Apolytikion of the Day (1st Plagios Tone)

Τον συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρί και Πνεύματι, τον εκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εις σωτηρίαν ημῶν, ανυμήσωμεν πιστοί και προσκυνήσωμεν. Ότι ημόκηπσε σαρκί, ανελθείν εν τῷ σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον υπομείναι, καὶ εγείραι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, εν τῇ ενδόξῳ Αναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. For in His goodness He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died, by His glorious Resurrection.

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

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν τὴν θείαν καὶ πολιούχον Σινά, τὴν βοήθειαν ημῶν καὶ αντίληψιν, ὅτι εφίμωσε λαμπρῶς, τοὺς κομψοὺς τῶν ασεβῶν, τοῦ Πνεύματος τὴν δυνάμει. Καὶ ως μάρτυς τοῦ Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αἰτείται πάσι, τὸ 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 κατῆλθες αθάνατε, ἀλλὰ τοῦ Ἄδου καθήλες τὴν δύναμιν. Καὶ ανέστης ὡς νικητής, Χριστέ ο Θεός, γυναίξι Μυροφόροις φθεγξάμενος, χαίρετε, καὶ τοῖς σοις Ἀποστόλοις εἰρήνη δωροῦμεν, ο τοῖς πεσοῦσι παρέχεις 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

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us. Save me, O Lord, for the godly man had failed. The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 16:16-34 – In those days, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation. And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I Charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

But when the owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them in to the marketplace before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, “These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is lawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely.

Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one’s fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to go kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

But Paul cried out with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas and brought them out and said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all household that he had believed in God.

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-38 – At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man’s eyes with the clay, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, “Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he”; others said, “No, but he is like him.” He said, “I am the man.” They said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see.”

Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But other said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age, ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?” And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe”; and he worshiped him.
Community Announcements

Memorial Services are offered this morning for Kathryn G. Xidon, mother of James Xidon and Angeliki Maoury; and for Demetrios (James) Tsantes, husband of Mrs. Anastasia (Ann) Tsantes and father of John and Steven. May their memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is sponsored this morning by Mr. & Mrs. James Xidon and Mrs. Angeliki Maouri and their families in memory of their beloved mother Kathryn G. Xidon.

The two large flowers arrangements on the solea were donated to the church by the Vassilopoulos and Thomas families in honor of the newly married Mr. Constantine and Mrs. Oleta Vassilopoulos.

Festival News – We will be making diples Tuesday, May 22, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Elvira Garnett at (703) 425-3675 or villada5@hotmail.com or Andrea Ballard at (703) 250-5419 or andreaballard1@verizon.net, if you can help or for further information. Volunteers are also needed to work at the festival. You may sign up to help at coffee hour after both Liturgies today or call or email Elvira or Andrea.

Today’s second tray will be for the benefit of Greece in this difficult time. Checks must be payable to Saint Katherine and in memo please note Greek relief fund.

Sacraments – Congratulations to Constantine Vassilopoulos and Oleta Thomas on their wedding, May 19, 2:30 p.m.; to Christina Cris Lynn Mitchell on her Chrismation, May 20, 10:00 a.m.; and to Thomas and Annemarie Silis on the baptism of their daughter Mary Calliope, May 20, 1:00 p.m.

This AHEPA Sunday, the President, Angelo Toutsi, of Peter N. Derzis Chapter 438 in continued support of St. Katherine Church and its ministries will proudly present St. Katherine with its annual check. In addition Chapter 438 will be announcing the winner of the Derzis Scholarship Award.

Sunday School Graduation is this morning, May 20, 2012, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. A reception with pizza, cake and refreshments for the students and their parents will follow in the Founders Hall. This morning Marie Thomas will read the Epistle Reading.

Greek School Graduation will take this afternoon, May 20, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at the Meletis Charuhas Center. Students must be in class at 4:30 p.m. Following the Graduation a school-wide barbecue, including cake, fruit and refreshments for students and parents will be offered by the parents and the school.

Greek School registration for 2012-2013 will take place during the months of June and July in the Church office, Monday through Friday, during office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, September 9 after the Divine Liturgy. We offer classes from Pre-K to 7, 8 and 9 grades, and Adult classes. For more information on Greek School please contact Sophia Tsangali, the principal, at (703) 671-1515 or stsangali@stkchurch.com.

The Greek School is pleased to offer a unique learning experience for the youth of our community. After a successful introduction of Conversational Greek Classes on Wednesday evenings, we will now offer conversational Greek at two levels which will be combined with Greek Dancing instruction. Level 1 for children up to 10, and Level 2 for older children ages from 10 to 15. The students of both levels will be offered special instruction in Greek Dancing by expert teachers. For more details please contact Elena Lagos or Chris Christou. We expect that these classes will be filled quickly, so please do not delay to register.

Philoptochos End of the Year Dinner on Tuesday, June 12 at Anthony’s restaurant in Falls Church. For reservations please call Tina Spanos at (703) 237-2731 or Irene Burton at (703) 256-5531.

If you are interested in learning the basics of Byzantine chant (hymns, ison and the eight modes) and some Greek ethnic songs, please call Jim Loizou at (703) 356-8220. No age limit and no musical background necessary, only a willingness to learn.

Summer Camp for 3-5 year-olds – Join us July 9-August 17 for wild adventures, fun activities, lively music and dance. Space is limited. Contact Maria Papathanassiou at director@gopaideia.org.

Paideia Bilingual Preschool – Enrollment for Fall 2012 is OPEN. Registration will take place after Liturgy starting June 1st. We provide a unique, faith-based program for children 2 to 5 years old, offering a loving and safe environment, an enriching and challenging Greek/English curriculum that prepares students for their next developmental level, and enhances their moral and spiritual growth.

Prometheus Event – Friday, June 15, at 8:00 p.m., A Lecture on Diet, Spiritual and Physical Health. Both events will take place at Saint George, Bethesda, Maryland.

Summer Job Opportunity – IT consultant is seeking several college students looking for summer work in the IT world. Should be very familiar with computers and Windows operating systems. Local commute required. Job begins June 4th and ends July 27th. July 4th week off and first week travel required (all expenses paid). Excellent hourly rate. Interested parties should immediately reach out and send resumes to PLCsoccer@AOL.com. For more information, call Perry Cherpes at 1-303-619-8114.
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 Θεός, όπως δέχθηκες τα δώρα του Άβελ, τις θυσίες του Νώε και του Αβραάμ, το θυμίαμα του Ααρών και του Ζαχαρία, ας δέχθηκες από το αμαρτωλά μας χέρια και τις προσφορές αυτές έτσι, ώστε πάντοτε να μπορούμε να σου προσφέρουμε δώρα και τους κόπους της εργασίας μας γιά την δόξα Σου, προς ελάφρυνση των δοκιμασιών και της πείνας, προς διακονία του λαού Σου, προς συγχώρηση των αμαρτιών και εξίλασμο του λαού σου, με την χάρη, το έλεος και φιλανθρωπία του μονογενούς Σου Υιού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.