Apolytikion of the Day (Plagal of the Fourth Tone)

O Merciful One, You came from on high, and condescended to Your three day burial to save us from suffering. You are our Life and our Resurrection. Glory to You.

Εξ ύψους κατήλθες ο εύσπλαγχνος, ταφήν καταδέξω τριήμερον, ίνα ημᾶς ελευθερώσης τών παθών, Η ζωή καί η Ανάστασις ημῶν, Κύρι ει δόξα σοι.

Apolytikion for Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

Come, let us all welcome the Transfiguration of Christ, and joyously celebrate the bright prefestival, O ye faithful, and let us cry: Nigh at hand now is the day of God-given gladness, as the Sovereign Master goeth up on Mount Tabor to flash forth with the beautiful light of His Divinity.

Χριστοῦ τήν Μεταμόρφωσιν προϋπαντήσωμεν, φαινώς πανηγυρίζοντες τά προεόρτια, πιστοί καί βοήσωμεν, Ηγιασθε η ημέρα τής ενθέου ευφροσύνης, ἀνείσιν εἰς τό ὄρος τό Θαβώρ ο Δεσπότης, τής θεότητος αὐτοῦ ἀπαστράψαι τήν οραίατίτα.

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

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.

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήσωμεν, λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, της θεότητος αὐτοῦ στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι, το μέγα ἔλεος.

Kontakion of the Day

All of mortal nature now divinely shineth on this day with the divine Transfiguration ere the time; and in great gladness, she crieth out: Christ is transfigured, and saveth the race of man.
Epistle Reading

St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 3:9-17 - BRETHREN, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder. I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14:22-34 - 9th Sunday of Matthew - At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

So absolutely nothing does it avail to be near Christ, if not being near Him by faith .... Signifying therefore that not the assault of the wind, but his want of faith had wrought his overthrow, He said, "Wherefore did you doubt, O you of little faith?"

So that if his faith had not been weak, he would have stood easily against the wind also. And for this reason, you see, even when He had caught hold of Him, He suffers the wind to blow, showing that no hurt comes thereby, when faith is steadfast.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 50 on Matthew 14

Christ did not command the winds to cease at that time, but Himself stretched forth His hand and took hold of Peter, because here faith was required of him. When we do not do our part, divine (grace) slows and stands still... it was not the wind that did Peter harm; his lack of faith sank him. Where faith is fruitful, firm and strong, none of the evils that may befall us can do us any harm.

St. John Chrysostom, The Gospel Commentary edited by Hieromonk German Ciuba, 2002

The principle and source of the virtues is a good disposition of the will, that is to say, an aspiration for goodness and beauty. God is the source and ground of all supernal goodness. Thus the principle of goodness and beauty is faith or, rather, it is Christ, the rock of faith, who is principle and foundation of all virtues. On this rock we stand and on this foundation we build every good thing (cf. I Cor. 3:11).

St. Gregory of Sinai, On Commandments and Doctrines no. 83, Philokalia Vol. 3 edited by Palmer, Sherrard and Ware; pg. 228

The very fire which purifies gold, also consumes wood. Precious metals shine in it like the sun, rubbish burns with black smoke. All are in the same fire of Love. Some shine and others become black and dark. In the same furnace steel shines like the sun, whereas clay turns dark and is hardened like stone. God is a loving fire, and He is a loving fire for all: good and bad. There is, however, a great difference in the way people receive this loving fire of God. The difference is in man, not God.

Dr. Alexandre Kalomiros, The River of Fire, pp. 17 & 19

20th century
Memorial Service is offered this morning for Kaliope (Pope) Diapoulis, mother of Alex, Margo and Nich. May her memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is sponsored this morning by the Diapoulis family in memory of their beloved mother Kaliope.

Greek School – Registration for 2012-13 is taking place on the days the school begins Friday and Saturday, September 7 and 8, and on Sunday, September 9, following the Divine Liturgy. We offer classes from Pre-K to 9th grade and adult classes, as well as Conversational Greek classes at two levels, level 1 for children up to 10 and level 2 for children ages from 10 to 15 on Weds. evenings as well as Greek dancing by expert teachers. For information, please contact Sophia Tsangali, the principal, at (703) 671-1515 or stsgagnili@stkchurch.com.

Paideia Preschool is hiring teachers/assistant(s) for the fall session. We are looking for energetic and caring individuals with qualifications/experience in early childhood education. For more information leave a message at the Church Office (703) 671-1515 and we will contact you personally.

Summer Camp for 3-5 year-olds has begun July 9 to August 17. Join us for wild adventures, fun activities, lively music and dance (incl. Greek dancing). We have limited space available. For information and registration e-mail director@gopaideia.org.

Samaritans Feet – We will be collecting children shoes again this year during the entire month of August. This is so children will have new shoes to wear to school starting in September. They are asking for children’s sizes 5-6-7 male and female. The shoes should be gym/sneakers/tennis shoes. There will be a special bin in the foyer of our community center. The shoes will be distributed to children in the Washington DC area. For many children this will be their first pair of new shoes. Thank you for your generosity.

Clothing and Toiletries – We continue to collect new and used clothing and unopened toiletries for the Shelter. Although summer is here, we still collect and store warm clothing, coats, scarves, gloves, etc. 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.

St. Katherine Professional and Business Directory – Please contact Daphne Vaccarello for more details at (703) 830-0892 or dvac.memories@verizon.net.

Summer Exercise Classes with instructor Tina Ligelis – Wednesday evenings. August 8, 5:45-7:15pm, August 15 and August 22, 7-8:30pm. The cost is $12 per class, payable to St. Katherine's. It is a gentle class, full of movement, healing and relaxation, and applies to all ages and levels of fitness. Come help the church while you help yourself. Please encourage friends and family to join us. Contact Kathy Cavallo, (703) 978-1539, kcavallo1@aol.com, or Tina Ligelis, (703)845-0520, LigelisCPA@aol.com, if you are interested.

SAFEWAY Program supporters – Please look for the "10% Goes back to schools" logo when you shop. When you purchase products bearing this logo, Safeway will contribute 10% of your purchase amount to our St. Katherine. This 10% program runs August 8 - Sept 11, 2012. If you are not a member of the program, you can still contribute. Just drop off your Safeway receipts for the products with the "10% Goes Back to School" logo at the church office or put them in the Sunday offering basket. If you have any questions, call Elvira Garnett at (703) 425-3675.

First Annual VA-DC-MD Regional Orthodox Scouting Retreat – September 29th, 2012 – Open to all Orthodox Cub scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Heritage girls, as well as adult scouters! Service opportunities also are available for older scouts. Registration will begin in August. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Johnston at themom@hotmail.com or (315) 523-3561 or Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Annapolis, Maryland at office@SCHGOChurch.org or (410) 573-2072.
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, 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 ονόμα Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.