



The Herald

Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Archangels • 1527 Bedford St., Stamford, CT 06905

June/July 2013

Pilgrimage

By the time you read this, 17 members of our parish will be with 16 others on a 12-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Constantinople in order to visit many holy sites of Biblical & Church history.

The overwhelming emphasis will be where Jesus Christ lived: Bethlehem, where he was born; Nazareth, where he grew up and worked; the region of Galilee, where he spent 3 years preaching, teaching, and working miracles; and above all Jerusalem, where he endured his passion and crucifixion, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven. We will also visit museums, churches, monasteries, and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Then, in Constantinople (modern day Istanbul), we will meet Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in his office, tour Hagia Sophia Cathedral, visit the Archeological Museum, Royal Cistern, and the churches of Chora and Blachernae. In both countries, will venerate sacred relics of Saints like John Chrysostom, Gregory the Theologian, and Grand Duchess Elizabeth, who died only 100 years ago.

Now of course most of our parish has not and probably will never make such a trip.

So, in order to share the blessing, along with a few volunteers from our group, I will be working every day to produce a video that covers each site – a digital recording of sights and sounds that will be supplemented by still photos. This was not my idea. It alertly came from Nick Chivily who represents the majority (those not going). He has even negotiated with a professional in the video industry to edit all raw filming and photos, add voice-overs and music, and produce a finished product that promises to be worthwhile.

In late April, Dr. Richard Schneider told us that Christian pilgrimages began with St. Helen, the devout mother of the first Christian emperor Constantine, in the early 300's. She organized an expedition to the Holy Land, discovered the precious Cross, and constructed several key churches over the sites of the Crucifixion and Tomb. The rest, as they

say, is history. Ever since, millions upon millions of Christians around the world have visited these holy sites, taken part in sacred worship, and soaked up the atmosphere of where Jesus walked.

At the same time, Dr. Schneider also pointed out that Christians before Helen did not really make any pilgrimages. Why not? Following the teaching of the Apostles in the New Testament, they not only believed but also collectively experienced that, in Christ, God was now making every place as holy as the places of Biblical times. In addition they knew, by faith through grace, that Jesus was as present and involved in their lives no matter who they were and where they lived.

So why go at all? There still remains great value in walking in the land where Jesus once walked, seeing the sights, feeling the atmosphere, touching stones and objects from his era, touring great structures and museums, and encountering people from patriarchs to plain folks. Contrary to the assertion of skeptics, the core of our Christian faith is firmly rooted in history and culture. Christ may be the divine Son of God, but he is also the son of man, fully human, a Jewish prophet, Messiah, and King of the universe.

Perhaps we Americans, most of all, need to experience these lessons since

- our country is so young: New York City is not even 400 years old; Jerusalem about 5,000 years old
- our language is so new: English prevails but our spiritual ancestors spoke Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek
- our geography is so limited: Jordan may be a popular girl's name, but the original is a river in Israel.

Glory to the God who makes every Liturgy as awesome as the original Last Supper, and who blesses us in ways we have yet to fully appreciate – whether in the Holy Land or the holiness of our homes!

— Fr. Harry

Pastoral Question & Answer

Question: Why are we exchanging the kiss of peace during Liturgy?

Answer: Although the practice unfortunately disappeared over the centuries, the Liturgy itself preserves the kiss of peace as an essential act that is to be shared among all who attend. It is reflected powerfully in the hymns of Easter, so we are practicing it during these 40 days of celebrating Pascha, especially the great Hymn of Glorification that compels us to interact with each other, “It is the day of Resurrection, let us be radiant for the festival, and let us embrace one another. Brothers and sisters, let us even speak to those who hate us. Let us forgive everything in the Resurrection, and so cry out,

“Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs, he has granted life!” The kiss of peace comes from the practice of the Apostolic Church as a bodily expression of love, mutual care, and reconciliation among fellow believers that is critical when gathering before Christ to hear his Word and receive his Body and Blood in Communion. For how can we really be present to God in worship and offer our lives sacrificially to him, if we are not aware of those standing around us, willing to greet them, and even ask for forgiveness for the many ways we fail to love each other daily? What a beautiful and inspiring way for everyone to participate more actively in the Liturgy, which is God’s holy work through us, his holy people!

Fr. Harry Out of Town – While Fr. Harry is away, Fr. George will cover emergencies, and two visiting priests will lead Sunday worship: Fr. Jim Moulketis on June 2, and Fr. Benedict Churchill on June 9. Contact: Jane

PARISH COUNCIL

The council approved charitable contributions for the following, subject to Foundation Fund Board’s formal approval to provide \$10,000 solely for Missions & Philanthropy in 2013.

