March 2021

Apolytikion of Annunciation of the Theotokos
Today marks the crowning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before all ages. For the Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the grace. Wherefore, we also cry out with him, "Hail, O full of grace, the Lord is with you."

Kontakion of Annunciation of the Theotokos
To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"
Church Office Summer Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday
9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Closed for Lunch
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Sunday Worship
8:15 am-Orthros
9:30 am-Divine Liturgy
10:40 am– Sunday School

Weekly Bulletin Deadline
12:00 p.m. on the Wednesday, one week prior to publication.

Spirit Deadline
Please note that the deadline for submission of articles or for the Spirit is the 15th of each month for inclusion in the following month’s issue. Please remember all submissions are subject to approval. Also, please help us ensure the accuracy of your material by submitting everything in a Word document or email with pictures attached in JPG form.

Bookstore Hours
Closed until further notice

Church E-mail Addresses
Office: office@st-katherine.org
Church Office Administration– Marjie Thorpe
Stewardship – Athenalight

Parish Council
Officers:
President—Evangelia Archuleta
1st VP - John Chrisagis
Secretary - Mary Bowen
Treasurer – Antigoni Bhatia

Members:
Marina Ambus
Zoi Benton
Mike DeLos
Jeremy Gonzales
Dimitri Laloudakis
Athena Light
Rick Schneider

Church Ministries
Altar Boys........Nicholas Kretsedemas
Bookstore.. .Michael & Chryss Danielek
Psalti................Thanasis Filippis
Dance Groups........Lisa Bafaloukos
GOYA........Athena & Jeremy Gonzales
Hrisi Parea.........Carol Statopoulos
JOY/HOPE...........................TBD
Philoptochos..........Marjie Thorpe
Sunday School........Nicolette Wright
YAL.................................TBD

Fraternal Organizations
AHEPA ..................Daryl Connell
Daughters of Penelope.....Carol Statopoulos
Arizona Hellenic Foundation...Telis Evripidou

Websites of Interest
Greek Archdiocese of America:
www.goarch.org
Metropolis of San Francisco:
http://sanfran.goarch.org/
Altar Boy Ministry

Why should a boy participate as an Altar Boy in the Orthodox Church?

An Altar Boy is dedicated as a server to the Priest in the Sanctuary. You serve the Priest as the angels serve God.
You are as close to the holiest places and to the most sacred actions as any man can be.
As an Altar Boy you are enriching your own spiritual life and nourishing love for Christ and His Holy Church.
You are continuing a tradition of the early Altar boys who dedicated themselves as servers to the Priest and sacred work in the Sanctuary.

All boys ages 8-18 years of age are encouraged to become an Altar Boy and serve the Lord like the angels that are above. If interested, contact me for more information.

In Christ,
Nicholas Kretsedemas

Contact information: dkretsedemas@cox.net / 480-213-2061

Current Altar Boys: Thomas French, Christopher Bafaloukos, Nicholas Mounkes, Dylan Shuman, Gabriel, Christian & Ilarion Gonzales

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

Arizona Hellenic Foundation

The Arizona Hellenic Foundation has several scholarships available for eligible students. For more information and applications please visit our website: https://azhellenic.org/

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation

We are pleased to share with you that the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation will once again offer $250,000 in scholarship awards to 40 exceptional Greek American undergraduates.

The application is currently available on: https://www.panhellenicsf.org/apply and the deadline to apply is Sunday, January 31, 2021. The scholarships will be distributed at our Awards Ceremony and Gala, which will be held on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

Our scholarship awards are available to all undergraduate students of Hellenic descent. They are offered to recognize students of high scholastic achievement for their accomplishments, and to provide support to those in financial need.

$200,000 are awarded to 20 students based on financial need and academic achievement. $50,000 are awarded to 20 students based solely on academic achievement.

$20,000 are specifically awarded to music and arts majors.

