

Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, September 9, 2012

Sunday before the Holy Cross



The Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God,
Joachim and Anna;
Severian the Martyr of Sebastia
Theophanes the Confessor
Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos



Apolytikion of the Day (First Tone)

O Faithful, let us sing a hymn of praise and worship to the Logos, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of His own will He went upon the Cross in the flesh and suffered death, to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν, ὅτι ἠυδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγείρει τοὺς τεθεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

Apolytikion for the Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Your birth, O Theotokos, brought joy to the whole world, for from you dawned the sun of righteousness, Christ our God. Freeing us from the curse, He gave us His blessings. Abolishing death, He granted us eternal life.

Ἡ γέννησίς σου Θεοτόκε, χαρὰν ἐμήνυσε πάσῃ τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, ἐκ σοῦ γάρ ἀνέτειλεν ὁ ἥλιος τῆς δικαιοσύνης, Χριστὸς ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, καὶ λύσας τὴν κατάραν, ἔδωκε τὴν εὐλογίαν, καὶ καταργήσας τὸν θάνατον, ἐδωρήσατο ἡμῖν ζωὴν τὴν αἰώνιον.

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.

Τὴν πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ υμνήσωμεν, Αἰκατερίναν τὴν θεῖαν καὶ πολιούχον Σινά, τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν καὶ ἀντίληπτιν, ὅτι ἐφίμωσε λαμπρῶς, τοὺς κομψοὺς τῶν ἀσεβῶν, τοῦ Πνεύματος τῆς δυνάμει. Καὶ ὡς μάρτυς τοῦ Κυρίου στεφθεῖσα, αἰτεῖται πάσι, τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Kontakion of the Day

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."

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Epistle Reading

St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18 - BRETHREN, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and not only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Gospel Reading

John 3:13-17 Sunday before Holy Cross - The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

For since Nicodemus had said, "We know that Thou art a teacher come from God," on this very point He sets him right, all but saying, "Think Me not a teacher in such manner as were the many of the prophets who were of earth, for I have come from heaven (but) now. None of the prophets hath ascended up thither, but I dwell there."

* * *

For not in heaven only is He, but everywhere, and He fills all things; but yet He speaks according to the infirmity of His hearer, desiring to lead him up little by little ... For after having spoken of the very great benefaction that had come to man by Baptism, He proceeds to mention another benefaction, which was the cause of this, and not inferior to it; namely, that by the Cross...

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But wherefore did He not say plainly, "I am about to be crucified," instead of referring His hearers to the ancient type? First, that you may learn that old things are akin to new, and that the one are not alien to the other; next, that you may know that He came not unwillingly to His Passion; and ... you may learn that no harm arises to Him from the Fact, and that to many there springs from it salvation ...

* * *

There that which hung was brass fashioned into the likeness of a serpent, here it was the Lord's Body, builded by the Spirit; there a serpent bit and a serpent healed, here death destroyed and a Death saved ... but the Lord's Death was free from all sin, as the brazen serpent from venom. For, saith Peter, "He did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth." (1 Pet. ii. 22.)

* * *

Seest thou the relationship of the type to the reality? There the Jews escaped death, but the temporal, here believers the eternal; there the hanging serpent healed the bites of serpents, here the Crucified Jesus cured the wounds inflicted by the spiritual dragon; there he who looked with his bodily eyes was healed, here he who beholds with the eyes of his understanding put off all his sins.

* * *

For as some noble champion by lifting on high and dashing down his antagonist, renders his victory more glorious, so Christ, in the sight of all the world, cast down the adverse powers, and ... delivered them from all venomous beasts that vexed them, by being hung upon the Cross.

* * *

Here Christ speaks concisely, because His discourse was directed to Nicodemus, but still in a more significant manner ... He shows the great strength of His love ... He, the immortal, who is without beginning, the Infinite Majesty, they but dust and ashes, full of ten thousand sins, who, ungrateful, have at all times offended Him; and these He "loved."

