Apolytikion of the Day (2nd Plagios Tone)

Αγγελικά Δυνάμεις επί το μνήμα σου, και οι φυλάσσοντες απενεκρώθησαν. Και ίστατο Μαρία εν τω τάφω, ζητούσα το άχραντόν σου σώμα. Εσκύλευσας τον Άδην, μη πειρασθείς υπ’ αυτού. Υπήντησας τη παρθένω, δωρούμενος την ζωήν. Ο αναστάς εκ των νεκρών, Κύριες δόξα σοι.

When the Angelic Powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You, resurrected from the dead, O Lord, glory to You.

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

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστού υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ημών και αντίληψιν, ότι φόνευσες λαμπρός, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματος τη δυνάμει. Και ως μάρτυς του Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι, το μέγα έλεος.

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.

Kontakion of the Day (4th Plagios Tone)

Τη υπερμάχω στρατηγώ τα νικητήρια, ως λυτρωθείσα των δεινών ευχαριστήρια, αναγράφω σοι η Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Αλλ’ ως έχουσα το κράτος απροσμάχητου, εκ παντίων με κινδύνουν ελευθέρωσον, ίνα κράζω σοι: Χαίρε Νύμφη ανύμφευτε.

Your city sings to you a song of victory, and offers thanks to its defender and deliverer, for sparing it from trials, O Theotokos. But because you have the power invincible, from a multitude of dangers liberate me, so that I may cry out to you: Hail Bride who knew no bridegroom.
Epistle Reading

*You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us. Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.*

The reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 1:10-14, 2:1-3 – “Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but Thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, and thy years will never end.” But to what angel has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?” Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect a great salvation?

Gospel Reading

Mark 2:1-12 – At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your pallet and walk?’ But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” – he said to the paralytic – “I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.” And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

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**Catechetical (Sunday) School** – The Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival of our parish will take place next Sunday, March 18, at 9:30 a.m. in the lecture room of the Meletis/Charuhas Center.

**Teenage Lenten Retreat** – Saint Katherine will host a TEENAGE LENTEN RETREAT on Saturday, March 17. Andrew Pavlakos and Theodore Cherpas, students at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, will be the retreat leaders. Please mark this date on your calendar. Details will be posted on our church’s website, in the DOXA, in the Sunday bulletin, and on flyers posted around the church and handed out during Sunday School. All teenagers of our community are encouraged to attend.

**The Daughters of Penelope will hold their fourth annual tea** on Sunday, April 29 at the Meletis Charuhas Center. The event will start at 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending or hosting a table, please contact Elvira Garnett (703) 425-3675, Cathy Cavallo (703) 978-1539 or Jane Moore (540) 371-8108. The cost of the tea is $35.00 payable to DOP Helle Chapter #283. No tickets will be sold at the door.

**We are pleased to announce** that for the next two Fridays, immediately after the Salutations services, there will be a special missions’ lecture in our Community Center: March 16, Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary by Andrew Pavlakos and Theodore Cherpas; and March 23, Guatemala Mission II by Daphne Vaccarello and team.
Announcements

Philoptochos Agape Foundation – A special tray will be passed today in both Liturgies by the Ladies Philoptochos to benefit the Agape Foundation. See enclosed flyer.

Memorial Services are offered this morning for Aikaterini Loi and Sotirios Loi, mother and brother of Mrs. Eleni Kavarligos; for Panagiotis Paschalides, father of Mr. Constantine Paschalides; and for John Butsicaris, grandfather of Mr. Joseph Perez. May their memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is offered this morning by the Philoptochos Agape Foundation.

Coffee Hour is also offered this morning by Mr. & Mrs. George Kavarligos and family in memory of her beloved mother and brother Aikaterini Loi and Sotirios Loi; by Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Paschalides and family in memory of his beloved father Panagiotis Paschalides; and by Mr. Joseph Perez and family in memory of his beloved grandfather John Butsicaris.

GOYA is selling ads for their Tournament Ad Book through April 6. Please contact Mrs. Campbell at frangoo123@yahoo.com if you want to place an ad or have any questions. She will be available after Liturgy most Sundays. The costs are $50.00 for a full-page ad, $30.00 for a half-page ad, and/or $25.00 for a business card-sized ad. (Our GOYA’s Basketball Tournament will be held April 21-22. Please mark the dates on your calendar and join us.)

Annual AHEPA Scholarship Awards – The 43rd Annual Washington Metropolitan Area Scholarship Awards program is accepting applications from high school seniors affiliated with the AHEPA family or the Greek Orthodox Church in the greater DC area. Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, have participated in extracurricular activities and/or sports, and be graduating from a DC-area high school. Applications are due on Friday, April 6 and the scholarship awards program will be held on Sunday, May 20 in Rockville, MD. For more information about how to apply, please contact Karen Polizos at (571) 434-7790 or at polik@cof.org. If you would like to make a donation to defray the costs of the program, or to award an individual scholarship, please contact Karen Polizos. You may also obtain a student scholarship application at the Church office and through St. Katherine’s website.

Greek School – The Ellinomathia Exams will take place again this year in our school on May 14, 15, and 16, 2012. The levels are: May 14: A1 (for children 8-12), A1 (for teenagers and adults), A2 and B1. May 15: B2 and C1. May 16: C2. Registration is taking place now till March 21. For information and applications please contact Sophia Tsangali, the principal, at (703) 671-1515 or stsangali@stkchurch.com.

Our Church needs prosphoro for every Divine Liturgy. If you can make prosphoro, please call Mrs. Niki Papasavva at (703) 764-9746.

The St. Katherine 2012 Vacation Bible Camp will take place this year from June 25-June 29. Registration begins today Sunday, February 19. If you have any questions please contact Daphne Papamichael at cyprusd@aol.com or Christina Vazquez at czvmail@aol.com. Applications will be available next week in the Narthex and they can be emailed to you electronically.

Saturday AM Bible Study: Suffering among the Saints – The Book of Job – “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil,” so God says to Satan in the opening chapter of this Old Testament book. Yet Job is tried and suffers mightily through the loss of his family, his health, and the goodwill of others. Sound familiar? Why do bad things happen to good people? Our study group will dig into the book’s powerful poetry as we discuss Job’s questions in light of the Church’s teaching and healing missions. When: Eight Saturday morning sessions began February 4, 2012, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Drop-ins are always welcome! Where: The boardroom on lower level of the Meletis Charuhas hall (education building). For more information, contact Gregory McKinney at (571) 338-6929.
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.