The Foundation strives to promote education which, combined with the values of our Faith and Heritage, encourages and guides our scholarship recipients to become significant achievers and contribute meaningfully to society.
Services in Great Lent

There are liturgical services that are unique to the period of Great Lent that you will not find outside of this period of time. The content and solemnity of these services are intended to draw us closer to Christ by helping us move closer to living inside, rather than outside our heart. I hope you will take advantage of these unique services by attending as many as you can this year. For the sake of information, I’m giving you the names and brief descriptions of these services. Please check the Church calendar to find out when these services are offered.

Great Compline
The word *compline* in Greek is *apodeipnon*, which is a compound word, *apo* (after) and *deipnos* (supper). In the daily liturgical cycle, this is the last service of the day. In monasteries, it takes place after dinner, and before the monastics retire for the night. There are two compline services, Small and Great. Small Compline can be prayed on most nights of the year and takes about 15-20 minutes to read. Great Compline is done mostly during the season of Great Lent, and is longer in length than the Small Compline, containing more Psalms, and has parts that are chanted, as well as the Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian. The Great Compline service is also penitential in tone. In most Greek Orthodox Churches, Great Compline is typically held on Monday evenings during Great, though it can be offered on additional days during this same period of time when the *Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete* is included.

The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
The Great Canon is served during the first week of the Great Lent, within the context of the Great Compline service on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, as one portion of the Canon is sung after the Small Doxology is read. Also, on Wednesday of the fifth week of the Great Lent, the Life of St. Mary of Egypt is read together with the entire Great Canon. The Great Canon is a conversation in which St. Andrew is speaking to his soul. It is unique within the liturgical life of the church in its length and quantity of Scriptural reference. As the Canon progresses, the congregation encounters many biblical examples of sin and repentance, speaking of some individuals in a positive light, and about others in a negative one. One of the most notable aspects of the Canon is that it attempts to portray the Biblical images in a very personal way to every penitent. The Canon is written in such form that the faithful identify themselves with many people and events found in the Bible.

Pre-sanctified Liturgy
Since the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated in the Orthodox Church on Lenten weekdays, in order for the faithful to sustain their Lenten efforts by participation in Holy Communion, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served. The service is an ancient and we officially hear about it in the canons of the 7th century, which obviously indicates its development at a much earlier date. “*On all days of the holy fast of Lent, except on the Sabbath, the Lord’s Day, and the holy day of the Annunciation, the Liturgy of the Presanctified is to be served*” (Canon 52, Quinisext, 692). The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is a solemn Lenten Vespers with the administration of Holy Communion added to it. There is no consecration of the eucharistic gifts at the presanctified liturgy. The Gifts of the Body and Blood of Christ are prepared “presanctified” each Sunday prior to when the next Presanctified Liturgy is offered.

Continued on page 5
The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served on Wednesday and Friday evenings, although many churches in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese celebrate it only on Wednesday evening, since the service of the Salutations to the Mother of God is served on Friday evenings. The Presanctified Liturgy is one of the most favorite services of many Orthodox Christians due to its unique rubrics and hymns.

**Salutations to the Mother of God (The Akathist Hymn)**
The Akathist Hymn is a profound, devotional poem, which sings the praises of the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary. It is one of the most beloved services in the Orthodox Church. It was composed in the imperial city of Constantinople, “the city of the Virgin,” by St. Romanos the Melodist, who reposed in the year 556.

The Akathist hymn consists of praises directed to the Mother of God, beginning with the salutation of the Archangel Gabriel: “Rejoice.” As the hymn is chanted all of the events related to our Lord’s Incarnation pass before us for our contemplation. The Archangel Gabriel marvels at the Divine self-emptying and the renewal of creation which will occur when Christ comes to dwell in the Virgin’s womb. The unborn John the Baptist prophetically rejoices. The shepherds recognize Christ as a blameless Lamb and rejoice that in the Virgin “the things of earth join chorus with the heavens.” The pagan Magi following the light of the star, praise Her for revealing the light of the world.

The word “akathistos” means “not sitting,” i.e., standing; normally all participants stand while it is being prayed. The hymn is comprised of 24 stanzas, arranged in an acrostic following the Greek alphabet. The stanzas alternate between long and short. Each short stanza is written in prose and ends with the singing of “Alleluia.” Each longer stanza ends with the refrain: “Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded.”

