



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA
PARISH OF ST. VASILIOS, BRUNSWICK, VICTORIA

SUNDAY
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PARISH INFORMATION BULLETIN

PROGRAM FOR 26 - 2 JULY 2016



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Fr. Athanasios
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are available
at the Church

every Monday to Friday
between
4.00 and 6.00pm

for Holy Confession and
any spiritual need.

SUNDAY 26 JUNE <i>Sunday of All Saints</i>	Sunday of All Saints —Matthew 10: 32,33, 37,38,19:27-30 • 7.30– 11.15am Orthros and Divine Liturgy SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR AGES 5 TO 17 YEARS TAKES PLACE STRAIGHT AFTER HOLY COMMUNION. CLASSES TAKE PLACE IN THE DOWNSTAIRS ROOMS BEHIND THE CHURCH. BRING YOUR CHILDREN ALONG TO LEARN ABOUT THEIR ORTHODOX FAITH AND GOD'S LOVE FOR EACH ONE OF US.
MONDAY 27 JUNE	• 9.00am Service of Holy Unction • 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall.
TUESDAY 28 JUNE	• 7.00pm Parishes of St Vasilios and the Presentation of our Lord, Coburg Youth Group will meet in our Church Hall. The meeting will begin with the Compline Service in English. • 7.30pm Young Adults and Married Couples Bible Study Group —in downstairs building behind the Church.
WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE <i>Holy Apostles Peter and Paul</i>	• 7.00– 9.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy • 5.00pm Service of Vespers
THURSDAY 30 JUNE <i>Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles</i>	• 7.00– 9.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
FRIDAY 1 JULY <i>Holy Unmercenaries Kosmas and Damian</i>	• 7.00– 9.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
SATURDAY 2 JULY	• 3.45pm Service of Vespers

WORDS FROM THE CHURCH FATHERS

Many think that the saints are far from us. But they are far from those who distance themselves from them, and very close to those keep the commandments of Christ and have the grace of the Holy Spirit. In the heavens, all things are moved by the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit is on earth too. He lives in our Church. He lives in the Mysteries. He is in the Holy Scriptures. He is in the souls of the faithful. The Holy Spirit unites all things, and therefore the saints are close to us. And when we pray to them, then the Holy Spirit hears our prayers, and our souls feel that they are praying for us.

- St. Silouan the Athonite, *Writings*, XII.3

Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles

The names of the Twelve Apostles are these: Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew, the First-called; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John, who was also the Evangelist and Theologian; Philip, and Bartholomew (see also June 11); Thomas, and Matthew the publican, who was also called Levi and was an Evangelist; James the son of Alphaeus, and Jude (also called Lebbaeus, and surnamed Thaddaeus), the brother of James, the Brother of God; Simon the Cananite ("the Zealot"), and Matthias, who was elected to fill the place of Judas the traitor (see Aug. 9). These men's lives were changed once having come to know Christ our Lord; they showed us this was a change not out of duty, but of love—by their most precious sacrifice. They left families, jobs, homes, earthly comforts—they gave all, even themselves. By tracing their travels on a map we see the drive within them; their love for Christ Preaches at Pentecost; to share His love and salvation with others. They comforted, helped, freed from fear, guilt and sin, healed from sickness, all, regardless of danger and obstacles. They opened mankind's eyes to Truth and Love and bestowed us the Gospel of joy and hope. We remember them especially and honour them through the ages.

How to Honour Your Father

³⁷*Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.* These are the words of Jesus in today's Gospel reading, from the First Sunday of Matthew (10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30) and the Sunday of All Saints. And Jesus' words may jar some of us as we reflect on our own father on this Father's Day 2014. But it is providential that these words come to us today through our Orthodox lectionary because they provide one of the clearest instructions to help fathers be better fathers and children be better children.

From early in our childhood we learned the Ten Commandments and the fifth commandment was always most memorable: ¹²*"Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.* (Exodus 20:12). Why? Because when we are young, our parents are everything to us. In many ways, when we were a newborn baby and grew into toddlerhood, our parents were like God to us. As far as we were concerned, they were all-powerful, providing for our every need. But as we grew a little older, especially in adolescence, we realized that our parents were not God, they were not perfect.

