



The Herald

Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Archangels • 1527 Bedford St., Stamford, CT 06905 **November 2015**

On Marriage

Since Marriage is a Ministry focus for this Church Year, I invited my wife, a professional in the field, and graduate of our Seminary, to offer this as a foretaste of the Workshop this month – Fr. Harry

Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the words of Saint John Chrysostom, for those who are married, “There is no relationship between man and woman so close as that between man and wife, if they be joined together as they should be.” In the frantic pace of our daily lives, or the accumulated habits that we develop without reflection, what do we do on a daily basis to nurture the closeness in this most sacred relationship in which Christ has joined us as husband and wife?

Oftentimes, we settle for much less than God intends in our marriages, finding a place that works for us, a “comfort zone,” and remaining there, in a stagnant relationship with few signs of life and vitality. By the grace of God and our cooperation with Him, our marriages can become dynamic and vitalized, with husband and wife moving toward “oneness” and experiencing in the marriage relationship the abundant love of God in Jesus Christ. In such a marriage, husband and wife are growing as persons in Christ and experiencing maturing love and intimacy with one another, so that, instead of yearning for the “spark” they may have once had, they are growing into a deeper, richer love every day of their lives as they awaken to one another with newness.

A vital, growing and dynamic marriage requires persistent daily effort and a lot of grace. It involves:

growth in all areas of intimacy, the regular practice of forgiveness, mutual respect and sacrifice, the art of listening, growth in Christ, and above all, the love of God.

Four icons – Christ the Bridegroom; Joachim and Anna; the Holy Family; and The Wedding at Cana – beautifully represent the primary dimensions of marriage. These dimensions are: the person we bring into the marriage as exemplified by Christ who is “the perfect Spouse”; the intimate couple relationship (Joachim & Anna); the couple in relationship to their children (Joachim, Anna & the Theotokos), and the couple in relationship to extended family and the larger community in which they live (Wedding at Cana).

In the Workshop for Married Couples on November 14, we will explore together these four dimensions of marriage, discuss practical ways of nurturing the marriage relationship, and bring to light some red flags that signal the need for marriage support.

I am looking forward to learning and growing with you as we explore what God intends for our marriages.

With love in Christ,

Presvytera Kerry

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council

The Parish Council voted to approve the following charitable donations (\$1,500 in total): \$500 for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), \$500 for Sts. Peter and Andrew Coptic Church for their fundraising campaign to purchase Zion Lutheran Church, and \$500 for St Michael's Home for the Aged. The funding for these expenditures comes from a grant by the Foundation specifically for charitable donations. The Council voted to approve a donation to the Archdiocese of \$5,000 for St Nicholas Shrine in response to a request by the Archdiocese to all churches. The funding for this will also come from a grant by the Foundation. The gift is contingent on the Foundation's approval of the grant to the church. The Council approved a stipend of \$250 for a guest protopsalti for the Church's Feast Day and associated Vespers service, and also to host a lunch for the reception afterwards on Sunday November 8th. Please be sure to make your reservation. Contact: George Paparis



John Cocolis, new part time Handyman

Treasurer's Report

For the month of September, revenues were \$117,108, with contribution at \$55,815. Year to date in 2015: revenues are \$807,028, with contribution at \$55,799. Financial figures for the GreekFest: gross income (including the raffle) was \$117,000, expenses were \$71,000, for net income of \$46,000. This compares favorably with the Operating Budget forecast of gross income of \$105,800, expenses of \$70,000, and a net income of \$35,800. Once again we are so grateful to Steve & Margaret Fornaciari, co-chairs, and their committee! Contact: George Khouri

† **Parish Feast Day** †

Saturday, November 7

Great Vespers at 7 pm

Area Clergy to lead; Visiting Protopsalti
Reception to follow, offered by Philoptochos

Sunday, November 8

Orthros at 8:45 am

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS WILL PRESIDE

Catered Feast Day Lunch

\$15/person; Free Pasta Dinner for children

RSVP by phone with Jane (203-348-4216)

Stewardship Report

2015 Stewardship figures for finances: fair share giving in September was \$14,450, bringing total year to date of \$292,735. We are on track to meet our goal of \$365,000 by the end of December. For the new 2016 campaign, our Stewardship Committee has set Stewardship Sunday for Dec. 6. Fr. Harry and Steve will ask all ministries and organizations to prepare a creative display that showcases their work and solicit involvement. Mike Anthony will prepare the new Stewardship letter to be mailed later this month. He will also edit new pledge cards. Tim Hartch and Mike Anthony will work to arrange a networking evening social event for everyone involved in work related to finances and investments. I will offer periodic anecdotes in the Herald relative to Stewardship efforts in the Church. For example, on Saturday, Oct 30, our teens in GOYA joined with Annunciation GOYA to set up, serve and clean a meal for the homeless at the New Covenant Center, a state of the art soup kitchen in Stamford. Contact: George Khouri

