Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
Sunday, December 2, 2012
14th Sunday of Luke

Habakkuk the Prophet
Cyril of Phileus
Αββακούμ Προφήτου
Κυρίλλου του Φιλεώτου

Apolytikion of the Day (1st Tone)

Τοὺς λίθους σφραγισθέντος υπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἀχραντόν Σου σῶμα, ἀνέστη τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωήν. Διὰ τούτῳ αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν εβδόμω σοι ζωοδότα. Δόξα τῇ αναστάσει σου Χριστὲ, δόξα τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver. Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; glory to Your eternal rule; glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind.

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

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν τὴν θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, τὴν βοήθειαν και αντίληψιν, ὅτι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τοὺς κομψούς τῶν ἄσεβῶν, τοῦ Πνεύματος τῇ δυνάμει. Καὶ ως μάρτυς τοῦ Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αἰτείται πάσι, τὸ μέγα ἐλέος.

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.

Kontakion of the Day (4th Tone)

Η Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, εν Σπήλαιῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν απορρήτως. Χόρευε, η οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθείσα. Δόξασον, μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα εισερχόμεθα, παιδιόν νέον, τὸν προ αἰώνων Θεόν.

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.
Epistle Reading

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

The reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 5:8-19 – Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said,

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.”

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

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 you 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.

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Prayer as an Important Aspect of our Spiritual Life

According to Diadochos, bishop of Photiki, in addition to the familiar ecclesiastical psalmody, we also have another psalmody which comes from an overflow of joy, powerful and moving, with a prayerful disposition. This psalmody, when moved by the Holy Spirit, is accompanied by delight of the heart, spiritual tears and incredible joy.

Returning to the preparatory aspects of prayer, let us note the words of St. Athanasios in his treatise on virginity: “The believer who is dedicated to God must be found with the Book in his hands when the sun rises.” He also provides instructions for the hours of the day and night, and how the faithful must stand before God.

It is well established that books are beneficial, but they do not always lead to prayer. And it is to be noted that a greater teacher than books is prayer itself. Innumerable ascetics have learned to pray without any books at all. Books and church gatherings cannot always be with us, but we can always learn by the inner work of prayer, which can be with us at all times. The soul of each one who truly prays becomes a temple of God and a sacred place of sacrifice. All prayers are good audible prayers, book prayers, public prayers, silent prayers of the heart when practiced carefully and attentively.
Announcements

Memorial Services are offered this morning for Bishop George Papaioannou; for John C. Hayes, father of Presvytera Pauline Pavlakos; and for Cathy Sue Tavoularis, daughter-in-law of Pierre and Arlene Tavoularis. May their memory be eternal!

Christmas Pageant – Next Sunday, December 9, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. following the Divine Liturgy. Sunday School will be at regular time, 9:30 a.m., and Liturgy for children in the Meletis Charuhas center at 10:30 a.m. (except for Pre-K and Kindergarten students who will be in class at 11:00 a.m.). At the end of the program, Father Costa will bless the refreshments. The full dress rehearsal of the Christmas Pageant will be on Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. After the rehearsal there will be a Christmas luncheon at which Saint Basil will appear.

Parish Council Elections will be held next Sunday, December 9, 2012 following the Divine Liturgy and until 3:00 p.m. in the Meletis Charuhas center. The following members are eligible and have agreed to run for the years 2013-2014: Kelly Alexis, Andrea Ballard, Peter Karounos, Costas Mavromatakis, Mallamo Mavromatakis, Bill Polyzos, Bill Porter, Mary Vargas, and Maria Wills. Good luck to you!

Orthodoxy 101 – Six sessions covering the fundamental teaching of the Orthodox Church. These classes provide a friendly and open forum for your questions and concerns on Sundays, November 4 - December 16 (no session 11-25), 9:30-10:30 a.m. in our community center. Contact Fr. Costas, frcostas@stkchurch.com.

AHEPA Christmas Ornaments – The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce the arrival of our Fifth Annual Community Christmas Ornament. This stunning three-dimensional ornament is entitled “Snowflakes from Mt. Athos” and depicts the Byzantine Eagle among 25 sparkling snowflakes as it soars over Mt. Athos. They make excellent gifts – an ideal stocking stuffer. Ornaments are available for sale after Liturgies. Supplies are limited...start your Christmas shopping early! Contact antovi@verizon.net or call (703) 929-6110.

2012 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 Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church. Deadline for participating is tomorrow Monday, December 3, 2012. Forms are available at the pangari.

Junior Choir – Saint Katherine is in the process of starting up a Junior Choir around the beginning of 2013. If anyone is interested in enrolling their children in the Junior Choir, please contact John Doulis at jdoulis@aol.com. Please see the next edition of the DOXA for more information.

St. Katherine Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale – December 9 and 16 (after Liturgy). Please order your Vasilopita by Sunday, December 2 for pick up December 30. Order forms are available in the Narthex or you may call Elvira Garnett at (703) 425-3675 or Andrea Ballard at (703) 250-5419 to place your order. Best advertising rates around! Please consider advertising your business and/or profession on the new online Saint Katherine Business and Professional Directory. So many of us would prefer to do business with someone we know. Let the rest of the community know what you do for a living! The directory is already up and running. Check it out on the church website. The Application form is included in this bulletin and online. Contact Daphne Vaccarello, dvac_memories@verizon.net with any questions.

Diaper Collection for Area Food Pantries – We will be collecting diapers on Sunday, December 9, 2012 for the area food pantries. 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 sizes newborn to 6. No pull ups please. The diapers will be distributed to several area food pantries.
Church Services

Thursday, December 6  
**St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and St. Nicholas the New Martyr**  
*Αγ. Νικόλαον του Θαυματουργού και Αγ. Νικόλαον Νεομάρτυρος*  
Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 9  
**10th Sunday of Luke – Ι’ Κυριακή Λουκά**  
Orthros 9:30 a.m., Youth and Adult Catechism, Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 12  
**St. Spyridon the Wonderworker – Αγ. Σπυρίδωνος του Θαυματουργού**  
Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 16  
**11th Sunday of Luke – ΙΑ´ Κυριακή Λουκά**  
Divine Liturgy 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Orthros 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 23  
**Sunday before Nativity – Κυριακή προ Γεννήσεως του Ιησού Χριστού**  
Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

Monday, December 24  
**Eve of the Nativity/Christmas Eve – Παραμονή Χριστουγέννων**  
Orthros and Great Hours 9:30 a.m.  
Vesperal Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25  
**Holy Nativity/Christmas Day – Η κατά σάρκα Γέννησις του Ιησού Χριστού**  
Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 30  
**Sunday after Nativity – Ορθρος 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.**

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, ὁπως 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 κλείσιμα και τις προσφορές αυτές έτσι, ώστε πάντοτε να μπορούμε να σου προσφέρουμε δώρα και τους κύπους της εργασίας μας γιὰ την δόξα Σου, πρὸς ελάφρυνση των δοκιμασιών και της πείνας, πρὸς διακονία του λαοῦ Σου, πρὸς συγχώρηση των αμαρτιών και εξιλασμό του λαοῦ σου, με την χάρη, το έλεος και την φιλανθρωπία του μονογενοῦς Σου Υιού. Ευλογημένον να είναι τὸ όνομά Σου εἰς τὸν αἰώνα. Ἄμην.