**Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church**

**Sunday, December 24, 2017**

**Sunday before Nativity**

**Eve of the Nativity of Christ**

**Martyr Eugenia**

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**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· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἠγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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

The all-blessed bride of Christ let us extoll 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 you.

Την πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστού υμνήσωμεν, Αικατερίναν την θείαν και πολιούχον Σινά, την βοήθεια ημών και αντίληψιν. Ἄτι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματον τη δυνάμει. Και νυν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα έλεος.

**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 ἀκουστικαί, δόξασον μετὰ ἅγγελων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθήναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰῶναν 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 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 foundation, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, 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 tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was 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 Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, 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 Amon, and Amon 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 Salathiel, and Salathiel 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 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 Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her 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.
**Announcements**

*Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Χριστός γεννάται! Δοξάσατε!*

**Christmas Eve Reception** – There will be a reception after Christmas Eve services in the Meletis Charuhas Center. Please stop by and join your fellow parishioners.

**Journey to Orthodoxy** – This is a reminder that the “Journey to Orthodoxy” class for adults meets 9-10 a.m. Sunday (before Liturgy, concurrently with the Sunday School). The class is 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. It is also recommended for intending or newly married couples where one spouse is not Orthodox. The class is held in an informal discussion format. Text is provided. We meet in the Seniors’ Kentro room on the ground floor of founders’ Hall. For further information contact the teachers, John Demakis demakis9931@gmail.com or Jim Jatras heraclius13@gmail.com, 202-375-1007.

“Aevone Nutcracker”

AHEPA Christmas Ornaments – The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce our Tenth Annual Community Christmas Ornament. These collectable ornaments have grown in popularity from year to year and they will be available for purchase at our Fall Festival. Our latest limited edition ornament, entitled “Evzone Nutcracker” is a whimsical portrayal of a classic Christmas image with a Hellenic twist that is sure to delight young and old. 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 help make our philanthropy in support of our community and Hellenic ideals possible! For additional information, call 703-671-7225.

**Congratulations to our GOYANS!** Our Girls' B and Boys' B teams both won the championship and our Boys' A team came in 2nd at the Saint George Basketball Tournament!

**Youth and Young Adults** – Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas! Please enjoy your time with your families and loved ones!

**GOYA Christmas Bags to Homeless** – 12/25 – MON – Meet at 8:00am at Saint Katherine Christmas morning. Please be on time so we can load the cars and head out to distribute the bags!

**2017 Parish Council Elections** – Congratulations to the following members who were elected to run for a two year period, 2018-2019 in the Parish Council: Andrea Ballard, Dr. Domenic Carr, Costas Mavromatakis, George Moshos, Bill Polizos, Effie Sarantis, Chris Snear, Craig Thomas, Steve Veletsis, and Maria Wills. May God bless you!

Interested in going to project Mexico? – For the 5th time, our Church will sponsor a staying at the St. Innocent Orphanage. 15 spots have been reserved for our time, and 3 are still available! The trip costs $1,700.00, which pays for the buildings supplies/materials, food, lodging, flights, and rental van into Mexico. If you are interested in going, please contact Bill Porter at beporter1@verizon.net or Nick Junes at njunes@stkchurch.com ASAP!

**Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!**

Kalá Xristoúgenna και Ευλογημένη η Νέα Χρονιά!
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. Ο Θεός, όπως 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 τις προσφορές αυτές, 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, με την χάρη, το έλεος και φιλανθρωπία του μονογενούς Σου Υιού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις τον αἰώνα. Αμήν.

The Sunday bulletin is available online at http://www.saint-katherines.org/about_us/sunday-bulletins.

Church Organizations

Acolyte Captain – Joseph Pashiardis
Protos-Psalter – James Loizou 703-356-8220
Choir Director – Nick Kyrus (703) 981-2526
Catechetical School – Bill Porter 703-901-2404
Hellenic Education Center – Eleni Alexopoulou 703-671-7715
Philoptochos President – Mary Varlas 703-965-4161
YAL President – Faye Anson 703-437-5747
GOYA President – Maria Wuerker 703-980-7693
JOY – Vaitsa Bousbouras, vsbousbouras@yahoo.com
HOPE – Doris Mentis, doris@alumni.virginia.edu

3149 Glen Carly Road Falls Church, Virginia 22041 Phone 703-671-1515 Fax 703-671-1385

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

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