

EPISTLE AND GOSPEL READINGS

EPISTLE READING:

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Daniel 3.26,27

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

GOSPEL READING:

The Gospel According to Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and

compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

SAINTS AND FEASTS:

On this day we commemorate:

- **Sunday of Luke**
- **Daniel the Prophet & Ananias, Azarias, & Misail, the Three Holy Youths**
- **Dionysius of Zakynthos**

Readings:

Daniel the Prophet & Ananias, Azarias, & Misail, the Three Holy Youths

The Prophet Daniel and the Three Children were all descended from the royal tribe of Judah. In the year 599 before Christ, in the reign of Joachim, who was also called Jechonias (I Chron. 3:16, and II Chron. 36:8), while yet children, these righteous ones were led away as captives into Babylon together with the other Jews by Nabuchodonosor. He singled them out from among the other captives to serve him, and renamed them thus: Daniel was named Baltazar; Ananias, Sedrach; Misail, Misach; and Azarias, Abednago. They were reared in the royal court, and taught the wisdom of the Chaldeans; and after the passage of three years, they surpassed all the Chaldean sages (Dan. 1). Thereafter, Daniel, being still a lad, interpreted that mysterious image seen by Nabuchodonosor in a dream, an image that was composed of different metals, but was shattered and ground to dust by a certain stone which had been hewn out of a mountain without the hand of man. This vision clearly portrayed through the mountain the height of the Virgin's holiness and the power of the Holy Spirit which overshadowed her. Through the image of the Stone, Christ was portrayed, Who was seedlessly born of her, and Who by His coming as the Godman would shatter and destroy all the kingdoms of the world, which were portrayed through the image; and He would raise them that believe in Him into His Heavenly Kingdom, which is eternal and everlasting (ibid. 2:31-45). Thereupon, he signified in prophecy the time of

His appearance in the Jordan, the beginning of His preaching of the Gospel, the time of His saving Passion, and the cessation of the worship according to the Mosaic Law, (ibid. 9:14-27). He portrayed most excellently the majestic and dread image of His second coming, presenting by means of words, as with living colours, the fiery throne which shall be set, the Eternal Judge Who shall sit thereon, the river of fire that shall flow forth before Him, the calling to account before the impartial judgment seat, the opened books of each ones deeds, the thousands upon thousands of them that minister to Him, and the ten thousands of them that stand in His presence (ibid. 7: 9-10). Daniel (whose name means "God is judge") was called "man of desires" by the Angels that appeared (ibid. 9:23), because he courageously disdained every desire of the body, even the very bread that is necessary for nourishment. Furthermore, he received this name because, in his longing for the freedom of those of his tribe, and his desire to know their future condition, he ceased not supplicating God, fasting and bending the knee three times a day. Because of this prayer he was cast into the den of lions, after he had been accused by his enemies as a transgressor of the decree issued through the proclamation of the king that no one should worship or ask for anything from God or from men for thirty days, but only from the king. But having stopped the mouths of the lions by divine might, and appearing among them as though he were a shepherd of sheep, Daniel showed the impious the might of godliness (ibid. 6:1-23).

As for the Three Children, Ananias ("Yah is gracious"), Misail ("Who is what God is?"), and Azarias ("Yah is keeper"), since they refused to offer adoration to Nabuchodonosor's image, they were cast into the furnace of fire. They were preserved unharmed amidst the flames - even their hair was untouched - by the descent of the Angel of the Lord, that is, the Son of God. Walking about in the furnace, as though in the midst of dew, they sang the universal hymn of praise to God, which is found in the Seventh and Eighth Odes of the Holy Psalter. And coming forth therefrom, without even the smell of the fire on their clothes (Dan. 3), they prefigured in themselves the Virgin's incorrupt giving of birth; for she, on receiving the Fire of the

Godhead within her womb, was not burned, but remained virgin, even as she was before giving birth.

Therefore the Church celebrates the Three Children and Daniel on this day, on the Sunday of the Forefathers, and on the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, since they prefigured and proclaimed His Incarnation. Furthermore, they were of the tribe of Judah, wherefrom, Christ sprang forth according to the flesh. The holy Three Children completed their lives full of days; as for the Prophet Daniel, he lived until the reign of Cyrus, King of Persia, whom he also petitioned that his nation be allowed to return to Jerusalem and that the Temple be raised up again, and his request was granted. He reposed in Peace, having lived about eighty-eight years. His prophetic book, which is divided into twelve chapters, is ranked fourth among the greater Prophets.

