

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 Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

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 armies 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 tempted, 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:

The Gospel According to Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of

Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

SAINTS AND FEASTS:

On this day we commemorate:

- **Sunday before Nativity**
- **Eve of the Nativity of Christ**
- **Eugenia the Righteous Nun-martyr of Rome**

Eugenia the Righteous Non-martyr of Rome

This Martyr was the daughter of most distinguished and noble parents named Philip and Claudia. Philip, a Prefect of Rome, moved to Alexandria with his family. In Alexandria, Eugenia had the occasion to learn the Christian Faith, in particular when she encountered the Epistles of Saint Paul, the reading of which filled her with compunction and showed her clearly the vanity of the world. Secretly taking two of her servants, Protas and Hyacinth, she departed from Alexandria by night. Disguised as a man, she called herself Eugene while pretending to be a eunuch, and departed with her servants and took up the monastic life in a monastery of men. Her parents mourned for her, but could not find her. After Saint Eugenia had laboured for some time in the monastic life, a certain woman named Melanthia, thinking Eugenia to be a monk, conceived lust and constrained Eugenia to comply with her desire; when Eugenia refused, Melanthia slandered Eugenia to the Prefect as having done insult to her honour. Eugenia was brought before the Prefect, her own father Philip, and revealed to him both that she was innocent of the accusations, and that she was his own daughter. Through this, Philip became a Christian; he was afterwards beheaded at Alexandria. Eugenia was taken back to Rome with Protas and Hyacinth. All three of them ended their life in martyrdom in the years of Commodus, who reigned from 180 to 192.

“Sunday before the Nativity”

Sunday, December 24th, 2017

8:30am - Orthros

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

5:00pm- Great Vespers & Artoklasia

Monday, December 25th – HOLY

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

8:30AM-Orthros

9:30am-Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

**Wednesday, December 27th – St. Stephan
the Protomartyr**

9:30am-Divine Liturgy

Parish Council Assignment Team #3-
Demetrios, Eric, Tom, Marina

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

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

CHURCH OFFICE TO BE CLOSED

The Church office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25th -26th in observance of the Christmas holiday.

BIBLE STUDY AND YAL

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

INQUIRER'S CLASS

Class will begin on Tuesday, January 2nd and will run for 10 weeks.

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 Tuesdays, from 6 to 7pm. Tuition is \$38 per month. Classes began on September 15th. More information is available at the Church narthex.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 7th- The Parish Council will be sponsoring a Fellowship Hour Luncheon of Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries and Drink. \$10.00 per person, Children 8 and Under Free. Proceeds will be applied toward the costs of the preparation & improvements to the 2828 N Dobson Building which is to be used for our Saint Katherine Sunday School, our Groups & Organizations.

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 24, 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.

Proistamenos:

Rev. Fr. Philip S. Armstrong

Email: skcpriest@yahoo.com

Assisting Priest:

Fr. Demetrios Kavouras

APOLYTIKION AND KONTAKION HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

Apolytikion for the Prefeast of the Nativity

As she carried in her womb what she conceived without seed, Mary went to Bethlehem with elder Joseph to enroll, for they were of the house and lineage of David. The time arrived for her to give birth to her Child; but then there was no place in the inn for them. Therefore the grotto served as a luxurious royal palace for the Queen. And Christ the Lord is born, to raise the image which was formerly fallen.

Apolytikion for the Holy Fathers

Magnificent are Faith's accomplishments! The three holy Youths exultingly stood in the fountain of fire as if beside the still waters of rest. And Daniel the Prophet was shown to be a shepherd of lions. At their entreaty, O Christ 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 νόμφην 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.