

EPISTLE AND GOSPEL READINGS

EPISTLE READING:

Prokeimenon. Mode 1.

Psalm 32.22,1

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING:

The Gospel According to Luke 18:10-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

SAINTS AND FEASTS:

- **Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today**
- **Ephraim the Syrian**
- **Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Ninevah**
- **James the Righteous**

Readings:

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law.

Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness.

Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights.

All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday.

Ephraim the Syrian

Saint Ephraim was born in Nisibis of Mesopotamia some time about the year 306, and in his youth was the disciple of Saint James, Bishop of Nisibis, one of the 318 Fathers at the First Ecumenical Council. Ephraim lived in Nisibis, practicing a severe ascetical life and increasing in holiness, until 363, the year in which Julian the Apostate was slain in his war against the Persians, and his successor Jovian surrendered Nisibis to them. Ephraim then made his dwelling in Edessa, where he found many heresies to do battle with. He waged an especial war against Bardaisan; this gnostic had written many hymns propagating his errors, which by their sweet melodies became popular and enticed souls away from the truth. Saint Ephraim, having received from God a singular gift of eloquence, turned Bardaisan's own weapon against him, and wrote a multitude of hymns to be chanted by choirs of women, which set forth the true doctrines, refuted heretical error, and praised the contests of the Martyrs.

Of the multitude of sermons, commentaries, and hymns that Saint Ephraim wrote, many were translated into Greek in his own lifetime. Sozomen says that Ephraim "Surpassed the most approved writers of Greece," observing that the Greek writings, when translated into other tongues, lose most of their original beauty, but Ephraim's works "are no less admired when read in Greek than when read in Syriac" (Eccl. Hist., Book 111, 16). Saint Ephraim was ordained deacon, some say by Saint Basil the Great, whom Sozomen said "was a great admirer of Ephraim, and was astonished at his erudition." Saint Ephraim was the first to make the poetic expression of hymnody and song a vehicle of Orthodox theological teachings, constituting it an integral part of the Church's worship; he may rightly be called the first and greatest hymnographer of the Church, who set the pattern for these who followed him, especially Saint Romanos the Melodist. Because of this he is called the "Harp of the Holy Spirit." Jerome says that his writings were read in some churches after the reading of the Scriptures, and adds that once he read a Greek translation of one of Ephraim's works,

"and recognized, even in translation, the incisive power of his lofty genius" (De vir. ill., ch. CXV). Shortly before the end of his life, a famine broke out in Edessa, and Saint Ephraim left his cell to rebuke the rich for not sharing their goods with the poor. The rich answered that they knew no one to whom they could entrust their goods. Ephraim asked them, "What do you think of me?" When they confessed their reverence for him, he offered to distribute their alms, to which they agreed. He himself cared with his own hands for many of the sick from the famine, and so crowned his life with mercy and love for neighbor. Saint Ephraim reposed in peace, according to some in the year 373, according to others, 379.

Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Ninevah

The great luminary of the life of stillness, Saint Isaac, was born in the early seventh century in Eastern Arabia, the present-day Qatar on the Persian Gulf. He became a monk at a young age, and at some time left Arabia to dwell with monks in Persia. He was consecrated Bishop of Nineveh (and is therefore sometimes called "Saint Isaac of Nineveh"), but after five months received permission to return to solitude; he spent many years far south of Nineveh in the mountainous regions of Beit Huzaye, and lastly at the Monastery of Rabban Shabur. He wrote his renowned and God-inspired Ascetical Homilies toward the end of his long life of monastic struggle, about the end of the seventh century. The fame of his Homilies grew quickly, and about one hundred years after their composition they were translated from Syriac into Greek by two monks of the Monastery of Mar Sabbas in Palestine, from which they spread throughout the monasteries of the Roman Empire and became a guide to the hesychasts of all generations thereafter.



“Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee”

Sunday, January 28, 2018

8:30am - Orthros

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

10:40am-Sunday School

Friday, February 2nd

Presentation of Our Lord

8:30am-Orthros

9:30am-Divine Liturgy

Saturday, February 3rd

3:00-5:00pm- Confession

5:00pm- Vespers

Parish Council Assignment Team #2- Vange,
Eric, Fran, Vasiliki

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

The fellowship hour this morning is being hosted by the Parish Council.

FR. PHIL TO ATTEND METROPOLIS CLERGY-LAITY

Fr. Phil will be out of the office Monday through Wednesday this week attending the Metropolis of San Francisco Clergy-Laity Assembly at St. Nicholas Ranch outside of Fresno, California.

BIBLE STUDY AND YAL

No Bible Study this week.

INQUIRER'S CLASS

No inquirer's Class this week.

YOUTH CHOIR

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

Alexandra.af@cox.net

LENTEN RETREAT

February 17th- St. Irene Philoptochos is hosting a free Lenten Retreat “Forgiveness: Transforming Wounds into Wisdom” with guest speaker Cynthia Kostas. See flier and registration form in the Narthex for details or call the church office.

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 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). Classes began on September 15th. More information is available at the Church narthex.

WELCOME BACK FDF DANCERS!

Congratulations on a great job!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 4th- Go Red Sunday Join us in the fight against heart disease and stroke. Wear red to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease and save lives.

February 11th- St. Irene Philoptochos “Communi-Tea” - see enclosed flier for details.

February 17th – Lenten Retreat- see flier in Narthex for details.

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 January 28, 2018 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 First Tone

Although your tomb was sealed with a stone (by the Jews), O Savior, and Your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, You rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise you: glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your saving wisdom (dispensation), O only lover of mankind.

Apolytikion for February 2nd

Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness has risen from you and He illumined those in darkness. And you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart, receiving in your embraces the One who liberates our souls and bestows on us the Resurrection.

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 κομποὺς τῶν ἀσεβῶν, τοῦ Πνεύματος τῆ
μαχαίρα, καὶ νῦν ὡς Μάρτυρ στεφθεῖσα, αἰτεῖται πᾶσι
τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Kontakion for February 2nd

You sanctified the virginal womb by
Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of
Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now
You came and saved us. Now, give peace to
our Nation in time of war, and empower our
Leaders, so loved by You, the only one who
loves humanity.

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.