

training to over 200 vulnerable women-headed households to help them produce enough food for their families and for the market. The IOCC also runs a daycare center for the women's young children. Our Church of the Archangels parish will have an opportunity to learn more about these relief missions on IOCC Sunday, which is scheduled for October 18th. For additional information, see the IOCC website at www.iocc.org. Contact our IOCC representative, Tim Hartch, at timhartch1@outlook.com.

Stamford Athletic Club @ Greek Cultural Center

Massage to be offered at the Center

Our personal trainer and massage therapist, Gustavo Ruiz, has been approved by the City of Stamford to provide massage

services at the Center. This process took over six months, much longer than anticipated, and we are excited about this new offering. Many thanks to Nick Aivalis for all of his assistance with this process. Stay tuned for more information on the types of massage that Gustavo will be offering and the hours available. Feel free to contact Gustavo directly, either by email: keepinmotion@hotmail.com or mobile phone 203-912-2855. Summer is almost over, and the kids are going back to school – time to refocus on you! Come to the Center for a great stress-reducing workout, group exercise class, or just a relaxing sauna/steam.

With the Greek Festival right around the corner, it's not just a great time to enjoy the food and rides, but a perfect opportunity to invite your friends to see the facility! Contact: Glenn Colarossi



The Herald

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

Back to School and a Whole Lot More

Fall typically arrives too soon for many of us. Given our own choice, we would prefer for summer to last a bit longer. That is, if we are not hard-working moms who can't wait to get the kids back in school!

Since I liked learning from my earliest childhood memories, this was always an exciting time of year. A new pair of clean shoes. Some sharpened pencils, neat paper and a nice notebook. Seeing "the gang" all together again. Sometimes I'd wonder: what will happen this year?

For anyone who is paying attention to what happening in our parish family, this is going to be a very active and exciting year indeed. September 1 is our ecclesiastical New Year and very naturally fits with the rhythm of life we follow. The list for us is easy to provide, with typical ministry, special observances, and significant events:

- Education at all levels resumes with Bible Study, Church School, Greek School, Greek for Adults and Preschool; in addition, 4 evening courses will be offered this fall at a nearby Seminary not just to enrolled students but to interested adults;
- Parish Ministry Focus this year will be on Marriage & Aging with workshops for renewing marital life (at different stages) as well as adapting to the process of growing older, entering retirement, meeting the challenges of caring for elderly parents, supporting grown children, and assisting in raising grandchildren;
- Seniors & Philoptochos start up with monthly meetings and their work of fellowship and service to the poor and suffering;
- Youth Ministry resumes but with the new, added dimension of a Pastoral Assistant, Steve Sarigianis, who has already hit the ground running to benefit GOYA, JOY/HOPE, Little Angels, and the Basketball & Volleyball teams; we will increasingly network with surrounding parishes (such as Annunciation here in Stamford and Our Savior in Rye, NY) as well as Regional and District wide events (such as Camp St. Paul in the summer);
- Young Adults (for those 18-35 years old, the least represented group in churches throughout America) will begin to take shape with a Special Event coming this fall – stay on the lookout!
- GreekFest takes place toward the end of September – our biggest, annual event of common work and outreach to the public – but preparations pick up steam from the beginning of this month and really accelerate the week before;
- Archdiocesan Stewardship theme this year is "Those That Seek the Lord Shall Never Be in Want of Any Good Thing"; the growth of returning a fair portion of God's extravagant gifts to us – new life, time, talents, and financial treasures – has been substantial in recent years as we continue in a positive direction;
- International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), the outstanding worldwide relief agency of all Orthodox Churches in America, will be highlighted in a Special Event this fall;
- Our Parish Feast day – Archangels on November 8 – will be on Sunday this year, so we will be planning special receptions on both Saturday evening and Sunday morning;
- \$2.2 million Capital Campaign for the comprehensive remodeling of our primary physical complex kicks off with a Special event and Reception; this is the single most significant project our parish has undertaken since the Greek Cultural Center was built about 40 years ago; it will be a golden opportunity for deepening our unity in Christ and preparing our campus and staff for the next 40 years.