- \$ 100 Retired Clergy Association –
25th Anniversary Album
- \$ 125 Holy Trinity Church (Bridgeport)
for Centennial Album
- \$ 500 Neighbors Link Stamford
(provide assistance to immigrants)
- \$ 500 Emmaus House (Harlem) –
Orthodox ministry to homeless & poor
- \$1,000 Holy Cross School of Theology –
our Seminary
- \$1,000 Ecumenical Patriarchate – to be delivered
by our Pilgrim group personally
- \$ 100 Crop Walk (for world hunger) –
Holy Trinity Philoptochos (New Rochelle)
- \$3,325 TOTAL

The Building & Grounds Committee was able to obtain an additional utility company rebate of approximately \$17,000 by combining the Greek Cultural Center lighting project with the pool ventilation project. The net cost of the lighting project was originally \$24,000; the revised cost is \$9,000. Contact: George Paparis

Treasurer’s Report

The 2012 numbers have been compiled and are currently being reviewed by the auditors in preparation for a General Assembly.

Stewardship Report

On Sunday, May 19 the Parish Council and the Stewardship Committee sponsored the now annual Lamb Luncheon. This event is held to thank everyone for the pledges made and other support given for the benefit of the Parish. There is no charge for the lunch which is paid for by members of the Parish Council and the Stewardship Committee.

Pledge cards are currently 192, pledging \$256,762. Please remember to give a portion of your pledges in the lean summer months.

Additional 2013 Stewards (as of May 26, 2013)

Mr & Mrs. Vasilios Athanasiadis
Mrs. Popie Demakos

Mrs. Zoe Loter
Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Radoslavov

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Sioles
Mrs. Tina Zsembik

Mrs. Kiki Verses
Mr. & Mrs. Polezois Vouthounis

Master Planning Committee

Did you receive a Master Planning questionnaire in the mail? Please complete it either on-line at the following address – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Archangels2013Survey> – or by mail. Please take a few minutes to read the “Statement of Need” at the beginning of the survey, which gives a description of the proposed project. We have worked hard to reach out to every single parishioner - be it by personal interview, by mail, or by e-mail. We value your opinions and feelings about our parish and its future very much. We will accept responses through June 22.

When you submit your completed questionnaire in print or on-line, it goes to Jerry Minetos, our strategic planning advisor (Archdiocesan Office of Parish Development, 3 South Prospect, Suite 11, Park Ridge, IL 60068). No one in the Archangels parish gets to see your responses. Instead, Jerry compiles a generalized report for us - one that does not attribute feedback to a particular person, but does tabulate that feedback into useable data. Please be a part of this process! If you have any questions or are interested in speaking directly with Jerry Minetos, contact Jason Konidaris.

MINISTRIES

Greek Festival

The Greek Festival Planning Committee, under the direction of Steve and Margaret Fornaciari, will meet bi-monthly over the summer to put new, exciting programming and food ideas in place for the annual fall event scheduled for September 26-29. Note that we are expanding this year to include Thursday evening. Dates for these meetings will be announced. Volunteers from every ministry in our parish are needed. Last year was great, with so many of you helping out and enjoying the festival with family and friends. Vicki Kyriakos and Diane Sierpina will again be coordinating volunteers. Please contact Vicki at vskdmd@aol.com or Diane at sierpina@yahoo.com to offer your help with set-up, serving, decorating, marketing, clean up or other roles. No amount of time volunteering is too little. Our event will be more fun and profitable only with the creative and energetic input of all our parishioners. Your suggestions are always welcome. Thanks in advance – Steve & Margaret Fornaciari and the Festival Planning Committee.

GREEK FESTIVAL RAFFLE

Biggest fundraiser for our church!

Tickets will be out this summer!

Our goal: Sell all the tickets!

Grief Support Group

On Monday, June 3 and continuing for 6 consecutive Monday evenings through July 8, our parish will begin offering grief support. The sessions will be offered in 6 week increments. Group members will be asked to commit to a six week session that will meet from 5:30-7 pm in the library. The format will be instructional as well as supportive. We will learn about the process of grief and share our journeys with one another. Those who have lost a loved one within the past year are welcome to attend. If you feel you are still grieving after a year, please call the group facilitator to see if this group will be helpful for you. The group will be facilitated by Maria Scaros-Mercado who has spoken twice to our parish in the last few years about this ministry. A resident of Danbury, she is a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox church in New Rochelle, NY, where she serves in the Philoptochos and has volunteered in various ministries including grief support, feeding the homeless and visiting the elderly. Maria is a certified clinical chaplain and professional grief counselor. She has had over 20 years of experience with both children and adults in grief counseling. Contact: Maria at 914-681-8437 (office: Mon-Fri, 9-5), 203-788-5267 (cell) or 203-743-1819 (home)

