



# The Herald

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

October 2015

## ***Come, Let Us Rebuild!***

*Following the Liturgy on Sunday, September 20, Elian Kulukundis, Chairman of the Capital Campaign Committee, made the following presentation about the most significant parish project in decades.*

Fifteen months ago, a General Assembly of this community overwhelmingly approved a more than \$ 2 million plan to refurbish and rebuild various aspects of our parish complex and to renew and expand staff and ministry. The Assembly authorized the Parish Council to create a Capital Campaign Committee to help accomplish this and, in so doing, bring our parish into the twenty-first century. Things have not been dormant since that time. In fact, there has been a lot of quiet activity. Architects have been selected, plans drawn up to revamp the first floor of the parish complex, advice and training received from the Development office of the Archdiocese, a group of solicitors assembled, a solicitation brochure created, and a few parishioners sounded out for financial support. Today, this quiet phase is over. Today, I am delighted to declare the Capital Campaign of the Church of the Archangels officially open.

The task ahead of us is substantial. It will cost more than \$ 2 million to undertake the refurbishment of the first floor; it will take a year once ground is broken; and during the course of construction, there will necessarily be changes in the daily routine of the Community. Our patterns of worship will not be affected as few improvements are planned for the church itself, none of which should alter the contemplative ambience of the worship space. The renovations which have been proposed are the most far-reaching and substantial project of any sort that our community has undertaken since the construction of the Center forty years ago.

And, I would further suggest that this project is conceivably the most important since the construction of the Church itself not quite sixty years ago. We are seeking to renew an essential part of our campus and bring it into the new century just as with the construction of the church itself we brought our community out of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth.

Where are we today? Firstly, thanks to the hard work of the Master Planning Committee, we have architects and a projected floor plan for the redesigned and improved spaces. You will see display boards inside the Hall as you go in for coffee with the floor plan and architects' renderings of what the projected renovations may look like. Secondly, we have completed and will have available for you to take a brochure explaining our goals and endeavouring to answer some of the questions that you may have. Thirdly, and most importantly, over the past months we have been conducting discussions with about forty members of the parish and have quietly obtained pledges for nearly \$ 1 million of which more than \$ 500,000 is currently in hand. To be sure, we have already incurred some expenses which have been paid from the funds received. The most important of these are the salary and benefits of the Administrative Assistant which, as I am sure you recall, was an integral part of the projected redevelopment undertaking from the start. The

Campaign is not only for bricks and mortar but also for the creation of improved services to the community. When all is done, those spaces which are being refurbished will be fully handicapped accessible, and equipped with a sprinkler system.

We have made giant steps already, but we still have a long way to go. To accomplish our goals, we need the entire community to pitch in and help. We still need to raise more than \$ 1.25 million in cash and/or pledges, and to accomplish that, we need the enthusiastic co-operation and sacrifice of all of you. Over the coming weeks and months, the Committee will be approaching you directly or indirectly to seek your assistance in the form of a financial undertaking spread over a three-

year period. This is quite separate from your stewardship which pays for the day-to-day running of the Community. We ask you to think seriously about your gift and offer as much as you can. We recognize that no two situations are alike: we ask instead that we all make an equal sacrifice in the context of our comparative capabilities. No gift is too large, no gift is too small. What is important is that we all join together to attain our goal, and accordingly feel a sense of belonging when the refurbished facility is completed. It is my hope that, when all is said and done, we will match the undertaking of our parents and forerunners when our church was built and 95 percent of the membership responded to the call. This is a project to benefit all of us and which will belong to all of us, and I hope that all will respond generously to our appeal.



**Elian Kulukundis, Capital Campaign Chairman, speaks in church to announce start of Capital Campaign (Sep 20)**

I have one further exciting piece of news. An anonymous donor has stepped forward and offered us a matching grant of \$ 250,000 if we can raise a like amount in cash rather than pledges over the next two years. The chief condition that applies is that pledges and contributions made toward the matching grant note explicitly in the communication or in the memo space on the check 'Capital Campaign Matching Grant'. This matching grant is a big boost to our efforts, and we deeply appreciate the generosity of the anonymous donor. But to make it happen, we will need the good will, extraordinary generosity and sacrifice of all of you.

