Apolytikion of the Day (4th Tone)

When the Women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the rejection of the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly. Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

Το φαιδρόν της Αναστάσεως κήρυγμα, εκ του Αγγέλου μαθούσαι αι του Κυρίου μαθήτριαι, τον θάνατον χωρίζοντα, ημέραν Χριστού του Θεού, δωρούμενον τούς κόσμους το μέγα έλεος.

Apolytikion of Saint Katherine the Great Martyr (1st Plagios Tone)

The all-blessed bride of Christ let us extol in song, Katherine the divine and protectress of Sinai, the assistance and helper of all of us; for she muzzled brilliantly, the ungodly clever men, by the power of the Spirit. And now crowned as Martyr, she pleads great mercy for all of us.

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστού υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ημών και αντίληψιν, ότι τον Πνεύματος της άφησε, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, τον Μετόμοτο της δυνάμει. Και ως μάρτυς του Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αἰτείται πάσι, το μέγα έλεος.

Kontakion of the Day (3rd Tone)

He who is the Lord of all, endures circumcision, and as good and merciful, circumcises the faults of all mortals; and He grants, salvation, to the world today, while Basil, the Creator’s Hierarch and light-bearer, and Christ’s divine mystic, truly rejoices in the highest.

Ο των ολων Κύριος, περιτομήν υπομένει, και βροτών τα πταίσματα, ως αγαθός περιτέμνει, δίδωσι, την σωτηρίαν, σήμερον κόσμω. Χαίρει δε, εν τοις ωσίστοις και ο του Κτίστου, Ιεράρχης και φωσφόρος, ο θείος μύστης Χριστού Βασίλειος.
Epistle Reading

My mouth shall speak wisdom,
and the meditation of my heart shall bring forth understanding.
Hear this, all people.
The reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Colossians.

Colossians 2:8-12 – Brethren, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:20-21, 40-52 – Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day’s journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.” And He said to them, “Why is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

Parish e-mail list – Please subscribe to our Church’s e-mail list. Simply go to our newly redesigned web site at www.saint-katherines.org and click on Join our Email List at the top of the page. We will use this list to communicate more efficiently with you. You can send feedback to webmaster@stkchurch.com. We have more exciting things to come – check back.

The January 2012 issue of DOXA, the monthly newsletter of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, in Falls Church, Virginia is available online by clicking on the following link: http://www.saint-katherines.org/assets/files/DOXA/Jan12.pdf.
**Announcements**

**An Artoklasia** is offered this morning for Mrs. Athena Kolas and her family. God bless you!

**Sacrament – Congratulations** to Peter Duta and Michaela M. Paar on their wedding, December 31.

**AHEPA Christmas Ornaments** – The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce the arrival of the Fourth Annual Community Christmas Ornament. These collectible ornaments have grown in popularity from year to year and this year's ornament is no exception! A stunning three-dimensional rendition of *The Star of Bethlehem* serves as the inspiration for our 2011 offering to the community – a perfect ornament for the Christmas season, depicting the divine light that served as a beacon to all mankind heralding the joy of the Nativity. Manufactured by the same firm that creates the famous White House Christmas ornaments, they make excellent gifts and are the ideal stocking stuffer.

**Once again St. Katherine’s is sponsoring Esteban at Project Mexico.** We are collecting funds to purchase the gifts on his wish list. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to Saint Katherine and note “Project Mexico” on the memo line. If you have any questions please contact Ray Vazquez at rayvazquez1@aol.com.

**Clothes and Toiletries Collection** – We continue to collect clothing and toiletries for men and women at Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter. Clothes may be new or used but should be clean. Toiletries should be unopened. There is a collection receptacle in the foyer of the Meletis Charuhas Center. With winter now upon us, warm clothing in new or used condition is needed—especially, coats, scarves, long underwear, etc. Please continue to be generous to those less fortunate.

**The Hellenic Society Prometheas and the Pancyprians of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.** invite you to *An Evening Dedicated to the Island of Love: Cyprus-Κύπρος*, Friday, January 13, 2012, 7:30 p.m., at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Bethesda, Maryland.

**Sometime between December 4 and December 6 envelopes were taken from the Church.** If you left an envelope on any of these days, please contact the Church office at (703) 671-1515.

**St. George, Greek Orthodox Church, Ocean City, MD** invites you to celebrate the 13th Annual Blessing of the Waters on Saturday, January 14, 2012. Click on the following link for an informational flyer: http://www/saint-katherines.org/assets/files/Flyers/2012Epiphany-Flyer.pdf.

**HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR 2012!**
Offertory Prayer – O God, as you welcomed the gifts of Abel, the sacrifices of Noah and Abraham, the incense of Aaron and Zachariah, do welcome also, from the hands of us sinners, these offerings, so that in clear conscience we may always offer to you gifts and the resources of our labor, for your glorification, for the alleviation of sufferings and hunger, for the ministry to your people, by the grace, mercy and philanthropy of your only begotten Son with whom You are blessed from ages to ages. Amen.

Προσευχή Προσφοράς – Ω Θεέ, οπως δέχθηκες τα δώρα του Άβελ, τις θυσίες του Νώε και του Αβραάμ, το θυμίαμα του Ααρών και του Ζαχαρία, ας δέχθεις από τα αμαρτωλά μας χέρια και τις προσφορές αυτές έτσι, ώστε πάντοτε να μπορούμε να σου προσφέρουμε δώρα και τους κόπους της εργασίας μας για την δόξα Σου, προς ελάφρυνση των δοκιμασιών και της πείνας, προς διακονία του λαού Σου, προς συγχώρηση των αμαρτιών και εξίλασμο του λαού σου, με την χάρη, το έλεος και φιλανθρωπία του μονογενούς Σου Υιού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.