



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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January – February 2020 Newsletter



A Word from our Council President, George Yurchak

Sheila Yurchak received a beautiful birthday message from a former student. George Yurchak writes an article on the “Beauty of Woman” highlighting the cultural beauty we bring to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Speaking of culture, Holy Trinity was asked to bring our culture to the Armed Forces Retirement Home and the Gulf Coast Historical Society for their Cultural Events. His Grace Bishop Sebastian visited Holy Trinity, had dinner with the Parish Council and Ladies of Agape and their spouses before serving a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday and meeting the parishioners.

One Teacher Can Make a Difference in a Child’s Life

Sheila Yurchak received this beautiful and heart-warming birthday message from a former student at Vancleave Middle School:

“I want to take a moment to wish Sheila Hemenway-Yurchak a very very happy birthday. Thank you for believing in me and teaching me that everyone is capable of being an artist. You always encouraged me to create my own art. You taught me about individuality, taught me to look at the world around me and be influenced by what I could see not what everyone else could see. I am as creative and artistic as I am today because one (1) teacher believed in me - My Middle School Art Teacher. Thank you. Thank you for inspiring me as a student and now as a mother who gets to create all kinds of things for her children. Some teachers leave a lasting mark on their students lives, and you will forever be in my heart as the greatest art teacher I ever had. I hope your birthday is filled with beauty and love and I hope it is just as amazing as you are.”

--Kiley Wilcox

“The Beauty of Woman – God’s Grand Finale” by George Yurchak



As a tribute to the women of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, I want to put a spotlight on their unique cultural beauty. Their beauty can be witnessed in the different cultures we bring to the Mississippi Gulf Coast by the folk dance costumes, dresses, and gowns worn by the parishioners **and** friends of Holy Trinity. They can reveal the true beauty of their country’s culture with the rich dance traditions, choreography and performance techniques, and synchronization of music and movement when they

perform in their native costumes – Greece, Russia, Romania, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Georgia, and America -- for the people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Festive and elaborate details are part of the beautiful ethnic wardrobe of the cultural ladies from Holy Trinity and those who come to perform for the peoples of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Their costumed performances at our International Christmas Festival, at the Armed Forces Retirement Home, for the Gulf Coast Historical Society, at coast libraries and at public schools, are a testament to their unique cultural beauty. Holy Trinity supports the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area.





And as Margarita Lopareva said “If you are not in a fairytale, create one.”



*A woman was and is one of God's most magnificent creations -
as a matter of fact she was his grand finale.*

Bishop Sebastian's Visit to Holy Trinity

His Grace Bishop Sebastian of Zelon scheduled a Pastoral visit to Holy Trinity for Divine Liturgy. His Grace also met with the Parish Council and Ladies of Agape and their spouses for an enjoyable dinner Saturday at Country Gentlemen where George and Joanne Trigas performed on the guitar and bouzouki. The parishioners of Holy Trinity were able to meet His Grace for Sunday Divine Liturgy and a delicious luncheon prepared by the parishioners of their many ethnic dishes. His Grace Bishop Sebastian thoroughly enjoyed his Holy Trinity visit to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.





Holy Trinity Performs at Armed Forces Retirement Home Cultural Day

Each year the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Biloxi asks Holy Trinity to come and support their Cultural Day with our many cultures to entertain the veterans who reside there. The residents thoroughly enjoy our Ukrainian (Sheila and George Yurchak) and Greek dances (Duke of Ouzo Steve Collins, Kris Beddoe, Maria Loukatos, Soula Kiessling and Chrisanthe Beach) as well as our cultural display boards, and bagpipe music (Steve Collins and Eyler Coates) and Eyler on the Irish



Harp. The residents always support Holy Trinity events, particularly our International Christmas Festival.



Holy Trinity Participates in Gulf Coast Historical Society Cultural Event



Each year, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Historical Society invites Holy Trinity with its many cultures to come and participate in their Annual Cultural Event. Our Cultural Display Boards (Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Greece and Romania) showcase some of our cultures. In addition, Holy Trinity is the only provider of cultural entertainment for the visitors of the Historical Society's Event. It is the highlight of the Event when Steve and Eyler Coates enter playing the Scottish bagpipes, Eyler playing beautiful music on the Irish harp, George & Sheila

Yurchak dancing a lovely Ukrainian waltz and the Gulf Coast Hellenic Dancers (Duke of Ouzo Steve Collins, Maria Loukatos and Kris Beddoe) performing their Greek dances. Some of the attendees even joined in a Greek dance. OPA!



Holy Trinity Supports State of Mississippi Culture

Holy Trinity supports the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area. George Yurchak was asked to participate and give an interview. He was interviewed by Jaime Ellen and told Holy Trinity's story of the parishioners who love this place and who promote the cultures that make up the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Pictured with George Yurchak are Jaime Ellen (host of her own TV show MS Congeniality), Bridgette Varone and Rhonda Price of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Office of Restoration & Resiliency. As a matter of fact, Jaime came to Holy Trinity and devoted a whole television show to promote the cultures of Holy Trinity for our International Christmas Festival.



"Beauty is God's Handwriting"

Ralph Waldo Emerson