Sunday before the Holy Nativity
The Ten Martyrs of Crete
Consecration of Hagia Sophia
Κυριακή προ της Θείας Γεννήσεως
Οι εν Κρήτη 10 Μάρτυρες
Εγκαίνια της Αγίας Σοφίας

Apolytikion of the Day (4th Tone)
Το φαιδρόν της Αναστάσεως κήρυγμα, εκ του Αγγέλου μαθούσαι αι του Κυρίου μαθήτριαι, και την προγονικήν απόφασιν απορρίψασαι, τοις Αποστόλοις κανονίζονται ἐλεγον. Ἐσκύλευται ο θάνατος, ἡγέρθη Χριστός ο Θεός, δωροὺμενος τω κόσμω το μέγα ἐλεος.

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and the rejection of the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly. Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion of Saint Katherine the Great Martyr (1st Plagios Tone)
Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθειαν ημῶν και αντίληπνην, ὅτι εφίμωσε λαμπρά, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, τον Πνεύματος τῇ δυνάμει. Καὶ ὡς μάρτυς τοῦ Κυρίου στεφθείσα, αἰτεῖται πάσι, το μέγα ἐλεος.

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)
Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, εν Σπηλαίῳ ἐρχεται, ἀποτεκείν απορρήτως. Χόρευε, η οἰκουμένη ακουτισθείσα. Δόξασον, μετὰ Αγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα εποφθήναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

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 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 what 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 Salmon, and Salmon 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 Maththan, 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 Christ 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
Announcements

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.

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 athena02@verizon.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 DOXA for more information.

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.

St. Katherine is proud to be a Project Mexico Santa’s Helper this year. A full package is on its way to Project Mexico as you read this bulletin. I need your help in raising funds to cover Esteban’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.

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 δέχθηκαν από τα αμαρτωλά μας χέρια και τις προσφορές αυτές έτσι, ώστε πάντοτε να μπορούμε να σου προσφέρουμε δώρα 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 την φιλανθρωπία του μονογενούς Σου Υιού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.

Church Services

Monday, December 24 Eve of the Holy Nativity – Christmas Eve Παραμονή των Χριστουγέννων Orthros and Great Hours 9:30 a.m.
Vesperal Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25 The Holy Nativity – Christmas Day Η κατά σάρκα Γέννησις του Ιησού Χριστού – Χριστούγεννα Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 30 Sunday after the Holy Nativity Κυριακή μετά την Γέννησιν του Ιησού Χριστού Orthros 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

Merry Christmas! Καλά Χριστούγεννα!

Church Organizations

Acolyte Captains – A. Galatis, N. Issa and D. McKinney
Protos-Psalter – James Loizou (703) 356-8220
Choir Director – John Doulis (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