

### **Remember in Your Prayers**

- The newly-reposed Mitred Archpriest, Michael Margitich
- The newly-reposed Vera Belyaev, grandmother of Alexei Belyaev
- The newly-reposed Roger, relative of Ryan Alex
- For the renewed health of Bobby and Lindsay Earle

### **Namedays, Birthdays, and Anniversaries**

This week, Terri and Nadia celebrated their birthdays, and Lucy and Daniel celebrated their Names Days. *May God grant them many years!*

### **Parish Building Fund & Pledge Forms**

We have only \$19,000 to entirely succeed in our efforts this year – and then we obtain twice that amount through the match. For those on the fence, we especially wish to achieve 100% participation, at whatever level.

**Pledge Forms past due:** please turn them in to Jayson Trierweiler or Helen Levenetz. *“For the Master is gracious and receives the last even as the first” (St John Chrysostom, Paschal Homily).*

### **St. Euphrosynos Ministry - Agape Meal Schedule**

**Dec 10th** – Irina Kotek’s Team

**Dec 17th** – Slava Bagat’s Team

### **Altar Server Schedule**

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

### **+Weekly Services at St. Katherine Orthodox Church+**

Wednesday 6:15 pm – Akathist/Paraklesis

Saturday – 5:00pm – Great Vespers

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

### **+++Parish Contact Information+++**

**Clergy:** Rev. Dr. Andrew Cuneo, Rector

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## **Saint Katherine of Alexandria Orthodox Church**

**Weekly Bulletin - Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

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**28th Sunday after Pentecost;** Sunday of the Forefathers

Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths

**Epistle:** Colossians 3:4-11 **Gospel:** Luke 14:16-24

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### **Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 3**

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world//  
great mercy.

### **Troparion for the Forefathers - Tone 2**

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers,  
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.

These saints exult in glory,

for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:

she who bore Thee without seed.//

So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

### **Kontakion of the Forefathers - Tone 6**

Ye did not worship the graven image,

O thrice-blessed ones,

but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,

ye were glorified in a trial by fire.

From the midst of unbearable flames ye called on God, crying:

“Hasten, O compassionate One!

Speedily come to our aid.//

for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

### **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 – Colossians 3:4-11**

*<sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: <sup>6</sup> For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: <sup>7</sup> In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. <sup>8</sup> But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; <sup>10</sup> And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: <sup>11</sup> Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

**Gospel – Luke 14:16-24**

*<sup>16</sup> Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: <sup>17</sup> And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. <sup>18</sup> And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. <sup>19</sup> And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. <sup>20</sup> And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. <sup>21</sup> So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. <sup>22</sup> And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. <sup>23</sup> And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. <sup>24</sup> For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.*

**Commentary on the Gospel**

Each year in the Orthodox calendar during the Nativity Fast the Gospel lesson from Luke 14:16-24 is proclaimed on a Sunday a few weeks before

Christmas. The parable is often interpreted as one of the parables of the Kingdom of God, this one referring particularly to the Messianic Banquet to be experienced at the end of this age.

“Coming together now, to get ourselves ready, we hear a familiar but very striking parable from Christ. A man is ready to give a great banquet, and sends out his servant to call the invited guests. But they all make excuses – and how familiar these excuses are: some need to work their fields or look after their animal, they need to take care of their business; while others are now married and need to look after their families.

The host doesn't simply abandon the idea of having a banquet; he instead changes his guest list. He invites all those who had absolutely no expectation whatsoever that they would ever be invited to such a feast. He invites the maimed, the blind and lame, all the outcasts of society who live on the streets and in the lanes begging for their food.

Then, as there is still more room, the net is cast wider, this time going outside the city to the country roads and fields, so that, he says, the house will be full; and then he adds that ‘not one of those who were formerly invited shall taste my banquet.’ Clearly, the point of the parable is to question the confidence of those who think that they will be present at Christ's own messianic banquet when he comes again in glory. All those who were assured of a place turned out not really to want it. So, we need to ask ourselves, do we really think that, when we are called, we will act any differently from those in the parable? Why should we think that we will have the conviction and the strength to act differently, when even the disciples of Christ didn't?”

+ (Fr. John Behr, *The Cross Stands Still While the World Turns*, pp 107-108)+

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**+PARISH LIFE+**

**Weekly Services Coming Up**

**Dec 17 - 3pm:** Holy Baptism (Gilbert)

**Dec 19/Dec 21 - 5pm:** Prefeast Vespers

**Dec 20 - 6:15pm:** Panihida (Margitich)

**Dec 22 - 9am:** Royal Hours

**Dec 24 - 4pm:** Eve of Nativity; Carols and Festal Matins

**Dec 25 - 9:30am:** Nativity of The Lord; Festal Liturgy (No Agape meal)

**Fr. Andrew & family away Dec 26-30**