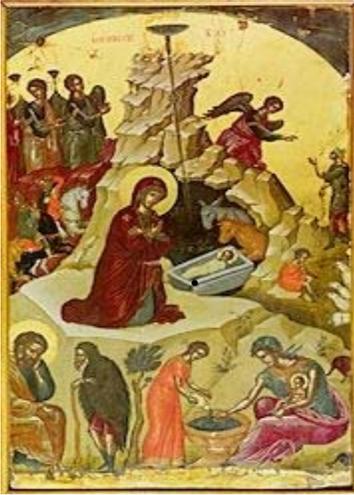


Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church



Sunday, December 27, 2020
Sunday after Nativity

St. Stephen, the First Martyr
St. Theodore the Confessor



Apolytikion of the Day (4th Tone)

-The women disciples of the Lord, having learned from the Angel the joyous news of the Resurrection and having rejected the ancestral decision, then told the Apostles elatedly. Death has been stripped of its power, Christ God has risen, granting to the world His great mercy.

-Το φαιδρόν της Αναστάσεως κήρυγμα, εκ του Αγγέλου μαθούσαι αι του Κυρίου μαθήτριαι, και την προγονικήν απόφασιν απορρίψασαι, τοις Αποστόλοις καυχόμεναι έλεγον. Εσκύλευται ο θάνατος, ηγέρθη Χριστός ο Θεός, δωρούμενος τω κόσμω το μέγα έλεος.

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

-Let us praise the all lauded and noble bride of Christ, the godly Katherine, the guardian of Sinai and its defense, who is also our support, assistance and our help; for with the Holy Spirit's sword she hath silenced brilliantly the clever among the godless; and being crowned as a Martyr, she now does ask great mercy for us all.

-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 νυν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα έλεος.

Kontakion of the Day (4th Tone)

-Today the Virgin bears, the one above essence, and the earth a humble Cave, to the unapproachable offers. Angels, with the Shepherds, to God give glory, Wisemen, with a star make their journey. For unto us is born today, as a young child, the pre-eternal God.

-Η Παρθένος σήμερα, τον Υπερούσιον τίκτει, και η γη το Σπήλαιον, τω απροσίτω προσάγει. Άγγελοι, μετά Ποιμένων δοξολογούσι, Μάγοι δε μετά αστέρος οδοιπορούσι. Δι' ημάς γαρ εγεννήθη παιδίον νέον, ο προ αιώνων Θεός.

Epistle Reading

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60 – In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

And the high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child.

"But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?'

"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 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."

AHEPA Christmas Ornament – This year will be at \$20.00 each and it can be picked-up from the Church office during working hours. Ornaments will be in the office next week. Thank you.



Announcements



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Memorial Services are offered this morning for **James Loizou** (1-year), husband of Mrs. Jane Loizou; for **Apostolos "Paul" Stamoulas** (1-year), husband of Mrs. Eleni Stamoulas and father of Maria and Eleftheria; for **Despina Gull** (1-year), **Nikolas Gull** (1-year) and **John Gull** (5-years). May their memory be eternal!

Adult Bible Studies class – In this time of social distancing, let us continue our weekly Adult Bible Studies online. Join us each Thursday evening at 7:00pm. We will take up a new topic each week on Thursdays, with: *"What is the Meaning of Resurrection?"*

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 every Tuesday online at 7:15 p.m. This includes time for discussion and fellowship.

Attention Parishioners! When attending Church services and events at our church, kindly please park your car properly within the designated parking space lines in the parking lot. This will prevent loss of a space for someone else to park their car. *Thank you!*

HEC - Greek School – Please check our Church's website, www.saint-katherines.org or our HEC website, www.stkhec.org for an application. For more information on our Saint Katherine's Greek School please contact Sophia Tsangali at 703-671-1515 or stsangali@stkchurch.com. Classes have begun in September.

Saint Stephen the First Martyr

Saint Stephen was a Jew, by race, and, as some say, a disciple of Gamaliel, the teacher of the Law mentioned in Acts 5:34 and 22:3. He was the first of the seven deacons whom the Apostles established in Jerusalem to care for the poor, and to distribute alms to them. Being a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, he performed great signs and wonders among the people. While disputing with the Jews concerning Jesus, and wisely refuting their every contradiction, so that no one was able to withstand the wisdom and the spirit whereby he spake, he was slandered as a blasphemer and was dragged off to the Sanhedrin of the elders. There with boldness he proved from the divine Scriptures the coming of the Just One (Jesus), of Whom they had become the betrayers and murderers, and he reprov'd their faithless and hardheartedness. And finally, gazing into Heaven and beholding the divine glory, he said: "Lo, I see the Heavens opened and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But when they heard this, they stopped up their ears, and with anger cast him out of the city and stoned him, while he was calling out and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then, imitating the long-suffering of the Master, he bent his knees and prayed in a loud voice for them that were stoning him, and he said, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge," And saying this, he fell asleep (Acts 6, 7), thus becoming the first among the Martyrs of the Church of Christ.

Apolytikion of Protomartyr Steven (4th Tone)

For the struggles you endured for Christ God, a royal diadem crowns your head, O First Champion of Martyrs. For you refuted the folly of the Jews and beheld your Savior on the right of the Father. Ever beseech Him, therefore, for our souls.

Kontakion of Protomartyr Steven (3rd Tone)

Yesterday the Master arrived in the flesh, today the servant departs from the flesh. Yesterday He who reigns was born. Today the servant dies for Him by stoning, the Protomartyr, the divine Stephen.

Church Services

Sunday, December 27
Tuesday, December 29

Sunday after Nativity; Saint Stephen the First Martyr – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am
Paraklesis to the Holy Trinity in Defense from the Pandemic 7:00pm

Sunday Services and Weekday Services: Orthros 9:00am and Divine Liturgy 10:00am

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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 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 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.



METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

Church Organizations

Acolytes – TBD

Protos-Psalter – Nicholas Mpras, 703-560-7714

Choir Director – John Slanta, 703-307-0142

Catechetical School – Christina Vazquez, 703-728-2657

Hellenic Education Center – Greek School, Sophia Tsangali,
703-671-1515 or stsangali@stkchurch.com

Philoptochos President – Mary Varlas, 703-965-4161

YAL President – Faye Anson, 703-437-5747

GOYA President – TBD,

SaintKatherineGOYA@aol.com

JOY – Vaitsa Bousbouras, vsbousbouras@yahoo.com

HOPE – Doris Mentis, doris@alumni.virginia.edu



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Please visit our website at:

www.saint-katherines.org

Facebook: Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church