



Parish Information Bulletin

Program for 31 October - 6 November 2021

SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER

5TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, Luke 16: 19-31

- 7.00—9.30am—Orthros and Divine Liturgy
- 10.00-11.30am—Divine Liturgy

MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER

*Holy Unmercenaries
Kosmas and Damian,
Osios David of Evia*

- 7.30am—Orthros and Divine Liturgy

2021 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 10.30am 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.

SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER

GOSPEL READING: Luke 8: 41-56

EPISTLE READING: Galatians 1: 11-19

Telephone Contact Numbers

St Vasilios Church
9387 7693

Fr Athanasios
9383 4151

Fr Ephraim
0490 378 215

Website:
stvasiliosbrunswick.com

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.

“Do not ever say: ‘These beggars annoy me!’

So many millions of men live on earth and all are beggars before the Lord; emperors as well as labourers, the wealthy as well as servants, all are beggars before the Lord and the Lord never said: ‘These beggars annoy me!’”

+ St. Nikolaj Velimirovic

The Holy Unmercenaries, Cosmas and Damian Commemorated November 1st



Saints Cosmas and Damian were brothers born in Ephesus in the 3rd century AD. Theodota, their mother, was raised a Christian and provided her sons an example of real, unconditional love. Cosmas and Damian became well educated and both dedicated themselves to the art of medicine.

The Grace of God extended their art so that the pair cast out unclean spirits and spiritually healed those who approached them. People began to seek out the gifted brothers from all over, and each one found healing and comfort. Having freely received the Holy Spirit, Cosmas and Damian tended to all people seeking nothing in return. Thus they are called unmercenaries, meaning unmaterialistic or non-commercial. In Greek the term is anargyroi, meaning adverse to silver.

The pair practised philotimo (gratitude and service to all) everyday by living in devotion to others. Saint Damian, the younger brother, was the first to pass away in peace from this temporal life, followed some time later by Saint Cosmas. Crowds came in a constant stream to the church built over their tomb in Fereman in Asia Minor. Their precious relics remain an abundant source of healing for the sick. Saints Cosmas and Damian, and all the Holy Unmercenaries are invoked in the service of Holy Unction in the Orthodox Church. Hymns to them are traditionally chanted after the service while the faithful receive the Holy Oil.

THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN AND THE POOR LAZARUS

By His Eminence Metropolitan Panteleimon of Antinoes

The Parable of the Holy Gospel does not refer to the Second Coming of Christ, neither to His Last Judgement, but to the period of time between man's death and the Second Glorious Coming of Christ our Lord and God. This period is called: The Middle Condition of the souls.

What is death?

Death, according to Holy Scriptures, is the separation of the human's soul from his body. Death was not created by God right from the beginning, but came as the result of man's Fall, disobedience and unrepentance (Gen. 3:9-13). "And unto Adam He said, because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it was thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return"(Gen. 3:17-19).

Death has three forms:

a) Physical Death, occurs when the body stops functioning biologically. The soul is separated from the body (Gen. 3:19) "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom; the rich man also died, and was buried" (Luke 16:22).

b) Spiritual Death, occurs when man is in life, but has not believed in Jesus Christ or leads a sinful life. When man refuses to repent and to accept the Grace and Love of Christ our God, which is granted through the Holy Sacrament of the Church, spiritually then he is spiritually dead. Through the Holy Sacraments of Confession and Repentance, and that of Holy Communion man overcomes spiritual death. Spiritual Death is the removal of God's Grace from man. "But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead" (Matt 8:22).

c) Eternal Death, occurs when man dies unrepentant, refusing even at his last moments to ask for God's forgiveness. "And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven" (Luke 12:10).

Before Physical death and during Spiritual Death man can turn to God to receive forgiveness of all his sins. Eternal Death is unchangeable. "And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed; so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.(Luke 16:26).

Once man dies and has not turned to God through His Holy Church, there is no chance for salvation. The Apostle Paul teaches us saying: "and as it is appointed unto men to die after this the judgement" (Heb. 9:27). All men will pass this stage and there is no one who can avoid it, because death is the most certain event in man's life.

The important question is: In which condition shall death find us? At that last and most important moment of our life, will we have repented? Will we have had Confession? Will we have forgiven all those who had done harm against us? Will we have turned to God, or remained unrepentant?

The last critical moment of one's life, when death occurs, is the condition in which God shall judge you. In other words, if God finds you during your death in repentance, He shall judge you with mercy. If God, on the other hand, finds your heart and soul full of sins and unrepentant, then He will judge you according to your deeds (Matt. 25:31-46). Christ teaches us saying that we should make peace with our judge (conscience) as long as we are together. God's Mercy reigns as long as man is in life; after death God's Justice shall reign for ever. "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal" (Matt. 25:46).

According to Holy Scriptures during death the souls of the righteous are taken up to Heaven by the Angels of God (Luke: 16:22), whereas the souls of those who have done evil are taken by the demons (Luke: 12:20). It is natural therefore to state, that the souls of all those who believed in Christ, lived according to His Commandments, joined their whole existence with His Life and received the Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit (that is the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation), cannot be under the authority of the demons. On the contrary, all those who have not believed in Christ, all those who renounced Him, all those who left the Church and joined heresies are under the dark authority of Satan.

When the soul separates from the body, the demons attack viciously. The sinful passions, which overrule the soul, seek satisfaction, but because of the separation from the body they cannot be satisfied. This creates a terrible displeasure to the soul and man's soul becomes more infuriated and suffocates.

Therefore, my beloved friends let us seek God's mercy and forgiveness before that terrible day, in order that we may not be found unworthy of our calling.



"The rich exist for the sake of the poor. The poor exist for the salvation of the rich."

— St. John Chrysostom