



The Herald

Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Archangels • 1527 Bedford St., Stamford, CT 06905 September 2013

Back to School

Long after we complete our own formal education, we still identify September as “Back to School” month. Summer is quickly winding down. Families conclude their vacations. Children of all ages return to class: from pre-school to the university. Everything appears to get back to “normal” at work, neighborhood, and home.

If this is true for the way we typically live, is it true in the Church?

In some sense, no, it does not. Jesus never took a vacation as far as we know, even if ancient Romans certainly knew how to “get away” and enjoy life during warm summer months. Ill-fated Pompeii, completely buried by the volcanic eruption of Mt. Vesuvius not long after Christ, was a famous spot for sun and fun. But anyone who has seen the CBS 60-Minute special on Mt. Athos may remember Bob Simon’s arresting comment: “And they [the monks] do this [daily rhythm of worship, prayer, and work] 365 days a year with no days off.” Wait a minute: what are we to make of one of the 10 Commandments that requires a 24-hour period of Sabbath rest from work and daily responsibilities? Its purpose is not for us to take time off from God (as if we could ever truly do that anyway), but so that we can consciously devote ourselves to praying and playing: acknowledging God’s authority over life through worship, and making time for enjoying countless blessings through creative leisure. Not only did Jesus make time for himself away from work, he evidently also carved out extra “time away” when his closest associates came back exhausted from their labors (see Mark 6:31). However, at no point do we get the impression that either he or they stopped regular daily prayer or weekly worship. That’s precisely the point about Sabbath: we stop all the busy routines that engulf our lives in order to give ourselves to God in holiness and wholeness.

Of course, in another sense, in parish life as we all know it, we do in fact “return to normal” this month.

Many families and others, after a summer of work, vacation, camps, and programs, will come back to Sunday worship. Choir resumes practice and altar boys show up. Education starts again – Preschool, Church School, Greek School, Adult Catechism, Bible Study, and Workshops. Ministries reconvene: Seniors, Philoptochos, Stewardship, Master Planning, Little Angels, HOPE & JOY, and GOYA. Sign-ups for Youth Athletics take place. GreekFest hits high gear. New initiatives stand a better chance of getting off the ground: Welcoming Committee and a Parent-Teacher Organization for Church School. Events are being planned for the upcoming school year – such as a Parish Retreat, the annual Turkey Bingo, Three Hierarchs Day, Annunciation/Greek Independence Day, to name a few. While some of us stuck it out in daily prayer and weekly worship throughout the summer (even while observing Sabbath and taking vacations), many others did not.

No matter: we are all welcomed back with real joy and fervent expectation of what God has in store for us as a family of faith. On September 1, we will ring in the new ecclesiastical year with special prayer at the end of Liturgy. On September 8, we will honor our elders with a special prayer and coffee hour on “Grandparents Day,” a national holiday. On September 15, we will invite the whole parish to rejoice in the start of a new School year with special prayer and a gourmet hot breakfast after Liturgy. On September 22, we resume Church School music for grade school children and begin the physical set up for GreekFest. Then on September 29, we will welcome the public into our spiritual home to enjoy Christian hospitality through the celebration of Greek culture and our Orthodox Faith.

“Back to School” has a familiar ring. May God guide us to make the most of it.

— Fr. Harry

GREEK FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THURSDAY – SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 26-29

**Sign up in the Church Hall
Many volunteers wanted!**

CONTACT:

Diane Sierpina - 203-554-6932 Sierpina@yahoo.com

Vicki Kyriakos - 203-550-7708 vskdmd@aol.com

Parish Council

Council voted to approve an expenditure not-to-exceed \$10,000 to repair the economizer cycle mechanism on one of the Stamford Athletic Club A/C units. This will extend the useful life of the unit and will allow better circulation of fresh air. Contact: George Paparis

