



PARISH INFORMATION BULLETIN

PROGRAM FOR 25 NOVEMBER—1 DECEMBER 2018

SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER St Katherine, Great-Martyr	13th Sunday of Luke, Luke 18: 18-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30– 11.00am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
<p>***** SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES *****</p> <p>(A free voluntary program organised by the Church)</p> <p><i>Immediately after Holy Communion until Church dismissal, in the building behind the Church, Religious Instruction lessons take place for our children. We have classes for ages ranging from 5yrs to teenage years, which are given in a relaxed, friendly environment. The understanding of our faith through the religious instruction lessons brings our children closer to God and the joy and peace of His Love.</i></p>	
MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.00am Service of Holy Unction
TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.00pm Parishes of St Vasilios and the Presentation of our Lord, Coburg Youth Group will meet in our Church Hall.
WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.00pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos followed by Bible Study
FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER Apostle St Andrew, the First Called	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.00– 9.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3.45pm Service of Vespers
SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER	GOSPEL READING: Luke 18: 25-43 EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 6: 10-17



Telephone Contact Numbers

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Fr Athanasios and
Fr Ephraim
are available at the Church
every Monday to Friday
between 4.00 and 6.00pm
for Holy Confession and
any spiritual need.

Most of our sins
happen because
we forget the
commandments
of God."

St. Nikon of Optina

VOICE OF THE CHURCH FATHERS

St. John of Kronstadt: . . . we ought to meditate upon higher things, and count all earthly things but dung . . .

If God had not been incarnate upon earth, if He had not made us godly, if He had not taught us in His Own person how to live, what to hope for and expect, if He had not pointed out to us another perfect and eternal life, if He had not suffered and died and risen from the dead—then we should still have had some reason to live, as we all now live—that is to mostly lead a carnal, earthly life.

But, now, we ought to meditate upon higher things, and count all earthly things but dung, for, everything earthly is nothing, in comparison with heavenly things.

Meanwhile, the Devil, the father of lies, in spite of the Savior's teaching and His spirit, teaches us to attach ourselves to earthly goods, and forcibly nails our sensual heart to them.

The heart naturally seeks happiness—and the Devil gives a false direction to this tendency, and allures it by earthly happiness, that is—by riches, honors, splendor of dress, furniture, silver, equipages, gardens and various amusements.

+ St. John of Kronstadt, *My Life in Christ*

13th Sunday of Luke, Luke 18: 18-27

The rich ruler in this Bible reading did think of God and did think of eternal life and asked the most important question for himself and for all of us—how to obtain eternal life.

He knew and kept the commandments, but wanted to become perfect— he knew he could not depend on self or riches for everything.

We must realise that all the questions we have, and this most important one - all have been asked and answered from the very beginning.

The searchings and questions have not changed except people are asking and listening to many different and misinformed, wrong answers and sources. Our Lord pointed out the commandments that apply to every person in every age.

We must remember that we cannot judge or feel self-righteous when being present in this group and listening to the young rich man.

We may say to ourselves 'well, I haven't committed these great sins either', but can we say we have not stolen our Lord's time and used it for ourselves many times? (Time of prayer, thanksgiving, praying for others, worshipping Him, helping others etc.) Do we judge our brother falsely in our minds, to others? Do we honour our father and mother (bring honour to them by our good example and reputation)?

Would we give everything away if asked to - or hold something back - if not our belongings, our comfort, our circle of friends, etc. Would we make the sacrifice necessary for us? - Our Lord did not usually ask people to sell all their material possessions but only to share them with those in need. Because Jesus loved the man He named these conditions for his particular need.

Through prayerfully seeking a deeper communion with the Lord and growing in our love for Him what seems impossible to us will be made possible through His grace. Let us pray that we listen to the words of our Lord with our heart and apply them to ourselves according to His Will.



30 November: St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle

He was the son of Jonah and brother of Peter, born in Bethsaida and a fisherman by profession. He was the first disciple of St. John the Baptist, but, when John pointed to the Lord Jesus and said: 'Behold the Lamb of God' (John 1:36), St. Andrew left his first teacher and followed Christ. After that, Andrew brought his brother Peter to the Lord. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, it fell to the lot of the first of Christ's apostles, St. Andrew, to preach the Gospel in Byzantium and Thrace, then in the lands along the Danube, in Russia and around the Black Sea, and finally in Epirus, Greece and the Peloponnese, where he suffered.

In Byzantium, he installed St. Stachys as its first bishop; in Kiev he raised the Cross on high and prophesied a Christian future for the Russian people; in Thrace, Epirus, Greece and the Peloponnese, he brought many people to the faith and gave them bishops and priests. In the city of Patras he performed many wonders in the name of Christ and brought many to the Lord, among whom were the brother and wife of the imperial governor, Aegeatus. Aegeatus, infuriated by this, put Andrew to torture and then crucified him.

While he was still alive on the cross, the Apostle of Christ taught the Christians who were gathered round him. The people wanted to take him down from the cross, but he would not let them. Finally, the Apostle gave his holy soul into God's hands. Thus the first-called Apostle, who first of the twelve Great Apostles came to know the Lord and followed Him, finished his earthly course. St. Andrew suffered for his Lord in the year 62. His relics were translated to Constantinople, but his head was later taken to Rome and one hand to Moscow.

**If you wish,
you can be a slave of passions,
and if you wish,
you can remain free
and not submit to their yoke;
for God has created you
with that power.**

St Antony the Great