Sunday, April 8, 2018
GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

Saints:
Agapos, Rouphos, Asynkritos, Phlegon, Herodion, and Hermes,
Saint Rufus the Obedient

**Apolytikion of the Great and Holy PASCHA (1ST Plagal Tone)**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Χριστός ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας, και τοις εν τοις μνήμασι ζωήν χαρισάμενος.

**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. Ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματον τη δυνάμει. Και νυν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα έλεος.

**Kontakion of the Day (4th Plagal Tone)**

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

Εἰ καὶ ἐν τάφῳ κατῆλθες ἀθάνατε, ἀλλὰ τοῦ ᾍδου καθεῖλες τὴν δύναμιν, καὶ ἀνέστης ὡς νικητής, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, γυναιξὶ Μυροφόροις φθεγξάμενος. Χαίρετε, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις εἰρήνην δωρούμενος ὁ τοῖς πεσοῦσὶ παρέχων ἀνάστασιν.
Epistle Reading

This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.
The reading is from Acts of the Apostles.

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8 – In the first book, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-17 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.
The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
**Announcements**

*Xριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς Ανέστη! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!*

**Journey to Orthodoxy** – Our “Journey to Orthodoxy” class for adults meets 9-10 a.m. Sunday before Liturgy. This class is designed for non-Orthodox inquirers as well as Orthodox Christians wanting to learn more about our faith. It is also recommended for newly married couples, particularly where one is not Orthodox. It is informal and all texts are provided. Location is the Seniors’ Kentro (downstairs of Chelpon Hall). For more information please contact Dr. John Demakis demakis9931@gmail.com or Jim Jatras heraclius13@gmail.com, 202-375-1007.

**Scholarship Opportunity for Graduating Seniors!** – The awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet in May 2018. For information, please contact Karen Polizos, (571) 434-7790.

**Please plan to join us in a Pan-Orthodox Celebration of Orthodox Christian Missions** on Sunday, April 22, 2018, following Vespers at 4:30 p.m. Come enjoy a wine reception and dinner, along with music, raffles and guest speakers, including our very own Antonia Chelpon. Your support will help the Orthodox Christian Missions Center spread our Orthodox faith throughout the world! Tickets are $60.00. Student rate is $30.00 and a table for ten is $500.00. For tickets to the benefit and the raffle contact: Nia Vroustouris at evroustouris@gmail.com, Linda Jouvanis at ljouvanis@gmail.com, or stop by the Missions and Outreach table during Coffee Hour.

**You are invited to join the Gardeners of St. Phocas** – Together we can continue to enhance the gardens of our church. All interested parishioners are asked to contact Linda Jouvanis at ljouvanis@gmail.com. You do not need a green thumb. A joyful spirit will do!

**GOYA**

**April 14** – Saturday – If anyone is available, it is requested for our youth to help the church by doing landscaping – please contact Nick Junes (njunes@stkchurch.com).

**April 22** – Sunday – GOYA will help serve our annual OCMC Missions Banquet – please contact Nick Junes (njunes@stkchurch.com) for more details.

**HOPE, JOY, Moms, Pops, & Tots** – Easter Egg Hunt – Easter Sunday after the Agape Vespers, which begins at 11 a.m.

**Daughters of Penelope Meeting** is on April 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom of the Meletis Charuhas Center.
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 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.