Apolytikion of the Day (1st Plagios Tone)

Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him with the father and the Spirit is co-beginningless God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for He was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

Τον συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρί και Πνεύματι, τον εκ Παρθένου τεθέντα εις σωτηρίαν ημῶν, ανυμνήσωμεν πιστοί και προσκυνήσωμεν, ότι ημόκηκας σαρκί, ανελθείν εν τῷ σταυρῷ, και θάνατον υπομείνα, και εγείραι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, εν τῇ ενδόξῳ Αναστάσει αυτοῦ.

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 βοήθειαν ημών και αντίληψιν. Ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς τον ασεβών, τον Πνεύματον τη δυνάμει. Και νυν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα έλεος.

Kontakion of the Day (3rd Tone)

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He that existed before the ages as God.

Η Παρθένος σήμερον, τον υπερούσιον τίκτει, και η γη το Σπήλαιον, τω απροσίτω προσάγει. Άγγελοι μετά Πομένων δοξολογούσι. Μάγοι δὲ μετά αστέρος οδοιπορούσι, δι’ ημᾶς γαρ εγεννήθη Παιδίον νεόν, ο προ αιώνων Θεός.
Epistle Reading

God is wonderful among the Saints.
Bless God in the congregations.
The reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Galatians.

Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I would have you know, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man’s gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:13-23

When the Wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.”

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the Wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the Wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.” But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead. And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”
Happy New Year! Ευτυχισμένος ο Καινούργιος Χρόνος!

Memorial Services are offered this morning for Aggie (Anagnostis) M. Capsalis, husband of Mrs. Mary Capsalis, and father of Manuel Capsalis; and for Vera Tasheva, mother of Julia Tasheva, and grandmother of Veronik and Isabell. May their memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is sponsored this morning by Mrs. Mary Capsalis and family in memory of her beloved husband, Aggie M. Capsalis; and by Mrs. Julia Tasheva and family in memory of her beloved mother, Vera Tasheva.

Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale this morning, immediately following the Divine Liturgy at the Meletis Charuhas Center.

AHEPA Christmas Ornaments – The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce our Eighth Annual Community Christmas Ornament is now available for purchase. These collectable ornaments have grown in popularity from year to year and we are extremely proud of this year’s offering. Our latest limited edition ornament, entitled “Evzone Snowman” 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. Ornaments will be available for sale after Liturgy during coffee hour while supplies last. Please make your purchases after Liturgy beginning TODAY, or by sending requests to antovi@verizon.net or by calling 703-929-6110.

The HOPE Ministry – Let’s meet at the movies! Come and watch “Norm of the North” on Saturday, January 23, 2016 at Tysons Corner Center at about 3:00 p.m. (the exact movie time will be announced in early January). Please RSVP at Vaita.Bousbouras@yahoo.com by Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

Save the Date! Tastes of the Mediterranean – February 5, 2016, 7:00-10:00 p.m., Meletis Charuhas Center. Please join Helle Chapter of the Daughters of Penelope for an evening of wine tasting, delicious appetizers, and live Greek music. Proceeds benefit Fisher House Foundation and other DOP Philanthropies. Cost: $25.00. Contact Karen Polizos, 571-434-7790, or Rosalie Georgeadis, 703-532-1723. Tickets on sale now!

Teach Youth Basic Orthodoxy in Guatemala This Summer – In Guatemala there are hundreds of children and young adults hungry to learn more about their Orthodox Christian Faith. A short-term OCMC mission team has been invited to offer a summer Church school program for two communities outside Nuevo Conception in Southwest Guatemala to teach basic Orthodoxy. If you have a heart for youth or teaching, please prayerfully consider joining this team which will serve from June 15th to the 28th, 2016. To learn more or apply, visit http://www.ocmc.org/about/view_team.aspx?TeamId=170, e-mail teams@ocmc.org, or call 1-877-463-6784, ext. 141.

Philoptochos – Do you know someone who lives alone, is lonely or needs help? Philoptochos would like your help in identifying these members of our church. We would like to visit them and during the holidays deliver Greek cookies. If you know someone, please call Kathy Cavallo, 571-284-7379. All information is confidential.
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 δέχθεις 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 εξιλασμού του λαού σου, με την χάρη, το έλεος και φιλανθρωπία του μονογενούς Σου Υιού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.