**Apolytikion of the Day (3rd Tone)**

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy.

**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.

**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.
Epistle Reading

Blessed are you, O Lord,
the God of our Fathers.
For you are just in all you have done.
The reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Colossians.

Colossians 3:4-11 – Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you; immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you once walked when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:16-24, Matthew 22:1-4 – The Lord said this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.’”

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GOYA – A Second Tray will be passed this morning by the GOYAns and proceeds will be used to purchase McDonald’s gift cards as part of GOYA’s “Feed the Homeless on Christmas Day.”

GOYA is serving church duty this morning during the second Liturgy.

JOY/HOPE Holiday Ice Skating – At Reston Skate Quest (1800 Michael Faraday Court, Reston Virginia 20190). Sunday December 30, 1:50 – 3:00 p.m. Questions? Please contact Tina Papamichael at athena02verizon.net and Elena Ziu at eziu@cox.net.

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 next edition of the DOXA for more information.

A gold baptismal cross with chain was lost – Any information, please contact the Church office.
**Announcements**

**Memorial Services** are offered this morning for **Metropolitan Silas**, husband of Mrs. Irene Yuvannidis and father of George and Areti; for **Josephine Despina Fanos**, sister of Mrs. Mary Gillespi; for **Fayeena Estrina**, grandmother of Vitali Kopylov; for **Dimitrios Koukis**, father of John Koukis; for **Agorasti Fotelargias**, mother of Fani Dretakis and Antonis Fotelargias; for **James Evangelos Poulos**, godfather of Christina Deckert; for **Ioannis Stefanopoulos**, husband of Mrs. Lydie Stefanopoulos and father of Helen Castleman and Yannis Stefanopoulos; and for **Ekaterini Spanou**, grandmother of Katerina Vorvolakos. May their memory be eternal!

**Coffee Hour** is sponsored this morning by the Yuvannidis, Gillespi, Koukis, Dretakis, Fotelargias and Deckert families in memory of their loved ones.

**Parish Council Elections** – Congratulations to **Kelly Alexis, Andrea Ballard, Peter Karounos, Costas Mavromatakis, Mallamo Mavromatakis, Bill Polizos, Bill Porter, Maria Vargas and Maria Wills** who are elected last Sunday to serve in the Parish Council for two years, 2013-2014. May God bless 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, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in our community center.

**Saint Katherine’s Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale** – This morning following the Divine Liturgies. Vasilopita orders will be ready for pick up on December 30. Please call Elvira Garnett at 425-3675 or Andrea Ballard at (703) 250-5419.

**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.

**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.

**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.
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 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 ονόμα Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.