



The Herald

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

April 2016

Honest to God: Confession

The Orthodox Christian practice of confession is in danger of falling into disuse and becoming irrelevant. Today, most generally do not consider confession of any kind as necessary and have difficulty believing that he or she needs to voice their sins in a Christian community or in the presence of a priest before they are forgiven.

I attribute this rejection to the wrong understanding of confession that tends toward legalism: if we confess our sins to a priest, then these are cancelled and we hope to go to heaven. Naturally, there can also be a host of other factors: ignorance, fear, and pride, to name a few.

Instead, I want to recover the lost understanding that confession involves the transformative power of speaking the truth. Confession is a Sacrament – God is present not in canceling our sins but in the very act of speaking honestly about our story with a priest. In this act of being honest, we experience God’s love and forgiveness and grow more deeply in union with Christ. The power of honest speech to communicate God’s love depends at the same time on the role of the priest as an icon of Christ and the Church. The goal of our life is not to go to a place somewhere else (“heaven”) but to enter more deeply into the life of God who wants to live in and among us here and now.

The Sacrament of Confession is rooted deeply in the Bible where the act of confessing sins is reflected in many places, particularly in Psalm 51 and the Letter of James where we hear, “therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed” (5:16). Throughout a long, historical development, the Orthodox

Church evolved the current practice that is at least 1,000 years old.

In confession, we are called to claim ownership of all our actions and behavior that form our life story. The forgiveness offered does not erase the past as if it can be conveniently forgotten but changes its meaning. Past actions and words are not permanent obstacles in our relationship with Christ who always loves us even though we fall short. Since the goal of our life is union with God, confession is about experiencing the presence of the Lord more fully right now.

Consider how we live with each other. In order for a marriage or friendship to develop, we have to speak honestly about ourselves, which includes things we may be afraid to reveal. Confession is an act of doing the same thing – telling the truth about all that we have done and experienced. This is not easy. When we first encounter each other, we begin with small talk. Gradually we begin to open up a little more. Finally, we arrive at a point where we are comfortable about telling the other person things that we fear to say, all the while feeling anxiety. Will the other person look at us differently? Nervously we await a response.

Once the truth is spoken and received in a space of trust, love and acceptance, the two people cannot help but be closer to one another. The spoken word of truth hovers between two people with the power to transform their relationship into one of deeper intimacy.

CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGELS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

*“Come let us
rebuild”*



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the Archangels
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“Come let us rebuild”

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For more information, call 203-348-4216 or visit
www.archangelsgoc.org

Just as this can and does occur in our own lives, so it relates directly to the Sacrament of Confession. Being honest to God will bring us closer to God who is eternally caring, trustworthy, and loving.

Still, many still ask, “Why can’t I just confess in the privacy of my heart?” or “God knows all my sins, why do I have to say them out loud to another person, especially a priest?” The answer is that not saying them or saying them only in private does not produce the same result as coming before a priest. Just as we feel fear and anxiety in preparing to disclose a secret to our spouse or friend, we experience this in preparing for Confession in Church but do not if we were simply to speak to God in the privacy of our own life.

Feelings and emotions make confession real. Why? Only in experiencing anxiety, nervousness and fear can we experience real forgiveness that brings us the experience of acceptance and love. Just as with a spouse or friend we would never know that we are really accepted and loved despite our faults unless we spoke the things we fear to say, so with Christ: we cannot really experience his acceptance and love unless we approach him and, in fear and anxiety, speak what we are afraid to say.

How can this encounter happen if we cannot physically meet Christ? Because we can speak to the Lord face-to-face as it were in the presence of a priest who represents the community of faith, the Body of Christ. Why a priest and not in the privacy of my own room? Again because someone must be on the “other side” of the confession if the experience of forgiveness is to be real. The priest, by virtue of being the leader of the church, is a living icon of Christ, symbolizing the reality of Christ’s presence in the whole community of faith. Just as our spouse, a good friend, a parent, therapist, doctor, or counselor assumes a distinct role that symbolizes something, so too does a priest in a way that no other person can.

