Apolytikion of the Day (2nd Tone)

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.

Οτε κατήλθες προς τον θάνατον η ζωή η αθάνατος, τότε τον Άδην ενέκρωσας, τη αστραπή της θεότητος. Ότε δε και τους τεθνεότας, 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 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 Λόγον, εν Σπηλαίῳ έρχεται, αποτεκείν απορρήτως. Χόρευε, η οικουμένη ακουστήθηκα. Δόξασον, μετά Αγγέλων και των Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα εποφθήναι, παιδίον νέον, τον προ αιώνων Θεόν.
Epistle Reading

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Father. For you are just in all you have done.

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

Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40 – Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations whose builder and maker is God. And more shall I say? For time will fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets – who through faith conquered kingdoms, and enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (of whom the world is not worthy) wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:1-25 – The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nashon, and Nashon the father of Salomon, and Salomon the father of Boaz by Rahah, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Parish e-mail list – Please subscribe to our Church’s e-mail list. Simply go to our newly redesigned web site at www.saint-katherines.org and click on Join our Email List at the top of the page. We will use this list to communicate more efficiently with you. You can send feedback to webmaster@stkchurch.com. We have more exciting things to come – check back.

Memorial Services are offered this morning for Nicholas Flevarakis, husband of Mrs. Niki Flevarakis and father of Maria, Argyris and John; for Argyro Kosmakos, mother of George, Chris and Mary; for Presvytera Susan Maheras, aunt of Craig Thomas; for Lambros Veltsistas, husband of Mrs. Irene Veltsistas and father of Maria, Helena and Christina; for Euriptides Pikrallidas, husband of Mrs. Androula Pikrallidas; for Fayenena Estrina, grandmother of Vitali Kopylov; for George Marinis, husband of Mrs. Violena Marinis, and father of Katherine and Paul; for Katina Katsakos, wife of Mr. Sotirios Katsakos and mother of Georgia Cogar and Steve Katsakos; for Cynthia Cuzmanes, niece of Mrs. Irene Moshos; and for Eva Catafygiotou Topping, mother of Dr. John Topping. May their memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is sponsored this morning by the Flevarakis, Kosmakos, Thomas, Veltsistas, Pikrallidas, Kopylov, Marinis, Katsakos, Cogar, Moshos, and Topping families in memory of their loved ones.

GOYA has Church duty during second Liturgy today. Stavros Voudouris is GOYA Captain and will read the Epistle. Five other GOYAns will join him in executing Church duty. Proceeds from the second tray will be used to purchase food gift cards for GOYA’s annual “Feed the Homeless in DC on Christmas Day” project. Please be generous when this tray comes before you. GOYAns will prepare lunch bags (Christmas cards and food cards included) on Friday, December 23, at 6:00 p.m. On Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, GOYAns will meet at Church at 9:00 a.m. to distribute these bags in the District. They will return in time for Liturgy.

Philoptochos Bake Sale – Today, immediately following both Liturgies.

AHEPA Christmas Ornaments – The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce the arrival of the Fourth Annual Community Christmas Ornament. These collectable ornaments have grown in popularity from year to year and this year's ornament is no exception! A stunning three-dimensional rendition of The Star of Bethlehem serves as the inspiration for our 2011 offering to the community – a perfect ornament for the Christmas season, depicting the divine light that served as a beacon to all mankind heralding the joy of the Nativity. Manufactured by the same firm that creates the famous White House Christmas ornaments, they make excellent gifts and are the ideal stocking stuffer.

Countdown to New Year’s Eve with Kalomira – Ring in the New Year with internationally known Greek American recording artist Kalomira performing LIVE for the first time in the Washington, DC area at the Melitas-Charuhas Center along with live music by ZEPHYROS! Purchase tickets after Liturgies in the community center or call 202-409-2302 for more information.

Once again St. Katherine’s is sponsoring Esteban at Project Mexico. We are collecting funds to purchase the gifts on his wish list. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to St. Katherine and note “Project Mexico” on the memo line. If you have any questions please contact Ray Vazquez at rayvazquez1@aol.com.

“The Helle Chapter of the Daughters of Penelope would like to express our deepest gratitude to all those who have supported our children’s winter coat drive and who have contributed to our fundraising efforts, including “That’s My Pan” and our raffles. Without you, we would not be able to meet our goal in providing help to all of our charitable organizations. We wish you and your families the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the peace of His love at Christmas and always. May your New Year also be filled with much health and happiness!”

Clothes and Toiletries Collection – We continue to collect clothing and toiletries for men and women at Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter. Clothes may be new or used but should be clean. Toiletries should be unopened. There is a collection receptacle in the foyer of the Meletis Charuhas Center. With winter now upon us, warm clothing in new or used condition is needed—especially, coats, scarves, long underwear, etc. Please continue to be generous to those less fortunate.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, Dr. Erato Kozakou-Marchoullis, will discuss “Prospects for a solution to the Cyprus question and how it would positively affect security, stability and cooperation in the Southeast Mediterranean. Also, recent and forthcoming meetings between leaders of the two parties in the context of UN negotiations; developments in the regional energy sector and their economic, political and strategic significance; and Cyprus’ EU Presidency in the second half of 2012. Wednesday, December 21, 2011, 2:00 p.m., National Press Club (Murrow Room). Contacts: (301) 530-1210, (301) 367-7711, (202) 662-7540, pjhickman@hotmail.com, (202) 462-5722, neocleous@cyprusembassy.net.

Church Services

Friday, December 23

Orthros and Great Hours – Όρθρος και οι Μεγάλες Ώρες 10:30 a.m.
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, ὅπως δέχθηκες τα δῶρα του Άβελ, τις θυσίες του Νώε και του Αβραάμ, το θυμίαμα του Ααρών και του Ζαχαρία, ἀς δέχῃς ἀπὸ τα αμαρτωλά μας χέρια και τις προσφορές αυτές ἐτσί, ὅστε πάντοτε να μπορούμε να σοι προσφέρουμε δόρα και τους κόσμους της εργασίας μας γιὰ τὴν δόξα Σου, πρὸς ελάφρυνση τῶν δοκιμασιῶν καὶ τῆς πείνας, πρὸς διακονία τοῦ λαοῦ Σου, πρὸς συγχώρηση τῶν αμαρτίων καὶ εξιλασμό τοῦ λαοῦ σου, με τὴν χάρη, τὸ ἔλεος καὶ φιλανθρωπία τοῦ μονογενοῦς Σου Υιοῦ. Ευλογημένο να εἶναι τὸ ὄνομά Σου εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα. Ἀμήν.