Additional 2015 Stewards

Mrs. Joan Bolanis
M/M Martin Canellakis
Mrs. Helen Chagaris
M/M Michael Jackson

Natalie Kulukundis
M/M Petros Papadopoulos
Mrs. Angelica Verses

Workshop for Married Couples

Presenter: Presvytera Kerry

*Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
Staff member, Archdiocesan Center for Family Care*

Saturday, Nov. 14

8:45 am – 12 noon

Please provide your own child care
For everyone: couples of 60 years or only 6 days!

Parish Council Elections – Sunday, Dec 13

Members in good standing in the Orthodox Church (18 years of age & older) may submit their name for election if they meet the following criteria: 1) regular attendance at worship services, acceptable moral lifestyle, and up-to-date stewardship; 2) membership at our parish for at least one year prior to the election; 3) attendance at a seminar conducted by area clergy (closest one is Thu, Nov. 12, 6:30 pm here at Archangels); 4) signed statements – to abide by the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese, and Conflict Disclosure. At least 4 positions on the Parish Council will be elected to a 3-year term. Current terms due to expire: John Louizos, Nick Aivalis, Jason Konidaris and Elias Lolis. For more info, contact George Paparis or Fr. Harry

Special General Assembly

Immediately following the Liturgy on Sunday, Nov. 15, we will conduct a brief, special assembly in order to do two things: 1) Elect a 3-member Board of Elections to run the Parish Council Elections on Dec. 13; and 2) Accept open nominations of candidates to run for the Parish Council.

Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign Committee met on October 13th. The meeting opened with a review of the status of the Campaign to date. There have been no material changes since the report to the Community on September 20th. The Committee then discussed procedures for direct solicitation of members of the Community. Solicitors were broken up into teams of two, though the need for some flexibility in the make-up of the teams was recognized. As a first stage, each team agreed to visit up to a half-dozen parishioners before Thanksgiving, with parishioners assigned in this stage based on their association with the solicitors. It is hoped that parishioners will receive the teams when they call upon them. Parishioners are reminded about the Challenge Matching Grant of \$ 250,000 and asked to note 'Matching Grant' both on their pledge card and on any cheque or letter of transmission. The Committee agreed to meet again on December 1st. Contact: Elias Kulukundis

Master Planning Committee

The Committee continues to work with JGR Architects to hone the design and cost of our renovations. We are paying special attention to our existing HVAC systems. It is vital that we incorporate them into the new work in a smart and cost-effective manner. We are grateful to Bill Grosso and Peter Licopantis for their continued focus there. We are reviewing a proposal from Redniss & Mead for site/civil engineering services to be utilized in the local land use entitlement process and subsequently for use in bidding and construction. If you have not seen the new marketing materials from the Capital Campaign Committee, please do so; they are great and we thank Jane Perkins and Peter Antipas for their diligent work there. Contact: Jason Konidaris



The group of 12 GOYAns, along with advisors, assistants and Fr. Harry at the Lock-In event held on Oct. 23.

Buildings & Grounds

At this time, the Buildings & Grounds Committee has completed all major projects. A decision was made to defer repairs to our roadways, driveways, and concrete walkways until 2016. We are currently reviewing the domestic hot water system installed at the Stamford Athletic Club, as well as the roofs over the church. We previously reported serious consideration of dismantling the lift to the loft. This will occur under the Master Plan, with a cry room provided at another location as determined by our architect. We anticipate receiving our final rebate of \$1,750 from Eversource (formerly Connecticut Light & Power) for work completed at Stamford Athletic Club. Contact: Peter Licopantis, Nick Aivalis or Gregg Demetrios



Connie Begetis, Eugenia Zavras, Marrietta Morelli, Annie Morelli, and Ruth Diamond make Prosfora bread at the baking event led by Steve Sarigianis on Oct. 17.

