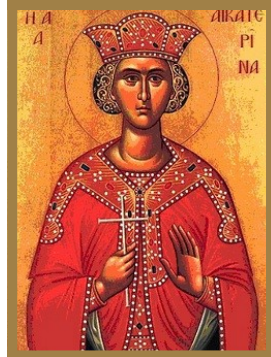


**November 25, 2018**

**LEAVE-TAKING OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS**

**Great Martyr Katherine of Alexandria**

Katherine was the daughter of Cestus, a wealthy patrician of Alexandria, the capital of Egypt and metropolis of the arts and sciences. She was widely admired not only for her noble birth but also for the exceeding beauty and intelligence that God had given her. By the time she was eighteen, even the most learned scholars were in awe of her intellectual accomplishments. All this made her an enviable match, but Katherine had a presentiment of the excellence of virginity, and made it a condition with her parents that she would accept none but a youth who equaled her in nobility, riches, beauty and wisdom.



Her mother sent her to seek the advice of a holy Christian ascetic who lived not far from the city. He told Katherine that he did indeed know a man such as she was looking for, namely, “the most beautiful of the children of men” (Psalm 44:3), God incarnate, the Son and eternal Word of the Father, who became man for our salvation and who desires to espouse every virginal soul.

Visited by the Mother of God by night, she went back to the ascetic who then instructed her in the mysteries of the faith and gave her new birth unto eternal life in the waters of Baptism. Then the Holy Virgin appeared to Katherine again with Christ in her arms, who said to His Mother with joy, “Now I will accept her as my most pure bride for she has become radiant and fair, rich and truly wise!” In token & pledge of this heavenly betrothal, the Mother of God put a ring upon her finger and caused her to promise to take no other spouse upon the earth.

Now in those days the Emperor Maximian (305-311) tried to make all his subjects show their submission to his power by offering idolatrous sacrifices under pain of torture and death. When these impious rites were taking place in Alexandria, Katherine appeared before him in the temple and declared her allegiance, but severely reproved the idolatrous ceremonies. Accepting her offer to engage the foremost scholars and orators of the Empire in public disputation, Maximian sent heralds all over the Roman world to bring together scholars, philosophers, orators and logicians. St Katherine reduced the fifty orators to silence. Recognizing their error, they asked the Saint for Baptism, to the fury of the Emperor, who condemned them to be burnt alive on November 17. Katherine was tortured and thrown in to prison, while a dreadful instrument of torture was constructed of four spiked wheels connected by an axle. Katherine was attached to this machine as soon as it was ready, but an angel came to free her and the death-dealing chariot hurtled down the slope killing many pagans on its way.

On November 25, Katherine was brought forth from her dungeon to appear at the tribunal, fairer and more radiant with heavenly joy than when she had entered it, for she saw that the day of her union with Christ had come at last. She was taken outside the city and was beheaded in her turn. Her body was then conveyed by two angels from Alexandria to Mount Sinai. There, it was discovered in the 8th century by an ascetic who lived in the vicinity. The precious relic was later transferred to the Monastery that the Emperor Justinian had founded in the late sixth century. It is there to this day, giving forth a heavenly scent and working countless miracles.

*Text adapted from <https://www.stcatherineithaca.org/patron-saint.html>*



**ST. PHILIP  
ORTHODOX  
CHURCH**

A Parish of the  
Antiochian Archdiocese

*His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH*



*His Grace Bishop THOMAS*



*Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor*  
215-954-9286



*Father James Thayer*  
215-692-0890

**November 25, 2018**

**LEAVE-TAKING OF THE  
ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS**

**COMMEMORATIONS:**

**GREAT-MARTYR KATHERINE THE ALL-WISE OF  
ALEXANDRIA  
MARTYR MERCURIOS OF CAESAREA IN  
CAPPADOCIA MARTYR MERCURIOS OF  
SMOLENSK**

**Tone 1 - Eothinon 4**

**Matins Gospel: St. Luke 24:1-12  
Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5  
Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 18:18-27**

**RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 1 -** While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding thy most pure Body, thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto thee, O Giver of life: Glory to thy resurrection, O Christ! Glory to thy kingdom! Glory to thy providence, O thou who alone art the Lover of mankind!

**APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THEOTOKOS - Tone 4 -** Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying, Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation.

**TODAY:** Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am  
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am  
Choir Rehearsal, 12:30 pm

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**Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday 8:30 - 4:00; Friday 10:00 - 3:00

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