The first part of the hymn is about the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the Angel. It describes Mary’s surprise at the news, her visit to her mother and Joseph’s doubts as to her innocence. The second part is about the birth of Christ, the worship of the Shepherds and Magi, the flight to Egypt and the visit to Saint Simeon in the Temple. In the third part the hymn directs our attention to the renewal of the world by Christ’s coming, and the amazement of the Angels and the wise men at the sight of the Incarnation of God’s Son. The fourth and the last part is once more a lyric and rhetorical appraisal of Virgin Mary, whom the poet adorns with the most beautiful of adjectives asking her to accept his poetical offering and to intercede for the salvation of human race from the earthly sin.

With love in Christ,
Fr. Timothy
CHURCH ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES AND RESERVATIONS

As a reminder, “Sign Up” is required for each Sunday liturgy. Our attendance capacity remains at 100 parishioners (includes children) for each service and, lately, we’ve experienced a large number of parishioners who attend services without prior “Sign Up”. For example, on a recent Sunday, there were 32 individuals registered but nearly 70 individuals walked in.

We ask that you take a few moments to “Sign Up” online; your name, phone number, and email is required for all individuals attending. However, families may indicate the number of immediate family members attending. Thank you so much for your cooperation and understanding.

Make a Reservation:

Parishioners wishing to attend the Sunday Divine Liturgy must make a reservation each week, this may be done through the link sent in our “Weekly Update” or through the link on our website. Once you have completed the online form, your reservation is confirmed.

Sign-ups for each service will close at 5 p.m. on the evening before the date of the service.

Parishioners without email access may contact the church office at (480) 899-3330.
Parish Facility and Property Use

As ministries are reconnecting and re-launching programs within our parishes, questions have arisen as to the accessibility and use of parish facilities and meeting spaces. Provided are guidelines to assist our parishes in this area:

For any in-person meetings, regardless of the situation, the parish must adhere to the following guidelines at all times for all events:

- Comply with all local health and meeting capacity guidelines for both indoor and outdoor meetings.
- Ensure proper social distancing, wearing of masks and hand sanitizing at all times.
- Ensure that all facilities and materials used during meetings or gatherings are properly cleansed both before and following each use.

The following guidelines are intended to provide event-specific guidelines:

- **Meetings** When approved, parish ministries may meet and utilize parish facilities for the conduct of their respective missions upon receiving appropriate approvals.
- **Approval to Meet** The final decision to open for an in-person meeting should be agreed upon by the respective Proistamenos, the parish’s Re-opening Team, its Health Officer, and the Parish Council. Ministries, or groups, may not conduct “in-person” gatherings or meetings until they have received the blessing of the Proistamenos on behalf of the above parties.
- **Modified Greek Festivals** These events, typically reduced to pre-ordered drive-through food festivals, are approved.
- **Sunday School** Special care must be taken when considering the re-opening of live instruction for Sunday Schools, both for the students, but also for their teachers, staff and respective family members.
- **Coffee Hour/Food** “To-go” pre-packaged single-serving food items and lidded beverages (not self-served from common container or machine) may be provided. Social distancing guidelines must be observed; seating is not recommended.

**Outside Rentals** Situational approval, but not generally recommended. Renting to outside organizations will require significant consideration, as the outside organization must be able to agree, and demonstrate, it will abide by all local health guidelines in the conduct of their event. In addition, the parish needs to consider potential perceptions or reactions within the local community when staging events or approving rentals.

Effective October 15, 2020
Mental Health Matters
A Conversation about Stress, Anxiety, and Mental Health

featuring our professional mental health speakers

George Papageorge
Rev. Fr. Tom Tsagalakis
Angela Colville
Rev. Fr. Timothy Pavlatos

Thursdays at 6:30PM
Jan 28 • Feb 11 • Feb 25 • Mar 11

The speaking series will be presented on Zoom
STUDIES IN ORTHODOXY | Growing in Christ...Book Study with Father Timothy

Tuesday Evenings, February 9- March 16, 2021
7:00-8:00 pm (MST)

Please order your book right away and read chapters 1 - 2 prior to our first meeting. A limited number of books are available in St. Katherine’s Bookstore.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84891009942?pwd=dkdmcXRVS0taTDE1TFRMUm42SnRKdz09

Meeting ID: 848 9100 9942
Passcode: 128032
One tap mobile
+12532158782,,84891009942#,,,,*128032# US (Tacoma)
+13462487799,,84891009942#,,,,*128032# US (Houston)

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us for Bible Study on Zoom Wednesday mornings from 10-11 a.m.

