**Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church**

**Sunday, August 6, 2017**

**Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

**The Holy Righteous Martyr**

**Dometius**

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**Apolytikion for Holy Transfiguration (Grave Tone)**

Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, showing to Thy disciples Thy glory as each one could endure. Shine forth Thou on us, who are sinners all, Thy light ever-unending, through the prayers of the Theotokos. Light-bestower, glory be to Thee.

Μετεμορφώθης εν τω όρει Χριστέ ο Θεός, δείξας τοίς Μαθηταίς σου τήν δόξαν σου, καθώς ἤδυναντο, Λάμψον καὶ ημίν τοῖς αμαρτωλοῖς, τό φῶς σου τό αἴδιον, πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, φωτοδότα δόξα σοι.

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**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. Ὅτι εφίμωσε λαμπρῶς, τοὺς κομψούς τον ασεβών, τοῦ Πνεύματον τῇ δυνάμει. Καὶ νῦν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αἰτεῖται πάσι τὸ μέγα ἐλεος.

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**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 ὀροῦς μετεμορφώθης, καὶ ως εχώρουν οἱ Μαθηταί σου τήν δόξαν σου, Χριστέ ο Θεός εθέάσαντο, ἵνα όταν σε ἱδώση σταυρούμενον, τό μὲν πάθος νοήσωσιν εκούσιον, τό δὲ κόσμῳ κηρύξωσιν, ὅτι σὺ υπάρχεις ἀληθῶς, τοῦ Πατρός τὸ απαύγασμα.
Epistle Reading

St. Peter's Second Universal Letter 1:10-19 – BRETHREN, be more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall; so there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore I intend always to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. And I will see to it that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 17:1-9 – At that time, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

The Lord does not always appear in glory to all who stand before Him. To beginners He appears in the form of a servant (Phil. 2:7); to those able to follow Him as He climbs the high mountain of His transfiguration He appears in the form of God, the form in which He existed before the world came to be (John 17:5).

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It is therefore possible for the same Lord not to appear in the same way to all who stand before Him, but to appear to some in one way and to others in another way, according to the measure of each person's faith.

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When the Logos of God becomes manifest and radiant in us, and His face shines like the sun, then His clothes will also look white. That is to say, the words of the Gospel will then be clear and distinct, with nothing concealed. And Moses and Elijah - the more spiritual principles of the Law and the Prophets - will also be present with Him.

St. Maximos the Confessor Second Century on Theology, 13., 7th Century

Many scripture writers will tell you that the divinity is not only invisible (Col. 1:15 et. al.) and incomprehensible, but also 'unsearchable and inscrutable' (Rom. 11:13), since there is not a trace for anyone who would reach through into the hidden depths of this infinity. And yet, on the other hand, the Good is not absolutely incommunicable to everything. By itself it generously reveals a firm, transcendent beam, granting enlightenments proportionate to each being, and thereby draws sacred minds upward to its permitted contemplation, to participation and to the state of becoming like it. What happens to those who rightly and properly make this effort is this. They do not venture toward an impossibly daring sight of God, one beyond what is duly granted them. Nor do they go tumbling downward where their own natural inclinations would take them. No. Instead they are raised firmly and unswervingly upward in the direction of the ray which enlightens them. With a love matching the illuminations granted them, they take flight, reverently, wisely, in all holiness.

St. Dionysius the Areopagite, The Divine Names, Chapter One para. 2, Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works; Paulist Press pg. 50, 5th Century
Announcements

Sunday School – The Pre-Kindergarten teaching position is vacant for the next school year, 2017-2018. Please contact Bill or Eleni Porter at beporter1@verizon.net, if you are interested in teaching or helping out.

GOYA – Bible Study on Tuesday, August 8th at Bohle home. Please contact Nick Junes at njunes@stkchurch.com.

Young Adults – Kick-Off Forum on Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Seniors Brunch will be held in our Kentro on Thursday, Sept 7 at 10am. For reservations, please call the Church office. Additional details are forthcoming.

Seniors Kέντρο

Registration for the 2017-2018 HEC school year is now open for both Paideia Preschool and Greek School. Forms can be downloaded from HEC website (www.stkhec.org) or picked-up in the school office. Registration for Greek Adult classes – Classes begin in September, Beginners Greek I and II on Tuesday evenings, and Intermediate and Advanced Greek on Thursday evenings. Please contact HEC Director, Eleni Alexopoulou, with any questions, ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com.

SAVE THE DATE – Saint Katherine Annual GALA, Sunday, November 19 at the Hilton McLean. Join us as we gather to give thanks for our community’s many blessings and recognize this year’s worthy honorees for their devoted service to our community – Presvytera Pauline Pavlakos and the Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter 438.

Memorial Coffee Hour Procedure – If you would like to sponsor the coffee hour in memory of your loved one, a donation of $175.00 is required. This includes coffee set-up, 100 koulourakia, 100 paximathia, putting koliva in cups, and clean-up after the event. Please remember to schedule the memorial service with the Church Office and mail your check (payable to Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church) at that time.

MANAGE YOUR GIVING ONLINE – We are pleased to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1) Visit the church website at http://saint-katherines.org
2) Click on the Online Donation button,
3) Click on the Create Profile button, then
4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

To reach the online giving page using your smartphone or tablet, simply scan our QR code to sign up and start giving. Our new Giving Kiosk is also available in the Narthex for your convenience.

AHEPA Christmas Ornaments – The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce our Tenth Annual Community Christmas Ornament. These collectable ornaments have grown in popularity from year to year and they will be available for purchase at our Fall Festival. Our latest limited edition ornament, entitled “Evzone Nutcracker” is a whimsical portrayal of a classic Christmas image with a Hellenic twist that is sure to delight young and old. Manufactured by the same firm that creates the famous White House Christmas ornaments, they make excellent gifts and are the ideal stocking stuffer. Your purchases help make our philanthropy in support of our community and Hellenic ideals possible! For additional information, call 703-671-7225.

“Evzone Nutcracker”
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 δοκιμασιών και της πείνας, 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.