Now, in closing, I declare the Capital Campaign officially open. I would like to invite you to join us after the service in the Hall for a special coffee hour and catered food. Everyone is welcome. Should you have any questions, I and members of the Capital Campaign and Master Planning Committees will be available there to answer them.

With God and all of you on our side, we will surely succeed. 'Except the Lord build the House, they labour in vain that build it.' And so, as the Biblical chief Nehemiah exhorted his countrymen on their return to Judaea from the Babylonian Captivity, COME! LET US REBUILD.

— Elian Kulukundis

## PARISH COUNCIL

### *Parish Council*

The Parish Council extends its appreciation to the Capital Campaign and Master Plan Committees for all the work they have done to date in getting us to the start of the public phase of the capital campaign. The Council voted to approve a charitable donation of \$1,000 for Holy Cross School of Theology. The funding for this expenditure comes from a grant from the Foundation specifically for charitable donations. In order to renew our insurance for 2016, background checks will be conducted for all who are involved with youth 18 years of age and younger – staff, youth advisors, and all teachers. Contact: George Paparis

### *Treasurer's Report*

Revenues in August were \$35,870, resulting in a loss of \$17,300. Year-to-date revenues were \$689,920, resulting in a loss of \$14,467. Contact: George Khouri

### *Additional 2015 Stewards*

M/M Zacharias Aloupis	Nicholas Sauter
Dr. & Mrs. James Koutsoukos	M/M Konstantinos Spetsaris
M/M Stew Leonard, Jr.	M/M Emmanuel Ziboulis



Crowd gathers to cut cake in Coffee Hour in celebration of Grandparents Day (Sep 13)

### *Master Planning Committee*

The Master Planning Committee gladly welcomed the launch of the Archangels Capital Campaign in September. Pledges from as many parishioners as possible will be needed to fund our project. We continue to work with JGR Architects and a builder to hone the design and cost of our renovations. When that is complete, we will formalize the architectural plan and bid the project out to various builders. Currently, there are easels in the Church Hall highlighting architectural concepts and a floor plan. Please take the time to look at them and pose any questions you may have. Also, marketing materials are available in the church office if you were unable to attend the campaign kickoff event on Sept. 20th. They look great! Please take one for your household. Contact: Jason Konidaris



Fr. Harry showing the Preschool children the Gospel book during Prayer for Beginning the New Year (Sept 29).



Capital Campaign Committee gathers around Fr. George Poulos during the Catered Reception (Sep 20)



## MINISTRIES

### ***Buildings & Grounds***

During this period, repairs on the church roof were completed. This work consisted of replacing roof tiles and installing new flashings. We are currently reviewing proposals for repairs to our roadways and driveways. Concurrently, we are reviewing proposals for concrete work surrounding the Stamford Athletic Club. Along with the Master Plan Committee, we met with our selected architect, James G. Rogers. We reviewed the preliminary budget in depth. B & G has major concerns with the heating & air conditioning throughout our complex, as well as the proposed ramps. These areas are under review by J.G Rogers. We welcome Bill Grosso, who has provided great input into the vast scope of work to be undertaken. Bill's background, knowledge, and the experience that he provides are tremendous assets. Contact: Peter Licopantis, Nick Aivalis or Gregg Demetros

### ***2015 GreekFest a Great Success!***

Parishioners, friends and the general public greatly enjoyed this year's festival, which was blessed with beautiful weather and enthusiastic volunteers and participants. Thanks to the GreekFest leaders, Steve and Margaret Fornaciari, and their devoted team for their hours of commitment over many months and non-stop service during the festival to pull together this fabulous event of fellowship on behalf of our parish. Through all our efforts and the time and talents of many volunteers – parishioners of all ages, their friends and Fr. Evan and others from our sister parish, Annunciation - , we were able to help support our beloved Archangels Church's budget. We hope you all had an opportunity to enjoy the fantastic food, music and vendors, which included a comic book collector/distributor this year. Congratulations to the raffle winners: Stacy Louizos, who won the BMW sedan (ticket #0281), Michelle Marmarinos - \$250 American Express Gift Card (ticket #0296) & Daniel Combatti - \$200 American Express Gift Card (ticket # 0191). Preliminary results indicate that we easily grossed over \$100,000, although

money is still coming in as of this printing. When all income and expenses are accounted for, we will be able to report both gross and net income.

