**Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church**

Sunday, September 9, 2018
Sunday before Holy Cross

Saints Joachim and Anna
Martyr Severianos of Sebaste

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**Apolytikion of the Day (2nd Plagal Tone)**

Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Ἀγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμα σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ίστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντον σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἅδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὑτοῦ, ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωήν, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε 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 Χριστοῦ υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθεια ημών και αντίληψιν. Ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματος τη δυνάμει. Και νυν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα έλεος.

**Kontakion of the Day (4th 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."

Ἰωακείμ καί Άννα ὑμηθίσμου ατεκνίας, καί Αδάμ καί Εύα, εκ τῆς φθορᾶς τού θανάτου, ἠλευθερώθησαν, Ἀχραντε, εν τῇ αγίᾳ γεννήσει σου, αὐτὴν εορτάζει καὶ ο λαὸς σου, ενοχῆς τῶν πταισμάτων, λυτρωθεὶς εν τῷ κράζειν σοι, Ἡ στείρα τίκτει τὴν Θεοτοκον, καὶ τροφὸν τῆς ζωῆς ἡμῶν.

**Epistle Reading**

Rev. Fr. Constantinos A. Pavlakos  
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O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.
The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

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 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 – The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. 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."

Adult Bible Study – Classes begin September 16. This year’s topic is Who We are and What We Believe: A Journey through Examination of the Orthodox Faith Guided by the Words of the Nicene Creed. The objective will be to broaden the understanding of our own Orthodox faith and deepen our spiritual outlooks. We will explore the significance of the Creed for how we live our faith now as individuals and as “one, holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.” Classes are held every Sunday at 9:00am in the board room of the Meletis Charuhas Center. For more information or questions, please contact Bill Polizos at 571-434–7790 or polizos@att.com. Everyone welcome!

Seniors Brunch will be held in our Kentro on Thursday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m. For reservations, please call the Church office at 703-671-1515. Please contact Irene Burton at 703-256-5531 for additional information. Come and enjoy each other’s parea…

Daughters of Penelope are sponsoring a brunch to help support homeless women veterans. Please join us September 23, after the Devine liturgy in the Chelpo Hall. It is estimated that there are currently 55,000 homeless women Veterans in the United States on any given day. For the sacrifices they and their families have made, this is an unacceptable state for any of them to be in. Please help support them. Tickets are $20.00 for adults and $10.00 for children under 12.

Daughters of Penelope Meeting – September 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meletis Charuhas Center. We will have a lite dinner and a special presentation on Saint Katherine’s mission to Kenya by Effie Wingate and Victoria Cherpes. Please join us.

Mission and Outreach Committee meeting – Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Community Center. We will discuss the various foreign missions in which we are participating and our local outreach programs including the homeless shelter, the food pantry and the Culmore Clinic. New items will be discussed. Our meetings are open to all. Come and join us!

George Mason University Orthodox Christian Fellowship is for any Orthodox student. Please send us your contact information, e-mail, to be put on list. Spiritual Leader: Rev. Fr. Costas Pavlakos, frcostas@stkchurch.com; Student Leader: Christina Makhlouf, cmakhlou@masonlive.gmu.edu.
Memorial Service is offered this morning for Frank and Kathleen Michael, parents of Beckie and Martha Michael, and Dr. Christina Michael-Silis; for Basil Rousos, husband of Mrs. Irene Rousos; and for Christos Christofides, uncle of Iacovos Ioannou. May their memory be eternal!

Coffee hour is sponsored this morning by Beckie and Martha Michael and Dr. Christina Michael-Silis and family in memory of their beloved parents, Frank and Kathleen Michael.

Our Capital Campaign begins in September to address the abundant needs of our community. We solicit your support and encourage your prayerful consideration of this most worthy endeavor in support of “our families, our church, our future.” More details to follow. Please contact us at capcampaign@stkchurch.com with your questions.

SAVE THE DATE – Saint Katherine Annual GALA, Saturday, November 17, 2018 at the Meletis Charuhas Center. 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 – Jim Stoucker and our GOYA. Music by Zephyros.

The Ladies Philoptochos General Meeting will take place this morning, in the board room, after Liturgy is over.

Registration for the 2018-2019 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 – 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. Please contact HEC Director, Eleni Alexopoulou, with any questions, ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com.

Catechetical School Registration – Welcome! Registration for Sunday school will be available today in the lobby of the Meletis-Charuhas Center. Classes begin on September 16th (we’ll meet at 8:45 a.m. that day to be led in prayer by Fr. Costa and to introduce our teachers). Please contact Bill or Eleni Porter at beporter1@verizon.net for additional information.

JOURNEY TO ORTHODOXY – Our “Journey to Orthodoxy” class for adults begins September 23, meeting 9-10 a.m. Sunday in the Seniors Kentro room in Chelpon Hall. The class is held in an informal discussion format and designed for non-Orthodox inquirers into Orthodoxy as well as for Orthodox Christians who want to know more about the teachings, practices, history, and contemporary life of our Orthodox Church. It is also recommended for intending or newly married couples, especially where one spouse is not Orthodox. Text is provided. Contact John Demakis demakis9931@gmail.com or Jim Jatras heraclius13@gmail.com, 202-375-1007 for additional information.

AHEPA Christmas Ornaments – The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce our 11th 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 “Theotokos & Child” is a classic and revered icon and mosaic appearing over our sanctuary entrance that, for the first time ever, will be available in the beautiful “sun catcher” format that makes a brilliant display by allowing daylight to further enhance the icon’s classic beauty, enabling its use year round. 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 enable our philanthropy in support of our community and Hellenic ideals! For additional information, call 703-671-7225.
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 δέχθεις 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, 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 at [http://www.saint-katherines.org/about_us/sunday-bulletins](http://www.saint-katherines.org/about_us/sunday-bulletins).