Apolytikion of the Sunday of Orthodoxy (Day (2nd Tone)

-O Christ our God, begging forgiveness of our sins, we venerate Your Pure Image, O Good One. Of your own will you condescended to ascend upon the Cross in the flesh and deliver those You created from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, thankfully, we cry out, "When You came to save the world, Your filled all things with joy, O Our Savior."

-Την ἀχραντον Εἰκόνα σου προσκυνούμεν Ἀγαθέ, αἰτούμενοι συγχώρησιν τῶν πταισμάτων ἡμῶν, Ἑρακλέος ὁ Θεός· βουλήσαι γὰρ ημόδεκτος Θεός σαρκι ἀνελθείν εν τῷ Σταυρῷ, ἵνα ρύσῃ οὕς ἐπλάσας ἐκ τῆς δουλείας τοῦ ἐχθροῦ· ὅθεν εὐχαριστώς βοώμεν σοι· Ἑράκλεις ἐπλήρωσας τὰ πάντα, ὁ Σωτήρ ἡμῶν, παραγενόμενος εἰς τὸ σώσαι τὸν Κόσμον.

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 ημῶν και αντίληψιν. Ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρός, τούς κομψούς τῶν ασεβῶν, τοῦ Πνεύματος τη δυνάμει. Και νυν ως Μάρτυς στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα ἔλεος.

Kontakion of the Sunday of Orthodoxy (4th Plagal Tone)

-The indescribable word of God became defined when He became incarnate of You O Theotokos. He restored our soiled image to what it was of old by joining it to His divine beauty. We confess salvation, and recount it in word and deed.

Kontakion of the Day (2nd Plagal Tone)

-Your city sings to you a song of victory, and offers thanks to its defender and deliverer, for sparing it from trials, O Theotokos. But because you have the power invincible, from a multitude of dangers liberate me, so that I may cry out to you: Hail bride who knew no bridegroom.

-Τῇ Υπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τα νικητῆρια, ὑε λυτρωθείσα των δεινῶν ευχαριστήρια, αναγράψας σοι ἡ Πόλις σου θεοτόκε. ἀλλ’ ως ἔχουσα το κράτος απροσμάχητον, εκ παντίων με κινδύνον αἰσθηθότος, ἵνα κράζω σοι: Ἰνήρη Νύμφῃ ανύμφεως.
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 11:24-26, 32-40 – Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

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 enemies 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 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

John 1:43-51 – At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Sunday of Orthodoxy

For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.
Kandilia (Luminaries) – A Holy Week Tradition at Saint Katherine – Let us light the processional pathway for the Epitaphio on Holy Friday evening. Purchase Kandilia for your loved ones, $12.00 each. One individual or family name per bag. Please look for a form on our Church’s website or pick one at the narthex or from Sophia at the Church’s office, 703-671-1515, stsangali@stkchurch.com.

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 pm. 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/1mile 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-administraton@stkchurch.com or 703-671-7715.

March 25th Greek Independence Day – The students of our Saint Katherine’s Greek School will have a short program for March 25th Greek Independence on Sunday, March 28, 2021 immediately following the Divine Liturgy in church.

“Greece ‘21” – The Prometheas Organization will also have a program for March 25th Greek Independence Day on Sunday, March 28, 2021 at 4:00pm online. The virtual celebration will be under the auspices of the Committee “Greece ‘21” and it will include messages from its President, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, H.E. Giana Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, and H.E. the Ambassador of Greece to U.S., Alexandra Papadopoulou. The keynote speaker will be the historian and broadcaster, Prof. Michael Wood. For information please call, 301-229-9389
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, ὁπως 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 ἐτσι, ὡστε πάντοτε να μπορούμε να Σου προσφέρουμε δώρα και τους κόπους της εργασίας μας γιά την δόξα Σου, προς ελάφρυνση των δοκιμισμών και της πείνας, προς διακονία του λαού Σου, προς συγχώρηση των αμαρτιών και εξιλασμό του λαού Σου, με την χάρη, το ἔλεος και φιλανθρωπία του μονογενούς Σου Υἱού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις τον αἰώνα. Ἀμήν.