Please mark your calendar now for our 2016 event, the last weekend of September, and plan to join us as a volunteer and participant! It's great fun and not to be missed!! More details about the festival will be included in November's Herald.

### ***Adult Education***

- Adult Catechism continues every Monday evening (except October 5) on topics selected by the group, such as
  - † How do we implement what we learn from the Bible into our daily lives?
  - † What about those who do not practice their faith?
  - † Women's issues today – their roles in the Church throughout history and today
  - † Environment – Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and modern movements
- “War, Violence & the Feast of the Holy Cross in Byzantium” – lecture by Dr. George Demacopoulos, upon installation in an endowed chair in Orthodox Christian Studies at Fordham University, on Monday, October 5, 5:30 pm in Keating Hall Auditorium on Rose Hill Campus. Reception will follow. Open to the public, but free advanced registration required by Sept 28. Contact Fordham University at 212-636-6574.
- Baptism Class – Sunday, October 25, 2:30 – 5 pm for all parents & godparents who have celebrated a baptism in the past year or who are preparing for one this year. An explanation will be provided of Baptism, Chrismation & Communion, along with an exploration of raising children in Christ today. Please provide your own childcare so that you can give your full attention.



The “souvlaki boys,” John Skoarantzios, Eric Odle, Jim Stanton, Bill Giantomidis, and Savvas Kelesidis, join the “loukoumades ladies,” Connie Begetis and Katerina Begetis at our annual GreekFest!



The Poulos family gathers to celebrate a triple-birthday (Fr. George's 94th was one of them).



**Danger, men cooking! Jim Otis, Tom Joannou, Dimitri Begetis, George Paparis & Alex Zavras prepare lamb in SAC kitchen.**

- Marriage Workshop – Save the date: Saturday, November 14, 8:30 am – 12 noon. Presvytera Kerry Pappas will offer a workshop for all married couples! In her capacity with the Archdiocesan Center for Family Care, she has been offering these around the country for over 4 years. Details will follow.
- Grief Support Group every Tuesday evening (except Oct 13) from 6-7:30 pm at the Pastoral Care House of Stamford Hospital, led by Rev. ReBecca Sala. Full participation in 7-week program is preferred. For more information or to register contact her at 203-276-7445 or resale@stamhealth.org
- “Caring for our Aging Parents & Ourselves” - autumn breakfast and conversation with Jane Gross, New York Times columnist and author, on Oct 22, 7:30 am. Cost: \$75/person. For more information and to register: [www.silversource.org](http://www.silversource.org) or 203-324-6584.

## **Seniors**

Our first meeting, after summer vacation, was held on September 9th, which was a social get-together. We served cheeses, crackers, wine and a variety of appetizers. It was wonderful seeing everyone after our summer recess. Pamela Koutroubis accepted the position as president. We thank George Hasapis for his dedication and hard work as the previous president. At our October 14 meeting, we will have as our guest speaker Christine Crain, director of the senior center at the Stamford Government Center, who will describe the center's events for all seniors. We will be able to join this group for upcoming trips. We welcome new members!!!! SEE YOU ALL ON OCTOBER 14th. Contact: Pam Koutroubis

## **Rides for Shut-Ins**

A few seniors who are no longer able to drive are in need of a ride to church for Liturgy or other activities. Please contact the office to offer your help to them (203-348-4216). Thanks!

