Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, July 31, 2016
6th Sunday of Matthew

Forefeast of the Precious Cross
Joseph of Arimathea

Apolytikion of the Day (1st Plagal Tone)
Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him that with the Father and the Spirit is co-beginningless God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for He was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

Τον συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρί και Πνεύματι, τον εκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εις σωτηρίαν ημῶν, ανυμνήσωμεν πιστοί και προσκυνήσωμεν, ότι ημόθηκε σαρκί, ανελθείν εν τῷ σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον υπομεῖναι, καὶ εγείραι τοὺς τεθνεότας, εν τῇ ενδόξῳ Αναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

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 Χριστοῦ υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ημῶν και αντίληψιν. Ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματος τη δυνάμει. Και νυν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα έλεος.

Kontakion of the Day (Grave Tone)
You were transfigured upon the mount, O Christ our God, and your disciples, in so far as they could bear, beheld Your glory. Thus, when they see You crucified, they may understand Your voluntary passion, and proclaim to the world that You are truly the effulgence of the Father.

Επὶ τοῦ όρους μετεμορφώθης, καὶ ως εχώρουν οἱ Μαθηταὶ σου την δόξαν σου, Χριστέ ο Θεός εθεάσαντο, ἵνα όταν σε ἱδώσαι σταυροῦμενον, το μὲν πάθος νοήσωσιν εκούσιον, τω δὲ κόσμῳ κηρύξωσιν, ὅτι συ υπάρχεις αληθῶς, του Πατρός το απαύγασμα.
Epistle Reading

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.  
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.  
The reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Romans.

Romans 12:6-14

BRETHREN, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city.  
And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home.  
When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

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Huge Summer Clearance Sale!!!  During the months of July and August at St. Katherine Bookstore, all books (except Bibles) are 50% off. All icons and other gift items are 20% off. Final prices are rounded to the nearest dollar. As always, we thank you for your patronage and support of the Bookstore.
Memorial Services are offered this morning for Aliki (Alice) Lagos, mother of Nicholas and Alex Lagos; and for Lynda G. Debbas and George Elias Debbas, parents of Dr. Elias George Debbas. May their memory be eternal!

Philoptochos – To sponsor Coffee Hour after a Memorial Service is a $175.00 donation. It will include set up coffee, 100 koulourakia, 100 paximathia, putting koliva in cups and cleaning up. Donations need to be sent to Saint Katherine’s in advance. Please write checks to: Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church. Parishioners will call the church first for the date and all their information and then, they can contact Mary Varlas at (703) 965-4161 or Eleni Kanakos at (703) 969-8364.

Need for Catechetical School Teachers – A few of our dearly loved Sunday School teachers will be stepping down after many years of service. As a result, we need stewards who are willing to fill these openings for the continued Christian Education of our children. We are looking to fill these positions for the 2016-2017 school year, so please contact Bill and/or Elaine Porter at beporter1@verizon.net ASAP. Thank you in advance!

Need for Greek School Teacher and Preschool Assistant Teacher – The Hellenic Education Center in Falls Church is seeking for a Greek School teacher and for an assistant Preschool teacher for 2016-2017. For more about our schools please contact ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com or www.stkhec.org.

Monumental Missions Walk, October 15, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Save the date! The tent will be set up on the DC Mall near 3rd/4th Streets, next to the American Indian Museum. The 2-3 mile walk will go past the Capital and other monuments/memorials in the area. Please consider picking up a registration form/spoonor sheet available after church and ask family and friends to sponsor you for the walk. Help us raise funds for OCMC and local VA charities, while walking with other Orthodox Christians. Checks should be made out to Saint Katherine Church, with “Monumental Missions Walk 2016” in the memo line. If questions, email Eleni Porter at beporter1@verizon.net.

Pray – Volunteer – Donate! Focus North America Summer Feeding – Childhood hunger is a problem that affects over 21 million children in the United States. In the District of Columbia alone, 13.2% of all households are food insecure. For two weeks this summer the Orthodox Churches of D.C. will serve over 15,000 meals to children who suffer from childhood hunger. Volunteer are needed to prepare and distribute meals. We need you June 27 – September 2! Sign up to volunteer at WWW.FOCUSNORTHAMERICA.ORG/WASHINGTONDC. For questions email or call DC@FOCUSNA.ORG, 866-267-3083.
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 για την δόξα Σου, προς ελάφρυνση των δοκιμιών 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.