**Apolytikion of the Day (2nd Tone)**

Ότε κατήλθες προς τον θάνατον, η ζωή η αθάνατος, τότε τον Άδην ενέκρωσας, τη αστραπή της θεότητος. Ότε δε και τους τεθνεώτας, εκ των καταχθονίων ανέστησας, πάσαι αι δυνάμεις των επουρανίων εκραύγαζον. Ζωόδοτα Χριστέ, ο Θεός ημών, δόξα σοι.

When You descended unto death O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the nether world all the Powers of the heavens were crying out. O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

**Apolytikion of Saint Katherine the Great Martyr (1st Plagios Tone)**

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 την δυνάμει. Και ως μάρτυς του Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αἰτείται πάσι, το μέγα έλεος.

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 (2nd Tone)**

Προστασία των χριστιανών ακαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία προς τον Ποιητήν αμετάθετε, μη παρίδης, αμαρτωλών δεήσεων φωνάς, αλλά πρόθρασον ως αγαθή, εις την βοήθειαν ημών, των πιστώς κραυγαζόντων σοι. Τάχυνον εις πρεσβείαν, και σπεύσον εις ικεσίαν, η προστατεύουσα αεί, Θεοτόκε των τιμώντων σε.

O Protection of the Christians unashamable, mediation to the maker immovable, despise not the pleading voices of those in sin, but hasten, O good one, to the help of all of us, who in faith cry out to you. Speed up your intercession, and press on your supplication, O Theotokos who always protect, all those who honor you.
Epistle Reading

Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Clap your hands, all you nations. The reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Romans.

Romans 13:11-14, 14:1-4 – Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will uphold, for the Master is able to make him stand.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76-80 – Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which are most surely believed among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us. It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed. There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years. So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid. Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great, in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.” And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. “But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.” And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless. And so it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.” Now Elizabeth’s full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her. Now so it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. And his mother answered and said, No; he shall be called John.” But they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.” So they made signs to his father – what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, “His name is John.” And they all marveled. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God. Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, “What kind of child will this be?” And the hand of the Lord was with him. Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, “to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.
Community Announcements

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – Congratulations to our Parish Oratorical Festival winners, Sophia Gull and Katerina Silis, who will read their chosen topics this morning in church!

GOYA – Tiffani Wills will be the Epistle Reader this morning. There will be a GOYA Meeting following church services today.

Memorial Services are offered this morning for Lambros Veltsistas, husband of Mrs. Irene Veltsistas, and father of Maria, Elena and Christina; for Katina Katsakos, wife of Mr. Soterios Katsakos and mother of Steve Katsakos and Georgia Cogar; and for Ioannis Karmokolias, husband of Mrs. Elina Karmokolias and father of George and Alkisti. May their memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is sponsored this morning by the Veltsistas, the Katsakos, and the Kalmokolias families in memory of their loved ones.

Sacrament – Congratulations to Michael Sofocleous and Hannelore Mann Suffridge on their wedding, June 23, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

The Vacation Bible Camp begins tomorrow, Monday, June 25 until Friday, June 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Musical Legacy of Manos Loizos – You are invited to attend a concert celebrating “The Musical Legacy of Manos Loizos” (benefiting the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey). Today, Sunday, June 24, 4:00 p.m., Hermes Center, St. Demetrios Church (2504 Cub Hill Road, Baltimore, MD 21234), performing the SYN-PHONIA BAND and Harry Antoniou, Winner of the Greek X-Factor 3, in cooperation with Axiocom, Inc. $65.00 VIP seating, $50.00 regular and $25.00 youth and student. For tickets please contact Chris Christou (703) 533-0055 or cachris2@hotmail.com, Iacovos Ioannou (703) 550-7199 or ioannou@imf.org, the Church office (703) 671-1515, and Fr. Costa Pavlakos (703) 671-1515 or frcostas@stkchurch.com.

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.

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.

Clothing and Toiletries – We continue to collect new and used clothing and unopened toiletries for the Shelter. Although winter is over, they are still collecting warm clothing, coats, scarves, gloves, etc. They will store them for next winter. And there is always a need for adult shoes of every kind for men and women. Dress shoes, casual shoes, and new shoes and used shoes in good condition. Please give what you can. Bring your items to our community center and we will deliver to the shelter once a week. Thanks to all who have contributed in the past.

Watch Lost – If you found a lost watch last Sunday in church, please call the church office at (703) 671-1515.
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 δέχθηκας 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.