## **Ladies Philoptochos Society**

The Ladies Philoptochos Society is off to a running start. We had a fun pizza party at our first meeting and discussed ideas for



**Eugenia Zavras and Connie Begetis busy at work frying those delicious loukoumades.**

future events. Several women gathered at the center and baked over 700 koulouria and again Nitsa Chagaris and her team got together and baked 125 bags of her famous port wine cookies for the festival. Our dear longtime member, Yola Katopodis, completed her move to Florida and gave many beautiful and useful things to Philoptochos, which some hardy members collected and will store until the tag sale in June. Over the summer, much housekeeping work was done by several members and we now have a very neat library closet and storage shelves in a newly painted storeroom in the basement. Vicki Kyriakos has been meeting with Stacey Karipides, the president of the Church of the Annunciation's Philoptochos chapter about doing a joint service project for the homeless in October. Details will be sent via email and flyers will be distributed with more information. A committee is selecting the charities that will receive proceeds from our popular Turkey Bingo event in November. Letters to present when soliciting donations for the bingo will be available soon. This is a wonderful family evening that helps so many in need and we hope that more people than ever will help by soliciting prizes and gift certificates or donating to help us meet expenses. Philoptochos will sponsor Coffee Hour on October 11th when a representative of IOCC will come to talk about what IOCC is doing to address the humanitarian crises in Syria and other areas. Our next meeting is October 6th. All are welcome, please join us. Contact: Marion Vanson

## **Young Adults**

In an effort to engage and sustain young adults in the faith, a new young adult ministry is being created at the Archangels. This ministry will focus on young adults ages 18-35 and will provide opportunities to serve, learn, enjoy fellowship, and worship together. The undertaking is already underway; a small Steering Committee is being organized through the Pastoral Assistant's office that will be tasked with establishing a preliminary agenda. If you are interested in joining or know someone who may be interested, please contact Steve Sarigianis (203-623-5896 or [steve@archangelsgoc.org](mailto:steve@archangelsgoc.org)).



## ***Prosforo Baking***

Have you ever been interested prosforo baking (bread for use in Divine Liturgy) but never had the opportunity or know-how? Ever baked prosforo before but wanted to learn more about the process and it's history?

Well, on Saturday October 17th from 10:00am-12:00pm we will be holding a Prosforo Baking workshop at the church! All materials will be provided for. Whether experienced or inexperienced, whether young or old, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn and enjoy fellowship. Contact Fr. Harry or Steve Sarigianis if interested.

## ***Family Movie Night***

Friday October 16th at 5:30pm marks the date of our Family Movie Night at the church. All are welcome to join us for food & drink, movie, and discussion. We will be screening the popular Disney Pixar movie "Up" (2009; PG), about the unlikely adventure of an elderly man named Carl and a boy named Russell to South America. It will be an occasion for parents and kids to enjoy good company and unwind together after a week of work and school. We look forward to seeing you there!

## ***Church School***

The Church School Program celebrated the start of the new academic year with a beautiful reception catered by Phil Costa (Seasons) in mid September! Thank you to Father Harry for beginning our Church School year with a special blessing for our faculty, children, and program. We are also pleased to announce the successful start of our new toddler class which has been greeted with enthusiasm and appreciation by the parents of our youngest students. Emily Skoutelas continues to lead our program's Music Ministry monthly ( schedule to be published soon). We look forward to a productive and eventful school year as we grow together in Christ. Contact: Evelyn Bilias Lolis ebilias@aol.com.

## ***Greek School***

Greek School is officially in session! Kali hronia se olous! The Greek School faculty and students are already eagerly preparing for OXI Day which is our first celebratory program of the



**Gigi Perimenis, Elaine Kanelias, Chris A. Nanos, Jim Cocolis, Penny Nanos, Shannon Sierpina & Vicki Kyriakos at the dinner serving line.**

school year, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio_Day). It will be held on Tuesday, October 27th at 5:30pm in the Church Hall. All are welcome to attend and see our children perform songs and poems about that day. Please join us on October 13th at 5:30pm for the first PTO meeting of the year. Contact: Rebecca Kelesidis