Lack of confession keeps us from recognizing and experiencing the vastness of God’s love. The feeling of liberation is not one of “Whew, that page is ripped,” but instead is one of liberation from fear and anxiety, a feeling of gratitude for being in a trust, close, and intimate relationship with Christ. If we say the things we most fear to say

to a spouse or friend and as a result grow closer, then, when we say the things we most fear to say to Christ, we grow closer to him. Jesus simply wants us to speak honestly to him. We can speak to Christ in our room, but not in the same way: that kind of confession cannot evoke tears of repentance which brings us closer to each other and to the Lord.

Why a priest? Even though God is Spirit, because God became human in Christ, we experience God through material and bodily forms, above all in the Holy Communion that involves bread and wine, but also through the words of the Bible and the color of icons. The priest serves as a living icon of the presence of the Savior. He is not someone who controls and dispenses grace. Yet, through the role of the priest, we encounter the profound mystery of God’s presence that simply cannot be realized in private. The power of the Sacrament of Confession lies in speaking to Christ and in the hearing by Christ, in the person of the priest, of all that we fear. And the personal holiness of the priest is not the most important factor, since no human being is sinless. More to the point is a priest with wisdom and discernment, gifts that come with experience and authentic growth in faith. Yet even when these are not so evident, confession before a priest can still have power to transform us because of the sacramental reality of Christ’s presence through him.

Ideally, one would have an on-going, long-term relationship with a parish priest that develops through this Sacrament and the counsel that guides one more deeply in the life in Christ. This is possible only when the priest is really listening to the story of the one who confesses. Only then can he recommend, as an instrument of Christ and based upon his teaching, spiritual medicines to aid in healing and growth.

– Adapted from an article, “Honest to God: Confession and Desire,” by Dr. Aristotle Papanikolaou, Professor of Orthodox Theology and Culture at Fordham University, and published in the book *Thinking Through Faith: New Perspectives from Orthodox Christian Scholars* (St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2008)

Parish Council

We promised parishioners the ability to make donations online and we have delivered. Visit our parish website www.ArchangelsGOC.org, where you will find a prominent “Donate Online” button available. Thank you to Council member George Nanos for seeing this project through to completion. Treasury expects to close the 2015 financial books by the time this Herald goes to print. Those completed figures will be available in the church office for any parishioner to view. They will also be presented, along with interim 2016 figures, at a General Assembly following the end of the second quarter of 2016 (date to be determined).

The Parish Council has a vacancy. Bill Grosso has decided for personal reasons that he is unable to fully pursue his responsibilities as a Council member. We will be discussing the vacancy with parishioners who express a true interest in joining the Council.

Steve Fornaciari has joined the Building & Grounds Committee, headed by Peter Licopantis. Thank you Steve for volunteering your time! We are especially grateful to Nick Aivalis, who devoted years to running Building & Grounds. Nick and Bill Grosso continue to serve on the Committee.

For Holy Week we aim to secure a Protopsalti (head chanter). It is not in our 2016 budget – a budget we are resolute in sticking to. Small private donations are requested in order to fund this. Please contact Jane or Basil in the office to join in this effort: 203-348-4216. Contact: Jason Konidaris jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Treasurer

The 2014 audit has been completed by the audit committee. Details on its presentation will be announced shortly. 2015 Unaudited Financials for the Church and Stamford Athletic Club are currently available as well. Please stop by the office to review results. Statements on 2016 first quarter results will be ready by the end of the month, to be presented at a mid-year general assembly – date to be determined. Contact: Elias Lolis elolis@aol.com 203-569-3784

Stewardship

If you have any questions about Stewardship or the financial services meeting group, please contact Tim Hartch at timhartch1@outlook.com

Additional 2016 Stewards

M/M Nicholas Chivily
Mrs. Helen Chochos
M/M Louis Chochos
John J. Cocolis
Harry Condos
M/M Stephen Fornaciari
Mrs. Katherine Glynn
Dr & Mrs Peter Hughes
M/M Chris Kanos
M/M Perikles Kounavelis
Mrs Zoe Loter
M/M William Kelesidis
M/M Nicholas Kounavelis
Mrs Effie Marioles
M/M Robert MacFarlane

