Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples of the Lord spake to the Apostles exultantly: Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριαι, καὶ τὴν προγονικῆν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμεναι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἠγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Apolytikion of the Day (4th Tone)

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; for thou hast proved to be truly even more venerable than the Prophets, since thou was granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore, having contested for the truth, thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Forerunner (2nd 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.

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

In your holy birth, Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were rid of the shame of childlessness; Adam and Eve of the corruption of death. And so your people, free of the guilt of their sins, celebrate crying: "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, who nourishes our life."

Kontakion of the Day (4th Tone)

Ioakeim και Ἀννα όνειδισμού ατεκνίας, καὶ Ἄδαμ καὶ Εύα, εκ τῆς φθοράς τοῦ θανάτου, ἠλευθερώθησαν, Ἀχραντε, εν τῇ γεννήσει σου, αυτὴν εσπεράζει καὶ ο λαὸς σου, ενοχὴς τῶν πταισμάτων, λυτρωθείς εν τῷ κράζειν σοι, Η στείρα τίκτει τὴν Θεοτόκου, καὶ τροφὸν τῆς ζωῆς ημῶν.
Epistle Reading

St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 16:13-24 – BRETHREN, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicos, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:33-42 – The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it was marvelous in our eyes?"

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

Many things does He intimate by this parable, God's providence, which had been exercised towards them from the first; their murderous disposition from the beginning; that nothing had been omitted of whatever pertained to a heedful care of them; ...

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And observe also both His great care, and the excessive idleness of these men for what pertained to the husbandmen, He Himself did ... and He left little for them to do; to take care of what was there, and to preserve what was given to them.

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And where do they take counsel to kill Him? "Out of the vineyard." Do you see how He prophesies even the place where He was to be slain. "And they cast Him out, and slew Him."

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... that even when prophets had been slain, He had not turned away from them, but had sent His very Son; that the God both of the New and of the Old Testament was one and the same; that His death should effect great blessings; that they were to endure extreme punishment for the crucifixion.

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For nothing was left undone, but all accomplished; ... And "He sent His servants," that is, the prophets, "to receive the fruit;" that is, their obedience, the proof of it by their works.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 53 on Matthew 21
4th Century
Announcements

Reception honoring Father Panagiotis Hanley – Please join us immediately after Divine Liturgy in the Meletis Charuhas Community Center as we honor Father Panagiotis on the occasion of his departure from Saint Katherine and his new assignment as Proistamenos of Transfiguration Church in Charlottesville, Virginia on September 1, 2015. Πάντα άξιος!

Saint Katherine Directory – We are pleased to announce that we are 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 receive a 20% discount on the purchase of portrait products and frames.

Seniors Κέντρο

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.

Monumental Mission Walk 2015 – On September 19, 2015, Orthodox Christians from the Washington, D.C. Metro area will converge on the National Mall for the 3rd Annual Monumental Missions Walk to raise funds for missions. If you can’t join us, but would like to make a donation for missions, please send donations made out to the Church with “2015 Monumental Mission Walk” in the memo line. Contact Eleni Porter at (703) 913-9629 or at beporter1@verizon.net. Register at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-monumental-missions-walk-registration-17020607094.

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.

Saint Nicholas Shrine – This visionary edifice and Orthodox house of prayer not only marks the events of 9/11, but will also offer a place of solace, inspiration and healing for all those who visit Ground Zero. Please join our community’s effort to help rebuild Saint Nicholas by making your donation check payable to Saint Katherine.

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.
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 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 όνομά Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.

The Sunday bulletin is available online in two formats--a PDF copy of the bulletin handed out in church and an online version with much more information. Please take a moment to check them out by visiting: http://www.saint-katherines.org/about_us/sunday-bulletins