* * *

"He gave His Only-begotten Son," not a servant, not an Angel, not an Archangel. And yet no one would show such anxiety for his own child, as God did for His ungrateful servants ... He who giveth life to others, much more to Himself doth He well forth life ... For He calls the Cross the fountain of life; which reason cannot easily allow, as the heathens now by their mocking testify. But faith which goes beyond the weakness of reasoning may easily receive and retain it.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 27 on John 3
4th Century

Announcements



Greek School – Registration for 2012-13 began Friday and Saturday, September 7 and 8, and continues today, 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.



Catechetical (Sunday) School – Registration begins today following the Divine Liturgy in the hall where coffee is served. You may also download the registration form and view the schedule at the Church website. <http://www.saint-katherines.org>. The new school year begins at 9:30 a.m. September 16th. We will meet upstairs in the large hall to receive a blessing from Father Costa then proceed downstairs for class and continue registration.



Paideia Preschool Open House will be held on Sunday, September 9 after Liturgy. We are eager to welcome back our returning children and meet our new students! PAIDEIA is the only Greek Orthodox Program of its type in the DC Metro area, serving the full-day and half day educational and daycare needs of families with children from 2 to 5 years of age. Please stop by and learn more about our programs. For further information, please contact Pantelis Psoras at 703-671-7715 or director@gopaideia.org, or visit our website gopaideia.org.

Our **FALL FESTIVAL** will be held Friday, October 5 – Sunday Oct 7. We need your help and support. Please volunteer by calling Andrea Ballard andreaballard1@verizon.net.

Lost Item – A very sentimental pin that belonged to my beloved sister. It is oval, approximately 1.5 inches in length with a large amethyst stone in the center. Reward offered. Please call 703-256-5531.



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 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. Call Elvira Garnett at (703) 425-3675 for more info.



Fall Festival Cooking – Preparation for the Fall Festival has begun and many people look forward to our delicious pastries. So please come to help us bake while enjoying the camaraderie of other women. We will be baking Spanakotopita on Thursday, September 13 beginning at 10AM. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Kathy Cavallo, 703-978-1539, kcavallo1@aol.com for additional information.



AHEPA Christmas Ornaments - The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce orders are now being taken for our Fifth Annual Community Christmas Ornament. These collectable ornaments have grown in popularity from year to year and this year's ornament is no exception! This stunning three-dimensional ornament is entitled "Snowflakes from Mt. Athos" and depicts the Byzantine Eagle among 19 sparkling snowflakes as it soars over Mt. Athos. Manufactured by the same firm that creates the famous White House Christmas ornaments, they make excellent gifts and are the ideal stocking stuffer. Ornaments will first be available for sale during the Fall Festival and after Liturgies during coffee hour while supplies last. Please visit our booth at the Fall Festival or place your order after Liturgy beginning September 16, or by sending requests to antovi@verizon.net or by calling 703-929-6110.

"Snowflakes from Mt. Athos"

Church Services

- Friday, September 14 **Elevation of the Holy Cross**
Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, September 16 **Sunday After the Holy Cross**
Divine Liturgy 8:00a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; Orthros and Catechetical School 9:30 a.m.
- Monday, September 17 **Sophia and Her Three Daughters: Faith, Hope and Charity**
Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, September 23 **First Sunday of Luke**
Divine Liturgy 8:00a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; Orthros and Catechetical School 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, Sept 26 **The Falling Asleep of St. John the Evangelist and Theologian**
Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, September 30 **Second Sunday of Luke**
Divine Liturgy 8:00a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; Orthros and Catechetical School 9:30 a.m.

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.



METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

Church Organizations

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| Acolyte Captains – Anastasios Galatis | Philoptochos – Eleni Kanakos (703) 938-8360 |
| Protos-Psalter – James Loizou (703) 356-8220 | YAL President – TBD |
| Choir Director – John Doulis (703) 780-0560 | GOYA President – Tiffani Wills (703) 948-7950 |
| Catechetical School – Christian Demeter (703) 534-5669 | JOY – Tina Papamichael (703) 536-4711 |
| Greek School – Sophia Tsangali (703) 671-5820 | HOPE – TBD |
| Paideia Preschool – Pantelis Psoras (301) 762-1478 | |



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Please visit our website at:

www.saint-katherines.org

Facebook: Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church