





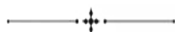
Parish Information Bulletin

Program for 17—23 August 2025

SUNDAY 17 AUGUST	10TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW, Matthew 17: 14-23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
2025 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 18 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.00am Paraklesis to the Theotokos• 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall
WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.00pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos
THURSDAY 21 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8.00—9.00pm  TEENAGE YOUTH GROUP ALL TEENAGERS WELCOME Join the group and learn about your faith, make friends, enjoy refreshments, in a friendly, relaxing environment. * Downstairs in the building behind the Church  Find St Vasilios Greek Orthodox Parish Brunswick on Facebook and Instagram @stvasiliosgreekorthodoxchurch
FRIDAY 22 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.00pm Vesper Service for Apodosis of the Dormition of the Theotokos
SATURDAY 23 AUGUST <i>Apodosis of the Dormition</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy Feast-Day of Panagia tou Harou
SUNDAY 24 AUGUST	GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18: 23-35 EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 9: 2-12

Apodosis of The Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos commemorating Panagia tou Harou whose icon is enthroned at our Parish

Panagia tou Harou is the name of the unique icon which depicts the Virgin Mary cradling the crucified Christ, rather than the Christ child, hence its name (*haros* in Greek means "death").



Leave-taking (Apodosis) of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos - August 23rd

In the cycle of the Church Year, the great Feasts (celebrations) for the Lord and the Mother of God are joyfully celebrated over many days. The duration of this time is often called the mid-feast or after-feast, in some traditions. Of particular significance is the final day of the feast. The day when we "take leave" of the feast. The Greek term is "Apodosis", meaning literally the "leave-taking" or "giving-up" of the Feast.



***No one is turned away from you, ashamed and empty, who flee unto you, O pure virgin Theotokos;
But one asks for the favour, and the gift is received from you, To the advantage of their own request."***

Small Paraklesis, Intercessory Canon

...../

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.

Saints Florus and Laurus of Illyria

The brothers Saints Florus and Laurus of Illyria were martyred for their faith in second-century Illyria. They are commemorated on August 18.

The martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria were twin brothers and stone sculptors by profession. They learned their art from Proclus and Maximus. When their teachers suffered martyrdom, they left Byzantium and went to take up their abode in the city of Ulpiana in Dardania of Illyricum. They were forced by a prince to build a pagan temple. During the construction a splinter of stone flew into the eye of the son of a pagan priest. Florus and Laurus prayed for the boy, made the sign of the cross over his eye, and he was immediately healed. The governor had them arrested and buried alive in a dry well. The date of their repose is during the 2nd Century. A century later horses were noted to be drinking from the spot of the well and their incorrupt relics were discovered. They were then translated to Constantinople.



10TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW, Matthew 17: 14-23

When Jesus and His three disciples descended from the Mountain after His Transfiguration, he saw the rest of His disciples surrounded by a large crowd. Then a heartbroken father fell at Jesus' feet and said to Him: "Lord have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water" (verse 15).

The common belief of that time (which the father likely shared) was that certain phases of the moon can trigger the epileptic symptoms that some people suffered from. Even in our days, there are those who still believe such things. This thinking however, is wrong. Many scientific and medical research studies have been conducted on thousands of people suffering from epilepsy, and it was confirmed that there was no connection to the moon. This conclusion was supported early on, by Hippocrates (The "Father of Medicine") in the 5th Century BC, and even later impressively by Saint John Chrysostom in the 4th Century AD. It is sad that there are still people today (not only in underdeveloped parts of the world but even in modern societies) that actually resort to "enchanters", sorcerers, shamans and others to heal these epileptic symptoms.

We Orthodox Christians need to know that there are two main causes of these agonizing phenomena. The most common cause is some physical damage to the human body, in the brain or somewhere else, which science treats with whatever means are available. The other cause is the act of an evil spirit, just as our Lord Himself has revealed to us. When they brought the tortured child in front of our Lord, He recognized that such a spirit was torturing him. Immediately "Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour" (verse 18).

We know from the Holy Scriptures that before our Lord Jesus Christ came to earth as man, the devil ruled the world. Many were demoniac-demon possessed. Evil demons entered into them and forced them to do as they commanded. Our Holy Gospels are filled with instances of people tortured by demons. And that exactly is one of the reasons why The Son of God became man. The Holy Apostle and Evangelist John writes in his 1st Letter: "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (3:8). In the Holy Gospels it is frequently stated: "they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And he cast out the spirits with a word" (Matthew 8:16). This work He later assigned to His disciples: "These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them saying:...cleanse the lepers,...cast out demons" (Matthew 10:5 & 8). Since then, Christ, through the Church, of which He is the "Head" continues this redemptive work and offers the ability to every baptized believer, not only to avoid being dominated by Satan, but also to defeat him. The Apostle Paul writes in his Letter to the Romans: "And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly" (Romans 16:20). Likewise, the Evangelist John writes in his First Letter: "I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one" (1 John 2:14).

My brothers and sisters, with all these assurances in our Holy Scriptures, we as Orthodox Christians, who take part in the life of the Church, have nothing to be afraid of from the wicked one and the people who act as his instruments. Neither do we need to concern ourselves with him, who is trying to distract our attention away from Jesus Christ so that we could occupy ourselves with him. Keep away from superstitions. No spell, no evil eye, nor any other tricks of the wicked one can touch us. Keep your gaze always towards our Lord Jesus Christ. Our main concern should be how we can please God with our life. And then we can be certain that God through our Guardian Angel- like we say in the relevant prayer- will protect us "from any influence of the object-devil" and our petition shall be fulfilled in the Sunday Prayer: "Our Father who art in heaven....deliver us from all evil" (Matthew 6:13). Amen.

++++++