Apolytikion of the Day (Grave Tone)

By Your Cross, O Lord, You shattered death; to the thief You opened Paradise. You transformed the Myrrhbearers' lamentation, and commanded Your Apostles to proclaim that You arose, Christ our God, granting to the world Your great mercy.

Κατέλυσας τον Σταυρό σου τον θάντον. Ηνέωξας τον Ληστή τον Παράδεισον. Τον Μυροφόρον τον θρήνον μετέβαλες, και τοὺς σοις Αποστόλους κηρύττεν επέταξας. Ὅτι ανέστης Χριστέ ο Θεός, παρέχον τῳ κόσμῳ το μέγα έλεος.

Apolytikion of Saint Katherine the Great Martyr (1st Tone)

Let us praise the all lauded and noble bride of Christ, the godly Katherine, the guardian of Sinai and its defense, who is also our support, assistance and our help; for with the Holy Spirit's sword she hath silenced brilliantly the clever among the godless; and being crowned as a Martyr, she now does ask great mercy for us all.

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστού υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ήμον και αντίληψιν. Ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τοὺς κομψούς των ασεβῶν, τοῦ Πνεύματος τῇ δυνάμει. Καὶ νῦν ὃς Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αἰτείται πάσι τὸ μέγα έλεος.

Kontakion of the Day (4th Tone)

On this day the Virgin comes unto the cave to give birth there to the Word before all time: beyond all words is this wonder! Dance with joy, all of creation, hearing these tidings. Glorify, along with angels and with the shepherds, him who willingly appears as a newborn baby, yet he is God before time.

Η Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, εν Σπηλαίῳ ἐρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε, η οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθείσα. Δόξασον, μετὰ Αγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα εποφθήναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν προ αἰώνων Θεόν.
Epistle Reading
The Lord will give strength to his people.
Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.
The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:14-22 – Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

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 praise to God.

Sunday School students along with the St. Katherine choir will present the nativity of our Lord according to Saint Luke on Sunday December 15, after the second liturgy.

Adult Bible Class - Classes are held every Sunday at 9:30am in the board room of the Meletis Charuhas Center. Join us each Sunday to learn more about our faith. “A Journey through the Orthodox Faith Guided by the Words of the Bible”. This year’s topic: The Gospel of Luke. For more information or questions, please contact Bill Polizos at 571-434-7790 or polizos@att.com. Everyone is welcome!

Journey to Orthodoxy – The “Journey to Orthodoxy” class for adults meets 9:30am-10:30am Sunday, before Liturgy, (concurrently with the Sunday School). The class is 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 faith. It is also recommended for intending or newly married couples where one spouse is not Orthodox. The class is held in an informal discussion format. Text is provided. We meet in the Seniors’ Kentro room on the ground floor of Founders’ Hall. For further information, please contact the teachers, Dr. John Demakis demakis9931@gmail.com or Mr. Jim Jatras heraclius13@gmail.com, 202-375-1007.

"AHEPA – The brothers will be selling their Christmas Ornaments every Sunday after the second Liturgy till Christmas. Great for stocking stuffers, please stop by and check them out. The proceeds will be used to finance their charities."

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation – We are pleased to share with you that the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation will once again offer $250,000 in scholarship awards to 40 exceptional Greek American undergraduates. The application is currently on our website, panhellenicsf.org, and the deadline to apply is Friday, January 31, 2020. The scholarships will be distributed at our Awards Ceremony and Gala, which will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2020.
Announcements

Coffee Hour is sponsored this morning by our Ladies Philoptochos.

Philoptochos – Saturday, December 7th, we will host our Annual Christmas Luncheon, at Westwood Country Club, in Vienna, VA. For information and reservations, call Mary Varlas at 703-965-4161. The Ladies Philoptochos Cookbooks are still on sale for $25.00. They make a great Christmas and bridal shower presents. Pick them up at coffee hour, after the second Liturgy.

GOYA – Next Youth Sunday/Meeting is Dec. 8. We will pass a tray for donations for the Christmas Bag distribution to the homeless project. All are welcome to participate in this project for the homeless. Upcoming events: Christmas Party 12/7; Christmas Bag Preparation 12/23 and Distribution 12/25. For more information, email SaintKatherineGOYA@aol.com.

Catechetical Lectures of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem – A Greek Bible Study led by Professor Ioannis Gkigkitzis. The Adult Catechism and Sacraments class “Catechetical Lecture of Saint Cyril” is taking place every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. This includes time for discussion and fellowship.

Saint Genevieve Book Club meets the last Sunday of each month following the second Divine Liturgy. If you would like to be included on our mailing list, please email victoriacherpes@gmail.com.

Security Announcement – Please be aware that scammers and cybercriminals may be sending you emails and text messages acting like Father Costa or a member of the Parish Council asking you for money or assistance. Neither Father or a Parish Council Member will send you a direct email requesting money or assistance. These messages are frauds. Do not click or respond to these messages. If you have any questions, please contact Sophia Tsangali at 703-671-1515.

Church Playroom – Parents please accompany your children in the playroom downstairs. Regardless of age, all children in the playroom must be supervised by a Parent at all times.

Attention Parishioners! When attending church services and events at our church, kindly please park your car properly within the designated parking space lines in the parking lot. This will prevent loss of a space for someone else to park their car. Thank you!

Stewardship Table – Please stop by the stewardship table and update your email on record. We are transitioning to mailing statements to save $2,000 in mailing costs. Thank you!

2019 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, and your donation is only $25.00. Checks must be payable to St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church. Please send your name, as you wish it to appear in the Card, English or Greek, to the Church Office, no later than Monday, December 9, 2019. Pick up a form from the pangari. Thank you!

Culmore Clinic, an interfaith non-profit medical clinic serving uninsured adults, is seeking a full time executive director to lead the organization through exciting growth and change. The ideal candidate will be an experienced manager with significant development experience. Please email search@culmoreclinic.org for the full position announcement and salary/benefit details.

FOOD PANTRY – In keeping with our Christmas tradition of helping others in need, on Sunday, Dec. 15 we will be collecting food for the local Food Pantry located at the Columbia Baptist Church near St. Katherine. Please return the food to the foyer of our community center. Please place food items in the blue cloth bags that we will hand out on the two Sundays before, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8. The blue cloth bags will be handed out in the foyer of our community center. Food items can include: canned fruit, soup, and canned pasta, cereal/cereal bars, peanut butter, rice, spaghetti/pasta sauce, chili, canned tomatoes, tuna, canned beans, canned vegetables and macaroni & cheese. If you are unable to fill a bag, write a check to “Columbia Baptist Church” with “Food Pantry in the corner and give it to one of the food pantry volunteers. Thank you!!
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 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.