

The Holy Great Martyr Katherine was the daughter of Konstos, the governor of Alexandria, Egypt during the reign of Emperor Maximian. Living in the capital, the center of Hellenistic knowledge, and possessed of a rare beauty and intellect, Katherine received an excellent education, studying the works of the greatest philosophers and teachers of antiquity. Emperor Maximian was in Alexandria for a pagan festival and the cries of the sacrificial animals, the smoke and the smell of the sacrifices, the endless blaze of fires, and the bustling crowds at the arenas defiled the city of Alexandria. Human victims also were brought, the confessors of Christ, who would not deny Him under torture. They were condemned to death in the fire. Katherine's love for the Christian martyrs, and her fervent desire to ease their sufferings, compelled her to speak to the pagan priest and to Emperor Maximian. Introducing herself, the Saint confessed her faith in the One True God, and exposed the errors of the pagans. The beauty of the maiden captivated the Emperor. In order to convince her of the superiority of pagan wisdom, the Emperor ordered fifty of the most learned philosophers and rhetoricians of the Empire to dispute with her, but the Saint got the better of the wise men, so that they came to believe in Christ themselves. Saint Katherine made the Sign of the Cross over the martyrs, and they bravely accepted death for Christ and were burnt alive by order of the Emperor. Unable to persuade the Saint, Maximian tried to entice her with the promise of riches and fame. Hearing her angry refusal, the Emperor ordered his men to subject the Saint to terrible tortures, and then throw her in prison.

The Empress Augusta, who had heard much about the Saint, wanted to see her. She prevailed upon the military commander Porphyrios to accompany her to the prison with a detachment of soldiers. The Empress was impressed by Katherine's strong spirit, and her face was radiant with divine grace. The holy martyr explained the Christian Faith to them, and they were converted to Christ. On the following day, they again brought the martyr to the judgment court where, under the threat of being broken on the wheel, she was urged to renounce the Christian Faith and to offer sacrifice to the "gods." The Saint steadfastly confessed Christ and she was taken to be tortured on four wheels with sharp iron spikes, but an Angel smashed the instruments of execution, which shattered into pieces with many pagans standing nearby. After seeing this miracle, the Empress Augusta and the imperial courtier Porphyrios and 200 soldiers confessed their faith in Christ before everyone, and they were beheaded. Maximian tried again to entice the holy martyr, offering to marry her, and again he was refused. Saint Katherine remained faithful to her heavenly Bridegroom Christ, and after praying to Him, she laid her head on the block beneath the executioner's sword. The relics of Saint Katherine were taken by the Angels to Mount Sinai. In the VI century, the venerable head and left hand of the holy martyr were found through a revelation and transferred with honor to the newly-constructed church of the Monastery on Mount Sinai, built by the holy Emperor Justinian. Saint Katherine is called upon for relief and assistance during a difficult childbirth.

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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Friend of the Bridegroom: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)



Sunday, November 24th, 2024

Great Martyr Katherine of Alexandria

Fr. Brian Crivella, Rector330-372-3895 / BrianCrivella@gmail.com

Dn. John Tutoki, Hall Coordinator 330-720-3541

Nina, Prayer List Coordinatortreasurerstjohnsorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

Sunday, Nov 24th 22nd Sunday after PNTCST/Tone 5. Great Martyr Catherine

9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by coffee hour

Wednesday, Nov 27th Greatmartyr James the Persian

5:00 pm AA Meeting

6:00 pm Vespers Liturgy

Friday, Nov 29th Martyr Paramon and 370 Martyrs in Bithynia

6:00 pm Akathist of Thanksgiving - No Catechumen Class!

Saturday, Nov 30th Holy and All-praised Apostle Andrew the First-called

5:00 pm Great Vespers Followed by *Game Night*

Sunday, Dec 1st 23rd Sunday after PNTCST/Tone 6. Prophet Nahum

9:30 am Youth Divine Liturgy followed by coffee hour