Dionysius of Zakynthos

The holy hierarch, Saint Dionysius, who was born and reared on Zakynthos, was the son of pious and wealthy parents, Mocius and Paulina by name. In his youth he entered the ancient monastery of the Strophada Islands, which lie south of Zakynthos, and there he donned the monastic habit. Later, he was appointed Archbishop of Aegina, and adorned its throne for a considerable time. Thereafter he returned to his homeland. One incident in his life especially reveals to what virtue he attained. A man came to him in desperation, witnessing that he had committed a murder, and was being pursued by the slain man's family. He asked Saint Dionysius to give him refuge. The Saint agreed to this, upon learning that it was his own brother whom the man had slain, he said nothing, but concealing the agony of his grief, hid him. When the Saint's kinsmen arrived at the monastery, he told them that the Murderer had gone by such and such a way. When they had departed, he admonished the man concerning the gravity of his sin, instructed him in repentance, and sent him off in peace having forgiven him his brother's murder. According to local tradition, this man later returned and became a monk at this same monastery. Saint Dionysius reposed in peace in 1621, leaving behind his sacred and incorrupt relics as a treasure for his fellow citizens.

“Sunday of the Holy Forefathers”

Sunday, December 17th, 2017

8:30am - Orthros

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

10:40am-Sunday School

Tuesday, December 21st – St. Juliana

9:30am- Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 23rd

3:00-5:00pm- Confession

5:00pm-Vespers

Parish Council Assignment Team #2-John,
Josephine, Fran, Vange

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Saturday, December 23rd

5:00pm- Vespers

Sunday, December 24th- Eve of the Nativity

8:30am-Orthros

9:30am-Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

5:00pm- Great Vespers & Artoklasia

**Monday, December 25th – HOLY
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

8:30AM-Orthros

9:30am-Divine Liturgy

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Fellowship Hour this morning is being hosted
by the Parish Council.

BIBLE STUDY AND YAL

Bible Study will be on recess until Tuesday,
January 9th.

YOUTH CHOIR

The Church Youth Choir began in September.
If you are interested and would like more
information please contact:
Alexandra.af@cox.net

ST. IRENE PHILOPTOCHOS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The ladies of the St. Irene Philoptochos are
seeking sponsors to help with funding of a
pre-lenten retreat. If you would like to help
sponsor this event please contact Linda
Blazev (480) 766-9487. A donation in the
form of frequent flier miles would also be
appreciated. More details to follow. Thank
you for your support!

VOLUNTEERS TO SPONSOR

FELLOWSHIP HOUR Would you like to
sponsor a fellowship hour? Please contact the
church office at 480 899-3330.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Arizona Hellenic Foundation has several
scholarships available for qualified students.
For applications and eligibility requirements
please visit our website: azhellenic.org
Applications must be mailed by April 1, 2018.

GREEK SCHOOL

From Sept. 2017- May 2018, St. Katherine
Church offers a series of Greek Language
classes for children ages 4.5 - 5 (by
September 1st, 2017), on Fridays, from 6 to
7pm. Tuition is \$38 per month. Classes began
on September 15th. More information is
available at the Church narthex.

PLEASE NOTE...

It costs \$100 dollars per week per family to
operate Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church.
Please prayerfully consider your stewardship. We
certainly appreciate all those who give of their
time, talent & tithings. Thank you for your love
and commitment to Saint Katherine!

Download & Print the Weekly Bulletin & Spirit at:

www.st-katherine.org/bulletin.htm

www.st-katherine.org/spirit.htm

St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church Weekly Bulletin December 17, 2017 Welcome!



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Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Lunch: 12:00 – 1:00p.m.

Proistamemos:

Rev. Fr. Philip S. Armstrong

Email: skcpriest@yahoo.com

Assisting Priest:

Fr. Demetrios Kavouras

APOLYTIKION AND KONTAKION HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Tone

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for
the Lord has shown the mighty power of His are.
He has trampled down death by death, becoming
the first-born of the dead. He has delivered us from
the depths of hell and has granted to all the world
His great mercy.

Apolytikion for the Holy Forefathers

By faith You justified the Forefathers, having
through them betrothed to yourself the Church that
came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in
glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without
seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At
their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Apolytikion of St. Katherine

Let us sing the praise of the Bride of Christ
renown, the Patroness of Sinai, Katherine Divine.
Our assistance and protection, for she has
brilliantly subdued, the impious refine, by the
power of the Spirit. She was crowned as a martyr
of the Lord, and for all, she entreats the great
mercy.

Τὴν πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ ὑμνήσωμεν,
Αἰκατερίναν τὴν θεῖαν καὶ πολιοῦχον Σινᾶ, τὴν
βοήθειαν ἡμῶν καὶ ἀντίληψιν, ὅτι ἐφίμωσε
λαμπρῶς, τοὺς κομψοὺς τῶν ἀσεβῶν, τοῦ
Πνεύματος τῆ μαχαίρα, καὶ νῦν ὡς Μάρτυς
στεφθεῖσα, αἰτεῖται πᾶσι τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Kontakion

On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to
give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable
manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on
hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the
shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a
newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

Welcome to all our visitors worshipping with us today!

**We're glad you're here! Please join us at our Fellowship Hour immediately following the Divine
Liturgy to meet fellow parishioners and learn more about the community.**