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 ambiance 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, and most importantly, over the past months we have completed and will have available for you to take a brochure of 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. 

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

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

Parish Council
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 Greek-Fest 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.
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


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 future events. Several women gathered at the center and baked over 700 kouluria 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).
Prosforo Baking
Have you ever been interested in 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 its 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 school year, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohi_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

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.
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 Skoparantzos at Skoparantzosd@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 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 questions, comments, 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. This 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/1RZDVVVWwOqvaFhQ8EvtK5AkgexdLrUTEK9jdZS7HAHVE/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.
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.

**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. Contact our IOCC representative, Tim Hartch, at timhartch1@outlook.com.

Young adult dancers entertained the Saturday night crowd with several traditional dances like “Ikariotiko” 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

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.

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 a cappella, 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 203-554-5570.

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)

Annunciation Psalti, Panagiotis Adamis, says “Yasou paidi mou!”