Apolytikion of the Day (Grave Tone)

Ἐσφραγισμένου του μνήματος, η ζωή εκ τάφου ανέτειλας Χριστέ ο Θεός. Και των θυρών κεκλεισμένων, τοις Μαθηταίς επέστης η πάντων Ανάστασις, Πνεύμα ευθές δι’ αυτών εγκαινίζον ημιν, κατά το μέγα σου ἔλεος.

With the tomb sealed securely, O Christ the lie, you rose from the grave; and with the doors tightly closed, you came to your Disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them a right Spirit according to your great mercy.

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

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστού υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ημών και αντίληπν, ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματος την δυνάμει. Και ως μάρτυς του Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αἰτεῖται πάσι, το μέγα ἔλεος.

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)

Εἰ καὶ εν τάφῳ κατήλθες αθάνατε, αλλὰ τοῦ Ἀδου καθήλες την δύναμιν. Καὶ ανέστης ὡς νικητής, Χριστέ ο Θεός, γυναιξί Μυροφόροις φθεγξάμενος, χαίρετε, καὶ τοῖς σοι Ἀποστόλοις εἰρήνην δωροῦμεν, ο τοῖς πεσοῦσι παρέχων ανάστασιν.

Though in the grave you descended, O immortal one, yet you destroyed the power of Hades; and you rose as victor, O Christ our God; to the Myrrh-bearing women you said: Rejoice! And to your Apostles you granted your peace, you who grant resurrection to the fallen ones.
Epistle Reading

Great is our Lord, and great is his power.
Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.
The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 5:12-20 – In those days many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”

Gospel Reading

John 11:19-31 – On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Received the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

Eight day later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.
Community Announcements

Ministry Spotlight – Today our GOYA further participates in the life of the church by serving as ushers during the 2nd Liturgy as they have for many years. Our GOYANs represent the future of our church and community and their efforts in this and many other community endeavors are a credit to their parents, their advisors and to our community. Please support our GOYA this weekend at their tournament!

Calling All Parishioners – In order to accommodate more participation in cooking and baking for the festival (June 1, 2 & 3, 2012), we would like to try a day shift and a late afternoon/evening shift. Please contact Andrea Ballard (703) 250-5419, adreaballard@verizon.net or Elvira Garnett (703) 425-3675, villa45@hotmail.com with your shift preference and we will contact you. Schedules will also be available on the church website and in the Sunday Bulletin.

The offering of the 2nd tray this morning will be for the icon of Platyttera in our St. Katherine’s church.

Prosporo – If you can make prosphoro for Divine Liturgy, please call Mrs. Niki Papasavva at (703) 764-9746.

We welcome this morning to our parish the Philoptochos President of New Jersey Metropolis, Mrs. Anastasia Michals. All women are invited to a gathering in the Board Room of the Meletis/Charuhas Center following the 2nd Divine Liturgy.

The St. Katherine 2012 Vacation Bible Camp is completely full. We will place names on a waiting list, in the event that spaces open. Please Christina Vazquez at czvmail@aol.com or Daphne at cyprusd@aol.com.

Summer Camp for 3-5 year-olds. July 9-August 17, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Paideia Preschool Open House: April 29 following the Divine Liturgy, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Contact M. Papathanassiou at director@gopaideia.org or (703) 671-7715.

The Daughters of Penelope will be selling raffle tickets today following both Liturgies during the coffee hour for their upcoming Tea/Fashion Show on April 29. There are many wonderful raffle prizes including an overnight at the Middleburg Inn, gift cards and a kindle. Tickets are $5.00 each or 3 for $12.00. Proceeds will go to support a scholarship and many other philanthropic projects. Your support is greatly appreciated.

OCMC Benefit Banquet on Saturday, April 28 in Founder’s Hall; Fr. Martin Ritsi, OCMC Executive Director is the featured speaker. Tickets $60; under 18: $30 and under 6 free. Contact Gregory McKinney at dintym@hotmail.com or Skip Mersereau at (301) 229-0878 jwmster@gmail.com for additional information.

Olympic Gold Medalist – Please come and meet the three time Olympic Gold Medalist Pyrros Dimas, April 25, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Nicholas, Baltimore, MD; April 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Sts. Constantine and Helen, Annapolis, MD; and April 27, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Sophia Cathedral, Washington, DC. All proceeds will benefit the Greek School of Himara. Live Auction of personal Olympic items of Pyrros Dimas; sponsored by the Society of Himarriotes in America.

The National Hellenic Society and Niko Argeroplos’ Hellenic Speaker Series proudly present: “A Comprehensive Historical, Moral and Legal Presentation on: The Lootings of the Parthenon and the Fight to Preserve our Cultural Property” by Michel Reppas, Esq. April 27, at 7:00 p.m. at the Garrison Forest Middle School Auditorium (300 Garrison Forest Rd., Owings Mills, MD). Please contact (615) 613-1526 or nikoa2013@yahoo.com. A chance to win an iPad 3! Raffle at the end of presentation! You must attend to enter to win!

The Rosemary Bronder Memorial Scholarship offered by the Nativity of the Theotokos, Fredericksburg, VA – Applicants must be an Eastern Orthodox Christian pursuing academic degrees and/or academic certification in any field of human or animal medicine to include, but not limited to the following: medical doctor, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, licensed practical nurse, physicians assistant, doctor of veterinary medicine; support fields which include, but not limited to the following: emergency medical technicians, paramedical services technician, veterinary technicians, medical research clinician. If you interested please contact the church office.

Attention Safeway Supporters: Gatorade will donate 5% of the purchase price to St. Katherne when you purchase any two (2) or more Gatorade or G2 20 oz. 8-packs in a single transaction at a Safeway store, using your registered Safeway card. And 10% will be donated when you buy any Gatorade Prime or Gatorade Recover. The program is good between 4-18-2012 and 5-3-2012 and 5-23-2012 – 6-1-2012. Happy Shopping and Thank you. For more information, call Elvira Garnett, (703) 425-3675.
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, ὁπως δέχθηκες τα δώρα του Άβελ, τις θυσίες του Νώε και του Αβραάμ, το θυμίαμα του Ααρών και του Ζαχαρία, ας δέχθηκες από τα αμαρτωλά μας χέρια και τις προσφορές αυτές έτσι, ώστε πάντοτε να μπορούμε να σου προσφέρουμε δόρα 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 ονόμα Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.