Now the key here is that good, loving and compassionate parents acknowledge this fact to their teenagers. They say, "Your right, I'm not perfect; but let me show you someone who is perfect." And they point to Jesus and to God the Father. They say, "I love you this much but God loves you much more than that. Love Him more than me and He will show you how to love your children this much." The parents who often run into difficulty with their children are the ones who will not relinquish their earlier divine role in their children's lives. They are above reproach and in extreme cases, they can become tyrannical, squashing any challenge to their authority. All this does is cause their children to see them as angry and controlling, not loving and compassionate.

Now the great majority of fathers and mothers love their children. They are not trying to alienate them. They are trying to help them to become responsible, caring people and eventually mature adults. The problem is that we parents, especially fathers at times, do not know how to relinquish our control over our children's lives. We can do that better if we start learning and practicing turning that control over to God. Actually, the control was never ours in the first place. That's just an illusion. The recently canonized Saint Porphyrios of Greece, in his book "Wounded by Love" states the problem and the solution quite simply. He says that we parents talk too much at our children, constantly nagging them and bothering them with our words. St. Porphyrios says that instead of nagging our children, we parents and fathers should nag God in our prayers. Then God will sift our words and find a way, a time and place, to speak to our children.

My prayer for my son is this, "God, speak to him the words he needs to hear. God, reveal yourself to him. God, show him that You love him. God, help him to be the person you are calling him to be."

If we fathers and parents love God more than our children, then God is going to help us be the best fathers and parents we can be. If we can teach and show our children to love God more than us parents, then we do not have anything to worry about. Maybe they will follow the fifth commandment, maybe they will not but it's more likely that they will.

And now some words to us children, some of our parents did a really good job at showing us how love God more than them; some parents, maybe not so much. But either way, when we become adults, we still have the God-given commandment to honour our mothers and fathers. So, when they are in need, we will help them. When people see us and how we act, when they hear us and how we talk, and they know the persons we have become, with all our qualities and characteristics, hopefully that will bring honour to our parents.

Let us close today with a two passages from the Scriptures. The first is from the Wisdom of Sirach.

¹*Hear me your father, O children, and do thereafter, that you may be safe.* ²*For the Lord has given the father honour over the children, and has confirmed the authority of the mother over the sons.* ³*Whoso honours his father makes an atonement for his sins:* ⁴*And he that honours his mother is as one that lays up treasure.* ⁵*Whoso honours his father shall have joy of his own children; and when he makes his prayer, he shall be heard.* ⁶*He that honours his father shall have a long life; and he that is obedient unto the Lord shall be a comfort to his mother.* ⁷*He that fears the Lord will honour his father, and will do service unto his parents, as to his masters.* ⁸*Honour your father and mother both in word and deed that a blessing may come upon thee from them.* ⁹*For the blessing of the father establishes the houses of children; but the curse of the mother roots out foundations.* ¹⁰*Glory not in the dishonour of your father; for your father's dishonour is no glory unto thee.* ¹¹*For the glory of a man is from the honour of his father; and a mother in dishonour is a reproach to the children.* ¹²*My son, help thy father in his age, and grieve him not as long as he lives.* ¹³*And if his understanding fail, have patience with him; and despise him not when you are in your full strength.* ¹⁴*For the relieving of your father shall not be forgotten: and instead of sins it shall be added to build you up.* ¹⁵*In the day of your affliction it shall be remembered; your sins also shall melt away, as the ice in the fair warm weather.* ¹⁶*He that forsakes his father is as a blasphemer; and he that angers his mother is cursed: of God.* (Sirach 3:1-16)

The second is a passage from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

¹*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* ²*"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:* ³*that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."* ⁴*And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.* (Ephesians 6:1-4)

In the last two verses of today's Gospel, Jesus says, ²⁹*And **everyone** who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, **for My name's sake**, will receive a hundredfold, and **will inherit eternal life.*** ³⁰*But **many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.***

May God help us to love Him more than our fathers and to love Him more than our children so that we can love our fathers and our children more than ever before. Amen!