MINISTRIES

Parish Feast Day – Sunday, November 8

In honor of our parish feast day, Archbishop Demetrios will preside at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. A catered luncheon will follow immediately in the hall with the following menu:

- Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast
- String Beans
- Greek Salad
- Rolls
- Wine & Beverages
- Coffee & Dessert

Cost is \$15/person (note: this is not a fundraiser; we simply want to cover our costs), and a Pasta Dinner for children will be offered free of charge. Please make reservations through Jane in the office (203-348-4216).

Opportunities for Worship

- Sunday & Monday, Nov. 8-9: St. Nektarios @ Annunciation: Sun eve Vespers 7 pm; Mon Orthros 8:30 am, Liturgy 9:30 am
- Friday, Nov. 13 – St. John Chrysostom: 3rd Hour 9:15 am & Liturgy 9:30 am
- Saturday, Nov. 14 – Apostle Philip: Orthros 8:30 am & Liturgy 9:30 am @ Annunciation
- Saturday, Nov. 21 – Entrance of Theotokos into the Temple: Orthros 8:30 am & Liturgy 9:30 am @ Annunciation
- **Sunday, Nov 22 – 1 hour earlier due to Stamford Thanksgiving Parade: Orthros 7:45 am & Liturgy 9 am**
- Wednesday, Nov. 25 – St. Catherine & St. Nikon “Repent” the Patron Saint of Sparta: 3rd Hour 9:15 am & Liturgy 9:30 am
- Monday, Nov. 30 – St. Andrew, First-Called Apostle: 3rd Hour 9:15 am & Liturgy 9:30 am

Seniors

At the October Archangels Senior luncheon, our guest speaker was Christina Crain, Director of Senior Activities at the Stamford Government Center. A PowerPoint presentation was given. The subject matter was very informative, which included the open enrollment period (October 14 through December 7, 2015) for Medicare Part B, as well as the many supplemental plans available to seniors. Christina also made us aware of the many trips being arranged for all seniors in the community, in which we are welcomed to participate. These are great opportunities that we should take advantage of. Contact: Pam Koutroubis

SAVE THE DATE!

Ladies Philoptochos Christmas Brunch

Saturday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m.

All Philoptochos Ladies Invited

Invitations to Follow

Mollie Sotire, Chairperson

Ladies Philoptochos Society

Fall is a very busy time for Philoptochos. Penny and Debbie Nanos are organizing the church's beautiful vespers service on November 7th. Lara Paschalides and Maryanne Kardaris are working hard putting together the very popular Turkey Bingo, scheduled for Nov. 21st. Mollie Sotire is working on our annual brunch to be held on Dec 5th. The following charities will be the recipients of the profits from Turkey Bingo - Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society, Westhill High School Backpack program, Malta House, CT Food Bank and Laurel House. Donations of wine and gift cards for the Raffle Prize baskets are still needed. If you are out at your favorite places – think about purchasing a gift card for the Raffle baskets or donating a bottle of wine or two. Gift cards can be dropped off in Jane's office in the Philoptochos mailbox slot. You will see the envelope marked Turkey Bingo Gift Cards and Certificates. Please put them there and put all the information on the front of the envelope. Wine can be placed in the Turkey Bingo donation box. We are preparing Raffle baskets early this year – so please bring your donation in ASAP!!! We were very pleased to have donated \$8,500 to the Archangels Capital Campaign. We also donated \$300 to IOCC for Greek Relief. We are very grateful for the support we receive from our parish, which enables us to help worthy organizations. We urge parishioners to join us as we do this important work. Contact: Marion Vanson



Newly elected President of the Seniors, Pam Koutroubis (standing) next to out-going President, George Hasapis (left), with Father Harry, Steve Sarigianis, and Christina Crain, Executive Director of the Stamford Senior Center (Oct 14)



Preschool group hug! (Oct. 20)

Church School

The Church School faculty is pleased to announce several exciting additions to our programmatic curriculum that will help better serve the needs of our students and families. The Church School faculty engaged in an invigorating curriculum planning retreat last week, a meeting that was energized by creativity, intentionality, openness, and powerful synergy of our collective spirit, heart, and mind. The Church School Program will soon publish its own calendar highlighting some of these changes, one of which will include a monthly Philanthropy Sunday that will involve a whole-school collaboration on a philanthropic service project to aid the local and global community. Emily Skoutelas will lead our children in Sacred Music on November 1, 2015. Our first Philanthropy Sunday will be held on November 22, 2015. We will be infusing curricular content into all of our lessons, activities, events, retreats, and more. Our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Harry and Steve Sarigianis for their supportive guidance as we move forward in a new direction! A most blessed Thanksgiving to all families. Contact: Evelyn Biliass Lolis ebiliass@aol.com.

