**Sunday, April 4, 2021**

**Sunday of the Veneration of Holy Cross**

**Saint George of Maleon**

**Saint Plato the Studite**

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**Apolytikion of the Day (2nd Tone)**

-When you descended unto death, O life immortal, You destroyed Hades with the splendor of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers shouted: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

-Ότε κατήλθες προς τον θάνατον, η ζχωή η αθάνατος, τότε τον Άδην ενέκρωσας, τη αστραπή της θεότητος. Ότε δε και τους τεθνεώτας, εκ των καταχθονίων ανέστησας, πάσαι αι δυνάμεις των επουρανίων εκραύγαζον: Ζωοδότα Χριστέ, ο Θεός ημών, δόξα σοι.

**Apolytikion of the Holy Cross (1st Tone)**

-Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.

-Σώσον Κύριε τόν λαόν σου καί ευλόγησον τήν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοίς Βασιλεύσι κατά βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καί τό σόν φυλάττων διά τού Σταυρού σου πολίτευμα.

**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 αντάλθην. Ότι εφίμωσε λαμπρώς, τους κομψούς των ασεβών, του Πνεύματος τή δυνάμει. Και νυν ος Μάρτυρις στεφθείσα, αιτείται πάσι το μέγα έλεος.

**Kontakion of the Day (4th 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.

-Τη Υπερμάχω στρατηγώ τα νικητήρια, ως λυτρωθείσα των δεινών ευχαριστήρια, αναγράφω σοι η Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Αλλ’ ος έχουσα το κράτος απροσμάχητον, εκ παντίων με κινδύνων ελευθέρωσον, ίνα κράζω σοι: Χαίρε νύμφη ανύμφευτε.

**Kontakion of the Holy Cross (Grave Tone)**

-Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Paradise; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross! The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for You, O my Savior, did come and cry to those in hell: "Enter again into Paradise."

-Ουκέτι φλογίνη ρομφαία φυλάττει την πύλην της Εδέμ. Αυτή γαρ επήλθε παράδοξος σβήσεις το ξύλον του Σταυροῦ θανάτου το κέντρον ελήλαται, επέστης δε Σωτήρ μου τοις εν άδη: «εισάγεσθε πάλιν εις Παράδεισον».

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Epistle Reading

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.
The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6 – BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 – The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Sunday of the Veneration of Holy Cross

With the help of God, we have almost reached the middle of the course of the Fast, where our strength has been worn down through abstinence, and the full difficulty of the labour set before us becomes apparent. Therefore our holy Mother, the Church of Christ, now brings to our help the all-holy Cross, the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners, so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast.

Saint George the Righteous of Maleon

This Saint took up the monastic life from his youth, and went to Mount Maleon, where a community of monks gathered about him. He foretold his death from three years before, and reposed in an odour of sanctity.
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 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.

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.-

Diaper Drive – Sunday, April 25, 9:00 - 11:00 am: The Washington DC Mission & Outreach Committee is hosting a Diaper and Baby Wipes Drive on Sunday, April 25th, from 9 am until 11 am at the church front circular drive. Please bring all sizes of baby diapers and wipes to the circular drive in front of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church for collection. Diapers will be donated and delivered to The Marih Center in Alexandria, a pregnancy assistance center. Diapers and wipes are always needed for babies. Please be generous with your diaper donation on April 25th or make a donation to The Marih Center to allow diapers to be purchased for the families they serve.
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 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 γιά την δόξα Σου, προς ελάφρυνση των δοκιμασιών και της πείνας, προς διακονία του λαού Σου, με την χάρη, το έλεος και φιλανθρωπία του μονογενούς Σου Υιού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις το ναιώνα. Αμήν.