in action. The Risen Christ is not merely given lip service. The Risen Christ is to be worshiped!**

It is interesting that the Divine Liturgy ends with "We worship (present tense) His third day Resurrection". The worship of the Risen Lord extends beyond the church building. It is an everyday, every moment act for the true believing Christian.

Living our Faith and sharing it, is an act of worship. If we adopt for ourselves this way of thinking, then we will be living this great message of hope and love as the Apostles did, affirming it, and proclaiming it to all who would hear it, not only by our words, but by our actions. A wise man once said "proclaim the Gospel and if necessary use words." Our actions speak louder than our words!

"We worship His third day Resurrection" are powerful words and should not be taken lightly. They are words that can inspire faith in others who hear them. They are words that will take on a special meaning only when they are said with conviction. Let us strive to be genuine Christians. Let us affirm who we are. Let us confess Jesus Christ whom we follow and how He bought salvation for us.

***CHRIST IS RISEN!***

## **Schedule of Services for May**

Saturday, May 1, Holy Saturday, Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil 10 am  
Holy Pascha 11:30 pm

Sunday, May 2, Holy Pascha,  
Agape Vespers 2 pm  
Paschal Feast

Monday, May 3, Renewal Monday/ Saint George the Holy Great Martyr  
Paschal Hours 9:30 am  
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Friday, May 7, Renewal Friday/ Theotokos of Life Giving Spring  
Paschal Hours 9:30 am  
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Sunday, May 9, Sunday of Saint Thomas/Mother's Day  
Orthros 9:30 am  
Divine Liturgy 10 am  
Memorial Service

Wednesday, May 12, Daily Vespers and Talk 6 pm

Saturday, May 15, Great Vespers 6 pm

Sunday, May 16, Sunday of Holy Myrrhbearing Women  
Orthros 9:30 am  
Divine Liturgy 10 am  
Holy Baptism of Jeffrey and Bryson  
1 pm

Wednesday, May 19, Daily Vespers and Talk 6 pm

Friday, May 21, Saints Constantine and Helen- Equals to the Apostles,  
Orthros 9:30 am  
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Saturday, May 22, Great Vespers 6 pm

Sunday, May 23, Sunday of the Paralytic,  
Orthros 9:30 am  
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Wednesday, May 26, Mid Pentecost  
Orthros 9:30 am  
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Saturday, May 29, Great Vespers 6 pm

Sunday, May 30, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman  
Orthros 9:30 am  
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Monday, May 31, Memorial Day  
Orthros 9:30 am  
Divine Liturgy 10 am

## 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 handicapped parishioners, then children to receive Communion first. Then front row to back row.***

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

**Gulf Coast Historical Society Annual Event, May 1 . . .** Holy Trinity will participate in this event from 1-2 pm at the Biloxi Visitor Center. Steve & CoCo Collins, Soula Kessler, Maria Loukatas, and Chrisanthe Beach will perform Greek dances. George & Sheila Yurchak will perform a Ukrainian dance, and Steve Collins will perform on the bagpipes. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

**Blessing an Easter Basket After Resurrection Service, May 1 . . .** We will continue

the Slavic Tradition of Blessing of the Easter Basket this year. Parishioners brought 15 -20 Easter Baskets to be blessed last year. If you have the Church Cookbook see it listed under Slavic Traditions for the full meaning. The baskets are blessed after the Resurrection Service at Pascha. The blessing of the Easter Baskets stems from the Christian communities desire to ask God's blessing on the foods that will break the Lenten Fast. The religious significance attached to the foods in the basket are symbolic of Christ Himself, our true Passover. Each Basket traditionally starts with a Church Candle and the following items:

***Pascha*** – An Easter Bread made with egg yolks and dough. It represents “Christ—the Bread of Life.”

***Meat*** – Usually ham, kielbasi or hard salami. This represents the fatted calf prepared for the prodigal son (fallen

mankind) on his return to his father (our Heavenly Father).

