





Parish Information Bulletin

Program for 31 August—6 September 2025

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST	12TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW, Matthew 19: 16-26 <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 1 SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.00am Service of Holy Unction• 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall
WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.00pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos
THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER	<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
SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER	GOSPEL READING: John 3: 13-17 EPISTLE READING: Galatians 6: 11-18

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.

Holy 40 Virgin-Martyrs and their Teacher the Hieromartyr Ammon the Deacon at Heraclea, Thrace Commemorated on September 1

Holy 40 virgin-martyrs and their teacher the Hieromartyr Ammon the Deacon at Heraclea in Thrace: Adamantine, Athena, Akrive, Antigone, Arivea, Aspasia, Aphrodite, Dione, Dodone, Elpinike, Erasmia, Erato, Ermeneia, Evterpe, Thaleia, Theanoe, Theano, Theonymphe, Theophane, Kalliroe, Kalliste, Kleio, Kleonike, Kleopatra, Koralia, Lambro, Margarita, Marianthe, Melpomene, Moscho, Ourania, Pandora, Penelope, Polymnia, Polynike, Sapfo, Terpsichore, Troada, Haido, and Harikleia



A PRAYER FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH YEARS (Indiction) SEPTEMBER 1ST

Christ our God. Your Kingdom is an everlasting one and Your Lordship is over all.
You have made all things with wisdom and have established proper times and seasons for our lives.
We give thanks to You in all circumstances and for all things.
Lord, bless the beginning of our Church year with Your goodness.
Grant that this Liturgical Year be for all of us a year of grace.
Make us worthy with purity of heart always to praise You. Lord, Glory to You!

(From Orthros (Matins), September 1st)

What Is the One Thing You Still Lack?

Published by Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis

And behold, one came up to Him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honour your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbour as yourself." The young man said to Him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, 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." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19: 16-26 (Twelfth Sunday of Matthew)

Today's Gospel account appear in both the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. So important are its points that both Gospel accounts are read on Sundays each year—the account from Matthew is read towards the end of summer and the account from Luke is read usually in late November.

We are not told in this reading where this conversation took place, or what the tone of voice was that Jesus was using. When I try to think what this conversation must have been like, I envision Jesus and this young man sitting under a shady tree. I envision the man genuinely interested in talking to Jesus, not trying to cynically trip him up. I imagine that the tones of this conversation were mild, there was no screaming and yelling. Again, this is just my imagination, maybe they were out in the sun, the young man was cynical and voices were raised.

However it happened, the man approached Jesus and asked what He needed to do to gain eternal life. Jesus told the man to keep the commandments. Obviously, at the time, the Jewish society was shaped by and large by the Ten Commandments. And Jesus was certainly endorsing them. He highlighted several of the commandments that the man should be keeping.

The young man proudly proclaimed that he had kept them all. And then Jesus said to the young man *"If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."* Many people have conjectured whether Jesus was being judgmental in this statement. I believe that Jesus was being compassionate to him. I believe that Jesus looked into the young man's heart and told him that his riches were his obstacle to attaining the Kingdom of God. Jesus wants all of us to attain His Kingdom, and so his telling to the young man what he was lacking was an act of compassion, not judgment.

When Jesus said it was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God, He wasn't meaning that riches would keep us out of God's Kingdom but that unique things that trip each of us up are the things that will keep us out of the Kingdom.

If I were to seriously examine my life, I realize that there are MANY things that I am lacking, not just one. In fact, what I should probably do is make a list of things that keep me from God and from being the Christian that He wants me to be, then prioritize the list and start working with one and then proceed to the rest. May I suggest that you do the same. I don't think we should hear today's Gospel as "There goes Jesus, slamming the rich," because I don't think Jesus was "slamming" anyone. We should read the Gospel as Jesus speaking with compassion to a young man who sincerely wanted to attain the Kingdom of God and had some serious concerns as to whether he was on the right path. I'd like to think that perhaps after he reflected enough on what Jesus said, that he realize "Hey, He's right" and made some changes.

No one likes to hear about their imperfections. This is why we rarely ask people "What can I do better," because any answer to that question will make us know that not only we have deficiencies but that they are recognized by others. It is pride that keeps us from asking the question, and pride that will keep us from heeding the potential answer. One thing the rich man should have had was a little bit more humility. He did ask the question of Jesus, someone he obviously respected, of what to do to inherit eternal life. It's too bad he didn't have the same humility in carrying out the answer to his question that he had when he posed it.

The question the disciples pose to Jesus after this whole incident *"Then who can be saved?"* must have sounded like a desperate question. Jesus' answer, however, is very soothing: *"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."* God meets us, even in our imperfections, and when we work in concert with him, our rough ways are made smooth through His grace, and what seems impossible (salvation) becomes possible, through His grace, our efforts and our faith.

*At Your Divinity's immutability, and at Your suffering's intentionality, amazed was Hades, Lord, and thus lamented to itself and said: I tremble at this human frame's uncorrupted hypostasis. I see the invisible One waging war on me secretly. Hence those whom I am holding are crying out: * Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ.*
(First Resurrectional Kathisma of the second set, Third Tone, Trans. by Fr. Seraphim Dedes)

Make a list of the thing or things that you lack when it comes to relationship with Christ and with others. Prioritize them. Start working on improving them.

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