Apolytikion of the Day (4th Tone)

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples of the Lord spoke to the Apostles exultantly: Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριαι, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμεναι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλε υ τα ι τος, ἡγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Apolytikion of the 11th Sunday of Luke (2nd Tone)

You justified the forefathers in faith, and through them betrothed yourself, aforetime, to the Church taken from out of the Gentiles. The saints boast in glory. For from their seed, there exists a noble crop, who is she who without seed has given You birth. By their intercessions, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Ἐν πίστει τοὺς Προπάτορας ἐδικαίωσας, τὴν ἐξ Ἐθνῶν δι᾽ αὐτῶν προμνηστευσάμενος Ἐκκλησίαν. Καυχῶνται ἐν δόξῃ οἱ Ἅγιοι, δι’ ἐκ σπέρματος αὐτῶν, ὑπάρχει καρπὸς εὐκλεής, ἢ ἁπλόρως τεκοῦσά σε. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σώσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

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

Let us praise the most auspicious bride of Christ, the divine Katherine, protectress of Sinai, our aid and our help. For, she brilliantly silenced the eloquence of the impious by the sword of the spirit, and now, crowned as a martyr, she asks great mercy for all.

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ υμνήσωμεν, Αἰκατερίναν τὴν θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, τὴν βοήθειαν ημῶν καὶ αντίληψιν. Ὅτι εφίμωσε λαμπρῶς, τους κομψούς των ασεβῶν, του Πνεύματος τῇ δυνάμει. Καὶ νῦν ὡς Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αἰτεῖται πάσι το μέγα ἔλεος.

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.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν Προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουστικά, δόξασον μετὰ Αγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθήναι ἐποφθῆναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.
**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 St. 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: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. 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, freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

**Gospel Reading**

Luke 14:16-24 – 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 must 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 may 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.'"

**Adult Bible Study** – This year’s topic is *Who We are and What We Believe: A Journey through Examination of the Orthodox Faith Guided by the Words of the Nicene Creed.* The objective will be to broaden the understanding of our own Orthodox faith and deepen our spiritual outlooks. We will explore the significance of the Creed for how we live our faith now as individuals and as “one, holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.” Classes are held every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the board room of the Meletis Charuhas Center. For more information or questions, please contact Bill Polizos at 571-434–7790 or polizos@att.com. Everyone welcome!

**Daughters of Penelope** – Please join us January 13, 2019 for the Daughters of Penelope annual community lecture. This year the lecture is: Culinary Medicine and The Mediterranean Lifestyle with Chef Amy Riolo and Dr. Sam Pappas. Please join us after church on the 13th; light (and healthy!) refreshments will be served.

**HEC** – Next Sunday, December 23, the Greek School students will sing Christmas carols in church, following the Divine Liturgy.

**GOYA** – Many thanks to the Euripides family for hosting the Christmas party and for all those who laid wreaths at Arlington Cemetery yesterday. Upcoming events: Today, GOYAn singing at National Gallery of Art 1:30 & 3:15; Christmas bags preparation 12/23, after church, and bags distribution, 12/25. For more information, email saintKatherineGoya@aol.com.

**JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth) ages 8-12**: Please join us at the movies! We will meet at AMC Tysons Corner Center to watch "The Lego Movie 2" on Saturday, February 9th (time is TBD). Please RSVP by Thursday, January 24th at vsbousbouras@yahoo.com.
Sunday School Christmas Pageant – Please join us for our presentation of the “Nativity of Christ” this morning following the Divine Liturgy in the Chelpon Hall starting promptly at 12:30 p.m. A reception will follow.

Coffee Hour is sponsored this morning by our Saint Katherine’s Ladies Philoptochos.

Catechetical (Sunday) School Christmas Pageant has been postponed for next Sunday, December 16, 2018 at the Chelpon Hall, following the Divine Liturgy. Regular classes 9-10am, get dressed 11-12pm, pageant/reception 12:30-1:30pm. There will be no children’s Liturgy and no breakfast. Merry Christmas!

Philoptochos – Sale of handmade hats and scarves – This morning and on Sunday, December 23, after the Divine Liturgy. Christmas Bake Sale – This morning and on Sunday, December 23, following the Divine Liturgy. For more information see us at Coffee Hour or call Mary Varlas at 703-965-4161.

Our Capital Campaign begun in September to address the abundant needs of our community. We solicit your support and encourage your prayerful consideration of this most worthy endeavor in support of “our families, our church, our future.” Please contact us at capcampaign@stkchurch.com with your questions.

JOURNEY TO ORTHODOXY – The “Journey to Orthodoxy” class for adults has concluded for this year. A new class will convene on Sunday, January 6, 2019. We meet at 9am Sunday (concurrently with the youth Sunday School before 10am Divine Liturgy) in the Seniors’ Kentro room on the ground floor of Founders’ Hall. Designed for non-Orthodox inquirers into Orthodoxy as well as for Orthodox Christians who want to know more about the teachings, practices, history, and contemporary life of our Orthodox Church, this class is also recommended for intending or newly married couples, especially where one spouse is not Orthodox. Informal discussion format, text provided. For further information contact the teachers, John Demakis demakis9931@gmail.com or Jim Jatras heraclius13@gmail.com, 202-375-1007.

Catechetical Lectures of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem – A Greek Bible Study led by Professor Ioannis Gkigkitzis. The Adult Catechism and Sacraments class “Catechetical Lecture of Saint Cyril” is taking place on Wednesdays. Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. This includes time for discussion and fellowship.

AHEPA Christmas Ornaments – The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce our 11th Annual Community Christmas Ornament. These collectable ornaments have grown in popularity from year to year. Our latest limited edition ornament, entitled “Theotokos & Child” is a classic and revered icon and mosaic appearing over our sanctuary entrance that, for the first time ever, will be available in the beautiful “sun catcher” format that makes a brilliant display allowing daylight to further enhance the icon’s classic beauty, enabling its use year round. Manufactured by the same firm that creates the famous White House Christmas ornaments, they make excellent gifts and are the ideal stocking stuffer. Your purchases enable our philanthropy in support of our community and Hellenic ideals! For additional information, call 703-671-7225.
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 δόρα και τους κόπους της εργασίας μας γιά 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 at http://www.saint-katherines.org/about_us/sunday-bulletins.