

Remember in Your Prayers

- The newly-reposed Mitred Archpriest, Michael Margitich
- The newly-reposed Vera Belyaev, grandmother of Alexei Belyaev
- Those families evacuated or in peril due to the fires: the Cwiklinsky's, Belyaev's, Avdonin's, Sarandinaki's, and & Elizaveta.

Namedays, Birthdays, and Anniversaries

This week, Angelina celebrated her birthday and Nicholas (Wang) celebrated his nameday. *May God grant them many years!*

Parish Building Fund & Pledge Forms

With roughly \$30K to go for our final month, parishioners are urged to finalize their contributions for our Matching Grant. A permanent building is not an option for our near future, it's a necessity: our faithfulness now pays dividends later.

This is our last weekend for Pledge Forms: please turn them in to Jayson Treirweiler or Helen Levenetz.

St. Euphrosynos Ministry - Agape Meal Schedule

Dec 10th – Khan Talley's Team

Dec 17th – Irina Kotek's Team

Altar Server Schedule

This week – Vespers: Logan, Toby; Divine Liturgy: James, Evan, Stavros

Next week – Vespers: Thomas, Soren; Divine Liturgy: Miles, Luke, Daniel

+Weekly Services at St. Katherine Orthodox Church+

Wednesday – 4:30pm – St Herman celebrations (Dec 13)

Saturday – 5:00pm – *Great Vespers*

Sunday – 9:10 am – *Hours*; 9:30 am – *Divine Liturgy*

+++Parish Contact Information+++

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Saint Katherine of Alexandria Orthodox Church

Weekly Bulletin - Sunday, December 10th, 2017

27th Sunday after Pentecost; Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugephus, of Alexandria

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17 **Gospel:** Luke 17:12-19

Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out:// “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion for the Martyrs - Tone 8

Having slain the fiery ragings and fierce movements of the passions
through their ascetic labors,
the Martyrs of Christ, Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugephus,
received grace to dispel the afflictions of the infirm and to work wonders
both while alive and after death.
It is a truly great wonder that naked bones pour forth healing.//
Glory to our only God and Creator!

Kontakion of the Resurrection - Tone 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with
Thee.// and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion to Saint Katherine - Tone 2

Let all of us who love to honor the martyrs, form a great choir in praise of the most wise Katherine, for she preached Christ and trampled the serpent, despising the knowledge of the orators!

Welcome to all our guests!

We are glad you are able to be with us this day. Guests are invited to join us for coffee and a lunch meal after the Divine Liturgy.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle – Ephesians 6:10-17

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Gospel – Luke 17:12-19

¹² And as he entered into a certain village there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: ¹³ And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. ¹⁴ And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. ¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶ And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? ¹⁸ There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. ¹⁹ And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Commentary on the Gospel

“We heard in the reading from the Epistle how we are to give thanksgiving to God for having brought us into this marvelous world. All that we see around us was created for man – both the angelic world, and the visible world, and the invisible world – that he might live, giving thanks to God, and that his entire life might become the same sort of thanksgiving, the same sort of divine service, as the divine service at which we are now present. This is why it is called the Eucharist, which translated from the Greek means “Thanksgiving.” Our life, through the liturgical services, communion with God, and partaking of Christ’s Holy Mysteries, thereby becomes a giving of oneself to God and of thanksgiving to Him.

This is how the [healed] Samaritan acted: he brought to God the gift of healing that the Lord had given him, and this was true thanksgiving. When we thank God for something, we must remember very well that the good gift that the Lord has given us becomes good for us when we can give it back to Him in order to use it for service. True thanksgiving is when we, having received a good gift, give thanks, serving Him ceaselessly with this very gift, giving this gift back to Him. By this means all our spiritual gifts are multiplied in us; everything is healed in us that is leprous, distorted, and frozen, that does not belong to the spiritual, because only the Lord can heal us.

We need to understand very well the cost of our prayers, the cost of God’s help, of His good gifts. We receive along with them an enormous responsibility, for every gift of God to man is his judgment. [...] Unfortunately, we often do not understand this. We think that our prayers to God, our desire to receive something essential for life from God, are our own doing and belong to us. We can take that which we asked for from God and say: “How nice that I now have this. I had been leprous and bad, and now I am something else. How nice that I have this, how pleasant it is to live with this.” Unfortunately we live mindlessly like this, but then it turns out that we no longer possess something that we had enjoyed. There was a moment at which we received enlightenment from Christ, but then we parted ways with this light, and it suddenly appears that we have not had it for a long time, that we long ago lost it and have become worse than we were before we met Christ.

We ask ourselves why. For the same reason: because we did not return to give back the extraordinary gifts that the Lord had given us – forgiveness of our sins and the healing of our life. We receive them often without understanding the great mercy that the Lord is showing us; we do not return to thank Him, to serve Him with this gift, but rather try to live with them independently, making use of these gifts for our own lives. And it turns out that we lose them.

This Gospel reading should truly teach us what thankfulness to God is, what service to God is, what our participation in the Eucharist is, because precisely here is where that deep thankfulness is expressed, when we give ourselves to Him, thereby taking Him into ourselves and living with Him. Then our life will be like that of the angels, who live exclusively in thanksgiving to God, exclusively in glorification, and cannot live in any other way, since Divine beauty is so imprinted upon the spiritual world that there could be no other angelic life. Therefore the man who has imprinted this glory of God onto himself can live in no other way than to offer constant thanksgiving to God, that is, constantly giving himself to God to the end.”

+Archpriest Alexei Uminsky, translated from Russian+

+PARISH LIFE+

Weekly Services Coming Up

Dec 13: 4:30pm – Advent crafts & fellowship; 5:30pm – Potluck dinner; 6:15pm Akathist to St Herman; 7:00pm St. Lucy Buns!

Dec 17: 3:00pm – Holy Baptism (Gilbert)