Seniors

Our May 8 meeting celebrated our traditional Easter luncheon with roast leg of lamb and all the trimmings. Sixty seniors truly enjoyed the fellowship. We welcomed back Father Poulos, our founder, Marge Cocolis, Harry Sentementes, and Christine Maskaleris. Our speaker was Leni Scinto from Designs by Lee Gardens. He informed us of the various types of nutrients and fertilizers for various plants, as well as when to prune blooming plants. A variety of plants were on display and for sale. A question and answer period was informative. On Tuesday May 7, our first Tai Chi class was held at the Greek Cultural Center for Archangel Seniors. Philoptochos, as well as members of the SAC, were also invited. About 14 participated in an hour-long class that provided slow, low-key exercises for the entire body. Tai Chi is an ancient form of exercise that is still practiced worldwide today and is for all ages. However, plans have not been made for future classes unless we get more interest, at which time we will establish a firm calendar. Our June 11 meeting will be our end of season party with wine, cheeses, hors d'oeuvres and a special meal. We shall also have elections for President and Vice President at this meeting. Peter Demetros and I would like to thank all of our members for entrusting us with Archangel Seniors. Finally, Joan Bolanis is planning to have a speaker to present various summer trips that are available to us. Contact: Peter Licopantis



Seniors at premier Tai Chi class at Greek Cultural Center

Ladies Philoptochos Society

Thank you to all who supported our annual Palm Sunday Bake and Bread sale, which was a great success, and for supporting the tray passed on Easter weekend for the benefit of charity. A special thanks to Marion Vanson for coordinating the bake sale. The annual Mothers' Day luncheon was held May 18 at the Norwalk Inn and was extra special this year. More than 80 mothers, daughters, granddaughters, sisters and friends attended and honored ladies from our parish who have served 50 or more years in Philoptochos. These ladies laid the groundwork for our chapter and have given so much of their time and talents to make our many events and charitable activities so successful. They are Freda Bitzonis, Penny Caruso, Helen Chagaris, Irene Chalikis, Margaret Cocolis, Paula Condos, Helen Demetros, Popie Demakos, Effie Gianos, Mary Lambrinakos, Angie Lines, Thamie Nanos, Betty Pappas, Presbyteria Christina Poulos, Mary Poulos, Vasiliki Thomas and Zoe Loter. Each was given a gold Philoptochos pin of our patron Saints Cosmas and Damian and a certificate in honor of their long and meaningful service to our parish and the broader community. We also honored Alexandra Karayiannis for making tsourekia (sweet breads) so many years, Eva Koulogianis for the sewing of altar boys' and priest's vestments and altar covering, and Olga Athanasiades for providing doughnuts every Sunday and for our annual Turkey bingo. They were each given a beautiful flowering plant. At our May 7 meeting, the following candidates were elected to serve on the 2013/14 Philoptochos Board: Marion Vanson, Christine Chivily, Penny Nanos, Diane Sierpina, Maryanne Kardaris, Pauline Galuris, Lara Paschalides, Mollie Sotire, Debbie Nanos, Eugenia Zavros, and Vicki Kyriakou. The final meeting of the ecclesiastical year will take place on Tuesday, June 4th at 7 pm. We hope you can all make it! The new Board will be installed toward the end of Liturgy on Sunday, June 30, and then meet during Coffee Hour to elect officers. We wish to thank all of our members for their support and dedication this past year and to all of the parishioners who helped us have a very successful year. Have a blessed, safe and healthy summer. Contact: Diane Sierpina or Maryanne Kardaris.



Church School children chanting during Liturgy on Sunday, May 19

Church School

Christos Anesti! Congratulations to our students for accompanying our choir and chanters ever so beautifully last month. Our utmost thanks to Emily Skoutelas for her assistance in teaching our students the “Lord Have Mercy” and “Christ is Risen” hymns and for leading them in song during Holy Liturgy on Sunday, May 19. We’d also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the students, parents, and volunteers who helped to make our Good Friday Retreat such remarkable success. This has been an extremely rewarding and largely eventful year for the Church School program! We look forward to marking the end of this fruitful year with a formal celebration ceremony. Church School will conclude on Sunday, June 16 when our students will be recognized at the end of Holy Liturgy. Please join us in acknowledging our Church School students and their teachers for their dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to growing in communal faith. We would like to wish all of our parish families a safe, healthy, and restorative summer vacation! Contact: Dr. Evelyn Biliadis Lolis