February 3, 10, 17, 24
March 3, 10
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88282451975?pwd=Rk04QWU3T0FBMlRXbUFbnnZzSXhXZz09

Meeting ID: 882 8245 1975
Passcode: 142565
One tap mobile
+13462487799,,88282451975#,,,,*142565# US (Houston)
+16699009128,,88282451975#,,,,*142565# US (San Jose)
Dear Friends & Sponsors:

For over 13-years we have come together to celebrate and support the ministry of Kids ‘n’ Cancer Camp Agape at the Arizona Philoptochos Agape Ball Fundraiser. This year, due to health and safety concerns, the January 2021 Agape Ball Fundraiser is cancelled.

Since the Agape Ball is one of the main sources of funding for Kids ‘n’ Cancer Camp Agape Arizona, we are holding an online silent auction fundraiser in its place. We are reaching out to our friends and local businesses to help us in this endeavor.

Besides bidding on auction items, there is also an opportunity for you to provide monetary donations/sponsorships. Any amount will help make a difference in the life of a child.

Kids ‘n’ Cancer Camp Agape offers an all-expense-paid summer camp experience for hundreds of children, from diverse backgrounds, suffering from cancer and other life-threatening conditions, and their families. It is a special place where families enjoy four fun-filled, carefree summer days, a respite from the sights and sounds of doctors, laboratories, and hospitals where they spend so much of their time.

*Kids ‘n’ Cancer is a non-profit community outreach program of The SFO Ladies Philoptochos Society, Tax ID #364585276*
Love to sing? Join parishioners from throughout the country in a virtual choir recording of “Christ Is Risen!” an exciting new choral arrangement by Fr. Michael Pallad. Sponsored by Orthodox Christian Choral Fellowship, the virtual choir format eliminates any potential risk of viral spread by singing and recording from the comfort of home. Recording instructions, sing-along Guide Tracks and links to online rehearsals are provided upon registration. The Virtual Choir recording of “Christ Is Risen!” will be posted on social media on Easter Sunday/Pascha, May 2, 2021. Registration begins Monday, February 15 at: www.occfellowship.org!

Information on ordering koliva for memorials:

The ladies of St. Irene Philoptochos provide the service of preparing koliva for the Memorial Services of our parishioner’s loved ones.
Parishioners may request koliva by calling the church office.
Due to the new guidelines, our presentation of the koliva has changed. Individual, sealed packages of koliva will be presented on a tray or in a basket for the service.
Once Church Services have ended, the koliva will be moved to the table next to the north-side door for parishioners to pick up a packet as they exit the church.

Please help us provide a special holiday dinner for families in our community who are in need of a helping hand.
To make a donation please see Kathy Connell, Josephine Avaneas, or Marjie.
All donations are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU!
Blessed Lent! We pray your lenten journey brings you closer to our Savior!

We are going to continue our hybrid Sunday School model through May 2021. Look out for our Prayer Package sent in our weekly church email that provides links to Orthodox resources for all ages. This is our digital Sunday School lesson preparing families for the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. Please share this with your family if you are not able to attend in-person services.

In-Person Sunday School Classes!
PreK - 2nd grade, please meet us after Holy Communion in the Community Center for 20 minutes. Teachers: Nicolette Wright and Lisa Bafaloukos

3rd - 6th grade, please meet us after Holy Communion at the playground steps for 20 minutes. Teacher: Kathy Waldo

Pastoral Guided Lessons for Teens!
7th-12th grade, please meet us in the front pews following liturgy for 15 minutes. Teacher: Fr. Timothy Pavlatos

Don’t forget! YOU MUST BE REGISTERED!

