Apolytikion of the Day (2nd Tone)

When the descended unto death, O life immortal, You destroyed Hades with the splendor of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers shouted: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

Ότε κατήλθες προς τον θάνατον, η ζωή η αθάνατος, τότε τον Άδην ενέκρωσας, τη αστραπή της θεότητος. Ότε δε και τους τεθνεώτας, εκ των καταχθονίων ανέστησας, πάσαι αι δυνάμεις των επουρανίων εκραύγαζον. Ζωοδότα Χριστέ, ο Θεός ημών, 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 ημών και αντίληψιν. Ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματον τη δυνάμει. Και νυν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα έλεος.

Kontakion of the Day (3rd Tone)

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Η Παρθένος σήμερον, τον Προαιώνι ον Λόγον, εν Σπηλαίω έρχεται, αποτεκείν απορρήτως. Χόρευε η οικουμένη ακουτισθείσα, δόξασον μετά Αγγέλων και των Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα εποφθήναι, παιδίον νέον, τον προ αιώνων Θεόν.
**Epistle Reading**

*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. What shall I render to the Lord for all that he has given me? The reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews.*

Hebrews 13:17-21

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Reading**

Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your infirmity.” And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.” Then the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

---

The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA chapter 438 is proud to announce the opening of the new community Seniors Κέντρο (Kentro) located on the ground floor of Founders Hall. Gather with friends, enjoy a cup of coffee while watching the news from Greece, spending some quiet time reading the paper, or enjoying each other’s company/parea. Lectures, Bible Studies and presentations of health and wellness are also benefits that will be introduced as part of our Church’s new Seniors Ministry. The Seniors Kentro is carpeted and fully furnished, featuring a 60-inch flat screen television with satellite access to Greek network programming, and has a coffee bar. Operating hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 3:00pm (the Seniors Kentro will open at noon when church services are scheduled). The room is also available to other groups by appointment through the Church Office.

**Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale** will be on December 13th and 20th after the Divine Liturgy.

**Philoptochos** – Do you know someone who lives alone, is lonely or needs help? Philoptochos would like your help in identifying these members of our church. We would like to visit them and during the holidays deliver Greek cookies. If you know someone, please call Kathy Cavallo, 571-284-7379. All information is confidential.

**Parish Council Elections for 2016** is next Sunday, December 13, following the Divine Liturgy until 3:00 pm in the Hall. The candidates are: Chris Euripides, Rosemary Filou, Costas Mavromatakis, Bill Porter, Jim Stoucker, Maria Wills. Please come and vote and be active members of our parish.

**The HOPE Ministry** – Lets meet at the movies! Come and watch “Norm of the North” on Saturday, January 23, 2016 at Tysons Corner Center at about 3:00 p.m. (the exact movie time will be announced in early January). Please RSVP at Vaitsa.Bousbouras@yahoo.com by Tuesday, January 19, 2016.
Memorial Services are offered this morning for Nicholas Flevarakis, husband of Mrs. Niki Flevarakis, and father of Maria, Argires and John; for Konstantinos Gus Johnnides, father of Marianna, Christianna and Euripides, and brother of Mr. Charles and Mr. Eftychios Euripides; for Elpida and Lambros Hadjichristodoulou, and Stylianos and Panagiotis Hadjichristodoulou, parents and brothers of Despina, Kyriakos, Androula, Christodoulos, Andreas and Maria; and for Fayina Estrina and Liya Estrina, grandmother and mother of Mr. Vitali Kopylov. May their memory be eternal!

Stewardship Sunday – Today is Stewardship Sunday. Following the Divine Liturgy, please join us for breakfast and fellowship at the Meletis Charuhas Center. We appreciate your joyful giving in support of our Church and her ministries.

Daughters of Penelope and the Philoptochos will be collecting new hoodies for teens at the Alternative House facility and jackets for children served by the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless. The sizes needed are: S, M, L, & XL warm-style hoodies for both male and female teens; and jacket sizes 2T-4T for toddlers, and youth sizes 5 to 20 for both boys and girls. Monetary donations are payable to DOP-Helle Chapter 283 and mailed to Karen Polizos, 903 Holly Creek Drive, Great Falls, VA 22066. Drop your hoodies and jackets in the box in the hall foyer or directly to the church office starting 9/20 through 12/6. Thank you!

