Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, August 12, 2012
10th Sunday of Matthew
Holy Martyrs Photius and Anicetus of Nicomedia, Soldier-martyrs of Crete, Sergios & Stephen the Monks

Apolytikion of the Day (Plagal of the First Tone)

Savior, Your tomb was sealed with a stone. Soldiers kept watch over Your sacred body. Yet, You rose on the third day giving life to the world. Wherefore the powers of heaven cried out, "O Giver of Life, glory to Your Resurrection O Christ; glory to Your Kingdom, glory to Your dispensation who alone are the Loving One."

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ύπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἁρπαγμένον σου σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωήν. Διὰ τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι Ζωοδότα. Δόξα τῇ ἀναστάσει σου Χριστὲ, δόξα τῇ Βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

Apolytikion for the Afterfeast of Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

You were transfigured on the Mount, Christ God revealing Your glory to Your disciples, insofar as they could comprehend. Illuminate us sinners also with Your everlasting light, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. Giver of light, glory to You.

Μετεμορθώθης εν τῷ ὁρέι Χριστὲ ο Θεός, δείξας τοῖς Μαθηταῖς σου τὴν δόξαν σου, καθὼς ἠδύνατο, Λάμψον καὶ ἡμῖν τοῖς αμαρτωλοῖς, τὸ φῶς σου τὸ αἰῶνιον, πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, φωτοδότα δόξα σοι.

Apolytikion of Saint Katherine the Great Martyr (First 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 βοήθειαν ημῶν και αντίληψιν, το φῶς εἰς τὸ αἰῶνιον, πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, φωτοδότα δόξα σοι.

Kontakion of the Day

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.
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 - 10th Sunday of Matthew - 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

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.

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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.

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

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.

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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.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 57 on Matthew 17
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 C. Hill in "Spiritual Gems from the Gospel of Matthew"
4th Century
Memorial Services are offered this morning for Christina Zirps, wife of Capt. Chris Zirps (USN, Ret.) and mother of Christopher, Nora, and Tom; and also for Stylianos, Panagiotis, and Lambros Hadjichristodoulou, offered by Elpida, mother and wife, and by brothers and sisters Despina, Kyriakos, Androula, Christ, Andy and Maria Hadjichristodoulou. May their memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is sponsored this morning by the Zirps and Hadjichristodoulou families in memory of their loved ones.

Nathan Hoppe & family to visit August 21-22 – We are pleased to announce that our long term missionaries in Albania, Nathan and Gabriela Hoppe and their children will be visiting our parish on August 21, 2012. Please join us in our Founders Hall at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 for a reception in their honor. We will have an opportunity to meet them and hear about their work with Metropolitan Anastasios in Albania. Refreshments will be served. Free will donations for their mission work in Albania will be accepted.

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 the Church Office (703) 671-1515.

Paideia Preschool is hiring teachers/assistant(s) for the fall session. We seek 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.

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.

Summer Exercise Classes with instructor Tina Ligelis – Wednesday evenings, August 15 and August 22, 7-8:30 pm. The cost is $12 per class, payable to Saint 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 contact Kathy Cavallo, (703) 978-1539, kcavallo1@aol.com, or Tina Ligelis, (703) 845-0520, LigelisCPA@aol.com, if you are interested.

SAFETY 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.

Saint Katherine Professional and Business Directory – Please contact Daphne Vaccarello for more details at (703) 830-0892 or dvac.memories@verizon.net.
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 δόρα και τους κόπους της εργασίας μας γιά 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 αἰώνα. Αμήν.