Love,

Marina, Karen, Antigoni and Nicolette
# Our Journey to Pascha! 2021

**Sundays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Themes / Gospel Reading</th>
<th>How to Participate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY 21st</td>
<td><strong>Triodion Weeks</strong></td>
<td>Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Publican and the Pharisee</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY 28th</td>
<td><strong>The Prodigal Son Returns!</strong></td>
<td>Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, “Today I will be humble.” Use up/freez meals this week.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 7th</td>
<td><strong>The Last Judgement</strong></td>
<td>Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cheesefare</strong></td>
<td><strong>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</strong></td>
<td>Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 14th</td>
<td>Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1st Sunday of Lent</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday of Orthodoxy</strong></td>
<td>Bring an icon to church for a procession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH 21st</td>
<td>Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gospel: John 1:43-51</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2nd Sunday of Lent</strong></td>
<td>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</td>
<td>Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today. Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 28th</td>
<td>Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gospel: Mark 2:1-12</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3rd Sunday of Lent</strong></td>
<td>Veneration of the Holy Cross</td>
<td>Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>APRIL 4th</td>
<td>Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4th Sunday of Lent</strong></td>
<td>ST John of the ladder</td>
<td>Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!</td>
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<tr>
<td>APRIL 11th</td>
<td>Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gospel: Mark 9:17-31</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5th Sunday of Lent</strong></td>
<td>ST Mary of Egypt</td>
<td>Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>APRIL 18th</td>
<td>Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gospel: Mark 10:32-45</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FLOWERY [PALM] SUNDAY!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem</strong></td>
<td>Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!</td>
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<tr>
<td>APRIL 25th</td>
<td>Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gospel: John 12:1-18</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jesus Dies on the Cross</strong></td>
<td>Refrain from TV, Internet &amp; Phones to honor Christ’s Death.</td>
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<td>APRIL 30th</td>
<td>Epistle: Acts 1:1-8</td>
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<td>Gospel: John 1:1-17</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 2nd</strong></td>
<td><strong>HOLY PASCHA! (Christ is Risen!)</strong></td>
<td>Greet everyone with “CHRIST IS RISEN!” &amp; say it before good morning and goodnight!</td>
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<td>NO FASTING!</td>
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*Note: Hebrews 6:13-20 reads: “Christ is risen!"*
**St. Katherine Sunday School**  
**2020-2021**

Weekly distribution of Sunday School lessons will be provided electronically from October - December 2020.

In-person begins Jan. 2021 (schedule is subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 3</th>
<th>Holiday Break</th>
<th>March 14</th>
<th>Sunday school</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Sunday school</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 10</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>March 21</th>
<th>Sunday of Orthodoxy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bring Icons to church!</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 17</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>March 28</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 24</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>April 4</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 31</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>April 11</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 7</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>April 18</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 14</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>April 28</th>
<th>Palm Sunday No Sunday School</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 21</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>May 2</th>
<th>Pascha No Sunday School</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 28</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>May 9</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 7</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>May 16</th>
<th>End of Year Ceremony!</th>
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School starts right after communion at 10:45. All classes will end at 11:45.
St. Katherine Sunday School
COVID Measures:

- We are opening “Phase 1” on November 1st, which includes Pre-K - 2nd grades only.
- Students will proceed directly to the Community Center following Holy Communion.
- Class will be from approximately 11:00 - 11:20.
- Masks are required for all students and teachers; extra masks will be on hand should any student forget to bring one.
- Class areas are set up to allow for physical distancing.
- Doors will remain open during class.
- Hand sanitizer will be used upon entry and exit of the classroom.
- Snacks and water will **not** be provided.

To our parents, please make a family commitment to regular participation and attendance in this crucial ministry. Discuss with your children the importance of attending the Divine Liturgy in a timely, prepared, and proper way, and of them investing their lives in Christ and His Church. Know that our teachers and volunteer staff recognize as most treasured and precious the responsibility of instructing Christian youth, and strive to maintain the goals of meeting each of their needs in prayer, faith, and love!
Daughters of Penelope
Aegina Chapter #340 News
March 2021 Spirit

Our Chapter had a Baby Shower over Zoom for Veteran Moms and Babies last month! We took turns showing off all our gifts for them. There were so many excited exclamations from everyone all at once that it was difficult to catch good photos of everything! It was so much fun! We plan to take all the items to them the middle of this month.