**Steve Fornaciari & son Alex, along with Diane Sierapina, her daughter Nicole and grandson Brady Landry at the raffle booth.**



**The "Grecian Nights" perform traditional Greek songs, giving our Fest some extra pep and flavor with their bright music.**

## ***GOYA***

On Saturday, September 19th, a group of our Archangels GOY-Ans joined 180 other youths from throughout the New York District for a day of indoor and outdoor fun and fellowship at Holiday Hill in Prospect, CT. They do not call it Holiday Hill for nothing! One truly feels as though on vacation at a private resort when visiting their 200-acre mountaintop campus. The (mostly) unstructured day provided our GOYAns with the freedom to enjoy the facilities and activities available to them as they pleased. They connected with old friends and made new ones as they engaged in basketball games, volleyball games, Frisbee, softball, billiards, swimming, kayak races, beanbag toss, and much more. It was a beautiful day of bonding and communion for youth, parents, clergy and all, and we are thankful to God for this blessing.





**Evangelia Hlebogiannis, Katie Antipas, Penny Nanos, Kerasoula Drossos & Roula Stergiannis at their coffee station!**

**Save the Dates! Sunday, Oct. 4th** is our next GOYA meeting following coffee hour; **Friday, Oct. 23rd** is our annual overnight Lock-In starting at 7pm.

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

### **Hope/Joy**

The Hope & Joy ministry, for children from ages 4 through 12, is designed to help young people learn more about our Orthodox faith, foster friendships, and participate more in our church community. On Monday, September 14th, some members of Hope & Joy celebrated "Elevation of the Holy Cross" Liturgy followed by a meal and movie in the Church Hall. Our "Nature Outing" at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center is scheduled for Saturday, October 10th at 3:00 p.m. The outing will feature an outdoor scavenger hunt based on Biblical verses, a craft, and refreshments. For non-members of the museum, the fee is \$3 for children and \$6 for adults. Members of the



**Stephanie Odle, Elissabet Constantine and Diane Skoparantzios serve Pastry.**

museum are free. We will meet in the picnic area behind the playground. Please RSVP to the e-mail below if you have not done so already. We hope that we will see many children, parents, and grandparents at our first fall event and other activities throughout the year. As always, younger siblings are welcome. To be added to our mailing list, or if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 203-609-0749 or cnanos@optonline.net. Chris and Luisa Nanos

### **Little Angels**

We have many things we'd like to make you aware of that pertain to the youngest members of our Archangels community. We pray that you will join us in our efforts this ecclesiastical year to bring our youngest children and families into the embrace of our dear church. **\*A Sunday School class is being offered and is still open, for Parent/ Toddler Pairs!** A parent, grandparent or caregiver may accompany a child, age 1-3, to our newest Sunday School class, which will meet after communion until the end of the liturgy. This class is being offered in an effort to make church more accessible to young children who often have the most difficulty participating in the Liturgy. The class emphasizes icon veneration, simple prayer, and making the sign of the cross. Children will make a craft, sing songs, and read a book each Sunday! Please drop in! Please fill out a formal Registration form for our Little Angels Ministry, either online or in person at coffee hour! We'd like some more information about your child and about your interests that will help us to tailor our ministry to your needs. We are also asking for a donation of \$20 (or whatever you can give) to cover some of the costs of our events. Please see Anastasia Valassis, Vasso Spanos, or Ruth Diamond (this year's committee) for registration & donation.

This is the link to register online:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RZDVVWwOqvaFhQ8EvtK5AkgedLrUTEK9jdZS7HAHVE/edit>

**\*We will hold our first Playdate/ Picnic of the year on Saturday, October 3rd at 11 am!** We will meet at Chestnut Hill Park in North Stamford. We will bring some refreshments and snacks



**Helen Chagaris, Vasiliki Thomas, and Samira Slim selling fine Grecian jewelry.**





Fr. Harry discussing book selections with a patron, while Natalie Kulukundis and Annie Konidaris discuss pertinent matters in the background.