This is simply a brief preview of what is to come. In movie terms, it is a trailer in written form. You will find more information in the sections that follow.

What a great privilege it is to be a community in Christ, to observe what the Lord is doing in our midst, and to cooperate in such a blessed period of renewal! Holy New Year!

– Fr. Harry

PARISH NEWS

40 Day Churching

August 16 – Giana James, 1st child of Chelsea James

Baptism

August 1 – George Nanos, 2nd child of George & Amy Nanos; godparents – Chris & Christina Nanos

August 22 – John Antonopoulos, 2nd child of James & Aria Antonopoulos; godparents – Nicholas & Joann Handrinos



Church of the Archangels
1527 Bedford Street
Stamford
203 348 4216

Sept 24, 25, 26, 27
Thursday and Friday:
5-11 p.m.
Saturday: 12-11 p.m.
Sunday: 12-7 p.m.

Free Admission
Rain or Shine

Greek Food, Pastries,
Bar, Raffle, Music and
Dancing, Rides/Games,
Face Painting
& Vendors

Free Parking
Take-out

SCENERY
NOT INCLUDED

2015
GREEKFEST

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council

At the August parish council meeting, the council agreed to focus on Aging and Marriage as the themes for the new ecclesiastical year which begins September 1. The reason for the focus on aging is fairly self evident, as a good portion of our parishioners continue to deal with the issue. The focus on marriage is a continuation and expansion of the ministry led by Fr Harry, who has been holding classes on marriage not only for couples planning their marriage, but also for families seeking a better understanding of marriage in the eyes of the church. Contact: George Papis

Treasurer's Report

For the month of July, income was \$54,719, resulting in a net contribution of \$5,984.

For the seven months that ended July 31st, income was \$627,637, resulting in a loss of \$7,726.

All bills due and payable are current. We borrowed \$50,000 from the Foundation (due to be repaid in October) to get through the summer months. This was due to the fact that we are paying all bills on time and the summer months for income are slow. Contact: George Khouri

Stewardship Report

The stewardship message this year is "Those that seek the Lord shall never be in want of any GOOD THING." Please remember to sign up to volunteer for the Festival, which runs for four days starting 9/24. Everyone's help is needed and if the past is any guide, there is a groundswell of help provided by all. Stewardship pledges (in cash) for the month of July were \$32,928 versus only \$11,000 for the prior month. For the seven months ending July 31st, stewardship pledges (in cash) totaled \$267,215. We are off to a very good start towards our goal of \$365,000 with five months left to go. Thanks to all who have given, particularly during the summer months. Contact: George Khouri

Additional 2015 Stewards

M/M James Antonopoulos	Zoe Loter
George Badoyannis	M/M Chris P. Nanos
M/M James King	M/M Evans Stergjanis
	M/M Anastasios Vouthounis

Buildings & Grounds

With the majority of our projects done, we are now reviewing the air balancing report recently completed. This report measured the air quantities and temperatures leaving the Heating and Air Conditioning Unit. This unit serves the church, hall and first floor classrooms. Preliminary reports indicate the fan system is delivering the air volumes and temperatures required to provide comfort levels. It appears there is about a ten-degree rise in temperature to the spaces due to the near 60 years of

buried duct work underground, which has degraded. We now await the consulting engineer (hired by the architect for the master plan) to recommend solutions to this problem. Repairs of the roof over various areas of the church are underway. The huge amounts of snow and ice necessitated new roof tiles and flashings to be installed. This work is expected to be completed by mid-September. Currently, we are reviewing proposals to make repairs, sealing of various areas of our driveways and roadways, in addition to the repair of sunken road drains. We are currently giving serious consideration to the dismantling of the lift to the choir loft. In its place will be constructed a much-needed cry room. Contact: Peter Licopantis, Nick Aivalis or Gregg Demetros

Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign will have its official kick-off after the liturgy on Sunday, September 20th. We hope that as many Church members as possible will be present that day to help us launch the campaign officially. Plans and renderings for the revamping of the administrative area and the Hall itself should be ready for presentation to the Community and display. No significant changes are planned for the church building. At that time, we also hope to have some exciting news to convey to you. The Master Planning Committee has been working hard with James G. Rogers Associates, the architects chosen for the project, to get things ready to present to you at that time. This is a project which will impact on the whole Church community, men and women, young and old. With this project, we will be bringing our campus into conformity with Federal ADA requirements. With this project, we will be revamping our facilities so as to serve your needs better. With this project, we hope that we will be opening the door to new activities and uses. With this project, our community will be stepping into the twenty-first century. Please set the date aside and plan to be with us. We look forward to seeing you all on 20 September. Contact: Elias Kulukundis

Master Planning Committee

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 20th. The Committee will present architectural renderings and a draft floor plan to the parish at the capital campaign launch that day. The work includes fresh perspectives on our Fellowship Hall, administrative spaces, meeting areas, rest rooms, and our entrances and exits. We will have easels set up to prominently display some of these aspects. We will provide marketing materials with highlights. These materials also will be used by the Capital Campaign Committee to communicate individually with parishioners. We look forward to sharing our hard work with you on Sunday, September 20th after church. Contact: Jason Konidaris



Group hug!

Little Angels

Little Angels is thrilled to see our community growing in young families and small children! If we have not yet put you on our email list and you would like to get involved in our ministry for young parents, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, please contact us! In July we held an intimate Mother's Night Out dinner and had a lovely time discussing many issues related to raising our children. We hope to continue to this conversation over the course of an active year! In September we will hold a picnic/playdate at an area park to get acquainted with new families and children. Look for details in our group email. This month we are also soliciting donations of children's clothing for orphans in Belgrade. Please let us know when you can bring your offering to the church for collection. Little Angels has in the last few months developed a tradition of welcoming babies into the church at their 40 day blessing. We are asking for your generous donation of books, clothing, toys, or other gifts that we can package and offer to the babies. Looking forward, we would



Final day embrace



Venerating Icon in church

like to choose a book related to marriage and parenting of children in the faith and hold a discussion this fall with Presvytera Kerry. If you have any input and would like to give us your ideas about the group, send us a message at avalassis@gmail.com.

IOCC

The IOCC offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide. In recent press releases, the IOCC has highlighted a new effort to provide assistance to Syrian refugees arriving in Serbia, as well as the IOCC's ongoing educational work with Palestinians on the West Bank. In the past six months, over 37,000 Syrian refugees have traveled hundreds of miles to Serbia, often by foot. Recognizing the growing humanitarian crisis, the IOCC, working through the Serbian Orthodox Church, has recently begun providing 3,500 meals per day to the exhausted and dispirited refugees. The IOCC has been working on the West Bank since 1996. The IOCC is currently providing agricultural and animal husbandry



Playtime!



Lighting candle before Morning Prayer



Lighting candle before Morning Prayer

Youth Athletics

Registration for all youth athletic programs – Basketball (Midget, JV & Varsity for boys and girls 8 – 18 years; & Senior men over 18 years), and Volleyball (for girls 18 & under) – will take place during Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 13. Please sign up well in advance of the season – adults for the Senior team and children for all other teams – so that we can better decide which teams we can field and establish a practice schedule. Contact: John Skoparantz, Athletic Director, 203-550-6894 or atojohn@aol.com

Hope/Joy

The Hope & Joy ministry, for pre-school children through 6th grade, is designed to help young people learn more about their Orthodox faith, get to know their church friends better, and grow together in positive and spiritual ways. We recently met with Steve Sarigianis, our new pastoral assistant, and had an extremely productive meeting about our past events, future



Steve teaching the children

possible events, and the exciting new direction of our Church's youth ministry in general. This year, we have many meaningful and fun-filled activities planned. Our first event will be our "Nature Outing" at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd at 3:00 p.m. The outing will feature an outdoor scavenger hunt based on Biblical verses. An invitation with more details will be e-mailed to those already on our mailing list. 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. We hope that we will see many children, parents, and grandparents at our first fall event and other activities throughout the year. Contact: Chris and Luisa Nanos.

