Sunday, July 15, 2018
Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Julitta and Cyricus, the Martyrs
Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles of Kiev

Apolytikion of the Day (2nd Plagal Tone)
Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee

Ἀγγελικά Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμα σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἰστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἀδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ύπ’ αὐτοῦ, ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωροῦμενος τὴν ζωήν, ὁ ἀναστάς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Apolytikion of the Holy Fathers (4th Plagal Tone)
You are greatly glorified, O Christ our God, who established our Fathers as luminaries upon the earth, and through them led us all to the true Faith. O Most compassionate, glory to You.

Ὑπερδεδοξασμένος εἶ, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν, ὁ φωστῆρας ἐπὶ γῆς τοὺ ς Πατέρας ἡμῶν θεμελιώσας, καὶ δι’ αὐτῶν πρὸς τὴν ἀληθινὴν πίστιν, πάντας ἡμᾶς ὁδηγήσας πολυεύσπλαγχνε, 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 βοήθειαν ημῶν και αντίληψιν. Ὅτι εφίμος λαμπρῶς, τους κομψοὺς τῶν ασεβῶν, τοῦ Πνεύματος τη δυνάμει. Καὶ νον ὃς Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα ἔλεος.

Kontakion of the Day (2nd Tone)
O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε. Μὴ παρίδῃς ύμαρτολῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ύπ’ ἀγαθῆ, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶν κραυγαζόντων σοι· Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεύσον εἰς θεσίαν, ἡ προστατεύουσα ἰδί, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμώντων σε.
Epistle Reading

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous.
Blessed are they whose transgressions have been forgiven.
The reading is from St. Paul's Letter.

Titus 3:8-15 – Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:14-19 – The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

The Pan-Icarian Brotherhood is hosting the 115th Annual Convention on Labor Day weekend, August 31-September 3, 2018, at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C. Events include Basile the Comedian (9/1), Glendi (9/1), Grand Banquet & Glendi(9/2), featuring Melodia and Asteria Production. See pan-icariandc2018.com for additional details, events & tickets.
**Announcements**

**Memorial Service** is offered this morning for Lynda G. Debbas, mother of Dr. Elias G. Debbas. May her memory be eternal!

**Coffee Hour** is sponsored this morning by our Ladies Philoptochos.

**Project Mexico** - We are 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 $1,500. 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!

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**Prayer of the Hour – Orthros Prayer**
In the morning are we filled with Your mercy, O Lord, and we rejoice and delight in all of our days. Let us delight therefore even in the days that you make us lowly and for the years that we have seen evils. And look upon Your servants and upon Your works and lead their sons aright.

**Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council**
On the Sunday that falls from the 13th to the 19th of the present month, we chant the Service to the 630 Holy and God-bearing Fathers who came together for the 4th Ecumenical Council who assembled in Chalcedon in 451, to condemn Eutyches, who taught that there was only one nature, the divine, in Christ after the Incarnation, and Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who illegally received Eutyches back into communion and deposed Saint Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople, who had excommunicated Eutyches.

In the Slavic tradition, on this Sunday, the Fathers of the first six Ecumenical Councils are all commemorated.

**The Holy Martyrs Cyricus and His Mother Julitta**
Saint Julitta was from the city of Iconium. Fearing the persecution of Diocletian, she took her son Cyricus, who was three years old, and departed for Seleucia; but finding the same evil there, she went over to Tarsus in Cilicia, where the ruler arrested her. He took her son from her and tried with flatteries to draw the youth to himself. But the little one, in his childish voice, called on the Name of Christ and kicked the ruler in the belly so hard, that the tyrant became enraged and cast him down the steps of the tribunal. In this manner, the child's head was crushed, and he gave up the spirit. As for his blessed mother, she first endured many torments, and finally was beheaded in the year 296.

**Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles of Kiev**
Grandson of Saint Olga, Saint Vladimir ascended the throne of Kiev in 980. Though a zealous idolater, he was illumined by the grace of God, accepted the Christian Faith, and completely changed his ways. He was baptized in Cherson in 988, receiving the name Basil; he came forth from the font not only healed of a blindness lately afflicting him, but also from being passionate and warlike, he became meek, peaceable, and exceedingly godly. Whereas his grandmother had refused marriage with the Emperor in Constantinople, he married Anna, sister of the Emperors Basil and Constantine, and was accompanied home by priests from Constantinople. Diligently seeking to spread Christianity throughout his realm like a new Constantine, he destroyed the idols (having the chief deity Perun scourged and then cast into the Dnieper River), and summoned all his subjects to Holy Baptism. He reposed in peace in 1015.
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 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 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.