### HOW TO PUT TOGETHER A TRADITIONAL EASTER BASKET

TEXT ADAPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY FR. BASIL KHAYNYAK, GU MESSENGER, APRIL, 1979. ILLUSTRATED BY FR. JONATHAN BASSON



**PASCHA** - The Easter Bread (From Pascha) A sweet yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc. Symbolic of Christ Himself who is our True Bread. Usually round loaf baked with a golden crust decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ. Sometimes a cross (+) of dough is placed on top encircled by a plait given it a crowned effect or Greek



**CHEESE** - (Rasny: Hrudka or Sirec) A crumbly type cheese shaped into a ball having a rather bland but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. Also creamed cheese is placed in a small dish and both are decorated with symbols (see Pascha) out of cloves or pepper tabs.

**HAM** - (Rasny: Sunka - pron. shoon-ka.) The fatted calf popular with the Slavs as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Some may prefer Lamb or Veal. This is usually well roasted or cooked as well as other meats so the festivity of the day will not be hindered with preparation and all may enjoy the Feast.



**BUTTER** - (Rasny: Maslo pron. mas-oh.) This favorite dairy product is often shaped into a figure of a Lamb or small cross and decorated as the Cheese. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.



**SAUSAGE** (Rasny: Kolbasi-pron. kol-bas-i.) A spicy, garlic sausage of pork products indicative of God's flavor and generosity.



**BACON** - (Rasny: Stanina pron. sta-ni-na) A piece of uncooked bacon cured with spices, symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy to us.

**EGGS** (Rasny: Pisaniki pron. pi-san-ki) Hardboiled eggs brightly decorated with symbols and markings, made with beeswax, indicative of new life and resurrection. Red eggs are also traditional date back to a story with St. Mary Magdalene: I have been dyed with onion skins saved over the past year, red shows the color of life and victory that came through Christ's blood.

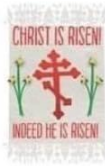


**SALT** - (Rasny: Sol' pron. sol') A condiment necessary for flavor reminding the Christian of his duty to others.



**HORSERADISH** (Rasny: Chisn pron. chisn) Horseradish mixed with grated red beets (optional) sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. A bitter-sweet red colored mixture reminds us of the sufferings of Christ.

These articles are placed in a wicker basket. A decorated candle is placed inside and is lit at the time of the blessing. A linen cover usually embroidered with a picture of the Risen Christ or symbol with the words "Christ is Risen" is placed over the food when brought to the Church. In some places a large Easter Bread (Pascha) is made and brought separately in a large linen cloth. If the origin of the people was from a wine growing area, a sweet wine may be brought.



**Cheese** – Either an egg, or cottage cheese. This symbolized the moderation that all Christians should have in all things.

**Eggs** – The egg is symbolic of the grave and life renewed by breaking out of it –The Resurrection! Red eggs are used to symbolize the blood Christ shed for us.

**Salt** – represents the truth of the message of Christ.

**Horseradish** – is a reminder of the bitter drink that was given to Christ on the Cross.

**Butter** – symbolizes the Lamb of God and represents the sacrifice Christ made for all people.

**Youth** can put their special items in to be blessed (e.g. jelly beans, etc). Foods are placed in a basket so they can all be touched by the Holy Water when blessed after the Resurrection Liturgy. A **candle** is brought, placed in the basket and lit just prior to blessing. The basket is covered by a white cloth when brought to the Church. So please bring your Easter Baskets to be blessed. It is a special tradition. For further information contact George Yurchak.

**Red Easter Eggs, May 1 . . .** Everyone is asked to bring a dozen red Easter eggs to the Resurrection Service to be shared with parishioners. For your information the Roman Emperor Tiberius converted to Christianity when wishing to put an end to the preaching of Mary Magdelene, he declared that he would sooner believe in a white egg turning red than in the possibility of the resurrection of the dead. An egg turned red that culminated in the Roman Caesar's baptism.

**Agape Feast, May 2 . . .** The Agape Feast will be on Pascha, May 2, after Agape Vespers at 2:00 pm. Master Chef George Vaporis will cook lamb, venison, potatoes and green beans. Master Chef Sam Markpulos will make his renowned Souvlaki. Everyone is asked to bring a dish, especially traditional ethnic dishes, to be shared by all. For information contact George Yurchak.

**Mother's Day Luncheon on Sunday May 9 . . .** 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. Holy Trinity will recognize the most senior and the youngest mother attending liturgy with half dozen roses. All other women will receive a single rose. A Special Luncheon will be hosted for the mothers/women of the Church after Liturgy on May 9.