Additional 2013 Stewards

Mr & Mrs George N. Bakes

Mr & Mrs Michael Burke

Mr & Mrs Louis Chochos

Dr & Mrs John Kazianis

Mr & Mrs Nikos Koukoumelidis

Mrs Maria Laveris

Mr & Mrs Ioannis Pissanidis

Mrs Olga Scamuffo

Mr & Mrs Alkiviadis Valassis

Buildings & Grounds

The ground level of the Atria Parking Garage has been cleared out and completely cleaned so that on

Sundays this is a much more inviting area for everyone to use. Check it out for yourself next time you are looking for a place to park and cannot find one. We are investigating ways to repair the uneven and cracked stone tiles in the walkway to the office. Contact: Gregg Demetros

Master Planning

Thank you! 140 parish households participated in the feedback stage of the Master Plan via interview or questionnaire. Your input has been tabulated and incorporated into an impactful report. Jerry Minetos, our strategic planning advisor, will present the report and all its findings to the entire parish early this fall. It will answer many questions, chief among them – do we as a parish want to pursue a process of renewal - of campus, ministries, and staff? The committee worked hard to reach and inform all parishioners – be it by personal interview, mail, public announcement, town hall meeting, or the Herald. If you were unable to participate but do care about the future direction of our parish, there will be more opportunities to get involved. Contact: Jason Konidaris

MINISTRIES

ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL IS BIGGEST FUNDRAISER! HELP OF EVERYONE WANTED!

This year's Greek Festival is the most ambitious festival we have sponsored in decades. There will be carnival rides and games, a greater variety of vendors, frappes and other surprises, including the return of a car raffle – a 2013 Audi A4 sedan – all of which we expect to attract larger and more enthusiastic crowds to what we have customarily offered every year – delicious Greek food, drinks and pastries, wonderful Greek music and dancing, great fellowship, select vendors, religious bookstore, and church tours.

All these exciting changes mean that we need even more volunteers. Please consider devoting a few hours of your time helping to set up and decorate and then to contribute your talents during the Festival itself. We welcome parishioners (and friends) of all ages as volunteers. Sign up on the posters in the church hall or by contacting:

Diane Sierpina at 203-554-6932 or Sierpina@yahoo.com

Vicki Kyriakos at 203 550-7708 or vskdmd@aol.com.

If you can be a floater during any hours, that will be very helpful and allow us to fill gaps. Please invite your family and friends to attend the Festival: the more the merrier. In addition, posters and flyers advertising the Festival are available in the church office or by email. Take several copies and post them at your office or favorite business. HELP US GET THE WORD OUT! Next Festival Planning Meeting is Thursday, Sept. 6, 6 pm in the church hall – new members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Volunteer Opportunities for the Greek Festival

Sunday, Sept. 22 – Set-up: 1–6 pm

Monday, Sept. 23 – Set-up: 5–9 pm

Tuesday, Sept. 24 – Set-up & Decorations: 5–9 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 25 – Set-up & Decorations: 5–9 pm

Thursday, Sept. 26 - 5 to 11 pm

(Volunteers begin to arrive 4:30 pm)

- 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. 27 - 5 to 11 pm (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. 28 - Noon to 11 pm

- 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. 29 - Noon to 7 pm

(and then from 7 p.m. on for clean-up)

- Shifts: 11:30 am–2 pm, 2–4:30 pm, 4:30–7 pm until clean up 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!)

RAFFLE TICKETS - \$100

2014 AUDI A-4 SEDAN

Only 700 will be sold

Available in the Church Office 203-348-4216

GREEK FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP SIGNS \$100

Advertise a Business or Show your Family's Support

Contact: Church Office 203-348-4216 or Chris P. Nanos

Seniors

The Archangels Seniors will have their first meeting after the summer vacation on Wednesday, September 11th. It will be a social luncheon at 12 o'clock at a cost of \$8.00/per person. On Sunday, September 8th our Church will celebrate National Grandparents Day at the coffee hour following the Liturgy. All grandparents are invited and urged to attend the Grandparents Day Celebration. For our October meeting, Father Harry will enlighten us with the details and experiences from his spiritual trip to Israel this past summer. The Seniors are also planning to see the play "Joseph" at the Kweskin Theater on November 17th with dinner following the play at the Royal Green Restaurant. If you are an Orthodox Christian and at least 55 years old, you are cordially invited to join the Archangels Seniors. Looking forward to seeing you at our September 11th social luncheon. Contact: George Hasapis (203-966-2534)

