Sunday, March 7, 2021
Judgment Sunday
(Meat-fare Sunday)

The Seven Hieromartyrs Bishops of Cherson, Basileus, Ephraim, Eugene, Capito, Aetherius, Agathodorus and Elpidius
Righteous Laurence of Megara

Apolytikion of the Day (2nd Plagal Tone)

- The Heavenly Powers appeared ay your tomb, and those guarding it became like dead. Mary stood at your grave seeking your pure bod. You stripped the power of Hades, not touched by its corruption. You met the virgin woman, as one who grants life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to You.

- Αγγελικαί Δυνάμεις επί το μνήμα σου, και οι φυλάσσοντες απενεκρώθησαν. Και ίστατο Μαρία εν τω τάφω, ζητούσα το άγριαν του σώμα. Εσκύλευσας τον Άδην, μη πειρασθείς υπ’ αυτού. Υπήντησας τη παρθένω, δωρούμενος την ζωήν. Ο αναστάς εκ των νεκρών, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

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 (1st Tone)

- O God, when You come upon the earth in glory, the whole world will tremble. A river of fire will bring all before Your Judgment Seat and the books will be opened, and everything in secret will become public. At that time, deliver me from the fire which never dies, and enable me to stand by Your right hand, O Judge most just.

- Όταν ἔλθῃς ὁ Θεός, ἐπὶ γῆς μετὰ δόξης, ποταμὸς δὲ τοῦ πυρὸς πρὸ τοῦ Βήματος ἕλκῃ, καὶ βίβλιοι ανοίγονται, καὶ τὰ κρυπτὰ δημοσιεύονται, τότε ῥῦσαι με, ἐκ τοῦ πυρὸς τοῦ ἀσβέστου, καὶ ἄξιουσιν, ἐκ δεξιῶν σου μὲ στήναι, Κριτᾶ δικαιότατε.
Great is our Lord, and great is his power.
Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.
The reading is from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

1st Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2 – Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:31-46 – The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Seven Hieromartyrs of Cherson

These holy Bishops were sent to Cherson on the Black Sea by Hermon, Bishop of Jerusalem, in the days of Diocletian, about the year 300, to preach the Gospel. Ephraim and Basileus were sent first. Basileus raised to life the dead son of a local ruler, because of which many were baptized. Those who remained in their unbelief, however, dragged him through the streets until he died. Ephraim, refusing to offer sacrifice to idols, was beheaded. After them, Eugene, Agathodorus, Capito, and Elpithius were sent by the Bishop of Jerusalem as heralds of the Faith, but they also were slain by the ungodly. Last of all, the Bishop of Jerusalem sent Aetherius; he was drowned during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great.

Apolytikion of the Seven Hieromartyrs Bishops of Cherson – (1st Plagal Tone)

Since Thou hast given us the miracles of Thy holy Martyrs as an invincible battlement, by their entreaties scatter the counsels of the heathen, O Christ our God, and strengthen the faith of Orthodox Christians, since Thou alone art good and the Friend of man.
Memorial Services are offered this morning for Aristotele “Tellie” J. Charuhas (40-days), uncle of George Charuhas; and for George Jatras (1-year), father of Jim Jatras. 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 n our program, please feel free to reach our to us at hec-administraton@stkchurch.com or 703-671-7715.

Judgment Sunday (Meat-fare Sunday)
The foregoing two parables -- especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds.

It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even as on the coming Sunday of Cheese-fare we commemorate Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight -- which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now -- it is clear that today's is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end.

All foods, except meat and meat products, are allowed during the week that follows this Sunday.
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 αμάρτωλα 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 πένας, προς διακονία του λαού Σου, προς συγχώρηση των αμαρτιών και εξελισσόμενο 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](http://www.saint-katherines.org/about_us/sunday-bulletins).