Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
Sunday, January 1, 2017

Apolytikion of the Circumcision of Jesus Christ (1st Tone)

Our human form hast Thou taken on Thyself without change, O greatly-compassionate Master, though being God by nature; fulfilling the Law, Thou willingly receivest circumcision in the flesh, that Thou mightest end the shadow and roll away the veil of our sinful passions. Glory be to Thy goodness unto us. Glory be to Thy compassion. Glory, O Word, to Thine inexpressible condescension.

Μορφήν αναλλοιώτως ανθρωπίνην προσέλαβες, Θεός ὁν κατʼ ουσίαν, πολυεύσπλαγχνε Κύριε, καὶ Νόμον εκπληρῶν, περιτομήν, θελήσει καταδέχη σαρκικήν, ὡς παύσης τὰ σκιώδη, καὶ περιέλης τὸ κάλυμμα τῶν παθῶν ἡμῶν, Δόξα τῇ αγαθότητι τῇ σή, δόξα τῇ ευσπλαγχνίᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ ἀνεκφράστῳ Λόγῳ συγκαταβάσει σου.

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

The all-blessed bride of Christ let us extoll 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 you.

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ημῶν και αντίληψιν. Ὄτι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβῶν, του Πνεύματον τη δυνάμει. Και νυν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα έλεος.

Kontakion of the Circumcision of Jesus Christ (3rd Tone)

Now the Lord of all that is doth undergo circumcision, in His goodness cutting off the sins and failings of mortals. He this day doth give salvation unto the whole world; and the hierarch and bright daystar of the Creator now rejoiceth in the highest, Basil the wise and divine initiate of Christ.

Ο τῶν ὅλων Κύριος, περιτομήν υπομένει, καὶ βροτόν τὰ πταίσματα, ὡς αγαθός περιείμενε, δίδωσι, τὴν σωτηρίαν σήμερον κόσμω, χαίρε δέ, εν τοῖς υψίστοις καὶ ὁ τοῦ Κτίστου, Ἰεράρχης καὶ φωσφόρος, ο θείος μύστης Χριστοῦ Βασίλειος.
Epistle Reading

My mouth shall speak wisdom and the meditation of my heart shall bring forth understanding.

Hear this all you nations.

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 – At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

AHEPA Christmas Ornaments – The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce our 9th Annual Community Christmas Ornament. These collectable ornaments have grown in popularity from year to year and we are extremely proud of this year’s offering. Our latest limited edition ornament, entitled “Santa’s Sleigh” is sure to delight young and old. They make excellent gifts. Ornaments are available for sale after Liturgy during coffee hour. You may also send requests to antovi@verizon.net or call 703-929-6110.
Happy and Blessed New Year! Ευτυχές κι Ευλογημένο το Νέο Έτος! 
Χρόνια Πολλά!

Memorial Service Procedures – A Memorial Service requires a donation of $175.00. Your sponsorship includes coffee set up, 100 koulourakia, 100 paximathia, putting koliva in cups and clean up after the event. Checks should be made out to: Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church (please make payment in advance). Please remember to schedule the actual memorial service with the Church office.

Project Mexico 2017 – Our group registration for Home Building 2017 has been confirmed for August 16-August 22 for 10 participants. If you are interested in going, please contact Bill or Eleni Porter at beporter1@verizon.net.

Journey to Orthodoxy – This is a reminder that the “Journey to Orthodoxy” class for adults meets 9:00-10:00 a.m. Sunday (before Liturgy, concurrently with the Sunday School). The class is designed for non-Orthodox inquirers into Orthodoxy as well as for Orthodox Christians who want to know more about the teachings, practices, history, and contemporary life of our Orthodox Church. It is also recommended for intending or newly married couples, especially where one spouse is not Orthodox. The class is held in an informal discussion format. Text is provided. We meet at in the Seniors’ Kentro room on the ground floor of Founders’ Hall. For further information contact the teachers, John Demakis demakis9931@gmail.com or Jim Jatras heraclius13@gmail.com, (202) 375-1007.

Women’s Book Club – Please join us on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at the Meletis Charuhas Center in the room two doors from the church office. We will discuss the second chapter/narrative—some editions have chapters and some have narratives—of The Way of The Pilgrim. If you already have a copy then use that, however, if you don’t have one then you can buy one at Saint Katherine’s Bookstore or on Amazon. The book available in the Bookstore is Way of the Pilgrim translation by Olga Savin with a foreword by Father Hopko. If your book has a different translator, no worries because the story is the same in all. The difference is the translator’s choice of words. It’s not too late to join the club. For further information contact Despina Raizes at 2draizes@gmail.com or (703) 216-8176.

Missions and Outreach Committee Meeting – The next meeting of our Missions and Outreach Committee will be Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of our Community Center. This will be our first meeting of 2017 and we have many projects to discuss. We have mission teams going to Mexico and probable Kenya, Africa. We have local mission presentations for Lent and we will host Father Martin Ritsi, Director of the OCMC at our annual OCMC Benefit Dinner, April 30. Plus we have many local projects with homeless shelter. Come and join us. All are welcome.
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. Ὡ Θεέ, ὥσπερ δέχθηκες τα δώρα του Άβελ, τις θυσίες του Νώε και του Αβραάμ, το θυμίαμα του Ααρών και του Ζαχαρία, ας δέχθηκε 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 εξιλασμό του λαού σου, με την χάρη, το έλεος και φιλανθρωπία του μονογενούς Σου Υιού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.

The Sunday bulletin is available online in two formats--a PDF copy of the bulletin handed out in church and an online version with much more information. Please take a moment to check them out by visiting: http://www.saint-katherines.org/about_us/sunday-bulletins

Church Organizations

Acolyte Captains – Nicholas Vazquez and Chad Velezis
Protos-Psalter – James Loizou 703-356-8220
Choir Director – Nick Kyrous (703) 981-2526
Catechetical School – Bill Porter 703-901-2404
Hellenic Education Center – Eleni Alexopoulou 703-671-7715
Philoptochos President – Eleni Kanakos 703-938-8360
YAL President – Faye Anson 703-437-5747
GOYA President – Panos Lagos 703-241-1176
JOY – Vaitsa Bousbouras, vsbousbouras@yahoo.com
HOPE – Doris Mentis, doris@alumni.virginia.edu