Ladies Philoptochos Society

The first meeting of the ecclesiastical year takes place on Tuesday Sept 3rd. We will start off with a social hour with wine and appetizers at 6:30 p.m. Please bring any towels or single sheets that you do not need for the homeless shelter on Pacific Ave. At our meeting, we will be planning our many events for the upcoming year. We appreciate any help that the ladies of our parish can offer. It makes our goal of helping the helpless easier to achieve. Pauline Galuris will be bringing our chapter's \$2,000 donation for Greek relief, which was approved last spring, to Priest Othon Nikias in Kato Corinth. Our National Board has asked us to host the coffee hour on September 22nd, displaying a donation jar for offerings to be used for humanitarian relief in Greece. New members are always welcome to join our chapter. The annual dues are \$35 or \$25 for Seniors. Contact: Marion Vanson

Bible Study/Adult Catechism

Education in the Christian faith will resume on Monday, Sept 8, 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.

Pre-Marital Preparation

Fr. Harry will offer two Marriage Workshops on Sunday, September 22 & October 6, from 3 – 5:30 pm. These are designed for couples preparing for Marriage, along with married couples.

Grandparents Day

Sunday, September 8

Special Prayer for Grandparents
at Liturgy Celebration
during Coffee Hour

Parish Hot Breakfast

To celebrate New Church Year

Sunday, Sept 15, after Liturgy

Catered by Phil & Liz Costas
Offered by Parish Council;
Free Will Donations accepted

RSVP by Sept. 11:
archangels1@sbcglobal.net
or 203-348-4216

Church School

The faculty of Archangels Church School would like to welcome children and families to the start of another academic year! The Church School Program will begin on Sunday, September 15, 2013. Students and parents will gather in the Church Hall following Holy Communion to receive their teacher and classroom assignments. New registrations are encouraged and welcomed. Please contact Jane in the Church Office (203-348-4216) with new registrations. We also are delighted to continue our Music Ministry this upcoming year. Emily Skoutelas will again teach Music for grades K-6 one Sunday per month starting on September 22. Teachers: A mandatory faculty meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2013 at 7pm. Wishing our children and families a fruitful year in the life of the Church as we grow together in faith and community! Contact: Evelyn Biliias Lolis-ebilias@aol.com

Greek Language Classes for Adults

For more information and to register, contact Dr. Eugenia Zavras at 203-322-9561 or the church office. Please register before September 22.

Greek School

Welcome back! Mark your calendars Greek School starts the week of September 3rd. Our school is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 pm – 6 pm. Class schedule, calendars, registration forms and/or information can be sought from either the church office or Kiria Kyriaki Bellos kikibelos@optonline.net. Our first PTO meeting is Sept. 10th 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! Thank you! Greek School PTO & Greek School Committee. Contact: Rebecca Kelesidis, Greek School Committee & Greek School PTO.

GOYA (for children age 12 -18)

GOYA registration will take place during Coffee Hour on Sunday, Sept 15, the first day of Church School, and Sunday, Sept 22. All teens, 7th to 12th grades, are encouraged to attend and register so that we have up-to-date email distribution lists and the most current information on file. First major event: Regional excursion for all area GOYA chapters for a day of outdoor activities, food, and fellowship at Holiday Hill in Prospect, CT. Parents & chaperones are encouraged. Registration in advance required for all GOYAns and Adults: \$20/person by Sept. 10, \$30/person afterwards. Make checks payable to "St. Barbara GOYA," and mail to St. Barbara Church, 480 Racebrook Road, Orange CT 06477. A GOYA Advisor Training Seminar for all adults will be held during the same event. Parents: note the box below about an important get together for fellowship an informal conversation as we start the New Year. GOYA provides a wonderful way for teens to make friends for life. Join us! Contact: Bill Giantomidis (billgiant1@yahoo.com)

