Apolytikion of the Day (Grave Tone)

By means of Your Cross, O Lord You abolished death. To the robber You opened Paradise. The lamentation of the Myrrh-bearing women You transformed and You gave Your Apostles the order to proclaim to all that You had risen, from the dead, our God, and granted the world Your great mercy.

Katέλυσας τω Σταυρώ σου τον θάνατον, ηνέωξας τω Ληστή τον Παράδεισον, των Μυροφόρων τον θρήνον μετέβαλες, και τοις σοις Αποστόλοις κηρύττειν επέταξας. Ότι ανέστης Χριστέ ο Θεός, παρέχω το κόσμω το μέγα έλεος.

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 Χριστού υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ημών και αντίληψιν, ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματος τη δυνάμει. Και ως μάρτυς του Κυρίου 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 Δόγον, εν Σπηλαίῳ έρχεται, αποτεκειν απορρήτως. Χόρευε, η οικουμένη ακουτισθείσα. Δόξασον, μετά Αγγέλων και των Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα εποφθήναι, παιδίον νέον, τον προ αιώνων 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 Saint Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:14-22 – Brethren, he 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 saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being 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 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 ass 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.

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

The sign that thou lovest God, is this, that thou lovest 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 profittest 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 Office of Byzantine Arts presents “The Three Chanters” – A Byzantine Christmas Concert at St. Sophia Cathedral, Washington DC, this evening, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Admission is $15.00 per person, children under 12, free. Donations are welcome. All proceeds will be used for the Consecration of the Cathedral.

Special Tour – To view the famous exhibit Heaven and Earth: Art of Byzantium from Greek Collections at the National Gallery of Art will take place on Tuesday, December 17, 2013. Some 170 works of art, including mosaics, icons, manuscripts, jewelry, and ceramics will be on display. Plans to travel by chartered bus to the National Gallery for a special guided tour of the exhibit. The tour is limited to 35 people and will depart from the Church at 10:00 a.m. and return at approximately 2:00 p.m. Please call (703) 671-1515 for reservations.
Announcements

Memorial Services are offered this morning for Chris John Karamanos, father of Theodore and Helen Kosturos; and for Rima Joseph, sister of Mrs. Lina Kalyvas. May their memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is sponsored this morning by Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Kosturos and family in memory of their beloved father Chris John Karamanos; and by Mrs. Lina Kalyvas and family in memory of her beloved sister Rima Joseph.

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.

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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.

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 this evening, 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 contacting Manos Coutoulakis at (301) 610-7892 or coutoulakis@yahoo.com.

The Christmas Pageant will take place next Sunday, December 15, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. at the Meletis Charuhas Center. The Christmas Pageant dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m. A Christmas party with the Santa Claus will follow the rehearsal.

Parish Council Elections – Next Sunday, December 15, following the Divine Liturgy until 3:00 p.m. in Founders’ Hall.

Single Parents Meeting – This morning at 9:30 a.m. till 10:30 a.m. at the Meletis Charuhas Center, downstairs. Please see Andrea Katsenes.
### 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

Προσδέχομαι, Ο Θεός, τις δώρα των άνθρωπων μας, για την δόξα σου, την ομολογία του λαού σου, την εργασία, την πίστη, την αγάπη, την χάρη. Ευλογημένο τὸ όνομά σου εἰς τὸν αἰώνα. Αμήν.

### Church Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 12</td>
<td>St. Spyridon the Wonderworker – Άγιος Σπυρίδωνος του Θαυματουργού</td>
<td>Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 22</td>
<td>Sunday before the Nativity – Κυριακή πριν την Γεννήσεων</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Tuesday, December 24</td>
<td>Eve of the Nativity – Παραμονή της Γεννήσεων</td>
<td>Orths and Great Hours 9:30 a.m., Vesperal Liturgy 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 25</td>
<td>The Holy Nativity – Τα Αγία Χριστούγεννα</td>
<td>Orths 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.</td>
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### The Sunday Bulletin

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)