GOYAns Steven Stanton, Matthew Poulos, and James Pease work the hot dog stand out in front of the church.

for the children. Please pack lunch (and maybe a blanket or chairs) if you plan to stay and eat! We would love to get reacquainted and meet some of our new families. RSVP if possible!

**\*We are collecting children's clothing to be sent to orphans of Belgrade, Serbia.** We would like to offer this to Branka Shekhdar, a member of our community, by Sunday October 4th. She will be personally shipping items over to Belgrade. Please tell us as soon as possible whether you can make a donation. We will collect all packages in our Little Angels classroom (#5) in the educational part of our building.

**\*Please support the outing organized by JOY/HOPE on Saturday, October 10th from 3-5 pm at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center.** If you are not on our email list and would like information about our events, please contact Anastasia Valassis at 516.582.0830 or [avalassis@gmail.com](mailto:avalassis@gmail.com).

### ***IOCC***

Lou Zagami, development officer for the International Orthodox Christian Charities, will be visiting our church on Sunday October 18th and speaking after the service to us about the IOCC's work assisting Syrian refugees, as well as other needy children and adults around the world. Lou will also highlight opportunities for all of us to become involved in the work of the IOCC, including volunteer and internship opportunities in the United States and abroad. Our church will also prepare school and hygiene kits on Oct. 18th that the IOCC can distribute to refugees around the world. For additional information on the IOCC, visit [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org). Contact our IOCC representative, Tim Hartch, at [timhartch1@outlook.com](mailto:timhartch1@outlook.com).



Young adult dancers entertained the Saturday night crowd with several traditional dances like "Ikarotiko" and "Kalamatiano."



### ***Wish List***

- Gold re-plating
  - † two Communion spoons - \$85/each
  - † censer - \$350
- Improvements to Baptismal Font - \$500 (install drainage valve & add stand with heavy duty casters)
- 7 Chairs for altar at \$150 each

Contact: Jane (203-348-4216) or Fr. Harry  
(frharry@archangelsgoc.org)

### ***Pilgrimage***

Fr. Harry is accepting proposals for another pilgrimage next year, possibly in the summer. Please indicate your interest in various destinations such as the Holy Land & Constantinople, southern Greece & some islands, Russia, or Italy. He plans to continue working with Cloud Tours in Astoria. Contact: Fr. Harry

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## **PARISH NEWS**

### ***Births***

Sept 10 – Isabelle Martinez, 2nd child of Aphrodite Karayannis & Reuben Martinez

Sept 20 – Andrew Childakos, 3rd child of Melissa and Argyrios Childakos

### ***Wedding***

Sept 13 – Katherine Carlini King & Jeffrey James Morganteen; sponsor was Kara Wojick.

### ***Award***

Daniel Sentementes, son of Alan and Debbie Sentementes and grandson of Aristotle Sentementes, a police officer for Yale University in New Haven, was recently awarded a Medal of Valor from the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association at its annual awards ceremony for preventing the suicide of teenager from Stamford.



Steven Stanton came in 2nd at the cookies and cream eating contest at the annual GOYA day at Holiday Hill (Sep 19)



GOYANS at Holiday Hill in Cheshire (Sep 19)

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## **AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**

### ***AHEPA***

We have invited five members of LYRA, the Russian Vocal Ensemble of St. Petersburg, to perform Russian Orthodox Church music of incredible beauty, as well as colorful and lively Russian folk songs on Saturday, Oct. 24, with Wine & Cheese Reception at 6:30 pm, and performance from 7:30 – 9 pm. These professional singers perform acapella, as is traditional in the Russian Church. Their voices are compelling and exceptionally well-coordinated, blending into a memorable whole. You can sample some tracks from their CDs on the internet at <http://www.lyra-online.org/general/music.html>. Please don't miss the concert on Saturday, October 24. Admission: \$25/adults, \$15/students, free for children. RSVP by Oct 21 with Nicholas Nikas [niketes@yahoo.com](mailto:niketes@yahoo.com) 203-554-5570.



Annunciation Psalti, Panagiotis Adamis, says "Yasou paidi mou!"