Altar Boy Workshop

Fr. Harry & Steve Sarigianis will conduct a workshop for all on-going and new altar boys on Saturday, September 12, 10 am – 12 noon. All baptized and chrismated boys who are at least 9 years old, or entering 3rd grade, are welcome to attend. We will cover the basics as well as changes for this year. Then at the end, all boys will try on robes that will need tailoring. Please confirm your attendance with Jane in the Church office (203-348-4216). Contact: Fr. Harry or Steve



Steve teaching the children

MINISTRIES

Change of Hours for Worship & Fellowship

Please note that we will resume regular times for Sunday worship beginning on September 13:

Orthros 8:45 am; Liturgy 10:00 am; Coffee Hour 11:45 am

GreekFest is Just Around the Corner – Volunteers Needed!

Dearest Parishioners:

We still need volunteers...please stop by to sign up in the Church Hall or contact Diane Sierpina or Vicki Kyriakos. See schedule below. Please print volunteer registration form and return by email to Diane or Vicki or drop off at church.

Remember – this is our annual fundraiser and we are counting on everyone, so please try and sell raffle tickets and don't forget to also purchase.

Thank you to all for all of your giving in every way...it means so much. Sincerely, Co-Chairs Margaret and Steve Fornaciari and the Festival Committee

Volunteer Opportunities for the Greek Festival

Sunday, Sept. 20 – Set-up: 1 to 6 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 21 – Set-up: 5 to 9 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 22 – Set-up & Decorations: 5 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 23 – Set-up & Decorations: 5 to 9 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 24 – 5 to 11 p.m. (Volunteers begin to arrive 4:30 p.m.) Shifts: 4:30-6:30 pm, 6:30-8:30 pm, and 8:30-11 pm

Floaters, Servers, Raffle Ticket sales, Pastries, Hot Dog Vendors, Take Out, Crafts, Coffee/Pastry

Friday, Sept. 25 – 5 to 11 p.m. (Volunteers begin to arrive 4:30 p.m.) Shifts: 4:30-6:30 pm, 6:30-8:30 pm, and 8:30-11 pm

Floaters, Servers, Raffle Ticket sales, Pastries, Hot Dog Vendors, Take Out, Crafts, Coffee/Pastry Servers, Kitchen Help, Bar, Security

Saturday, Sept. 26 – noon to 11 p.m. (Volunteers begin to arrive 11:30 a.m.) Shifts: 11:30 am-2:30 pm, 2:30-5:30 pm, 5:30-8:30 pm, and 8:30-11:30 pm

Floaters, Servers, Raffle Ticket sales, Pastries, Hot Dog Vendors, Take Out, Crafts, Coffee/Pastry Servers, Kitchen Help, Bar, Security

Sunday, Sept. 27 – noon to 7 p.m. (then from 7 p.m. on for clean-up) (Volunteers arrive at 11:30 a.m.) Shifts: 11:30 am-2, 2-4:30, 4:30-7 pm until cleanup is finished

Floaters, Servers, Raffle Ticket sales, Pastries, Hot Dog Vendors, Take Out, Crafts, Coffee/Pastry Servers, Kitchen Help, Bar, Security

****Clean-up Crew (at least 20 additional people would make it easier for the rest of us all after an exhausting weekend!)**