**Concert Ode to Joy, May 15 . . .** Nataliya Molsbee and her talented students will present an evening of music, Saturday May 15 at 6 pm. Tickets are \$15. Holy Trinity will support Nataliya by selling pastries and drinks at the concert, with the profits going to our church. If you want tickets or would like to help, please see George Yurchak, [georgeyurchak@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeyurchak@yahoo.com).

**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 – 228-860-3376 or [georgeyurchak@yahoo.com](mailto: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. We would like to honor your anniversary. Contact George Yurchak 228-860-3376 or georgeyurchak@yahoo.com with your anniversary date if we missed you. May God grant you many years.

**May Birthdays . . .** Happy birthday to Larisa LeVaugh, May 3, Christopher Peters, May 6, Nancy Malek, May 8, Craig Henderson, May 10, Costa Vganges, May 17, Olga Black, May 29. If we don't have your birthday please tell us.



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

**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, candies, Greek, Bulgarian and French 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, 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 2021

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 2021. 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 2021

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the 2021 Stewardship Program as of April 30. Holy Trinity has received pledges from 42 parishioners, totalling \$39,105, from the following:

Chrisanthi Beach  
Melissa & Caleb Bridges  
Rodney & Karen Bridges  
Robert Brouillette III  
John & Donna Collins  
Steve & CoCo Collins  
Nicoletta Conner  
George Contas  
John Demetrakopoulos  
Virginia Freeman  
Angelo & Photine Hagicostas  
Craig & Karen Henderson  
Cristian & Meri Ionescu  
Katherine Kaletu  
Mihail Kastrinos  
John & Cornelia Koniditsiotis  
Irene Koskan

Howard Lassalle  
George & Christina Loukatos  
Maria & Peter Loukatos  
Eva Magiros  
Stratos Mandas  
George & Janie Mavromahalis  
Louis & Linda Peters  
Melissa Schwartz  
Angelos & Elizabeth Vamvakas  
Katerina Vamvakas  
George Vaporis  
Eleni Vganges  
Spiro Vganges  
Kosta Vlahos  
George & Sheila Yurchak

#### Church Directory

##### **Church Clergy**

Rev. Fr. Paisius

**Chanters** – Lead, Angelos Vamvakas,  
Melissa Bridges, Rodney Bridges, Hugh Donohoe,  
CoCo Collins, Akaterina Vamvakas

##### **2021 Parish Council**

President – George Yurchak  
Vice President – Donna Collins  
Treasurer – Rodney Bridges  
Secretary – Craig Henderson  
Member at Large – Evie Magiros

**Librarian** Hugh Donohoe, Brandi Donohoe

**Historian** Brandi Donohoe, Akaterina Vamvakas

##### **Facilities**

Chair – Craig Henderson, Cristian Ionescu

##### **Education & Culture Committees**

Chair – George Yurchak

**Greek Culture** Chair – Maria Loukatos

**Ukrainian Culture** Chair – Nataliya Petrovska Kirby

**Romanian Culture** Chair – Meri Ionescu

**Moldovan Culture** Chair – Alexandru Tulburi

**Russian Culture** Chair – George Yurchak

**Kazakhstan Culture** Chair - Natalya Gray

**Staff**

Kiosk – George Yurchak

Publications Editor – Sheila Hemenway-Yurchak

Cleaning – Chrisanthi Beach, Fanoula Christidis,

Melissa Schwartz, Mihail Kastrinos, & Akaterina Vamvakas,

**Parish Ministries**

Feed the Hungry – Melissa Bridges

Ladies of the Agape Chair – Meri Ionescu

Stewardship Chair – Craig Henderson

Reader – Rodney Bridges, John Collins, CoCo Collins

Adult Education – Fr Paisius

Outreach – George Yurchak, Akaterina Vamvakas

Web Master – Steve Collins

Pastoral Assistant – Craig Henderson, Caleb Bridges, Mihail Kastrinos

Society of Wisdom – George Vaporis

Strategic Planning – Chair, CoCo Collins

Greek Dance Instruction – Steve & CoCo Collins

Art Coordinator – Helena Docherty

Church Tours – John Collin