Apolytikion of the Day (2nd Tone)

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 εκράψατον. Ζωοδότα Χριστέ, ο Θεός ημών, δόξα σοι.

When You descended unto death O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the nether world all the Powers of the heavens were crying out. O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

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

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ημών και αντιληπνήν, ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρά, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματος τη δυνάμει. Και ως μάρτυς του Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι, το μέγα έλεος.

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)

Εορτάζει σήμερον η οικουμένη, την της Άννης σύλληψιν, γεγενημένην εκ Θεού. Και γαρ αυτή απεκύψη, την υπέρ λόγον τον Λόγον κυήσαν.

Today all the earth, does celebrate, Mary’s conception by Anne, which came about by God; because she gave birth to the One, who bore the Logos in a manner ineffable.
**Epistle Reading**

*The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord.*

*O God, hear my prayer.*

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

**Galatians 4:22-27** – Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, “Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married.”

**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.

**What is Prayer?**

Prayer is doxology, praise, thanksgiving, confession, supplication and intercession to God. “When I prayed I was new,” wrote a great theologian of Christian antiquity, “but when I stopped praying I became old.” Prayer is the way to renewal and spiritual life. Prayer is aliveness to God. Prayer is strength, refreshment, and joy. Through the grace of God and our disciplined efforts prayer lifts us up from our isolation to a conscious, loving communion with God in which everything is experienced in a new light. Prayer becomes a personal dialogue with God, a spiritual breathing of the soul, a foretaste of the bliss of God’s kingdom.

How is one to pray? Only the Holy Spirit can guide us to pray as we should. Just as a child learns to walk by walking, one can best learn to pray by praying, trusting in the help of God. Put your whole soul into your prayer. Think about the meaning of every word you pray. Make it your own personal prayer. Be persistent in prayer. Do not yield to carelessness or neglect. Strengthen your prayer through a lively faith in the Lord, a spirit of forgiveness toward others, and genuine Christian living.

As we pray deeply within our hearts we grow in prayer. By the grace of God we suddenly catch a glimpse of the miracle of the presence of the Holy Spirit working within us. At first it is only a spark but later it becomes a flame freeing and energizing our whole being, provided we do nothing to grieve the Holy Spirit; and if we do sin we repent of our sin immediately and ask for God’s forgiveness. To experience the fire of God’s holy love, to give it space within us to do its cleansing and healing work as a breath of the Holy Spirit, and to use it as light and power for daily living – such are the goals as well as the fruits of true prayer.

Department of Religious Education, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Announcements

Christmas Pageant – This morning following the Divine Liturgy, at 12:00 p.m. Sunday School is 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 offered by the parents of the Sunday School, the Greek School and the Paideia Preschool.

Parish Council Elections will be held this morning 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. The order of the candidates on the ballot was drawn by lots. The candidates are: Bill Porter, Kelly Alexis, Maria Wills, Maria Vargas, Bill Polizos, Costas Mavromatakis, Peter Karounos, Mallamo Mavromatakis, and Andrea Ballard. 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.

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 – This morning and on December 16 following the Liturgy. Vasilopita orders will be ready for pick up on December 30. Please call Elvira Garnett at (703) 425-3675 or Andrea Ballard at (703) 250-5419.

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 this morning 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. The diapers will be distributed to several area food pantries.

Consider joining an OCMC Orthodox Mission Team in 2013. Mission Teams serve our Holy Orthodox Church’s unending mission effort that all people may come to know the saving love of our Lord. Be a living witness as a family on a Family Outreach Team in Albania, take part in stewardship training in Uganda, or offer your talents on other OCMC Teams in 2013. Team applications and details are available online at www.ocmc.org or call the OCMC at 1-877-463-6787, ext. 142 for more information.

Join us for the 2nd Annual Jeans Day to Put the ZIP on Homelessness! Public and private employers, non-profits, civic and faith organizations – encourage your employees and members to wear jeans on December 14 in exchange for a $5.00 contribution to the Partnership to End Homelessness. Learn more and sign up http://jeansday2012.eventbrite.com.

A gold baptismal cross with chain was lost – Any information, please contact the Church office.
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, ὃπως δέχθηκες τα δώρα του Άβελ, τις θυσίες του Νώε και του Αβραάμ, το θυμίαμα του Ααρών και του Ζαχαρία, ας δέχθεις 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 την φιλανθρωπία του μονογενούς Σου Υιού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.

Church Services

Wednesday, December 12  St. Spyridon the Wonderwonderer – 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
Orthos 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 – Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

Church Organizations

Acolyte Captains – A. Galatis, N. Issa and D. McKinney
Protos-Psalter – James Loizou (703) 356-8220
Choir Director – John Douli (703) 670-4386
Catechetical School – Christian Demeter (703) 534-5669
Greek School – Sophia Tsangali (703) 671-5820
Paideia Preschool – Pantelis Psoras (301) 762-1478

Philoptochos – Eleni Kanakos (703) 938-8360
YAL President – TBD
GOYA President – Tiffani Wills (703) 948-7950
JOY – Tina Papamichael (703) 536-4711
HOPE – Toula Christou (703) 533-0055

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Please visit our website at:  www.saint-katherines.org

Facebook: Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church