Greek School

Mark your calendars!! Graduation – June 16, 2013, when all the children will receive their graduation certificates at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Immediately following, you can register for the 2013/2014 Year. Our school is open Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 p.m. The school consists of preschool ages to 8th grade. We welcome ALL new students and parents. Thanks to Alex Fornaciari for being our lifeguard at the End of the Year Pool party at SAC. Thanks to Eos for catering the souvlakia (shish-kabobs)! Lastly, a big Thank you to Kiria Agathi for being our Greek School Director for 30 years!! Kalo Kalokairi - PTO Board. See you in the Fall! Contact: Dr. Evelyn Biliadis Lolis

GOYA

GOYA youth and their families will be attending the presentation by Ted Panagiotopoulos of Fire & Life Safety Concepts called “**Off-Campus Student Housing Fire Safety**”(see information above) for current and incoming college students. Fire safety is important for everyone. Any questions about GOYA and its activities, please contact Diane Skoparantzou at skoparantzou@optonline.net or the church office. GOYA welcomes teens in 7th to 12th grade.

Hope/Joy

June 14th marks the End of Year party for Hope and Joy. The party will be held in the Church Hall from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served, along with an activity for the children. Please RSVP. I am looking for each family to bring a food donation for our Food for the Hungry bins. We are still searching for one or two people to take over for the coming year. This has been a great time for me. The children always enjoyed these events and the smile on their faces alone made everything all worth it. I hope to share my thoughts with whoever takes over before I move. Contact: Melanie Jordanopoulos at 203-505-3278 or jordothegreek@hotmail.com.

Little Angels

Contact Anastasia Valassis (avalassis@gmail.com, 203.594.1309) if you are interested in joining us; we are developing an email list to communicate about our meetings and other pertinent topics.

Off-Campus Student Housing Fire Safety

Ted Panagiotopoulos of Fire & Life Safety Concepts in conjunction with GOYA Youth Ministries will be presenting “**Off-Campus Student Housing Fire Safety**” for students and parents who are in the process of exploring college housing options. This event is scheduled for Thursday, June 20th at 7 PM in the Church Hall. The presentation will cover general fire and life safety principles that all students and parents should adhere to, but will mainly focus on student housing outside the confines of the college campus. Over the last 12 years, more than 160 college students perished in structure fires, 86% of which occurred in off-campus housing. There is an on-going, nationwide effort to educate students and parents about the dangers that exist in some of these properties and how to avoid the risks. Ted would like to ask the community to assist by getting the message out to as many families, relatives, and friends that may be interested in attending this very informative presentation. Volunteers are always needed to help serve light refreshments before and after the event. Please contact Ted with any questions or offers to assist at (203) 216-5264.

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

They live in the shadows of their communities, the 1.9 million women and men in Ethiopia whose physical disabilities make them immobile. The inability to walk severely limits their access to school, work, and the outside world, and creates tremendous hardship for them and their families. Access to a wheelchair is out of reach for many, with people who can afford one waiting for months as one small workshop in Ethiopia struggles to meet the demand. IOCC, in cooperation with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission is helping to bring mobility and a better quality of life to a vast number of physically challenged people and their families by improving access to wheelchairs. IOCC is providing parts needed to assemble new wheelchairs for more than 2900 children, women and disabled war veterans, as well as replacement parts for repairing broken wheelchairs. Vocational training for additional workers will generate the labor force required to assemble a steady output of wheelchairs and provide these men and women with jobs to

support their families. With ready access to wheelchair assembly parts and job training for production workers and wheelchair recipients, the lives of more than 18,000 people will be uplifted by the positive impact of this effort to restore movement and hope to the lives of Ethiopia’s disabled. Contact: Nick or Christine Chivily

Full Time Job at St. Michael’s Home

St. Michael’s Home for the Elderly in Yonkers is accepting applications for the full time position of “Case Manager,” a wonderful opportunity for a recent college grad or someone working toward a Master in Social Work. Helpful credentials: background in psychology, social work or similar discipline; working knowledge of modern Greek. Details: \$40,000/year with benefits (including medical insurance), free lunch, M-F 8-4 or 9-5, pleasant working environment. Contact: Dr. Urania Poulis, Administrator, 914-476-3374

Conference on Poverty

St. Vladimir’s Seminary and the Acton Institute are presenting a major conference on Poverty May 31-June 1 at St. Vladimir’s (575 Scarsdale Road, Yonkers NY), for the purpose of thinking through our response to various issues of poverty and how we may offer positive solutions to address the needs of the poor. Presenters: Keynote by Jay W. Richards, author of *Money, Greed, and God*, and Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute; also Susan R. Holman, Adjunct Lecturer at Episcopal Divinity School, and Michael Matheson Miller, Acton Institute Research Fellow. Contact: Tanya Penkrat at tpenkrat@svots.edu.

