You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.

Εξ ύψους κατήλθες, ο ευσπλαγχνός, ταφήν κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ίνα ημᾶς ελευθερώσης των παθῶν. Η ζωή και η ανάστασις ημῶν, 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 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 νυν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα έλεος.

**Kontakion of the Day (4th Tone)**

Today the Virgin comes, unto a Cave, to give birth ineffably to the Word pre-eternal. Hearing this, be of good cheer, all earth and its people; glorify Him, with the Angels and the Shepherds, whose will was to be made, manifest as a young child, the pre-eternal God.

Η Παρθένος σήμερον, τον προαιώνιον Λόγον, εν Σπηλαιώ έρχεται, αποτεκεῖν απορρήτως. Χόρευε, η οικουμένη ακουσθείσα. Δόξασον, μετά Αγγέλων και των Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα εποφθήναι, παιδίον νέον, τον προ αιώνων Θεόν.
**Epistle Reading**

*Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.*

*Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.*

*The reading is from Saint Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians.*

**1st Corinthians 4:9-16** – Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become as spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things.

I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though, you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For, I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

**Gospel Reading**

**John 1:35-52** – Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone).

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile?” Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

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The Philoptochos and the Daughters of Penelope are once again collecting winter coats/jackets for homeless and abused children. The angel tree will be in the foyer of the Meletis-Charuhas Center every Sunday till December 7, 2014. We will have a box for the collection. Coats/jackets will be collected through Sunday, December 7, 2014. The coats and jackets will be delivered the week of December 8, 2014 to local area shelters. Thank you for your support!

**HEC invites you to a Lecture Series** starting on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The Lectures will be in the following form. The guest speaker will deliver a lecture on a topic related to the Hellenic culture/Greek Orthodox faith followed by Q&A. The first lecturer is Dr. Robin Young, professor at the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. The topic is: “Saints, Scholars and Nobles: The Holy Women of the Fourth Century”. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be offered. Location: Assembly Room at HEC.
Announcements

Artoklasia Service is offered this morning for Costas and Androula Christofi and family; for Demetrios and Androula Demetriou and family; and for the members of the Laconian Society.

Memorial Services are offered this morning for Ourania Tsakonas Aliferis, mother of Peter V. Aliferis, and Elaine Xenos; and for Chris Christofi, brother of Costas Christofi and Maria Georges. May their memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is sponsored this morning by the Aliferis, Xenos, Christofi and Georges families in memory of their loved ones; and by the members of the Laconian Society.

Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale – December 14 and 21, 9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 a.m. following church services at the Educational Center. Please buy your Christmas sweets: koulourakia $8/dozen, kourambiethes $16/dozen, melomakarona $16/dozen, diples $20/4-jumbo, baklava $18/6pieces, kataifi $18/6pieces, spanakopita $24/dozen, and tiropita 24/dozen. Please make checks to: Saint Katherine Ladies Philoptochos and mail to: Saint Katherine Philoptochos, 3149 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church, VA 22041. Order forms are available in the narthex. To order, please email lpbakesale@yahoo.com or call Mary Varlas at (703) 965-4161. No credit cards are accepted.

Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon and Fashion Show – Sunday, December 14 at the River Bend Country Club, Great Falls, VA. For information and reservations please contact Trish Kapsidelis at (703) 356-5905 or Eleni Kanakos (703) 938-8360.

HOPE (The Holy Orthodox Primary Education) ministry is an opportunity for children (ages 7 and under) to meet, socialize and interact with one another. On Sunday, December 7, after the 2nd Liturgy in the Founder’s Hall, the activity will be Christmas Rotations including games and prizes for the children! Please contact Patricia Rader at pagrader@yahoo.com to register. For more information, see the HOPE announcement on the church’s home page, saint-katherine.org.

Our November 2nd YAL Retreat/Discussion has been rescheduled to December 7th, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The retreat will take place in the Meletis Charuhas Center. There is no cost and lunch will be served during the retreat. The theme for this retreat will be: Is Orthodoxy Relevant in the 21st Century? Come and join us to find out how the faith of our Parents and Grandparents is still relevant 2000 years since the time of Christ. Please RSVP by completing the registration form and for further questions contact Father Panagiotis: frphanley@stkchurch.com and/or 571-421-6595. Please support the Saint Katherine YAL and come together in fellowship with your peers by attending.

2014 Community Christmas Card – You are invited to participate in the annual Christmas card of our parish. It will be mailed by the Church Office to everyone on our mailing list for $25.00. Please send your name, as you wish it to appear in the card, in English or Greek, to the Church Office no later than Monday, December 8. Thank you.

Diaper Drive – It is time for our semi-annual Diaper Drive. We will be collecting diapers only on Sunday, December 7, 2014. Federal food stamps cannot be used to buy diapers, so this is a great help to mothers with infants. Collections will take place in the foyer of our Community Center. Please bring unopened packages of newborn to 6. No pull ups please.
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 για την δόξα Σου, προς ελάφρυνση των δοκιμασιών και της πείνας, προς διακοινία 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.