GOYA Parents BBQ

Saturday, Sept 7 @ 6:00 pm

Home of Fr. Harry & Kerry
131 Silver Hill Lane

RSVP: pappaskk@msn.com
or 203-504-2689

Hope/Joy

(for children from pre-school through 6th grade)

The Hope/Joy Ministry is looking forward to an exciting new year with fun-filled and enriching activities planned for our youth. The goal of the ministry is to help young Orthodox Christians strengthen their relationships with Christ, their families, and each other. Families with children from preschool through 6th grade are welcomed and encouraged to participate. We are in the process of compiling a comprehensive list of potential participants for this upcoming year. If you do not receive our introductory letter via e-mail by mid-September, please contact us directly at cnanos@optonline.net or contact the Church office to be included in our registry.

Our first event will be held at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center on Saturday, October 5th at 11:00 am (rain date 10/12). Children and their parents are invited to bring a picnic lunch and go on a nature hike to explore some of God's creations. We hope to see as many of you as possible at church services, church school, and our Hope/Joy Ministry events throughout the year. Contacts: Chris and Luisa Nanos

Little Angels

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

Preschool

Our preschool, unexpectedly, has one available space for the upcoming school year 2013-14. The preschool also is in need for a new carpet. Please contact Kiriaki Yoranidis at knyrus@aol.com or 203-329-2353.

Altar Boy Workshop

Fr. Harry will conduct a workshop for all on-going and new altar boys on Saturday, September 14, following the Feast day Liturgy, from 11:15 am – 12:30 pm. All baptized and chrismated boys who are at least 9 years old, or entering 3rd grade, are welcome to attend. Please confirm your attendance with Jane in the Church office. (203-348-4216). Contact: John Pasvankias or Fr. Harry for more info

Parents With Pre-School Children

We are reaching out to families with young, preschool age children to form a group that meets

regularly on weekdays for age appropriate prayer, play, activities, church and seasonal celebrations, and even small, local trips. Moms, dads, grandparents or other caregivers are encouraged to attend with the kids.

The objective of the group would be to bring young families closer together as members of the same parish, as well as offering young children an informal way to be together outside worship. We welcome ideas about activities that might interest the children and about the overall possibilities for this group. God bless our young followers of Christ! Contact: Anastasia Valassis at avalassis@gmail.com or 203-594-1309

Youth Athletics

Registration for all youth athletic programs – **Basketball** (Division 1-3 for boys and girls 8 – 18 years, & Senior men over 18), and **Volleyball** (for girls) – will take place during Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 15. 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 Skoparantzou, Athletic Director, 203-550-6894 or atozjohn@aol.com

IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities)

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) supports one of the largest established networks to deliver life-saving humanitarian aid inside Syria where more than 7 million people are currently in need of assistance. In addition to its work inside Syria, IOCC staff is working regionally to address the growing needs of more than 1.8 million refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Armenia as well as people in need in those host countries. Responding to one of the worst humanitarian and refugee crises in history, IOCC is one of the few international non-governmental organizations working on the ground in Syria to provide aid to people who have been displaced inside the country by the civil war. In providing this aid, IOCC works in close partnership with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and All the East. Since February 2012, IOCC has provided relief to more than 820,000 people affected by the crisis. If you would like to help, contact www.iocc.org. Contact: Christine or Nick Chivily

Mental Health Support

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Connecticut will offer 11 free weekly sessions offering support and education to family members of individuals with mental illness beginning Mon, Sept 9, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. @ St. John's Lutheran Church, 884 Newfield Ave Stamford, CT. For information and registration contact: Marietta at 203-329-8633 or Bob C. at 203-849-9573.