AHEPA Christmas Ornaments – The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce our Eighth Annual Community Christmas Ornament is now available for purchase. These collectable ornaments have grown in popularity from year to year and we are extremely proud of this year’s offering. Our latest limited edition ornament, entitled “Evzone Snowman” is a whimsical portrayal of a classic Christmas image with a Hellenic twist that is sure to delight young and old. 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 Liturgy during coffee hour while supplies last. Please make your purchases after Liturgy beginning TODAY, or by sending requests to antovi@verizon.net or by calling 703-929-6110.

Diaper Collection for Area Food Pantries – We will be collecting diapers this morning (the feast day of Saint Nicholas). 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.

Christmas Luncheon and Fashion Show – An event for the entire family – Hosted by St. Katherine Philoptochos on Dec. 12, 2015, 11:30 a.m. at Westwood Country Club (800 Maple Avenue, E, Vienna, VA 22180, 703-938-2300). Donation $45.00, raffle and door prizes, children under 12, $15.00. We welcome spouses and friends. Fashions by Bloomingdales. All proceeds to benefit the Philoptochos charities. Reservation deadline, December 1st, 2015. For information and raffle donations, please call Trish Kapsidelis, 703-356-5905, for reservations call Demetra Vroustouris, 703-938-6348. Make check payable to St. Katherine Philoptochos and mail it to: Dr. Chrysoula Pappas (7716 Fallstaff St., McLean, VA 22102). Please bring a door prize, new item. Thank you!

Saint Katherine’s Christmas Pageant will be next Sunday, December 13th at noon. Please note, Sunday School will not begin at 9:00 a.m. this day. The children will instead meet at 10:00 a.m. for a Children’s Divine Liturgy in the Meletis Charuhas Hall before preparing for the Pageant. Following the Christmas Pageant by the Sunday School students, the Greek School students will sing Christmas carols from different parts of Greece. A Christmas reception with sweets and refreshments will follow.

2015 Community Christmas Card – You are invited to participate in the annual Christmas Card of our parish. It has been mailed by the Church Office to everyone on our mailing list for only $25.00. Please send your name, as you wish it to appear in the card, in English or in Greek, and a check payable to Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, to the Church Office no later than Sunday, December 13, 2015. 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. Ο Θεός, όπως δέχθηκες τα δώρα του Άβελ, τις θυσίες του Νώε και του Αβραάμ, το θυμίαμα του Ααρών και του Ζαχαρία, ας δέχθείς 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 διακονία 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.

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

Church Services

Saturday, December 12  Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker – Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, December 13  11th Sunday of Luke – Orthros 9:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
(Children’s Liturgy in the Meletis Charouhas Hall)
Sunday, December 20  Sunday before Nativity – Orthros 9:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 24  Eve of the Nativity – Christmas Eve – Orthros and Great Hours 9:30 a.m.
Vesperal Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
Friday, December 25  HOLY NATIVITY – Christmas Day – Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, December 27  Sunday after Nativity – Orthros 9:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Services: Orthros 9:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Week Day Services: Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

Church Organizations

Acolyte Captains – Nicholas Vazquez and Chad Velezis
Protos-Psalter – James Loizou 703-356-8220
Choir Director – John Doulis 703-670-4386
Catechetical School – Bill Porter 703-901-2404
Hellenic Education Center – Eleni Alexopoulou 703-671-7715
Philoctochos President – Eleni Kanakos 703-938-8360
YAL President – Faye Anson 703-437-5747
GOYA President – Theo Karounos 703-321-3009
JOY – Toula Christou 703-533-0055
HOPE – Vaitsa Bousbouras, vsbousbouras@yahoo.com

3149 Glen Carlyn Road      Falls Church, Virginia 22041     Phone 703-671-1515      Fax 703-671-1385
Please visit our website at: www.saint-katherines.org
Facebook: Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church