SAVE THE DATE! ARCHANGELS ANNUAL GREEKFEST

THU, SEPT. 24 – SUN, SEPT. 27

Volunteers of All Ages Needed

Sign up today to help:
cook, bake, set-up, serve, or clean-up

Please fill out and return your volunteer forms

For more information, contact Diane Sierpina at sierpina@yahoo.com or 203-554-6932, or Vicki Kyriakos at vskdmd@aol.com or 203-550-7708

Cooking Schedule for Festival

Nitsa's Famous Cookies: in SAC kitchen
Saturday, September 12, 9:30am

Stuffed Tomatoes: in church kitchen
Thursday September 24, 9am-12 noon
Friday September 25, 9am- 12noon

Adult Education

- **BIBLE STUDY** – Education in the Christian faith will resume on Monday, Sept 14, with Compline at 7:15 pm, followed by study at 7:30 pm. New members are welcome to join our core group. No previous knowledge of the Bible is necessary. We will explore topics and the schedule for the New Year. Coffee, tea, and light snacks are available. Contact: Fr. Harry.
- **SEMINARY CLASSES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – Beginning this month, St. Vladimir's Seminary will offer four 1-credit evening courses that are open to interested adults as auditors. To learn about these, please go to <http://www.svots.edu/events/take-class-four-evening-courses-open-public-fall> or contact Fr. Harry (frharry@archangelsgoc.org).
- "Religious Themes in Film" by Dr. Peter Bouteneff on Wednesdays 8:10 – 9:25 pm;
- "The Liturgical Space and Practice of Three Hierarchs Chapel (the Seminary Chapel)" by Rev. Deacon Evan Freeman on Tuesdays 6:45 – 8:00 pm;
- "Introduction to the Spiritual Life" by Rev. Dr. John Behr on Tuesdays 8:10 – 9:25 pm; and
- "Exploring Genesis" by Fr. Harry on Wednesdays from 6:45 – 8:00 pm.

• **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.

Seniors

We mourn the loss of Catherine Apostolos, long time Secretary, who fell asleep in the Lord on August 22. Instead of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to our Church. May her memory be eternal and may Christ comfort her daughter Mareena! After the summer break, our regular meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month will resume on Sept 9 at 12 noon. First meeting will be a social (no special speaker), starting with wine, cheese & appetizers. Our calling committee will contact seniors for reservations for the meal. We welcome anyone 55 years of age and older, including all seniors at Annunciation. Remember to come to Liturgy on Sunday, Sept 13 for the American holiday honoring Grandparents! Contact: George Hasapis (203-966-2534) or Peter Paspalis (203-329-9312).

Also, a few Seniors would like to meet on a regular basis for fellowship while speaking Greek – to play games, listen to occasional speakers, and enjoy each other’s company. This would include Seniors from Annunciation. Interested? Contact George Hasapis or Peter Paspalis.

GRANDPARENTS DAY
Sunday, September 13
Special Prayer for Grandparents @ Liturgy
Cake during Coffee Hour

Ladies Philoptochos Society

The first meeting of the new ecclesiastical year is Tuesday, Sept. 8th. Please join us at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall for pizza and fellowship before the meeting. We have exciting plans for this year and welcome the participation and new ideas from ladies of the parish of all ages. Please join us! Contact: Marion Vanson at 914-234-9420.

Meal Share

Philoptochos provides home-cooked dinners for seniors, shut-ins and anyone in need that include the menu item and instructions for heating. They are stored in one serving containers in the freezer at church or at our home. If you know of anyone is presently unable to cook for himself or herself, and who would benefit from a home-cooked dinner, please let me know. Our goal is to have 4 dinners per month available for distribution. Dinners are prepared by parishioners or caterers preparing meals for events such as various church luncheons throughout the year. The storage containers are freezer and microwave safe, BPA free and reusable. We can also prepare additional portions to accommodate a whole family. Contact: Marietta (and Annie) Morelli marietta.morelli@gmail.com