Camp Saint Paul

by Ilda Cocoli (age 17)

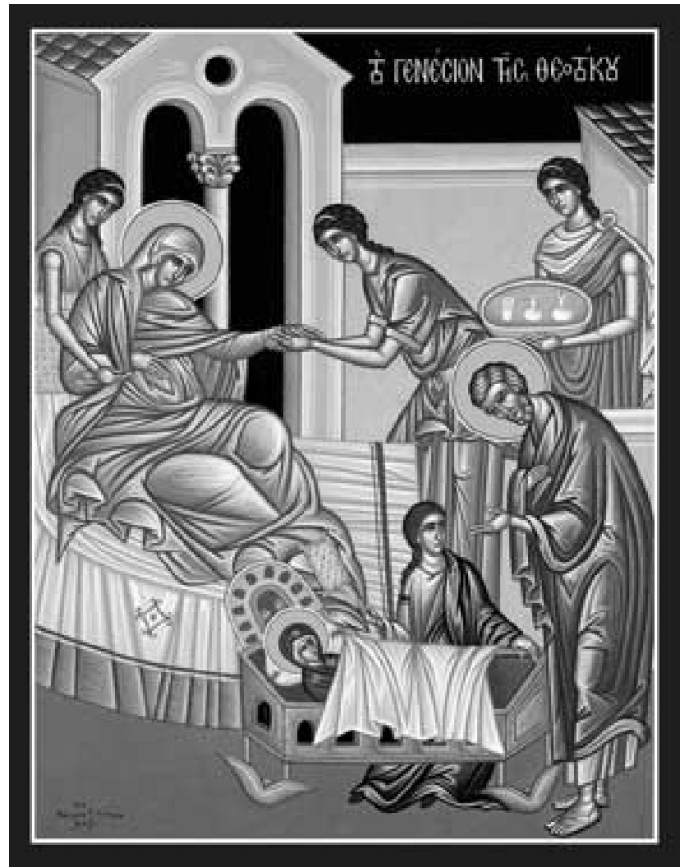
My sister, Elia, and I wanted to share our amazing experience at Camp Saint Paul this summer. We spent the 4th week there (July 22-28). It was a new environment, but we felt like at home, because of all the love and warmth. The activities at Bantam Lake, such as tubing, swimming, blobbing and jet skiing were really entertaining. Also, the unique activities at campfire and our Olympics were lots of fun.

We both made new friends, with whom we will definitely keep in touch. Most importantly we grew in our faith, we learned more about orthodoxy, and happily participated during chapel, Orthodox Life and Liturgical hour. It was a privilege to join the big family of Camp Saint Paul, where every camper is welcomed.

[Note: Both girls emigrated from Albania with their parents (Petrit & Adriana, who work part time for our parish) about 18 months ago, so they are becoming accustomed to a new way of life here. Our parish and Camp St. Paul have become their spiritual home.]

Russian Choir Concert

Premier Performance of the Patriarch Tikhon Choir, an ensemble of Russian & American Orthodox professional singers under the direction of Vladimir Gorbik, Choirmaster of the Moscow Representation Church of Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery in Russian, on Sept. 16, 7:30 pm @ St. Malachy's Chapel (239 West 49th Street, NY, NY). Tickets \$35/adults, \$15/students, available at the door or online – patriarchtikhonchoir.com or 212-489-1340.



