Sunday, May 25, 2014

Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday of the Blind Man
Κυριακή του Τυφλού
3rd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist
Τρίτη Εύρεσις Κεφαλής Προδρόμου
Θεράπωντος, Επισκόπου Κύπρου

Apolytikion of Easter (1st Plagios 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 the Day 1st Plagios Tone)
Let us worship the Word who is unoriginated 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 those who had died, by His glorious Resurrection.

Τον συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρί και Πνεύματι, τον εκ Παρθένου τεθέντα εις σωτηρίαν ημῶν, ανυμνήσωμεν τοις τεθνεώτας, εν τη ενδόξω Αναστάσει αυτοῦ.

Apolitikion of Saint Katherine the Great Martyr (1st Plagios 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 us.

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστού υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ημῶν και αντίληψιν, ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβῶν, του Πνεύματος τη δυνάμει. Και ως μάρτυς του Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι, το μέγα ἔλεος.

Kontakion of the Day (2nd Plagios Tone)
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.

Εἰ καὶ εν τάφῳ κατήλθες αθάνατε, αλλὰ τοῦ Άδου καθήλες την δύναμιν. Και ανέστης ως νικητής, Χριστέ ο Θεός, γυναίξι μυροφόροις φθεγξάμενος, χαίρετε, και τοις σοις Αποστόλοις ειρήνην δωρούμενος, ο τοις πεσοῦσι παρέχον αναστασιν.
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 Second Letter to the Corinthians.

2nd Corinthians 4:6-15 – Brethren, it is God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For, while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we, too, believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of 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 others 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 he 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.

Virginia and Maryland Orthodox Youth Day at Kings Dominion – Thursday, June 26, 2014. $51.00 per person. RSVP by June 5, 2014 to Presvytera Pauline at przpauline@stkchurch.com or (703) 239-2627.
Memorial Services are offered this morning for Bessie Ligelis (1-yr), mother of Elaine, Nicholas, Tina and Saovanni; for Giannoula Veltsistas (40-days), mother of Themy (Connie), Panagiotis (Demetra), Nicholas (Carrillon), and Paraskevi Stratis (Thomas), grandmother and aunt of many grandchildren, nieces and nephews; and for Anthony Pothitos (40-days), father of Vasilios, Emmanuel, Kiki and John. May their memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is sponsored this morning by the Ligelis family in memory of their beloved mother, Bessie Ligelis; and by the Veltsistas and Stratis families in memory of their beloved mother, Giannoula Veltsistas.

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.

Saint Katherine Paideia Preschool – Every Wednesday, 9:30am - 11am, and 2:30pm - 3:30pm., and every Tuesday, 5:00pm - 6:00pm. For information please visit www.stkhec.org or contact Eleni Alexopoulou, Director, at 703-627-1556 or ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com. Information for HEC Summer Camp 2014 can be found in the narthex.

Pan-Laconian Federation Scholarship Application 2014 – It is open to all high school graduates 2014 and present college students who have not received the award previously in college-graduate school-law/medical school. For further information please email Dimitra Marafatsos at Demitra13@aol.com.

Project Mexico Mission Trip departs on August 13th and returns home August 19th. Each team member is expected to fund raise $1,500.00. This covers air fare and expenses and also goes to fund needed items for the orphanage. Currently we are seeking four to five additional members to complete the Mission Team. We also need sponsors and donations to help our Team Members cover their expenses. Please contact Ray Vazquez rayvazquez1@aol.com or Father Panagiotis Hanley frphanley@stkchurch.com for more information or to submit donations.

Camp Good Shepherd 2014 – All teenagers of our community are encouraged to join Fr. Costas at Camp Good Shepherd 2014, The Linwood-MacDonald YMCA Center, Brachville, New Jersey, Sunday, July 27 – Saturday, August 2. Camp cost: $525 for the week. Transportation is free! Transportation will be provided from/to St. Katherine. (The bus will pick up teenagers from Annunciation, Norfolk; SS. Constantine and Helen Newport News; and SS. Constantine and Helen, Richmond.) If interested, please contact Fr. Costas: frcostas@stkchurch.com, (703) 671-1515.

Saint Katherine’s Spring Festival – June 6, 7, and 8, 2014, from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. Please sign up at Coffee Hour after Liturgy or email andreaballard1@verizon.net or call Andrea at (703) 250-5419.
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 δέχθηκες 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.