Sunday, January 31, 2021
Sunday of Zacchaeus

Unmercenaries Cyrus & John
Martyrs Theodote, Theoctiste, and Evdoxia

Apolytikion of the Day (1st Tone)

-Although the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers guarded Your most pure body, You arose on the third day, O Savior, giving life to the world. For this reason, the heavenly powers cried out to you, O giver of life. Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ, glory to Your kingdom, glory to Your dispensation, only Lover of mankind.

-Aπό το λίθο σφραγισθέντος υπό των Ιουδαίων, και στρατιωτών φυλασσόντων το άχραντόν Σου σώμα, ανέστη τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος το κόσμω την ζωήν. Διά τούτο αι δυνάμεις των ουρανών εβόων οι ζωοδόται. Δόξα τη αναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τη βασιλεία συ, δόξα τη οικονομία συ, μόνε φιλάνθρωπε.

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

-Let us praise the all lauded and noble bride of Christ, the godly Katherine, the guardian of Sinai and its defense, who is also our support, assistance and our help; for with the Holy Spirit's sword she hath silenced brilliantly the clever among the godless; and being crowned as a Martyr, she now does ask great mercy for us all.

-Απο την πανεύφημην νύμφην Χριστού υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ημών και αντίληψιν. Ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματος τη δυνάμει. Και νυν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα έλεος.

Kontakion of the Day (1st Tone)

-You who sanctified by your birth a virgin womb, and blessed the hands of Symeon as was appropriate, did come, indeed, O Christ our God, and saved us all. But bring peace to the commonwealth in time of war, and secure in strength the rulers you truly loved, as the only one who loves mankind.

-Ο μήτραν παρθενικήν αγάσας τω τόκω σου, και χείρας του Συμεών ευλογήσας ως έπρεπε, προφθάσας και νυν έσωσας ημᾶς, Χριστέ ο Θεός. Άλλ’ ειρήνευσον εν πολέμοις το το πολίτευμα, και κραταίωσον βασιλείς υους ηγάπησας, ο μόνος φιλάνθρωπος.
Epistle Reading

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.
The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy.

1 Timothy 4:9-15 – Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and suffer reproach, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Gospel Reading

Luke 19:1-10 – At that time, Jesus was passing through Jericho. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

Unmercenaries Cyrus and John

These Saints lived during the years of Diocletian. Saint Cyrus was from Alexandria, and Saint John was from Edessa of Mesopotamia. Because of the persecution of that time, Cyrus fled to the Gulf of Arabia, where there was a small community of monks. John, who was a soldier, heard of Cyrus' fame and came to join him. Henceforth, they passed their life working every virtue, and healing every illness and disease freely by the grace of Christ; hence their title of "Unmercenaries." They heard that a certain woman, named Athanasia, had been apprehended together with her three daughters, Theodora, Theoctiste, and Eudoxia, and taken to the tribunal for their confession of the Faith. Fearing lest the tender young maidens be terrified by the torments and renounce Christ, they went to strengthen them in their contest in martyrdom; therefore they too were seized. After Cyrus and John and those sacred women had been greatly tormented, all were beheaded in the year 292. Their tomb became a renowned shrine in Egypt, and a place of universal pilgrimage. It was found in the area of the modern day resort near Alexandria named Abu Kyr.

Apolytikion of Unmercenaries Cyrus & John (1st Plagal Tone)
Since Thou hast given us the miracles of Thy holy Martyrs as an invincible battlement, by their entreaties scatter the counsels of the heathen, O Christ our God, and strenghten the faith of Orthodox Christians, since Thou alone art good and the Friend of man.

Kontakion of Unmercenaries Cyrus & John (3rd Tone)
From divine grace, ye received the gift to work awesome marvels: thus, O Saints, throughout the world ye ever work signs and wonders; and ye cut out all our passions and all our suff'ring with an invisible surgery, for ye truly are divinely-wise physicians, O godly Cyrus, and John, beloved of God.
Memorial Services are offered this morning for Michael Sarris, husband of Mrs. Helen Sarris and father of George and Nicholas; and for Bessie and Nicholas Charuhas, parents of George Charuhas and Kitty Xidon, and for their uncle, Aristotle “Tellie” Charuhas. May their memory be eternal!

Congratulations to the 2021 Members of the Parish Council. They are: Ray Vazquez (President), Mark Cherpes (Vice-President), Bill Polizos (Secretary), George Moratis (Treasurer), Andrea Ballard, Hon. Manuel Capsalis, Dr. Domenic Carr, Dr. John Demakis, Robert Demson, Harry Karageorge, Jimmy Kontzamanys, Costas Mavromatakis, Constantinos Metropoulos, Stelios Moschou, Takis Taousakis, Steve Veletsis, Maria Wills, and Andreas Xenos (Members). Congratulations and may God bless them!

Journey to Orthodoxy – Beginning Monday, February 1, the “Journey to Orthodoxy” class for adults resumes ONLINE Via Zoom, on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00pm Eastern Time. 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, this class is also recommended for intending or newly married couples, especially where one spouse is not Orthodox. The class follows an informal discussion format. For further information, and to receive links class materials and to be placed on the Zoom invitation list, please contact the teachers, John Demakis demakis9931@gmail.com, Jim Jatras heraclius13@gmail.com, 202-375-1007, or the Zoom technical coordinator James Class, classj@gmail.com.

Adult Bible Studies class – In this time of social distancing, let us continue our weekly Adult Bible Studies online. Join us each Thursday evening at 7:00pm. We will take up a new topic each week on Thursdays, with: “What is the Meaning of Resurrection?”

Catechetical Lectures of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem – A Greek Bible Study led by Professor Ioannis Gkigkitzis. The Adult Catechism and Sacraments class “Catechetical Lecture of Saint Cyril” is taking place every Tuesday online at 7:15 p.m. This includes time for discussion and fellowship.

HEC - Greek School – Please check our Church’s website, www.saint-katherines.org or our HEC website, www.stkhec.org for an application. For more information on our Saint Katherine’s Greek School please contact Sophia Tsangali at 703-671-1515 or stsangali@stkchurch.com.

The AHEPA Chapter 438, Peter N. Derzis is hosting a fundraising virtual 5km/1 mile race/walk for the week of March 22-26, any day, any time. Proceeds from the event will help train service dogs for wounded warriors suffering from PTSD. For registration and more information please go to www.ahepa438.org.

A Prayer for All Times

O Master and God, Father almighty, Lord, and only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit, one divinity and power, have mercy on me a sinner, and save me, your unworthy servant, in any way you know; for you are blessed unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Thanksgiving Prayer after Meal

We thank you, Christ our God, for you have satisfied us with earthly gifts. Do not deprive us of your heavenly kingdom, but as you, O Savior, came among your disciples and gave them peace, come among us also and save us.
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, όπως 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 étai, 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.