Icon of Birth of the Theotokos, Celebrated on Sept 8

Transforming Conflicts: Becoming Interfaith Peace Builders

Presentations, interactive sessions for clergy and laity of the Stamford area for dealing with international and interfaith conflict, to help us become creative peacemakers. Sat, Oct 5, 9 am – 4pm @ Norwalk Community College, East Campus (188 Richards Ave., Norwalk), and an Introductory session on Fri, Oct 4, 5:30 – 9 pm @ Temple Beth El (350 Roxbury Rd, Stamford). Sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Southwestern CT. Contact: Fr. Harry

PARISH NEWS

Baptism

- July 30 – Ryan Christopher Baskay, son and 1st child of Robert & Michelle Ciaraldi Baskay

Graduation

- August – Fofe Vasquez, with a Masters of Arts in Elementary Education from Fairfield University

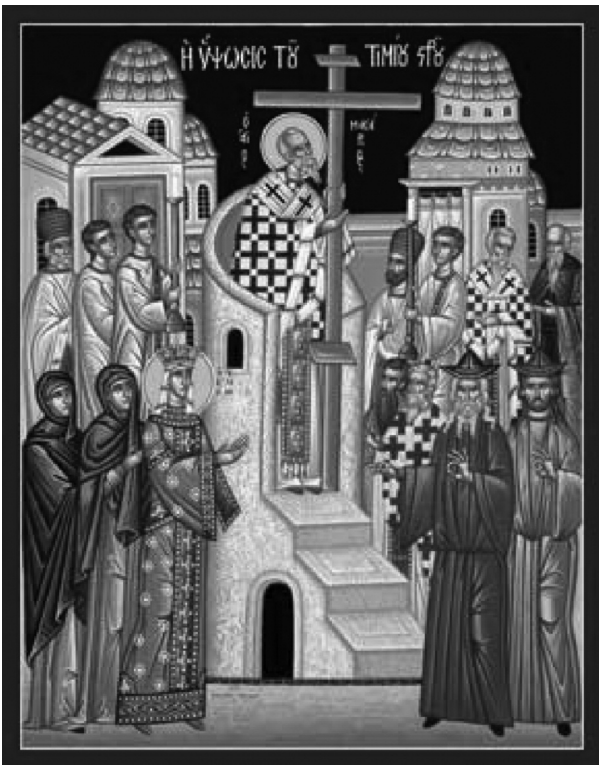
AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Foundation

The Foundation Board has not met over the summer. The only noteworthy development to report is that, as of July 1, 2013, the monthly subsidy of \$3,500 to the Stamford Athletic Club terminated. This is in accordance with policy adopted by the Foundation Board in September, 2012, and announced to the parish shortly thereafter. Prospective repairs to the Center and to the Church to be funded by the Foundation as announced at that time are either awaiting commencement or are in the final bidding and authorization process. This is entirely in the hands of the Building and Grounds Committee. Contact: Elias Kulukundis

AHEPA

On August 23rd, at the 91st Annual AHEPA Supreme Convention in Orlando, our Stamford chapter's Membership Director, Nicholas Nikas, was elected Supreme Governor of Region 4, New England States. Nick will be one of eight Supreme Governors who are members of the Supreme Lodge and represent the Supreme President in their regions. This is the second time Nick will serve in this capacity. The first time was in 2011-12. We will have a meeting in mid-September, but the date has not been set yet. Please save the date for our "Passing the Torch" fundraiser on October 26th, a dinner-dance at the Norwalk Inn for the benefit of our Greek Schools and the Greek Relief Fund. It will be very similar to the very popular event we had last year. We plan to honor the Father/Son or Father/Son-in-Law pairs who are AHEPAns in our chapter or neighboring chapters. Prospective honorees include but are not limited to George Adamis and John Skoparantzou, Arthur and Nicholas Kiratsous, Jack and John Louizos, Peter and Chris Nanos and Nick Soulios, Theophilos Nikolis and Angel Muniz, Stelios and John Petsagourakis, George Psathas and Vasilios Diakogeorgiou, John and Peter Ramoglou, Evans Stergias and Tim Hartch, Alkis and Steven Valassis, George and Aris Crist, Van and Tom Hatzis, Fr. Constantine and Nikiforos Mathews, Fr. George and Peter Poulos, and Nicholas and Alex Nikas. Members who get their son or father to join by October 10 will be honored as well. For membership applications contact Nicholas Nikas 203-554-5570.



Icon of the Elevation of the Holy Cross,
Celebrated on Sept 14