Suffering & The Nature of Healing

St. Vladimir’s Seminary is offering a 2-credit academic course taught by Dr. Daniel Hinshaw, M.D., Professor of Surgery at the U. of Michigan Medical School, on June 17-28. Course will explore the encounter between the suffering person and the caretaker, healing without a “cure,” and acceptance of death as a “Passover.” Details and registration online at www.svots.edu. For further info, contact Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak at jmatusiak@svots.edu or 914-961-8313 x328.

CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGELS ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL

THURSDAY, SEPT 26 – SUNDAY, SEPT 29, 2013

Cash Donations Appreciated for:

- Cash Registers (Would like 3 at \$200 ea.)
 - Tents (Would like 3 at \$200 ea.)
 - Signage for advertising (\$500 to \$700)
 - Decorations (Balloons and pictures \$300)
- Aprons (Would like 25-50 for our volunteers)
 - Serving pieces (matching) (\$500)

Contact: Jane or the Fornaciaris (zamsfam@optonline.net)

PARISH NEWS

Baptisms

- May 18 – Jackson Fischer Nanos, 2nd child of Chris & Christina Nanos; sponsor: Dr. James Koutsoukos

Graduations

Please submit names of all graduates from High School, Technical School, College, and Graduate School, along with degree earned, honors received, and future plans for more education or work.

Contact: Jane Vorvis by June 14 at 203-348-4216 or archangels1@sbcglobal.net

Graduations – High School

Stephanie Adams from Westhill High School

Hailey Holbrook from Academy of Information Technology & Engineering (AITE)

Madison Leonard from Greens Farm Academy in Westport

Graduations – College

Chase Leonard from Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, PA

Cristina Poulos – Doctor of Chiropractic, Magna Cum Laude, from Life Chiropractic College in Marietta, Georgia

Elisabeth Vasily from Brown University in Providence, RI

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Foundation Fund

The Board of the Church of the Archangels Foundation inc. held its annual meeting on Thursday evening 23 May, 2013. The Treasurer presented his report showing the status of the Fund's investments as of 31 December, 2012, and reporting growth of about 7.5% since the beginning of the year. The Accountant presented the formal unaudited accounts for 31 December 2012 which showed that the value of the Fund had remained steady throughout the year in spite of grants to the Church for repairs to the complex and to the SAC for income support. The Board approved a grant of \$ 10,000 to the Church to be used by the Parish Council for charitable purposes including Missions, and it made a grant of \$ 7,000 to the Festival Committee to purchase and install a second convection oven for the Center kitchen- a capital expense- which will help the Committee provide adequate food in a timely manner for the Festival. Directors and members of the Investment committee up for re-election were all re-elected as were the current officers: Elias N. Kulukundis, President; Jason Konidaris, Vice-President; Thomas Passios, Treasurer; Tim Hartch, Secretary. The nominating Committee was reappointed.

There was considerable discussion about the state of the various projects that the Fund agreed last September to finance. The exhaust system for the Pool at the Center has been completed. The remaining items are in the final stages of planning and bidding and, upon approval by Building and Grounds and the Parish Council, should shortly be started. At that time, the majority of the promised funding will be required. The Council discussed and set limits on the total funding they were prepared to advance.

Financial Activity for 2012:

Income:	
Contributions	\$ 2,000
Investment Income	99,904
Total Income	101,904
Grants to the Church/Center	(439,500)
Realized Gains on Securities	2.092
Unrealized gains	323,120
Total net gains	325,212
Net change from activities	(12,384)
Assets, 1 January 2012	3,253,022
Assets, 31 December 2012	3,240,638

AHEPA

The presentation, that we co-sponsored with the parish, on "Constantine the Great: Empire, Church, and Implications for Today" on Wed, April 24, by Dr. Richard Schneider of St. Vladimir's Seminary, was very well attended and excellent. Our next and final meeting before summer vacation will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, in the hall of the Church of the Annunciation. We will elect our chapter officers for the coming year. All members are

encouraged to participate and run for office. The meeting after this will be in September. Our attention has already turned to our major fundraiser on October 26, a dinner-dance at the Norwalk Inn for the benefit of our Greek Schools and the Greek Relief Fund. It will be very similar to the very popular event we had last year. We plan to honor the Father/Son or Father/Son-in-Law pairs who are AHEPAns in our chapter or neighboring chapters. Please save the date. Contact: Nicholas Nikas