



Parish Information Bulletin

Program for 28 November—4 December 2021

SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER

13th SUNDAY OF LUKE, Luke 18: 18-27

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

TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER *Apostle Andrew, the First Called*

- 7.30am—Orthros and Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER *St Porphyrios, Kafsokalyvites*

- 7.30am—Orthros and Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER *St Barbara, Great Martyr*

- 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 5 DECEMBER

GOSPEL READING: Luke 13: 10-17

EPISTLE READING: Galatians 5: 22-26

Turn your eyes towards Christ

You don't become saints by chasing away the evil. Forget about the evil. You should actually turn your eyes towards Christ and He will save you. Instead of standing at the door and shooing away the enemy, despise him. When you see evil approaching from one direction, you softly give your attention to something else. So, when the evil is coming to offend you, give your interior strength to good, to Christ. Plead: "Our Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me." He knows how to give you His mercy and in whatever way that is best for you. And after you are full of good, then you no longer turn your attention towards the evil. With the grace of God, you become good. And then the evil is unable to find a place to stand and disappears!

Counsels of Elder Porphyrios

Apostle Andrew, the Holy and All-Praised First-Called - Kontakion

Let us praise Andrew, the herald of God, the namesake of courage,
the first-called of the Saviour's disciples and the brother of Peter.

As he once called to his brother, he now cries out to us:
"Come, for we have found the One whom the world desires!"



St Barbara the Great Martyr

Saint Barbara was exceedingly beautiful in appearance, worldly wisdom and wealth. For this reason, her pagan father wishing to hide her from the eyes of men, constructed a tower for her to live in. Pondering on the beauty of creation, Saint Barbara understood the falseness of idols, and her desire to know the True God became her greatest devotion. Saint Barbara decided to devote her life to knowing God, and consecrated her virginity to Christ.

Saint Barbara's father let her leave her dwelling, in the hope that she would mix with other young people and follow the pagan faith. However, Saint Barbara spent time with other Christians and learnt about Christ, and she was baptised and continued her Holy way of life.

Later on, when her father had ordered for the construction of a bathhouse, Saint Barbara noticed two windows, and asked the builders to build a third window in honour of the Most Holy Trinity.

When her father found out Saint Barbara was now a Christian, he tortured her in the hope she would turn to the pagan religion, however Saint Barbara loved Christ very much and remained strong through her torments.

Her father finally beheaded her himself.

Saint Barbara was crowned with the Imperishable Crown of Martyrdom, and joined her beloved Bridegroom Christ in Heaven.

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.

13th SUNDAY OF LUKE, Luke 18: 18-27

Choosing the Good Portion

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"

And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." (Luke 18:18-27)

To succeed in the world, we need many "good" things. Good grades, good job, good income, good work habits, good credit scores, good schools, good neighbourhoods, good opportunities, good family, and maybe some good luck too. But for all those goods, our Lord Jesus might say, "why do you ask me about what is good?"

For Christ speaks to us about and calls us to a goodness which belongs to God alone. It is not that those goods don't matter as they do affect our lives. And God knows we need such good things (Matthew 6:32). But they all matter on a relative scale, for Christ tells us there is something greater to strive for, something which benefits us not only for the short time we live on earth, but which is eternally permanent. We don't have to have all those worldly goods to be good. And even without all those worldly goods, we humans are still offered an even greater good, namely eternal life – a good portion which cannot be taken away from us. As the Lord told Martha in Luke 10:41-42 :

"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her."

We don't come to Christ in order to have our beliefs reaffirmed or are thoughts validated or to learn what we can learn anywhere else in the world. We come to Christ to discover what we don't know – about life and eternal life. We come to Him to seek what is missing from our lives, what we hope for but don't have [*"For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."* (Romans 8:24)] The person in today's Gospel knew the Law and how to keep the Law and how to accumulate wealth. But he didn't know the way to eternal life. This is why he came to Jesus in the first place. It is why we come to Christ, and come to the Liturgy, not just to be told what we already believe and know, but to learn what is missing from our lives. How do we find our way to eternal life? What do I lack? What do I need? What do I have to change to find eternal life?

Jesus says we are to follow Him. Not to just do the things that everyone in the world does, but to learn what is missing in our life. How do I get Christ to come and live in me? How do I become like God in what I do? In the Liturgy, we come to behold Christ so that we can see what we need to change in our thinking, in our habits, in our attitudes, in our behaviour, in our faith, in what we do daily so that we can find what this person in the Gospel was seeking.

Are we ready for that next level? We might honestly say to Christ, I do keep the Ten Commandments – I haven't murdered anyone, nor stolen anything, nor committed adultery or told any lies. What else do I need to do?

And then we have to be prepared to hear Christ's answer and to live it. We have to be far more ready to deal with the shock wave which is the Gospel commandments than this person who came to talk to Christ in the Gospel lesson. The way to the kingdom is not in the things we love so much and value so much and strive to get so much. We have to seek first the kingdom of God, and that is as big a challenge to us as it was to this rich person who came to talk to Christ. The little things we are asked to do as Orthodox Christians – to fast, deny the self, to practice self-control, to resist our temptations – are the baby steps we take to move beyond this world into that eternal life.

Fr Ted Bobosh

"...This is the way we should see Christ. He is our friend, our brother; He is whatever is good and beautiful. He is everything. Yet, He is still a friend and He shouts it out, "You're my friends, don't you understand that? We're brothers. I'm not...I don't hold hell in my hands. I am not threatening you. I love you. I want you to enjoy life together with me."

— Elder St Porphyrios