Greek School

Greek School hosted a wonderful family event for OXI Day this year. There were parents and grandparents who shared the evening and enjoyed watching the children singing songs to commemorate this day. Next up is Open House Tuesday Nov 3rd and Thursday Nov 5th. Come meet your teachers and see some of your children's work. Lastly, thanks to all who contributed to our first fundraiser of the year; the Lord & Taylor Coupons. Don't forget to use them on Saturday, Nov 14th. On behalf of the Greek school, Happy Thanksgiving! Next PTO Meeting will be held November 11th at 5:30 PM. Contact: Rebecca Kelesidis

Athletics

The Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Basketball League (CEOBL) begins on November 29; the Volleyball league will begin in December.

League Divisions and Qualifications:

- **Youth:** boys & girls 10 years old or younger as of 8/1/15.
- **Junior Varsity:** boys 13 years or younger as of 8/1/15; girls 14 years or younger as of 8/1/15
- **Varsity:** boys 14 years & older, along with girls 15 & older;
- **Senior Men:** 19+ years.
- **Girl's Volleyball:** girls 19 years or younger as of 8/1/15
- All players must provide a copy of their Baptismal Certificate once during their career.
- Basketball Rosters are due by Nov. 8, and Volleyball Rosters by Nov. 28.

We are combining all youth teams with local churches Annunciation and Sts. Peter & Paul Coptic Church since numbers have been low in the past.

Contact: John at atozjohn@aol.com or 203-550-6894; Steve at 203-623-5896 or steve@archangelsgoc.org

GOYA

On Friday October 23rd, we held the Lock-In Retreat, our first in-house GOYA event of the new year. The theme was the "Parable of the Prodigal Son." This is the most anticipated event of the year for many of our teens, and their enthusiasm (and energy) was displayed from the early evening until early morning. We enjoyed pizza dinner, compline prayers, lively dramatization and meaningful discussion of the Prodigal Son, as well as several full-on games of volleyball at SAC, a full-length movie, board games and more discussions that lasted hours.

Looking ahead, the November schedule is bustling with activity! Come join us for the following events:

- Sunday Nov. 1st – Monthly Meeting at coffee hour.
- Saturday Nov. 7th – Volunteering @ Soup Kitchen (New Covenant)
- Saturday Nov. 14th – AHEPA Hellenic Challenge at St. Barbara Church.
- Bowling Night together with Annunciation GOYA
- Saturday Nov. 21st – Turkey Bingo at SAC (with GOYA dedicated table)
- Sunday Nov. 22nd – Nativity Retreat at Archangels

Please feel free to contact the advisors for any questions about joining GOYA. Bill Giantomidis at (732) 779-3696, Diane Skoparantzios at Skoparantziosd@optonline.net or Steve Sarigianis at sjsarge@gmail.com



Our first family Movie Night was held Oct. 16 in the church hall. It was a delightful evening for all 9 families in attendance.

Hope/Joy

On Saturday, October 10th, members of Hope & Joy participated in our “Nature Outing” at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. The outing featured an outdoor scavenger hunt based on Biblical verses that allowed parents, grandparents, and children to explore one of the many nature trails on site. Then, children used what they collected to create a “give thanks” craft while enjoying a snack and drink. Afterwards, children played in the museum’s playground and toured the farm area to see the many animals. A good time was had by all. Contact: Chris and Luisa Nanos at 203-609-0749 or cnanos@optonline.net.

IOCC

Lou Zagami, development officer for the IOCC, visited our church on Sunday October 18th and gave the sermon and a talk after the service. In his sermon, Lou mentioned how the IOCC has provided shoes and education in Ethiopia (a country with 40 million Orthodox Christians) to heal thousands and help prevent a debilitating and disfiguring disease that is caused by walking barefoot on volcanic rock. In his talk during the coffee hour, Lou highlighted work that the IOCC is doing with Syrian refugees and in Greece. Church members donated to the IOCC over \$8,000. Lastly, our high school students assembled 82 health kits that will be sent by the IOCC to refugees or disaster victims. Thanks to all who donated items for the health kits. For additional information on the IOCC, visit www.iocc.org. Contact our IOCC representative, Tim Hartch, at timhartch1@outlook.com.

