



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

SUNDAY
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PARISH INFORMATION BULLETIN

PROGRAM FOR 3—9 DECEMBER 2017

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER	14th Sunday of Luke, Luke 18: 35-43 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30– 11.00am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
• SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES (A free voluntary program organised by the Church) Lessons take place in the building behind the church and begin at the time of Holy Communion until Church dismissal. We have classes for ages ranging from 5yrs to teenage years. Lessons are taught in a relaxed, friendly environment. Please bring your children along to learn of their rich Orthodox faith and come close to God and His Love.	
MONDAY 4 DECEMBER <i>St Barbara, Great-Martyr</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.00– 9.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy• 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall
TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER <i>St Savas, the Sanctified</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.00– 9.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy• 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.
WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER <i>St Nicholas of Myra, the Wonderworker</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.00– 9.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy• 5.00pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos followed by Bible Study
SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3.45pm Service of Vespers
SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER	GOSPEL READING: Luke 13: 10-17 EPISTLE READING: Eph. 6: 10-17



Telephone Contact Numbers

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Fr. Athanasios
and
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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.

Elder Iakovos Tsalikis Canonized

It has been announced that today, 27 November 2017, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate has canonized the late Elder Iakovos Tsalikis. The petition for his canonization was submitted by the Holy Metropolis of Khalkida and **22 November has been appointed as his feast day.**

Saint Barbara, Great Martyr

Saint Barbara was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian. She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron too. (When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there.) When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely, and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290. Saint Barbara is commemorated on December 4th.

ELDER IAKOVOS (TSALIKIS) OF EVIA CANONIZED BY CONSTANTINOPLE
Constantinople, November 27, 2017

According to exclusive information from the Greek-language Orthodox site [Romfea](#), the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate resolved today to officially number the blessed Elder Iakovos (Tsalikis) of Evia among the saints of God.

The meeting was chaired by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

St. Porphyrios said of the late Elder Iakovos, "Mark my words. He's one of the most far-sighted people of our time, but he hides it to avoid being praised."

He lived for the Divine Liturgy, which he celebrated every day, with fear and trembling, dedicated and, literally, elevated. Young children and those with pure hearts saw him walking above the floor, or being served by holy angels. As he himself told a few people, he served together with Cherubim, Seraphim and the saints. During the Preparation, he saw angels of the Lord taking the portions of those being remembered and placing them before the throne of Christ, as prayers. When, because of health problems he felt weak, he would pray before the start of the Divine Liturgy and say, "Lord, as a man I can't, but help me to celebrate." After that, he said, he celebrated "as if he had wings."

He was a wonderful spiritual guide, and through his counsel thousands of people returned to the path of Christ. He loved his children more than himself. It was during confession that you really appreciated his sanctity. He never offended or saddened anyone. He was justly known as "Elder Iakovos the sweet."

He always had the remembrance of death and of the coming judgement. Indeed, he foresaw his death. He asked an Athonite hiero-deacon whom he had confessed on the morning of November 21, the last day of his earthly life, to remain at the monastery until the afternoon, in order to dress him. While he was confessing, he stood up and said, "Get up, son. The Mother of God, St. David, St. John the Russian and St. Iakovos have just come into the cell." "What are they here for, Elder?" "To take me, son." At that very moment, his knees gave way and he collapsed. As he'd foretold, he departed "like a little bird." With a breath like that of a bird, he departed this world on the day of the Entry of the Mother of God. He made his own entry into the kingdom of God. It was 4:17 in the afternoon.

His body remained supple and warm, and the shout which escaped the lips of thousands of people: "Saint! You're a saint," bore witness to the feelings of the faithful concerning the late Elder Iakovos. Now, after his blessed demise, he intercedes for everyone at the throne of God, with special and exceptional confidence. Hundreds of the faithful can confirm that he's been a benefactor to them.

St Nicholas of Myra, the Wonderworker
6 December

A very popular saint, St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, a city in Asia Minor, lived during the fourth century. St. Nicholas became known for his warm and generous heart, his love for children and the poor, his care for the sick and his gift-giving. Poor many he was, and continues to be, a shining symbol of Christ's love and compassion.

The hymn of his feast-day touches on the spiritual qualities of St. Nicholas:

The truth of your deeds
has set you before your flock
as a standard of faith, an example
of meekness and a teacher of self-control.
Thus you acquired greatness through humility
and spiritual wealth through poverty.
O Father and Hierarch Nicholas,
intercede with Christ, our God,
that he may save our souls.²

Dismissal Hymn
Feast of St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas is a classic example of the Christian faith. He was an ordinary person who became a vehicle of God's grace, an instrument of God's love in the world. His concern was not to make himself happy but to make others happy. By virtue of faith, baptism and the gift of the Spirit, each Christian is a saint. Each of us is called, like St. Nicholas, to rise above the routine of life and to be God's ambassadors — loving, giving, helping and serving others.