



Parish Information Bulletin

Program for 1—7 OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER	2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE, Luke 6: 31-36 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
2023 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES - 2023 (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.	
MONDAY 2 OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.00am Service of Holy Unction• 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall• 7.30pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos IN ENGLISH
WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.00pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos
THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8.00—9.00pm ➡ TEENAGE YOUTH GROUP 2023 ALL TEENAGERS WELCOME Join the group and learn about your faith, make friends, enjoy refreshments, in a friendly, relaxing environment. * In Church Hall, upstairs behind the Church
SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER	GOSPEL READING: Luke 7: 11-16 EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-11

Telephone Contact Numbers

St Vasilios Church
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Website:
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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.

We make known to all that a Greek Language School operates in our Parish.

- **Primary school classes: every Saturday, from 9.00am to 12.30pm**
- **High School classes: every Monday, from 5.00 to 8.30pm.**

For inquiries and enrolments : 0401 051773

1 OCTOBER—SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY VIRGIN OF GORGOEPIKOOS

Geelong Monastery of Panagia Gorgoeepikoos celebrates on this day.

Troparion Icon of the Mother of God “Quick to Hear”

Let us make haste to the Theotokos amid our misfortunes,
and fall down now before her holy icon,
crying out with faith from the depths of our soul:
Hearken quickly to our entreaty, O Virgin,
in that thou art called ‘she who is quick to hear’
For thee do we, thy servants,
have as a ready helper in our needs.

St John Koukouzelis, 1 October

St John Koukouzelis was born in Dyrrachium, probably during the twelfth century. His father died while he was still a child, and his devout mother placed him in school to learn to read and write and to chant. It so happened that he was noticed during a search for talented students and accepted into the school of the imperial court in Constantinople. Here he attracted the attention of the Emperor Comnenos and his court because of his exceptionally fine voice, comely appearance and native talent.

John very soon became the favourite singer at the imperial court and the first chanter of the Great Church Hagia Sophia. Fearing the flattery and praise of men, John fled to the Holy Mountain and presented himself at the Great Lavra as a simple shepherd. He lived an exceptional life of asceticism. The Most-holy Theotokos appeared to him on two occasions.

St. John was spiritually enlightened to such a degree that he was found worthy to learn the hour and day of his death. He bid a tender farewell to all the brethren who came to him and after asking to be buried in the church of the Archangels, which he had built himself, with a blessed smile on his prayerful lips, he passed away to the Lord on the first day of October.



2nd Sunday of Luke (Luke 6: 31-36)

Our Lord Jesus Christ has revealed many wonderful truths, which until then were unknown. Many of these concern our relations with other people, either inside our homes or outside in society. Perhaps there is difficulty in remembering everything one has to observe in dealing with other people. For this reason, Jesus, as a wise Teacher, has today given us a Life Rule, named for its great value, "The Golden Rule." What does this Rule say?

"And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise" (Luke 6:31). Words that are simple, easy, understandable, short and something everyone can remember.

In the Old Testament, we read: "What you yourself hate, do not do to anyone" (Tobit 4:15). There have been ancient philosophers who have taught the same thing: Do not do to another what you do not want done to you. It is the negative view of the subject. Jesus speaks of something higher and more precious; You do to others what you want them to do to you. For example, if you see a poor person who has no food and his children are hungry, think: If you were in their place, you would want someone to help you. So, do something to help them, so they do not die of hunger! Can you not give them some food? Move, act among those you know, and make a team effort to find a way to help the situation.

What often happens, though, is this: If this person in need is a relative or a friend, someone we love, then we are interested in helping in every way. For others, however, we are indifferent, because we do not feel any love towards them. We consider them strangers. This is what the Lord is correcting when He tells us: "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them" (verse 32). What is more, we also hear "love your enemies" (verse 35). The Lord wants us to love not only those unrelated to us and outside of our personal circle of family and friends, but also our enemies. This is the basic difference between the Christian and non-Christian. The non-Christian will not love his enemy; he will apply "an eye for an eye" if he does not do something worse, and "hate your enemy" (Matthew 5:38 and 43). But the Christian is called upon to apply Christ's new command of love, which no one has ever imagined: To love the whole world without distinction as to whether he is a friend or an enemy; whether he loves or hates you. And not just a sentimental show of words, but actual works: "do good," even to enemies!

Of course, being this way towards those who are troubled is not at all easy. This God-like model is given to us by Jesus: "He is kind to the unthankful and evil people." If we imitate God in love, Jesus said, "your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High" (verse 35).

If we could, my brothers and sisters, imagine how the practical love for all people will raise us to such a high position. If we do that, we will certainly do our best to deserve this greatest honour, to become children of the Most High God! Is there anything higher? It is worth making every effort, and the method we use will be simple: Applying the Golden Rule. If there is an issue with another person and their actions, let us ask our conscience: If I was in their position, what would I want another person to do for me? The answer will soon come, and we have to do exactly what our conscience tells us. This depends of course, on our conscience being healthy, good, and enlightened by the Holy Spirit.

My beloved brothers and sisters, let us base our lives every day on the Golden Rule of our Lord, to deserve to be recognized by God the Father as His children.

Metropolitan of Pisidia Sotirios †