M/M George Nanos
Dr & Mrs James Otis
M/M Mark Otis
Dr & Mrs Peter R. Perimenis
Dr & Mrs Athanassios Petrotos
Mrs Mary Poulos
M/M Peter Poulos
Aristotle Sentementes
M/M Pericles Sentementes
M/M John Skoparantzios
M/M Demosthenes Speridakos
M/M Haralambos Valassis
M/M Steven K. Valassis
Dr & Mrs Steven Valassis
M/M Peter Zavras

Buildings & Grounds

The Building & Grounds Committee concentrated on the Stamford Athletic Club during this period. As previously reported, the four skylights over the gym were replaced under warranty at no cost to us. Additionally, two of the 300-watt induction light bulbs on the gym ceilings were replaced under the five-year warranty. We are currently reviewing proposals to replace two concrete exterior window sills that have disintegrated. They pose a risk to those walking below. Those sills are located on the side of the building leading toward the indoor parking garage. With the help of Jane Perkins from the Capital Campaign Committee we have installed the Capital Campaign sign that sits at the intersection of Bedford and Third Streets. Under review and investigation is the erratic performance of the steam generator for the woman’s locker room. Contact: Peter Licopantis pglyd13@optonline.net 203-322-7092, Steve Fornaciari, Nick Aivalis or Gregg Demetros

Master Planning Committee

Our architectural firm is in the formal drawing phase. We have begun discussing space solutions for our ministries to minimize disruption when construction work begins. Our aim is to give all ministries the ability to meet and function, even as work is undertaken. Let’s all do our part with the Capital Campaign to make these good works a reality. Contact: Jason Konidaris jason.konidaris@yale.edu

EASTER LAMBADHES SALE

\$20 Easter Lambadhes

\$10 Plain Candles

All proceeds benefit the Archangels Greek School.
Please make checks payable to *Archangels Greek School*.

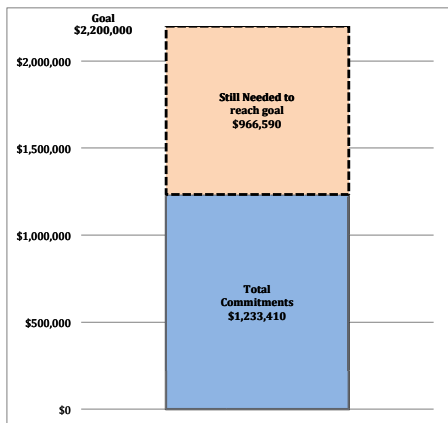
Happy Easter!

Capital Campaign

During the last week in February, the Campaign Committee sent out nearly 200 brochures to members of the community who had not yet pledged or been contacted by a solicitor in an effort to make sure that all active members of the Community were aware of the Campaign and its goals. Since that time, we have received a small handful of new pledges, bringing to 69 the total number of pledges received to date. Pledges from the most recent mailing totaled \$49,000, bringing the total commitments to date to \$1,233,410. Total cash receipts have risen to \$901,380.19. March's expenses incurred include another installment of the architect's fees and modest expenses for solicitation and advertisement.

The Committee was busily involved creating a sign advertising the Capital Campaign, which has been placed in a prominent position on the property, both as a reminder to the Community and an announcement to the City of Stamford of our undertaking.

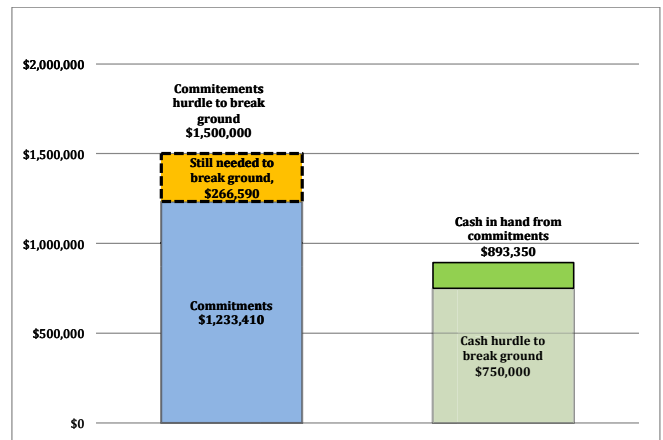
I am happy to report that, thanks to the generous response of the Community, we have achieved the \$250,000 Matching Grant level required to activate the grant. We will be



finalizing and sending all necessary documentation to the anonymous donor this month. The anonymous donor must evaluate our documentation before ratifying

the match result. We then hope to receive a delivery-of-funds date from the donor soon after.

