Apolytikion of the Day (1st Plagal Tone)

-To the Word, coeternal with the Father and Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. Of His own will He mounted the cross in the flesh, He suffered death, and raised the dead by His glorious resurrection.

-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.

Kontakion of the Day (3rd Tone)

-O Father, foolishly I ran away from Your glory, and in sin, squandered the riches You gave me. Wherefore, I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal, "I have sinned before You Compassionate Father. Receive me in repentance and take me as one of Your hired servants."

-Kontakion of the Day (3rd Tone)

-Τῆς πατρῴας, δόξης σου, ἀποσκιρτήσας ἀφρόνως, ἐν κακοῖς ἐσκόρπισα, ὅν μοι παρέδωκας πλοῦτον· ὅθεν σοι τὴν τοῦ Ἀσώτου, φωνὴν κραυγάξοι· Ἡμαρτον ἐνώπιων σου Πάτερ οἰκτίρμον, δέξαι με μετανοοῦντα, και ποιησόν με, ὡς ἕνα τῶν μισθίων σου.
Epistle Reading

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

Corinthians 6:12-20 – Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 15:11-32 – The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoted your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"
Memorial Services are offered this morning for Very Reverend Archimandrite Father Nicholas Pekatoros (25-years); and for Mary Georgiou (1-year), aunt of Dr. Catherine Papoutsakis. May their memory be eternal!

Journey to Orthodoxy – Beginning Monday, February 1, the “Journey to Orthodoxy” class for adults resumes ONLINE Via Zoom, on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00pm Eastern Time. 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, this class is also recommended for intending or newly married couples, especially where one spouse is not Orthodox. The class follows an informal discussion format. For further information, and to receive links class materials and to be placed on the Zoom invitation list, please contact the teachers, John Demakis demakis9931@gmail.com, Jim Jatras heraclius13@gmail.com, 202-375-1007, or the Zoom technical coordinator James Class, classj@gmail.com.

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.

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.

The AHEPA Chapter 438, Peter N. Derzis is hosting a fundraising virtual 5km/1 mile race/walk for the week of March 22-26, any day, any time. Proceeds from the event will help train service dogs for wounded warriors suffering from PTSD. For registration and more information please go to www.ahepa438.org.

Paideia Preschool – We are excited to announce that the Paideia Preschool is now open and accepting enrollments. We currently offer part-time (3 day/week) and full-time (5 days/week) options for children between the ages 2 to 5. Should you have any questions, or wish to enroll in our program, please feel free to reach our to us at hec-administrateon@stkchurch.com or 703-671-7715.

The Prodigal Son

Through the parable of today's Gospel, our Saviour has set forth three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The divine Fathers have put this reading the week after the parable of the Publican and Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own wretched condition -- inasmuch as we are sunken in sin, far from God and His Mysteries -- we might at last come to our senses and make haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast. Furthermore, those who have wrought many great iniquities, and have persisted in them for a long time, oftentimes fall into despair, thinking that there can no longer be any forgiveness for them; and so being without hope, they fall every day into the same and even worse iniquities. Therefore, the divine Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from the hearts of such people, and rouse them to the deeds of virtue, have set the present parable at the forecourts of the Fast, to show them the surpassing goodness of God's compassion, and to teach them that there is no sin -- no matter how great it may be -- that can overcome at any time His love for man.

Saint Basil the Confessor

Saints Procopius and Basil, fellow ascetics, lived about the middle of the eighth century, during the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741), from whom they suffered many things for the sake of the veneration of the holy icons. They ended their lives in the ascetical discipline.
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 δέχθηκες από τα αμαρτωλά μας κέρια 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 πένας, 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.