Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, March 23, 2014

3rd Sunday of Great Lent
The Veneration of Holy Cross
St. Nikon and Companions
Sts. Anatolios and Protoléon

Apolytikion of the Day (2nd Plagios Tone)
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)
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)
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.

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

Την πανεύφημον 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 ως μάρτυς του Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι, το μέγα έλεος.

Τη Υπερμάχω Στρατηγώ τα νικητήρια, ως λυτροθείς των δεινών ευχαριστήρια, αναγράφω σοι η Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Αλλ’ ως έχουσα το κράτος απροσμάχητον, εκ παντίων με κινδύνων ελευθέρωσον, ινα 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 St. 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.”

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – Last Sunday the Sunday School had the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. It was one of the best festivals. All Students, who participated, did very well. The winners are: Stephanie Vazquez, first place winner, and Cameron Edgington, second place winner. Their presentations will take place this morning after both Liturgies.

General Assembly Meeting – Wednesday, March 26, 2014, following the Presanctified Liturgy, around 8:00 p.m. in the Lecture room of the Meletis Charuhas Center.

The Byzantio Greek Dance & Cultural Arts Program is offering six adult recreational dance classes. Cost: $100.00 for all sessions paid at first session or $20.00 a session, drop-in. Location: Founders’ Hall. Time: 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Dates: March 23, and 30. Contact Aris and Anna Yourtzidis at greekdancedc@gmail.com.

Embassy of Greece – On the occasion of the National Day The Ambassador of Greece Christos Panagopoulos has the pleasure to invite you to an Open House Reception, Monday, March 24, 2014, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Embassy of Greece, 2217 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

The Greek Independence Day Parade in Baltimore will take place on Sunday, March 30, 2014, at 2:00 p.m.
**Announcements**

A Doxology will be offered this morning at the end of the second Divine Liturgy to commemorate Greek Independence Day of March 25th, 1821. We welcome the Dignitaries from the Greek Embassy. They are: The Greek Consul Konstantinos Kyriou, Lt. Col. Kostoulas, Commander Bouras, Major Dontakis, and St. Maj. Tsiara.

Saint Katherine’s First Annual Traditional Greek Easter Picnic/Celebration – Reservations are now being accepted for Saint Katherine’s First Annual Traditional Greek Easter Picnic/Celebration. Please bring your family and join all your friends on Easter Sunday, April 20th for your Easter meal, music, and lots of fun! Tickets are $30.00 for adults and $25.00 for children under twelve. Your ticket includes appetizers (starting 12:30 p.m.), roast lamb on the spit meal (starting 2:00 p.m.) with sides, dessert, and beverages. Make your reservations now and don’t miss out. Please call Mallamo Mavromatakis at (703) 830-0224 or the church office at 703-671-1515 to join the fun!

Easter Bake Sale – Saint Katherine’s Philoptochos Ladies will take orders in the hall every Sunday after both Liturgies for the month of March. The dates for taking orders in church are: 2/23, and 3/30.

HEC Matching Grant – All donations to the HEC, up to a total of $1,000, will be matched by a matching grant program established by the Garnett family. Please make checks payable to St. Katherine Greek School with a notation “HEC Matching Grant.” Call the Church office, (703) 671-1515 for additional information. We gratefully acknowledge the Garnett family’s generosity and encourage everyone’s participation.

Our Mission and Outreach Committee sponsored presentations after the first four “Heretismoi” (Salutation Services) on Friday evenings. This Friday, March 28, Fr. Costa and his team will give a presentation on their mission journey to Havana, Cuba. Come and hear how Orthodoxy is spreading in Cuba.

Saint Katherine Paideia Preschool – Open House Invitation – Every Wednesday, 9:30am-11am, and 2:30pm - 3:30pm., and every Tuesday, 5:00pm - 6:00pm. Join us and explore the Paideia setting, become acquainted with our teachers and director, talk to current preschool parents, and ask questions regarding our program. Paideia is accepting students, ages 2 - 5yrs old, for Spring 2014 and/or the 2014-2015 school year. Enrollment applications for 2014-2015 school year are due April 11, 2014. For information please visit www.stkhec.org or contact Eleni Alexopoulou, Director, at 703=627-1556 or ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com.

GOYA Basketball Tournament Book – GOYA will be selling Ads after Liturgies today during Coffee Hours for their Basketball Tournament Book. The Tournament is April 26 – April 27, 2014. This is GOYA’s main Fundraiser. Business Ads are welcomed! GOYA thanks the Parish in advance for their support.

Attention High School Seniors – Student applications are now available for the Washington Metropolitan Area 44th AHEPA Scholarship program. Students eligible for an award will be honored at this year’s Awards Program on May 18, 2014 held at the Hilton Washington, DC/Rockville Hotel in Rockville, MD. This program has honored 1,508 students and awarded $804,975 in scholarships. Applications are available in the church office and website. Completed applications and materials must be submitted by April 4, 2014. For more information, contact Karen Polizos at kpolizos@naifa.org or on 571-434-7790.

Lenten Retreat – Sts. Constantine and Helen, Annapolis, MD invites you to attend The Fifteen Annual Frank & Lora Marie Pappas Memorial Lenten Retreat. Guest Retreat Master: Fr. Maximos Monachos. April 5, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Sts. Constantine and Helen (2747 Riva Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-573-2072.) $25.00 fee per person. Reservations required.
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. Ο Θεέ, ὅπως δέχθηκες τα δώρα του Άβελ, τις θυσίες του Νώε και του Αβραάμ, το θυμίαμα του Ααρών και του Ζαχαρία, ας δεχθείς από τα αμαρτωλά μας χέρια και τις προσφορές αυτές ἐτσι, ώστε πάντοτε να μπορούμε να σου προσφέρουμε δώρα και τους κόπους της εργασίας μας γιὰ την δόξα Σου, πρὸς ελάφρυνση των δοκιμασιών και της πείνας, πρὸς διακονία του λαοῦ Σου, πρὸς συγχώρηση των αμαρτιών και εξίλασμο του λαοῦ σου, με την χάρη, το ἔλεος και φιλανθρωπία του μονογενοῦς Σου Υιοῦ. Εὐλογημένο να εἶναι τὸ ὄνομά Σου εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα. Ἀμήν.