We are continuing to collect gently used books for the Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley. They send care packages to military members and veterans every month. So far, we have collected over 91 books for them!

We would like to invite the Maids of Athena members who are 18 years old & up that are without a viable Maids chapter to join us! See contact information below.

Meetings are usually the third Monday of the month. Sometimes via Zoom; sometimes in person.

Interested in joining the DOP? Contact Theresa Fardelos (602)290-6158 or Carol Stathopoulos (480) 988-3277.
Dear Faithful Stewards of St. Katherine,

There are many things I could say about Stewardship, but I will keep it simple.

We give to that which we feel is meaningful, important and a worthwhile investment. We will gladly be a part of something we believe in.

If we believe that Jesus Christ sacrificed His life for us, resurrected from the dead to defeat death in order that we may enjoy eternal life in His Kingdom, then we will support the Church’s mission and ministries by giving of the time, talent, and treasure that we have received from God. We will do this out of the immense gratitude we have for all that God has blessed us with. In Greek we call this “Philotimo,” grateful indebtedness. In other words, we cannot NOT give back knowing all that we have received.

For several years St. Katherine’s has relied on the Greek Festival in order to survive. The time has come, however, where we can no longer depend on the Festival. I have served two parishes which were supported 100% through the stewardship of the faithful, and these parishes were not full of wealthy people. With God’s help, and if each one of us makes the church our priority, and we pool our resources of time, talent, and treasure, we will be able to support the mission and ministries of the church without needing to rely on a festival.

Our time on this earth is limited and there is much to do. There is no time to waver or hold back. The mission and the ministries of the Church will either be our purpose in life, or they won’t. Our Lord is asking us to be His hands, feet, and mouthpiece to continue what He started. The question is, will we all take this to heart and answer the call.

As you fill out this pledge card for 2021, please keep these things in mind. My prayer is that all of you will choose to be a part of the mission of the Church. Even though the sacrifices we make will always pale in comparison to what our Lord sacrificed for us, they are nevertheless vital, and we all play a part.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Timothy Pavlatos
What is the Agape Family Group?  It is a branch of our St. Irene Philoptochos that focuses on bringing our family community together for fellowship and philanthropy events. These events are typically designed for our children to participate.

Do I need to be a member of the St. Irene Philoptochos?  Nope! Although, we encourage all the women in our parish to join our group, we enjoy giving back to our community together.

What if I want to be part of the St. Irene Philoptochos, but I just can’t commit?  As a women’s group we know running a family requires a lot of time. That’s why we accept whatever you’re able to give. No matter how much time that is, we welcome you to be a member! All members have a voice and collectively we come up with new strategies to be the most effective in what we do. Also, we have designed Zoom meeting access for those who are unable to meet in person.

How often does Agape meet?  Our goal is to organize monthly events from Sept - May, typically on Saturdays and considering weather and holidays.

Where can I get updates?  You can reach out to Nicolette Wright directly at nicolette.wright79@gmail.com and/or REGISTER HERE FOR AGAPE NEWS AND UPDATES!
Place your business ad here!
Contact the Church Office
(480) 899-3330

Prices will begin the first month your add will run and will run for 11 issues!

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To subscribe to our “Weekly Update” please email the office at: office@st-katherine.org

Click here to get the January Calendar online:
St. Katherine Community Center

Facility Amenities
- Seating capacity for 350 plus dance floor, stage, and bar
- Full kitchen with walk-in refrigerator
- Plenty of parking
- Tables and chairs available
- Auditorium seating for 400 people
- Reception packages available

Facility Uses
- Wedding Receptions
- Baptism Receptions
- Quinceniera Receptions
- Wedding & Baby Showers
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Banquets
- Business Meetings & Conferences
- Inside Basketball Court

Call us today to book your Special Event!

For contact information regarding availability and costs, please call the Church Office at: (480) 899-3330