Church School

The Church School Program welcomes children and families to the start of the new school year on Sunday, September 13, 2015. Students are to attend Holy Liturgy with their families and will be then called to the auditorium following Holy Communion in order to meet their teachers and be escorted to their classrooms. A celebratory cake cutting reception will celebrate the start of the Church School and Youth Ministry programs following Holy Liturgy. The Church School Program is looking to further develop cross ministry events, deepen its programming, and offer creative ways to accommodate and engage families, particularly those with young children, to attend Holy Liturgy and Church School. On this note, we would like to offer our congratulations and appreciation to Fr. Harry, our new Pastoral Assistant Steven Sarigianis, and teacher Kyriaki Yoranidis for launching a successful and vibrant Vacation Bible Camp! This is a tradition we hope to continue next summer! Lastly, Emily Skoutelas will continue to lead our Music Ministry division. The calendar for Music Ministry Sundays will be published soon.

Looking forward to a fruitful new academic year filled with fellowship and a deepening of our faith and love in Christ. Contact: Evelyn Biliias Lolis ebiliias@aol.com

Greek School

Welcome back! Greek School starts on September 8th. Our school is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 pm – 6 pm. Class schedule, calendars, registration forms and/or questions can be sought from either the church office or Kiria Kyriaki Bellos kikibelos@optonline.net. Our first PTO meeting is Oct 13 at 5:30 pm in the conference room on the second floor. All are welcome and encouraged to come with their ideas and recommendations to enhance our school! Contact Rebecca Kelesidis

Greek Language Classes for Adults

The world is shrinking with globalization and the internet! Now is a great time for adults to learn modern Greek. We are blessed to have an excellent instructor in Dr. Eugenia Zavras, a biology Professor at Fairfield University. Classes for adults will begin on October 7. For information and registration, contact her directly at 203-322-9561 or call Jane in the office. Please register before September 25.

GOYA

GOYA is gearing up for the new year ahead. Preliminary meetings are already taken place to discuss the new year – we have several annual fall events scheduled and more on the way. It is an exciting time to join our GOYA! Keep the following dates in mind:

- **Sunday Sept. 13th** during coffee hour is our **Sign-up and Kick-off**. We will have a short meet and greet at the church following.
- **Saturday Sept. 19th** is the regional **GOYA Day at Holiday Hill** event in Cheshire, CT – it is a full day of fun and activities with GOYAns from throughout Connecticut and NY. Contact Diane Skoparantzios at Skoparantziosd@optonline.net, Bill Giantomidis (732-779-3696) or Steve Sarigianis.



The following photos are all from our inaugural Vacation Church School that was a rousing success with 13 children enrolled the week of August 3 from 9 am - 12 noon, under the direction of Kiriaki Yoranidis (Preschool Director) and Steve Sarigianis (Pastoral Assistant). A number of parents raved about how much their children loved the program.

“CROSSROAD” by Aphrodite Haralabides (rising High School senior)

This summer I had the opportunity to spend 10 days in Brookline, Massachusetts, at the Hellenic College Holy Cross. Attending the CrossRoad program gave me the time to process, understand and own my Greek Orthodox connection. From Scripture lessons with Fr. Maximos Conostas, to Vocation and Mission lessons with Fr. Luke Veronis, I learned so much in the short 10 days. I also made many new friends who I am in contact with and hope to see at our reunion. I loved the daily worship and especially enjoyed visiting and experiencing

different Orthodox churches. Additionally, I loved being able to see the beautiful city of Boston and meet some of its people. Having breakfast with the homeless and visiting the elderly at a nursing home were definitely very enriching experiences that helped me see my neighbor in a better way. I am thankful to our Greek Orthodox community for offering such an encouraging program to young people.

– *CrossRoad is an exceptional program for highly motivated rising High School Juniors & Seniors, and is endowed heavily so that participants from around the country pay little or nothing to attend.*



Kissing the Cross at end of Morning Prayer



Kissing the Cross at end of Morning Prayer