Little Angels

Thank you to Megan Pasvankias, Elizabeth Jackson, Anna Diamantis, and Maria Magliacano for the clothing donations, generously shipped over to Serbia by Branka Shekdar! We hope to engage in more charitable activities this year as a group. Let us know your ideas. We continue to offer baby gifts on 40 day blessings in our community. Let us know if you can offer new boy/girl clothing, toys, or books to be included! Little Angels families joined in the fun at Annunciation’s Halloween party Friday October 30th. It was a wonderful, gleeful evening! We were very thankful for the invitation from our sister parish. We hope to make up for our rained out picnic by hosting a **Children’s Thanksgiving feast on Saturday November 7th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the church hall**. Children can decorate small pumpkins, create holiday decorations and engage in Thanksgiving themed crafts. We will offer apple juice/cider, pumpkin muffins, and other fall treats! We will read a prayer and book related to gratitude, and learn a little about our church’s feast day! Please RSVP for this event. We urge families to find child-care for **Saturday, November 14th** so that we may attend Presvytera Kerry’s Marriage Workshop. This will be the perfect introduction to our group’s reading of The Five Love Languages, which we will order for purchase. We will arrange a discussion of the book with Presvytera after the holidays. Also, we will shortly announce the date of our **annual Christmas Party with HOPE/JOY!** Keep your calendars open! Contact: Anastasia Valassis, avalassis@gmail.com, 1.516.582.0830



Steve – Preschool



Seniors - Joan Bolanis accepts raffle prize from new Secretary, Kiki Mamarinos (Oct 14)



Installation of new President of our Seminary: Fr. Chris Metropulos is the priest to left of Archbishop Demetrios (who is at podium) wearing black robe and cross (Oct 29)

THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
OF THE CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGELS
is proud to sponsor our favorite family event!

Annual Charity Turkey Bingo

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015

Stamford Athletic Center – More room, More Fun!!!!

Doors open at 5:00 pm and games begin promptly at 6:00pm.

Pizza and drinks will be available for sale.

Admission is \$3.00 for all ages

All Night game tickets are \$3.00

Specials \$2:00 to \$3:00

*** 12 Games * 5 Specials * Raffle Prizes**

Please bring single serving non-perishable meals for the kids backpack program
or non-perishables for CT Food Bank

All proceeds go directly to the following local charities:

Navy-marine Corp Relief Society • Westhill High School Backpack program
Malta House • CT Food Bank • Laurel House

PARISH NEWS

Weddings

October 3 – Kara Psychopaidas & Christopher Greco.

Sponsor: Stacy Smith

October 10 – Traci Palmer & Christos Kantzas.

Sponsor: John Kantzas

October 10 – Mary Michalidis & Nicholas Sauter.

Sponsor: Penelope Mitchell



Mr. Samer Laham of Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch addresses hundreds of faithful at City Museum of NY on the Crisis in Syria (Sept 29)



LYRA Concert - sacred music of Orthodox worship (Oct 24)

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

AHEPA

On October 24th, we sponsored a performance of Russian church hymns and folk songs by five members of the professional vocal ensemble LYRA from St Petersburg, Russia. The event was hailed by consensus as the best concert ever in the history of the church! There were numerous requests for a repeat performance. This would be possible because the group visits the US twice a year. However, to make the event financially viable, we would have to get more than the 65 people who attended the October 24th performance. If you support the idea, please let us know. On November 14th, the AHEPA Yankee District #7 will hold its 7th Annual Hellenic History Tournament at St Barbara Church in Orange, CT. The tournament is a high school-level competition on the history of the Hellenes from Mycenaean times to the present. It was started in 2009 with an initiative from the Stamford chapter. This year, sixteen teams of three students will compete for the \$1,000 prize awarded to

each member of the winning team and \$500 going to each member of the second place team. Even though it started as a local district event (for chapters in Connecticut and Rhode Island), it has become popular with other districts as well. Sponsoring chapters include Nashua, NH; Waterbury, CT; Paramus, NJ; Hartford, CT; New Haven, CT; Stamford, CT; Norwich, CT; New Britain, CT; Pawtucket, RI; Newport, RI; New London, CT; New Rochelle, NY; Watertown, MA; and Wilmington, NC! Stamford is fielding two teams this year: The Titans (Aphrodite Haralabidis, Dina Haralabidis and Steven Stanton); and The Wiltonian Hellenes (Alexander Koutsoukos, Peter Dantini, and Zach Muraskin). We wish them success! A pizza and salad lunch is served at 11:30 am and the competition starts at 12:30 pm and goes for four rounds until about 4:00 pm. The event is free and open to all. See you there. Contact: Nicholas Nikas 203-554-5570 niketes@yahoo.com