It is always encouraging to report the receipt of additional pledges. However, there is still much to be done. In order to maintain the schedule that the Master Planning Committee has proposed, we must raise \$300,000 in additional pledges by the end of May this year, followed by a further \$500,000 after that. We will no longer have the benefit of a Matching Grant to help us reach those goals. I know that many of you have spoken to Committee members about your support for the project and your intentions. We urge you to step forward sooner rather than later. If you need pledge forms, please contact the Church office or any member of the Committee. For things to happen, we need all of you to pitch in now. Though pledges spread over a three-year period have more value than one-year pledges, everything counts toward reaching our goal. We look forward to your participation and trust in your generosity. Please help us reach our \$300,000 target by the end of May. Contact: Elias N. Kulukundis; alternatively Jason Konidaris jason.konidaris@yale.edu



Philoptochos Easter Bread Sale Orders Accepted until April 17th

Breads are \$15 each. Cash or checks may be left in the Philoptochos mail slot in Church Office

Order forms are on the Philoptochos Bulletin Board

*Breads without nut garnish are available only by order

For orders, email marionvanson@yahoo.com or call Maryanne Kardaris at 203-322-6285

Philoptochos Palm Sunday Bake Sale

Sunday, April 24th after Liturgy

Donations of baked goods or funds to cover ingredients appreciated.

A schedule for group baking is posted on the Philoptochos bulletin board.

Please join us!

SAVE THE DATE!

Good Friday, April 28th, 10:00AM

Children's Lenten Program • Lunch Included

SAVE THE DATE!

May 14th, 12 Noon at Norwalk Inn
Ladies Philoptochos Mother's Day Luncheon

All Welcome. Tickets are \$45

MINISTRIES

Sacrament of Confession

Fr. Harry will resume his sermon series on Confession throughout the Sundays of Great Lent. Digital recordings of these, and other presentations such as Orthodoxy 101, are available online through our parish account with SoundCloud.com. Outside the office on the magazine rack are copies of an excellent article that he recommends for learning more and preparing, "Confession, the Healing Sacrament" by Jim Forest. The Sacrament includes a brief prayer service before the icon of Christ in Church, the confession of sin while seated in the front pew facing Christ, and a final prayer of forgiveness. Fr. Harry will be available by appointment, or without an appointment after Monday and Friday evening worship, and before Wednesday evening Liturgy. Fr. George is also available. Contact: Fr. Harry frharry@archangelsgoc.org 203-348-4216

Holy Week Lead Chanter

Again this year we want to secure a lead chanter (protopsalti) for Holy Week and Easter. One would think it easy to source a chanter locally. That isn't the case for part-time work though. Availability is always thin, and especially during the Holy Week. Mr. Haralampos Kourgiantakis, a protopsalti and a professor of religion on the island of Kerkyra (Corfu), along with his wife, Christofora stand ready to serve us again this year. Assuming that private donations are in place in time to cover their travel and stipend, Haralampos and Christofora would arrive on Friday April 22, stay at the home of Fr. Harry, and then return home on Wednesday after Easter. We hope to welcome them back! They added so much to last year's services. Please contact Jane or Basil in the church office if you are willing to donate to this effort. We are off to a good start. 203-348-4216



New Capital Campaign sign on our front lawn!

