Sunday of the Holy Cross
3rd Sunday of Great Lent
Agapios and his companions
New Martyr Manuel of Crete

Apolytikion of the Day (Grave Tone)
By means of Your Cross, O Lord You abolished death. To the robber You opened Paradise. The lamentation of the Myrrh-bearing women You transformed and You gave Your Apostles the order to proclaim to all that You had risen from dead, our God, and granted the world Your great mercy.

Κατέλυσας τω Σταυρώ σου τον θάνατον, ηνέωξας τω Ληστή τον Παράδεισον. Των Μυροφόρων τον θρήνον μετέβαλες, και τοις σοις Αποστόλους κηρύττειν επέταξας, ὅτι ανέστης Χριστὲ ο Θέος, παρέχων τω κόσμω το μέγα ἐλεος.

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 Χριστού υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ημών και αντίληψιν. Ὁτι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματον τη δυνάμει. Και νυν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα ἐλεος.

Kontakion of the Day (4th Plagios Tone)
Your city sings to you a song of victory, and offers thanks to its defender and deliverer, for sparing it from trials, Ο Θεοτόκε. Αλλ’ ως έχουσα το κράτος απροσμάχητον, εκ παντίων με κινδύνων ελευθέρωσον, ίνα κράζω σοι: Χαίρε, Νύμφη, ανύμφευτε.
Epistle Reading

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
To you, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.
The reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

Brethren, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but is called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “Thou art my Son,
today I have begotten Thee;”
as he says also in another place,
“Thou art a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: “If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”

SAVE THE DATE! Back by popular demand! Saint Katherine’s 2nd Annual Traditional Greek Easter Picnic/Celebration – Reservations are now being accepted for Saint Katherine’s 2nd Annual Traditional Greek Easter Picnic/Celebration. Please bring your family and join all your friends on Easter Sunday, April 12th at 12:30pm for your Easter meal, music, and lots of fun! Tickets are $40 for adults and $25 for children under twelve. Your ticket includes appetizers, roast lamb on the spit meal with sides, dessert, and beverages (cash bar for beer/wine).

Make your reservations now and don’t miss out. Please contact Mallamo Mavromatakas at (703) 830-0224 or minoanone@gmail.com or the church office at 703-671-1515 to join the fun!

Myrrh-Bearers – Any girl, ages 7-12, who would like to be a Myrrh-Bearer on Holy Friday evening, please contact Christina Vazquez at czvmail@aol.com. We will need 8 girls for the service. Additionally, interested girls should plan to meet in church on Holy Friday morning right after the service. We will meet with Father Costa, practice, and then help decorate the Kouvouklion (Epitaphio).

Reminder! AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope Metro Scholarships Applications and instructions for submission are available at the Saint Katherine Church Office. Application deadline for graduating seniors is the first week of April each year. Donation deadline for this year’s scholarships is the third week of April. Donor contact information is also available at the Church Office. The event will be held Sunday, May 17, 2017.

Have a Blessed Great Lent! Ευλογημένη η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή!
Mission Lenten Lecture Series – As we have done the last several years, following the first four Salutations services, our Missions committee will sponsor a special lecture on missions. Our schedule for 2015 is as follows: February 27: Kenya mission (Mary Van Mullekom); March 6: Cuba mission trip (Fr. Costas and team); March 13: Project Mexico trip (Fr. Panagioti and team); March 20: Alaska trip (Natalie Gabarino). Come to the services, enjoy refreshments and listen to accounts of where our Saint Katherine people have gone and their experiences.

Philoctochos Meeting is this morning immediately following the second Divine Liturgy at the Meletis Charuhas Center downstairs in the Board room.

Philoctochos Easter Bake Sale will take place on Sunday, March 29 following the second Divine Liturgy; Sunday, April 5 following both Liturgies; and Holy Wednesday, April 8 following the Holy Unction. Delicious tsoureki, koulourakia, kourambiethes, melomakarona, diples, baklava, kataifi, spanakopita, tiropita, pastitsio, moussaka. To place your order(s), please contact Mary Varlas at lpbakesale@yahoo.com or (703) 965-4161. Make checks payable to Saint Katherine Ladies Philoptochos and mail to Saint Katherine Philoptochos, 3149 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church, VA 22041. See enclosed flyer.

KAIROS Prison Ministry – There is an offender who was recently released that we are trying to help with employment. See Dennis Garbis for details, or contact him at (djgarbis@envdes.com) or (202)438-7299. There is a need for an attorney to assist an offender who was recently released with some very old minor legal issues. We are hoping to receive some “pro bono” assistance. (See Dennis Garbis for details.)

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – This morning, March 15, 9:30 a.m. for grades 1st to 3rd and next Sunday, March 22, 9:30 a.m. for grades 4th to 12th. If you are interested please contact Diane Quebral at (703) 963-5814 or dkquebral@gmail.com.

Parents are reminded that children are not allowed to play on the stage in the Meletis Charuhas Center during Coffee Hour or other social gatherings. We ask your assistance to prevent injury to the children and damage to curtains and other equipment. Thank you.

Prometheus Greek Independence Day Celebration – This year the Prometheus Greek Independence Day Celebration will take place in our Saint Katherine Community Center, next Sunday, March 22, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Panagiotis Roilos, The George Seferis Chair, Harvard University. Topic: The Ancients and the Moderns: Adamantios Koraes, The Enlightenment, and the Greek Revolution”. The program will be dedicated to Adamantios Koraes and will include dementic songs performed by our St. Katherine’s choir, and Greek folk dances performed by the Return to Origins dance troupe. Reception will follow.

St. Katherine’s Greek School and Paideia Preschool March 25th Program will take place on Saturday, March 28, 2015 in the Meletis Charuhas Center at 10:30 a.m.

Byzantine Music Lenten Concert – The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey will be offering a Byzantine Music Lenten Concert in our church on Saturday of Lazarus, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. This beautiful, solemn and prayerful event, the goal of which is to assist us spiritually as we prepare to once again experience the sacred and holy week of the Passion, has been prepared by the Byzantine Choir, under the direction of the Metropolis Protopsaltis, Dr. George Bilalis. You are all welcome to attend.

John C. Kulis Charitable Foundation – The John C. Kulis Charitable Foundation, (“Kulis Foundation”), is excited to announce the availability of scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year. Last year the Kulis Foundation provided over $250,000 in scholarship funds to students. This year, three new programs, collectively offering $200,00, in funds have been added! The Kulis Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit foundation organized, in part, to support educational scholarships for members of the Eastern Orthodox faith and the Hellenic community. Please visit our new website, www.kulisfoundation.org, to view the eligibility requirements for each of our six scholarship programs and download applications. The following scholarship programs are available: Undergraduate & Graduate Program, St. Philip the Deacon Seminarian Program, Dr. John C. Kulis Medical School Scholarship, Students in Sciences Scholarship, and Karasia Kulis Advanced Degrees in Health Sciences Scholarship. For general information please go to infor@kulisfoundation.org.
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, ὅπως δέχθηκες τα δώρα του Άβελ, τις θυσίες του Νώε και του Αβραάμ, το θυμίαμα του Ααρών και του Ζαχαρία, ας δέχθείς από τα αμαρτωλά μας χέρια και τις προσφορές αυτές έτσι, ώστε πάντοτε να μπορούμε να σου προσφέρομε 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 εξίλασμό 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