



**Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Metropolis of Atlanta**

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
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**Special Edition Newsletter
International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale**

Message from your President, George Yurchak

This is a special newsletter dedicated to the December International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale providing everything that is going to be happening at this year's festival. It should be one of our best festivals, if not the best. Please take the time to read this newsletter. And, please reserve December 14 for coming out and helping your church, Holy Trinity. It is one day a year, 9 hrs that you can give. Also, please get the word out and invite many friends to come and experience this Christmas Festival which features 12 Eastern European countries and the U.S., with their delicious pastries, unique foods, cultural heritage and lively entertainment.

International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale for the MS Gulf Coast

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
255 Beauvoir Rd., Biloxi, MS 39531

What to Expect: Traditional Foods, Music, Singing, Dancing & Family Fun

Welcome

Welcome to the International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale, which is the largest on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This event is dedicated to the spirituality, culture, art, music, and food of the many different ethnic cultures that make up Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. We hope you enjoy the cultural and entertainment program, taste delicious foods, and buy gifts for your friends and family. Experience the pleasures of life and cuisine of Greece, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Germany, Hungary, Belarus, and America. Listen to Nick Trivelas on the Bouzouki playing "Zorba the Greek," "Never on Sunday," and other traditional Greek songs. Be entertained by The Victory Belles from the National World War II Museum in New Orleans in spirited performances that take you back to the songs of World War II, and patriotic songs in support of our military.

Enjoy the spirited choreography of the Fesebi Dance Ensemble from NYC and the Kefi Dancers from Birmingham, AL. Listen to the music and watch, or even join in, a spirited performance of traditional Greek and Ukrainian folk dances.

You can tour our Church and learn about Orthodox Tradition, including iconography. Our community is committed to bringing and enriching the Gulf Coast with our own unique cultures and authenticity. Thank you for coming to our event and we pray that your visit with us will be delightful and rewarding, and that you will return next year.

Great Food

Our annual Pastry Sale, which is well known to people on the Gulf Coast for over 45 years, will be held inside our Fellowship Hall. Pre-ordering is recommended for large orders, and the order form can be found on our website: **holytrinitybiloxi.org**. This year we will offer pastries from Greece, Russia, Ukraine, and Hungary.

Outside during the Festival you can enjoy lunch or dinner with some of the favorite foods from Greece, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Germany, Hungary, Belarus, and America, such as -- Gyro, Dolmades, Blini, Vareniki, Mititei, Sarmale, Plov, Sauerkraut & Sausage, Hungarian Goulash, and good ole' American Hot Dogs. Also outside you can purchase individual pastry specialties: Baklava, Kourambides, Poppysseed Roll, Kolachy Cookies, and many more. Also available will be ice cream sundaes for the kids.



Live Entertainment



Enrich your senses with sights and sounds. Again this year will feature The Victory Belles of the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, a delightful trio who serenade audiences around the world. Listen to the music of the 1940s that brought hope and joy to our GIs and those on the Home Front alike, and the Victory Belles keep that tradition alive in rich, three part harmony. Their repertoire includes all the treasured gems of the WWII era plus patriotic classics, including a musical salute to each branch of the US Armed Forces.

Nick Trivelas will be back on the bouzouki, along with singer Megan Jensen (member of the Greek band "The Aegeans") and together they will provide lively Greek music throughout the festival. Nick Trivelas performed here in Biloxi at last year's International Christmas Festival, during Greek Nights, and Greek Festivals in New Orleans and Mobile. He has played on cruise ships and Greek festivals around the country. He is a Coast favorite. Megan Jensen will bring the songs of the films and play "Mama Mia" to the festival.



The Fesebi Dance Ensemble, featuring Nino Nadareishvili and George Goderdzishvili, will travel from New York City to the Coast of Mississippi to perform their energetic customary dances from their native country of Georgia. They have performed at Embassies and Festivals around the U.S., and the Lincoln Center in New York.



The Kefi Dancers from Birmingham, Alabama will provide traditional Greek folk dances. They have danced at our Greek Nights at the IP Casino as well as other Greek Nights, Festivals, and special events in the southeast.



Watch our local costumed Greek & Ukrainian folk dancers perform time-honored dances to the music of their countries. Then visitors can join in and experience some of the dances also. The dancers will perform throughout the event.





New this year is fourteen year old Ukrainian singer Polina from New Orleans. Polina will be performing Russian and Ukrainian folk songs that she has sung at the Russian Cultural Center and in musicals, such as Beauty and the Beast.

Fun Activities for Kids

We will have a visit from Santa, Mrs. Claus, and their elves, and parents can take free pictures of their kids with Santa. We will have a large inflatable slide that has a 30 ft obstacle course with a 17 ft rock wall and dual lane slide.

Also this year we have fantastic face painting by a talented artist, Catherine Ha, from Copycats Face Painting to delight the kids, and a real Biloxi Fire Department fire truck on display for the kids to enjoy!





The Agora (Ethnic Marketplace)

Available for purchase during the outdoor Festival will be a variety of specialty ethnic food items from many of these countries. Included are Greek olive oil, halva, olives, jellies, candies, oregano, spices, cheeses, tea, and coffee. Also for sale are Russian caviar, buckwheat, Kvas, chocolates, fruit preserves, bread and other delicacies. Many countries are also represented in the gift area: nesting dolls, jewelry, incense and charcoal, dining supplies, CDs, and icons. Vendors will have their booths set up with their creative items for sale; such as, paintings, signs, jewelry, books, soaps, and handmade crafts.

Our Church

Take a moment to visit our true “home” inside the church. With the many icons there is a story to see the moment you step inside. Let the icons and fragrance of incense move you toward heaven, and learn about the rich and ancient Orthodox Christian traditions which we continue to preserve, share and live today. Admire new icon paintings that will bring you close to the sacred beauty and miracles of Christianity. A guided tour will be offered at various times throughout the day so we hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity.



We Honor Our Blue & First Responders

It is our honor to have as our guests any law enforcement officer or first responder from the Gulf Coast. We will offer lunch and dinner discounts in gratitude for their service to us every day.

We Honor Our Military

We want to honor our military who have proudly served our country through their service in our armed forces. We will offer lunch and dinner discounts to all military personnel, active and retired, as a way of saying Thank You.

