Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, August 9, 2015
10th Sunday of Matthew

Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;
Holy Apostle Matthias;
Anthony the Martyr of Alexandria

Apolytikion of the Day (1st Tone)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate Body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the Heavens cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἁγιασμένον σου σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δορυφόροις τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωήν. Διὰ τούτου ἡ ἄνωματα τῶν ὄσιμων είδόν σου Ζωοδότα. Δόξα τῇ Αναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῇ Βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the 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 τῷ ὀρεί Χριστέ ο Θεός, δείξας τοίς Μαθηταίς σου τήν δόξαν σου, καθώς ήδυναντο, Λάμψον καὶ ἡμῖν τοῖς αμαρτωλοῖς, τό φῶς σου τό αἰείον, προσβείτας τῆς Θεοτόκου, φωτόδοτα 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 ημών και αντίληψιν. Ὅτι εφίμωσε λαμπρῶς, τοὺς κομψοὺς τῶν ασεβῶν, τοῦ Πνεύματον τῇ δυνάμει. Και νυν ὡς Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα ἔλεος.

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 ὄρους μετεμορφώθης, καὶ ὡς εχώρουν οἱ Μαθηταί σοι τὴν δόξαν σου, Χριστέ ο Θεός εθεάσατο, ἵνα ὅταν σε ἱδώσι σταυρούμενοι, τὸ μὲν πάθος νοήσωσιν εκώσιον, τὸ δὲ κόσμῳ κηρύξωσιν, ὅτι σὺ υπάρχεις αληθῶς, τοῦ Πατρός τὸ απαύγασμα.
Epistle Reading

St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16 – BRETHREN, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 17:14-23 – At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

For a man to have such faith appears simple, but it is, on the contrary, something very lofty, not easily attained by many. Such faith is born of boldness before God; but such boldness comes (only) from pleasing God. Beloved, great labour is needed to acquire, through pleasing God, such boldness before Him that one firmly believes that he will grant all that one asks; as it is written, Ask, and it shall be given to you. Amen.

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Here Christ is not speaking of that faith which believes in Him undoubtingly and knows Him to be true God, but of the faith (needed) to work miracles. If ye have faith, He said, so exceedingly warm and burning as a grain of mustard seed (for these are its qualities), and if it is believed without a doubt that ye will perform signs, then ye will receive such power, that if ye desire to move the very mountains, ye will move them.

St. John Chrysostom, The Gospel Commentary, edited by Hieromonk German Ciuba, 2002
4th Century

At this point he is referring to the faith required for signs, and mentions a mustard seed is small in size, yet it is more potent than all others in its effects. So to bring out that the least degree of genuine faith is capable of great things, he mentioned the mustard seed.

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[The Lord] went on to mention mountains as well, and went even further: "Nothing will be impossible for you." Now, for your part, admire [the disciples'] sound values in not concealing their limitations, and the Spirit's power in gradually bringing on those without even a mustard seed in such a way that rivers and fountains of faith gush forth in them.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 56 (PG 58, 549-50) Translated by Robert Charles Hill in "Spiritual Gems from the Gospel of Matthew"
4th Century

For as the faith of the person presenting oftentimes availed for receiving the cure, even from inferior ministers; so the power of the doers oftentimes sufficed, even without belief in those who came to work the miracle.

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Yet if his unbelief was the cause ... why does He blame the disciples? Signifying, that even without persons to bring the sick in faith, they might in many instances work a cure.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 57 on Matthew 17
4th Century
Memorial Services are offered this morning for Panagiota Doulis, (25 years) wife of the late Christos Doulis, mother of Barbara Doulis Miles, Steven C. and John P. Doulis; and for Lirika Nafpliotis, (2 years) mother of Maria and Irene Nafpliotis. Coffee hour is sponsored this morning by the Doulis and Miles families in memory of their beloved mother Panagiota Doulis; and by the Nafpliotis family in memory of their beloved mother, Lirika Nafpliotis. May their memory be eternal!

Saint Katherine Directory – We are pleased to announce that we partnering with Lifetouch Photography to create a new photo directory for our community. Schedule appointments in-person after church today or receive a $10 discount for scheduling appointments online on our church website – http://saint-katherines.org/announcements/church-directory-portrait-sign-up. All participants will receive a free 8 x 10 portrait and a copy of our new church directory – no purchase is necessary. Seniors (60+) and Military will receive a 20% discount on the purchase of portrait products and frames. We hope you will be part of this new directory for our Saint Katherine Family!

The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter 438 is proud to announce the opening of the new community Seniors Kentro (Kentro) located on the ground floor of Founders Hall.

Gather with friends, enjoy a cup of coffee while watching the news from Greece, spending some quiet time reading the paper, or enjoying each other’s company/parea. Lectures, Bible Studies and presentations of health and wellness are also benefits that will be introduced as part of our Church’s new Seniors Ministry.

The Seniors Kentro is carpeted and fully furnished, featuring a 60-inch flat screen television with satellite access to Greek network programming, and has a coffee bar. Operating hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 3:00pm (except when church services are scheduled – on those days, the Seniors Kentro will open at noon. The room is also available to other groups by appointment through the Church Office.

The Ladies Philoptochos of Saint Katherine would like to let you know that they have koulourakia and paximathia available all year long. The Ladies Philoptochos thank you very much for your help and support. Please contact Mary Varlas at (703) 965-4161 or Eleni Kanakos at (703) 969-8364 for information or to place your order.

Registration for the 2015-2016 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. Please contact HEC Director, Eleni Alexopoulou, with any questions, ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com.

Registration for Greek Adult classes – Please see our HEC website, www.stkhec.org for a registration form or pick up one from the school or the church office. Classes begin in September, Beginners Greek I and II on Tuesday evenings, and Intermediate and Advanced Greek on Thursday evenings.

Paideia Preschool is looking to hire an Early Childhood Education teacher. If you are interested, please submit an updated CV to the HEC office at ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com.


Parents are reminded that children are not allowed to play on the stage in the Meletis Charuhas Center during Coffee Hour or other social gatherings. We ask your assistance to prevent injury to the children and damage to curtians and other equipment. Thank you.
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 διακονία του λαού Σου, με την χάρη, το έλεος και φιλανθρωπία του μονογενούς Υιού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.