Sunday, April 11, 2021
Sunday of Saint John Climacus

St. Antipas, Bishop of Pergamon
St. Pharmuthios the Anchorite

Apolytikion of the Day (3rd Tone)

-Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the power of His reign. He has conquered death by death, and become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades; and has granted to the world great mercy.

Apolytikion of Sunday of Saint John Climacus (4th Plagal Tone)

-With the rivers of your tears, you have made the barren desert fertile. Through sighs of sorrow from deep within you, your labors have borne fruit a hundred-fold. By your miracles you have become a light, shining upon the world. O John, our Holy Father, pray to Christ our God, to save our souls.

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 (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.

Kontakion of Sunday of Saint John Climacus (4th Tone)

-Truly the Lord has set you in the sky of abstinence, as a fixed star giving light to the ends of the world, O John, our teacher and Father.

-Εν τω ύψει Κύριος, αληθή σε έθετο, άσπερ αστέρα απλανή, φωταγωγούντα τα πέρατα, καθηγητά Ιωάννη Πατήρ ημών.
Sing praises to our God, sing praises.
Clap your hands, all you nations.

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

Hebrews 6:13-20 – BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Mark 9:17-31 – At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Sunday of the Saint John Climacus

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on March 30, where his biography may be found. He is celebrated today because his book, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, is a sure guide to the ascetic life, written by a great man of prayer experienced in all forms of the monastic polity; it teaches the seeker after salvation how to lay a sound foundation for his struggles, how to detect and war against each of the passions, how to avoid the snares laid by the demons, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. It is held in such high esteem that it is universally read in its entirety in monasteries during the Great Fast.

Philoptochos Easter Bake Sale – Sunday, April 18, 10:30am to noon; and Saturday of Lazarus, April 24, 10:30am to noon. Deadline for preorders and prepay is April 15. Please call Mrs. Mary Varlas to make your orders at 703-965-4161.
Memorial Services are offered this morning for Katina Doulis, husband of John Doulis; and for Eleni Thrasyvoulou, mother of Maria Kolas and Yioula Trahilis. May their memory be eternal!

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 in 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, 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 εξίλασμο του λαού Σου, με την χάρη, το έλεος και φιλανθρωπία του μονογενούς Σου Υιού. Ευλογημένο να είναι το όνομά Σου εις τον αιώνα. Αμήν.

Church Services

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<td>Monday, April 12</td>
<td>Compline – Holy Confession 6:00pm; Compline 7:00pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday, April 14</td>
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<td>Friday, April 16</td>
<td>The Akathist Hymn 6:00pm – His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros will be with us.</td>
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<td>Sunday, April 18</td>
<td>Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt (5th Sunday of Great Lent) – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am</td>
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<td>Sunday, April 25</td>
<td>Palm Sunday – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am</td>
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<td>Bridal Service</td>
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Sunday Services and Weekday Services: Orthros 9:00am and Divine Liturgy 10:00am

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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).

Church Organizations

Acolytes – Dimitri and Lucas Solomos, 571-213-1109
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
Paideia Preschool – Cornelia Vasilcoiu, 703-671-7715

Philoptochos President – Mary Varlas, 703-965-4161
YAL President – Faye Anson, 703-437-5747
GOYA President – Anna Moratis, SaintKatherineGOYA@aol.com
JOY – Vaitsa Bousbouras, vsbousbouras@yahoo.com
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Please visit our website at: www.saint-katherines.org
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