Apolytikion of the Day (2nd Plagios Tone)

When the Angelic Powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You, resurrected from the dead, O Lord, glory to You.

Αγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις επὶ τὸ μνήμα σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες απενεκρώθησαν. Καὶ ἵστατο Μαρία εν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἀχραντὸν σου σώμα. Εσκύλευσας τὸν Ἅδην, μὴ πειρασθείς υπ’ αὐτοῦ. Υπήντησας τῇ παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωήν. Ο αναστάς εκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Apolytikion of Saint Katherine the Great Martyr (1st 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 τὴν θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν καὶ αντίληψιν, ὑπὲρ τῶν κομψῶν τῶν ασεβῶν, τοῦ Πνεύματος τῇ δυνάμει. Καὶ ως μάρτυς τοῦ Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αἰτείται πάσιν, τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαίωνιν Δόγον, εν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, αποτεκεῖν απορρήτως. Χόρευε, η οικουμένη ακουτισθείσα. Δόξασον, μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα εἰσῄειν, παιδίον νέον, τὸν προ αἰώνων Θεόν.
Epistle Reading

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance.
To You, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.
The reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:4-10 – Brethren, God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God – not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Gospel Reading

Luke 18:35-43 – At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” And he cried, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me receive my sight.” And Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave to God.

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

The sign that thou loveth God, is this, that thou loveth thy fellow; and if thou hatest thy fellow, thy hatred is towards God. For it is blasphemy if thou prayest before God while thou art wroth. For thy heart also convicts thee, that in vain thou multipliest words: thy conscience rightly judges that in thy prayers thou profitest nought.

St. Ephraim the Syrian, On Admonition and Repentance.

Let us then, bearing in mind all the things which have been said, show forth great love even towards our enemies; and let us ease away that ridiculous custom, to which many of the more thoughtless give way, waiting for those that meet them to address them first.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 18 on Matthew 5, 4th Century

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St. Katherine is proud to be a Project Mexico Santa’s Helper this year. I need your help in raising funds to cover Ivan’s wish list this year. Please make your checks payable to St. Katherine with Project Mexico in the memo column. If you have any questions please email rayvazquez1@aol.com.

The National Hellenic Museum – Ms. Connie Mourtoupalas, President of the National Hellenic Museum (NHM) in Chicago, Illinois, will make a presentation on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Founder’s Hall at St. Katherine. The National Hellenic Museum’s Oral History Project is coming to DC. The project is designed to preserve the history of the Greeks of America by collecting the recorded interviews and memoirs of individuals and/or groups. Persons of Greek descent are eligible to provide an oral history and anyone interested in contributing to this most valuable project can do so by scheduling an interview. Recording will be done on Thursday, December 5, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday, December 6, 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our Community Center. To reserve a time, please call the Church Office at (703) 671-1515.
Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale – Sunday, December 15 and 22, 2013 immediately following the Divine Liturgies. Half trays of Spanakopita are available for sale for $25.00. The trays are uncooked and frozen. If you would like to buy a tray, please contact Mary Varlas at (703) 965-4161 or email at Mary.Varlas@yahoo.com. We will be baking Tsourekia and Vasilopites for Christmas Bake Sale on Tuesday, December 3, at 10:00 a.m.

AHEPA Christmas Ornaments – The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce orders are now being taken for our Sixth Annual Community Christmas Ornament. These collectable ornaments have grown in popularity from year to year and we are extremely proud of this year’s offering. This stunning three-dimensional ornament is entitled “Star of Saint Katherine” and is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our community, its ministries and those who lovingly labor in its behalf. 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 be available for sale after Liturgies during coffee hour. Please place your order after Liturgy beginning, or by sending requests to antovi@verizon.net or by calling 703-929-6110.

The Daughters of Penelope are collecting new or in like-new condition winter jackets for infants and toddlers and warm hooded sweatshirts for teens that will be donated to Alternative House and homeless shelters. Male and female infant and toddler jackets are specifically needed in the following quantities and sizes: (10) each 2-4T; (10) each 18-24M; (5) each 12-18M, 9-12M, 6-9M, 3-6M, and Newborn. Hoodies are needed for boys and girls size 4-16, and for male and female teens size Small to X-Large to Adult sizes. Please drop donations in the box labeled DOP in the hall entrance. Monetary donations may be made payable to Daughters of Penelope and mailed to Kathy Cavallo, 6190 Fred’s Oak Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. Thank you for your generous support!

Christmas Caroling – The Greek School and the Paideia Preschool students of our community will do Christmas caroling on Saturday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m. If you would like the children to do Christmas caroling at your home or business, please contact Martha Lampros, P.T.O. President, at mmlampros@msn.com.

2013 Christmas Card – You are invited to participate in the annual Christmas card of our parish. Our community Christmas card brings us together as a family, expressing our prayers and love to all of our brothers and sisters. Donation is $25.00. Please make checks payable to St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church. Deadline for participating is Monday, December 2, 2013. See enclosed letter.

The Cretan Association of Greater Washington, DC – December 2013 marks the 100 years of the unification of Crete with Greece. Our Chapter has arranged the presentation of a play by the “Theater of Crete” company that commemorates that anniversary. The play will be performed on Sunday, December 8, at 5:30 p.m. at St. Katherine’s. While the event is free, a $10.00 donation is suggested. Due to space limitation, please secure your seat by December 1st by contacting Manos Coutoulakis at (301) 610-7892 or coutoulakis@yahoo.com.

Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 15, 2013 at 12:30 p.m.


Diaper Drive, Sunday, December 8, 2013 – On December 8th, we will be making our semi-annual collection of diapers for two food pantries in the immediate area. Please bring all sizes of disposable diapers in their original packaging (but no pull-up pants types) to the foyer of the Charuhas Meletis Center for collection and delivery. The food pantries have identified this as a tremendous benefit for the mothers and working families who receive emergency assistance there. Unfortunately, federal funds cannot be used for diapers so they depend on the food pantries.
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. Ο Θεός, όπως δέχθηκες τα δώρα του Άβελ, τις θυσίες του Νώε και του Αβραάμ, το θυμίαμα του Ααρών και του Ζαχαρία, ας δέχθεις από τα αμαρτολαί 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 εξίλασμο 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 in two formats—a PDF copy of the bulletin handed out in church and an online version with much more information. Please take a moment to check them out by visiting: [http://www.saint-katherines.org/about_us/sunday-bulletins](http://www.saint-katherines.org/about_us/sunday-bulletins)