Apolytikion of the Day (Second Plagios Tone)

O Christ, the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the guards were as dead, and Mary stood by the sepulcher, seeking Your sacred body. You destroyed Hades yet remained untouched by it. You encountered the Virgin and through her, bestowed Life. Glory to You who has risen from the dead!

Ἀγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνῆμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἦσαν ταῖς θυραῖς τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἀδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ύπ' αὐτοῦ, ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωήν, ὁ ἀναστάς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε 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, ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρῶς, 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 Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15 - Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

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."

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

He who truly wishes to believe in God must be lifted above himself, his mind, and even the whole world. For this reason, the value of faith is considered higher than the value of man. It is even higher than the value of the whole world. Therefore, the reward of faith should be higher than all of man’s possessions along with the glories of this world. The reward of faith is God.

Fr. Matthew the Poor, Orthodox Prayer Life: The Interior Way, p. 74, 20th century

What is it that I love when I love you? Not the beauty of a body or the comeliness of time. Nor the luster of the light pleasing to the eyes, nor the sweet melodies of all manner of songs, nor the fragrance of flowers, ointments and spices, not manna and honey, nor limbs welcome to the embrace of the flesh - I do not love these when I love my God. And yet there is a kind of light, a kind of voice, a kind of fragrance, a kind of foods, a kind of embrace, when I love my God, who is the light, voice, fragrance, food, embrace of the inner man, where there shines into the soul that which no place can contain, and there sounds forth that which time cannot end, where there is fragrance which no breeze disperses, taste which eating does not make less, and a clinging together which fulfillment does not terminate. It is this that I love when I love my God.

St. Augustine, Confessions 10.6 in The Confessions of St. Augustine, p. 244, 5th century
Memorial Services are offered this morning for Sotira Silis, mother of Mr. Panagiotis Silis; for Eftyha Tsiaousis, mother of Vasiliki and Constantina, and sister of Mr. Panagiotis Silis; and for Vasilios Stratakos, husband of Maria Stratakos and father of Kostas, Nondas and George. May their memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Silis and Stratakos families in memory of their loved ones.

Greek School is adding an additional Conversational Greek class to its program every Wednesday 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. beginning October 5, 2011. Tuition will be an additional $125 for children registered in the Greek School or Paideia Preschool. Tuition is $250 for everyone else. Registration is ongoing. Call us 703-671-1515.

Catechetical School Registration continues today downstairs in the Melitas Charuhas Center during Sunday School. We are adding a new Pre-K 3½ year old class this year. Please call Christian Demeter, 703-534-5669 for additional information.

Fall Weeknight Adult Bible Study meets Wednesdays October 5 – November 16, 7:30-8:45 p.m. in the boardroom of the Meletis Charuhas Center. Come join us as we discuss Love in the Letters of John “the disciple Jesus loved.” What better source could there be for exploring what it means to live in love with our Lord Jesus and our brethren? Can’t make it every week? No problem! Drop-ins are welcome, including our older teens.

Our FALL FESTIVAL will be held Friday, Sept 30 – Sunday Oct 2. We need your help and support. Please volunteer by calling Andrea Ballard andreaballard1@verizon.net.

Orthodox Christian Mission Center Benefit Banquet will be held at Saint Katherine on Sunday, April 29. The speaker will be Fr. Martin Ritsi. For more information, contact Gregory McKinney, dintym@hotmail.com.

Saint Katherine Choir is looking for a person who is musical or has musical background to help in giving pitches and assisting the choir directors. Community service credit hours are available for teenagers. For more information, contact Dr. William Steele at wsteel27@verizon.net.

GOYA Basketball practice will be held on Tuesday, October 4: Girls 6:00 p.m. and boys 7:30 p.m.

Interfaith Orthodox Study – Any interfaith married couples (one orthodox and one non-orthodox) interested in participating in a study on interfaith families in the Orthodox Church, please contact Chris Vaccarello at cmv3d@virginia.edu or by phone at 703-307-0563.

Parish e-mail list – Please subscribe to our Church's e-mail list. Simply go to our newly redesigned web site at www.saint-katherines.org and click on Join our Email List at the top of the page. We will use this list to communicate more efficiently with you. You can send feedback to webmaster@stkchurch.com. We have more exciting things to come - check back often!

Clothing for the Homeless Shelter – We are continuing to collect clothing and toiletries for men and women at the Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter. Clothes may be new or used but must be clean. Toiletries should be unopened. There is a collection receptacle in the foyer of our community center. Please continue to be generous to those less fortunate.

AHEPA Christmas Ornaments - The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce the arrival of the Fourth Annual Community Christmas Ornament. These collectable ornaments have grown in popularity from year to year and this year's ornament is no exception! A stunning three-dimensional rendition of The Star of Bethlehem serves as the inspiration for our 2011 offering to the community – a perfect ornament for the Christmas season, depicting the divine light that served as a beacon to all mankind heralding the joy of the Nativity. 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 at jstoucker@verizon.net or 703-929-6110.
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 ελεος και φιλανθρωπία του μονογενούς Σου Υιού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.