Apolytikion of the Day (Grave Tone)

By Your Cross, O Christ our God, You destroyed death. You opened paradise to the thief. You transformed the lament of the Myrrh-bearing women, and You commanded the Apostles to proclaim You are risen, granting the world Your great mercy.

Katέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον, ἠνέῳξας τῷ Λῃστῇ τὸν Παράδεισον, τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θρήνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας, ὃτι ἀνέστης Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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 Χριστού υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ημῶν και αντίληψιν, ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματος τη δυνάμει. Και ως μάρτυς του Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι, το μέγα έλεος.

Kontakion of the Day

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.
Epistle Reading

St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:22-27 - BRETHREN, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

Gospel Reading

Luke 5:1-11 - 1st Sunday of Luke - At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

For now they were well instructed beforehand...But mark both their faith and their obedience. For though they were in the midst of their work when they heard His command, they delayed not, they procrastinated not, they said not, "let us return home, and converse with our kinsfolk," but "they forsook all and followed."

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Because such is the obedience which Christ seeks of us, as that we delay not even a moment of time, though something absolutely most needful should vehemently press on us.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 14 on Matthew 4
4th Century

The Hellenic Genocide was the systematic torture, massacre and ethnic cleansing of several million Greeks perpetrated by the Turks in Asia Minor, Constantinople, Eastern Thrace, Imvros, Tenedos, Macedonia, Cappadocia and Pontos. It culminated with the burning of the city of Smyrna 90 years ago this month. Millions of men and women and children were expelled from their homes, tortured and massacred only for being Greek. In the same places and often at the same time, millions of Armenian and Assyrian Christians of all ages were also tortured and massacred. All told, 5.5 million Greek, Armenian and Assyrian Christians perished during this terrible period.

We remember such an event because we must NEVER allow such indecencies to be forgotten. There is an old saying that “those who ignore the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them.” There is documentary evidence showing that the Jewish Holocaust perpetrated by Germany during WW II was enabled, encouraged and facilitated by the lack of outcry from the world regarding the Hellenic, Armenian and Assyrian Genocides only a few decades earlier.

The purpose of such an observance is not to promote hatred among races or nationalities, but rather to ensure we teach future generations lessons of the past so that such atrocities and crimes against humanity never be allowed to happen again. The souls of 5.5 million Christians demand nothing less. May their memory be eternal!
Memorial Services are offered this morning for the 1.5 million victims of the Hellenic Genocide, 1914-1923. Saint Christostomos (1867-1922), Metropolitan of Smyrna (pictured left) refused to leave his flock when offered sanctuary. When the Turkish mobs abducted him and began beating him, he forgave them, which only infuriated them further. Even as they began dismembering him, eyewitness accounts attest to the fact that he continued to bless his tormentors. Although impossible to “put a face” on genocide, Saint Chrisostomos is symbolic of the millions who perished in this horrible tragedy. May their memory be eternal!

Our FALL FESTIVAL cooking continues this coming week. Please come dip the pastries in syrup and put together pastry boxes on Tuesday, Sept 25 and especially Thursday Sept 27 when we make Galatoboureko at 10am. Please contact kcavallo1@aol.com or call 703-978-1539.

We also need volunteers to staff our festival activities. There are a multitude of tasks that require our attention and YOU can help by volunteering your time to support your church and community. If you’re new to the community, this is a great way to get to know people. If you’ve never worked at the festival, join us…you won’t regret it! Please volunteer by contacting andreballell1@verizon.net.

Saint Katherine Book Club – Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, October 3 at 10:30 in the Community Center boardroom. Our new book is Saint Seraphim: Wonderworker of Sarov and his Spiritual Inheritance, by Helen Kontsevitch. We may have some copies in our bookstore. Access https://www.archangelsbooks.com/proddetail.asp?prod=HERKONTSE-03 to order your book online. Please read pages 1-50 for our first meeting. Please consider joining our group and share the spiritual nourishment we experience every two weeks. For more information, please contact faympras@gmail.com; (H) 703-865-5776.

Combined Federal Campaign – Federal Employees are encouraged to give to OCMC by designating their pledge to charity number 10304. Please make your pledge between September 1, 2012 – December 15, 2012 by visiting www.opm.gov/cfc for more information. Contact Ken Kidd, 904-829-5132, x161; kenny@ocmc.org for more info.

Philoptochos – The first General Meeting of the Ecclesiastical New Year will take place on Sunday, Sept 30 in the Board Room at 12:30pm. All ladies are reminded we will be working on behalf of Saint Katherine at our annual Fall Festival October 5 - October 7. Please come and help us serve our community.

DOP Trip – “Save the date” and join the Daughters of Penelope for a fun day in Lancaster, PA. Trip includes coach bus transportation, Jonah, the musical & family style dinner at an Amish Restaurant. Deadline to reserve your seat is Oct 11. Price is $105 and includes gratuities and taxes. For more information, contact Kathy Cavallo, kcavallo1@aol.com or call (h) 703-978-1539.

Saint Katherine Professional and Business Directory – Please contact Daphne Vaccarello for more details at (703) 830-0892 or dvac.memories@verizon.net.

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”
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, 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.

Church Organizations

Acolyte Captains – A. Galatis, N. Issa and G. McKinney
Protos-Psalter – James Loizou (703) 356-8220
Choir Director – John Doulis (703) 670-4386
Catechetical School – Christian Demeter (703) 534-5669
Greek School – Sophia Tsangali (703) 671-5820
Paideia Preschool – Pantelis Psoras (301) 762-1478

Philoptochos – Eleni Kanakos (703) 938-8360
YAL President – TBD
GOYA President – Tiffani Wills (703) 948-7950
JOY – Tina Papamichael (703) 536-4711
HOPE – TBD

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