



Parish Information Bulletin

Program for 18—24 August 2024

SUNDAY 18 AUGUST	8TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW, Matthew 14: 14-22 <ul style="list-style-type: none">7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
2024 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.	
MONDAY 19 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9.00am Service of Holy Unction10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall
WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5.00pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos7.00pm Divine Liturgy in ENGLISH
THURSDAY 22 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">8.00—9.00pm ➡ TEENAGE YOUTH GROUP 2024 ALL TEENAGERS WELCOME Join the group and learn about your faith, make friends, enjoy refreshments, in a friendly, relaxing environment. * In Church building, behind the Church
FRIDAY 23 AUGUST <i>Apodosis of the Dormition</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
SATURDAY 24 AUGUST <i>St Kosmas of Aitola</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
SUNDAY 25 AUGUST	GOSPEL READING: Matthew 14: 22-34 EPISTLE READING: I Corinthians 3: 9-17

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.

**On Apodosis of The Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos we commemorate
Panagia tou Harou whose icon is enthroned at our Parish**

**From the service of the Small Paraklesis, is chanted in times of distress and sorrow of soul
and during the first fourteen days of August.**

To the Theotokos, let us run now most fervently,
As sinners and lowly ones,
Let us fall down in repentance,
Crying from the depths of our soul:
Lady, come and help us,
Have compassion upon us;
Hasten now for we are lost
In the host of our errors;
Do not turn your servants away,
For you alone are a hope to us.

O Theotokos, we shall never be silent.
Of your mighty acts, all we the unworthy;
Had you not stood to intercede for us
Who would have delivered us,
From the numerous perils?
Who would have preserved us all
Until now with our freedom?
O Lady, we shall not depart from you;
For you always save your servants,
From all tribulation.

8TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW, Matthew 14: 14-22

The Gospel lesson of Matthew 14:14-22 :

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. Who is in this crowd upon whom Jesus has compassion/mercy? Some who are sick, lost souls, some seeking God, the walking wounded, those who have lost their faith, the downcast and the outcasts. But also, there were curiosity seekers, non-believers, some who are hostile to Christ – His enemies. Throughout the Gospel His enemies follow Him everywhere, listening to His words, gathering evidence against Him – but they are in the mix and often very near Christ for they engage Him in conversation.

Christ ministers to all of them. His grace, love, mercy, compassion is not limited to His disciples, but extends to all whom He sees. Jesus teaches us by His own example to love and commands us to love one another in the same that that He loves us. He is moved by compassion when He looks on us. We have to be aware of how Christ loves us and to see the world through the eyes of Christ.

How are we to judge others? With compassion. Any who come to Christ, who seek Christ for any reason are to be welcomed by us and blessed by us. This is how the Lord Jesus loves us. He expects us to love as He loves us. Is it hard? Yes. Is it impossible? Hardly.

When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass.

And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Jesus does not simply make their hunger go away by divine magic. Rather, Christ feeds them. He blesses the only food they had, and feeds 5000 men besides women and children from this food. The food doesn't miraculously appear on each plate, but rather the disciples distribute it. The disciples have to work to make sure the people are fed. Christ receives from His disciples the food which some people had worked to make possible – bread and fish. He takes this human made food and blesses it. There is synergy between the disciples and Christ, working together for the good of all the people. This is the Church.

Christ entrusts some problems to us His disciples and asks us to deal with the problems. He doesn't miraculously make the problems go away. He says to us: I am not taking hunger away, but I empower you to do the work necessary for these people to feel cared for and to be fed. The disciples themselves had to provide the food and distribute it.

We obey Christ not by having problems go away but by dealing with them. The Gospel lesson began with Jesus seeing the crowd and feeling compassion for them. The Gospel lesson ends with Jesus feeding them. It is the work of the Church.

Fr Ted Bobosh

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THE JESUS PRAYER AND THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

+St. Kosmas Aitolos

Now I tell you to do this. - Let all of you take a prayer rope. Let it have thirty knots, and pray. Say: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son and Logos of the living God, through the intercessions of the Theotokos and of all your saints, have mercy upon me, a sinner and an unworthy servant." What does one see in the "Lord Jesus Christ," my brethren? The Holy Trinity, our God, the incarnate dispensation of our Christ and all of the saints. With the Cross and the "Lord Jesus Christ" they went to paradise. And whoever says this prayer and makes the sign of the Cross, whether man or woman, he blesses the sky, the earth, and the sea. With the sign of the Cross and with the prayer "Lord Jesus Christ" all illnesses are cured. With the Cross and the prayer "Lord Jesus Christ" the Apostles raised the dead and cured every illness. With the Cross and the prayer "Lord Jesus Christ" a person is blessed and goes to paradise to rejoice and be glad as angels.

So you see, my brethren, how much the honourable and holy Cross helps a person. Whoever makes the sign of the Cross never suffers a loss but is protected from every kind of poisonous thing and from every demonic temptation. And a person has the Cross marked on him. Let him unite the three fingers of his right hand and place them first on his forehead, then on his navel, then on his right breast, then on the left breast, and bow low and then rise.