Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, June 24, 2018
The Nativity of Saint John the Forerunner and Baptist

Saints Elizabeth and Zacharias,
Parents of Saint John the Forerunner and Baptist

Apolytikion of Saint John the Forerunner (4th Tone)
Προφήτα καί Πρόδρομε, τής παρουσίας Χριστού, αξίως ευφημήσαί σε ουκ ευποροῦμεν ημείς, οι πόθω τιμώντες σε, στείρωσις γάρ τεκούσης, καί πατρός αφωνία, λέλυνται τή ενδόξω, καί σεπτή σου γεννήσει, καί σάρκωσις Υιού τού Θεού, κόσμω κηρύτεται.

Ὅτε κατῆλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ Ζωὴ ἡ ἄθανατος, τότε τὸν ἁδὴν ἐνέκρωσες τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς Θεότητος, ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεώτας ἐκ τῶν καταχλονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἔκραύγαξαν·Ζωοδότα Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν δόξα σοι.

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 βοήθεια ημών και αντίληψιν. Ὅτι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς τῶν ασεβών, τοῦ Πνεύματος τῇ δυνάμει. Και νυν ὡς Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι τὸ μέγα ἐλεος.

Kontakion of Saint John the Forerunner (3rd Tone)
She that once was barren doth today bring forth Christ's Forerunner, John, the culmination and the crown of all the Prophets. For when he, in River Jordan, laid his hand on Him Whom the Prophets preached aforetime, he was revealed as God the Word's fore-chosen Prophet, His mighty preacher, and His Forerunner in grace.

Ἡ πρίν στειρὰ σήμερον, Χριστοῦ τὸν Πρόδρομον τίκτει, καί αὐτός τὸ πλήρωμα, πάσης τής προφητείας, ὃπερ γάρ, προανεκήρυξαν οἱ Προφήται, τούτον δὴ, ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ χειροθετῆσας, ανεδείχθη Θεοῦ Λόγου, Προφήτης Κήρυξ ομοῦ καί Πρόδρομος.
Epistle Reading

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. Oh God, hear my cry.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to 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 be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76-80 – Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilos, that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed. In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife 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 both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, 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 before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will 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 for the Lord a people prepared." And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and they wondered at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zacharias after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways." And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.
Memorial Service is offered this morning for Panos Siatis, husband of Mrs. Bessie Siatis and father of Linda Moratis, Mary Charuhas and Perry Siatis. May his memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is sponsored this morning by Mrs. Bessie Siatis and family in memory of her beloved husband, Panos Siatis.

Congratulations! The Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting congratulates Mihail Ziu for completing the requirements for a certificate with the Chi-Rho medal for taking this significant step in religious growth. Congratulations Mihail!

Vacation Bible Camp 2018 – June 25th – 29th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The theme is “The Armor of God!” and we will be covering the Lives of Superhero Saints. For information please contact Eleni Porter at beporter1@verizon.net or 703-470-9992.

Camp Good Shepherd – Virginia – July 8-14, 2018 for those who have completed 5th grade – finished high school. Ask Nick for more information! njunes@stkchurch.com.

The Project Mexico team invites you to a Breakfast this morning at the Meletis-Charuhas Center following Divine Liturgy. We will be raising funds for the upcoming mission trip this July to build a home for a needy family while ministering to the orphans at the St. Innocent Orphanage. We welcome your donations. We still need to raise $4,000. Please make check donations to: St. Katherine’s Greek Orthodox Church and include “Project Mexico” in the memo line. Thank you ahead of time for your support!
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 δεχθείς από τα 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 διακοινία 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.

The Sunday bulletin is available online at http://www.saint-katherines.org/about_us/sunday-bulletins.