Holy Week: April 23 – May 1

Our schedule of worship and ministry involves:

- Saturday of Lazarus, April 23: Public Preparation of the Gifts at 9 am & Teaching Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am on the Solea. Afterward we welcome families and grown-ups to help clean, polish, plait palms and prepare for Palm Sunday. Lunch is provided.
- Palm Sunday worship per the normal schedule
- Bridegroom Orthros at 7 PM on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings
- Holy Wednesday – Holy Unction at 4 PM (especially for all school age children), and Orthros of the Last Supper at 7 PM (includes anointing of Holy Unction)
- Holy Thursday – Liturgy of the Last Supper 6:30 AM (before school and work); Orthros of the Passion 7 PM (with reading of the 12 Gospels)
- Holy Friday – Royal Hours 9 PM, followed by Decoration of Funeral Canopy (Kouvouklion) and preparation of church 10:45 AM; Children's Retreat begins with 9th Hour worship at 10 AM, then various active learning stations, lunch, and concludes with Vespers of Descent from the Cross; Orthros of Holy Saturday 7 PM ("Lamentations")
- Holy Saturday – 1st Resurrection Liturgy 9 AM; Vigil for Pascha 11:30 PM; **Resurrection Service 12:00pm midnight**; Orthros of Pascha 12:30 AM; Liturgy of Pascha 1 AM; Paschal Reception Meal 2:30 AM
- Pascha/Easter Sunday – Agape Vespers 11 AM; Easter Egg Hunt for children 12 noon

Readers for Holy Week

Older altar boys and girls (ages 12 & up) and adults are welcome to assist with the reading of Psalms, Old Testament passages & New Testament epistles during Holy Week. Readers are especially needed for:

- Wednesday Unction service at 4 PM
- Friday Royal Hours 9 AM
- Saturday 1st Resurrection Liturgy at 9 AM

Contact: Steve Sarigianis steve@archangelsgoc.org
203-348-4216

MINISTRIES

Adult Education

- On Aging – the final presentation “Spirituality of Aging: Opportunities & Challenges” by Fr. Harry has been postponed until after Easter due to his illness
- Orthodoxy 101 – continues on Wednesday evenings during Lent, according to the following schedule modified from the original syllabus:
 - § April 6 - The Church: the Body and Bride of Christ
 - † *Introducing the Orthodox Church* 4-18 & 74-93
 - † *God and You* 46-55
 - § Apr 13 - Reading Scripture: The Bible as Sacrament
 - † *Introducing the Orthodox Church* 197-224
 - † *God and You* 117-129
 - § Apr 20 - Getting Ready for Holy Week: Passion, Crucifixion & Resurrection
 - † *Sacred Symbols* 47-60, 93-124; *God and You* 154-160
- § Basic texts are by Fr. Anthony Coniaris, classmate of Fr. George Poulos, and available in our bookstore.
- Baptism Class – Sunday, April 10, 3 pm. The Biblical roots, meaning, development, and application of the initial Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation & Eucharist (Communion), along with raising children in Christ today. Required of all parents & godparents; others are welcome (such as grandparents).

Contact: Fr. Harry frharry@archangelsgoc.org;
203-348-4216

Seniors

The next **Kali Parea Seniors** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th at 12:00 noon.

Our condolences go to the family of Marge Rubirosa. May her memory be eternal. We also wish Bill Grosso good luck on his surgery and a speedy recovery. Come join us at our next meeting. Fr. Harry will present about Great Lent and preparing for Holy Week. Contact Peter Licopantis at pglydl3@optonline.net 203-322-7092 or Pam Koutroubis pamelak2145@gmail.com 203-348-7402

Ladies Philoptochos Society

After a quiet winter the Ladies Philoptochos Society is gearing up for our Spring events. As most of you know, our Turkey Bingo gives all proceeds to five chosen charities, but there are many more in need of our charitable works, especially in the Stamford area. The proceeds from

our Palm Sunday Bake Sale go towards some of these needs. Since we became aware of the crisis in Greece, we have sent money to help. As the situation deteriorates even further, we hope to be able to send more funds than we did last year with the help of our parish. Our sister Holy Trinity Philoptochos in Bridgeport held an event putting together 14,000 simple dry meals to be distributed by an organization called Feeding Children Everywhere. We donated funds to support this endeavor.

Please support our annual Palm Sunday bake sale by donating baked goods for sale or cash for ingredients and by purchasing the delicious pastries and Easter breads! The group baking schedule will be announced soon. Please check the Philoptochos bulletin board for dates. Everyone is welcome to join us. Our annual Mother's Day Luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 14th at the Norwalk Inn. This is a wonderful gathering of families and friends. We hope you will join us. Philoptochos always welcomes new members! Contact Marion Vanson marionvanson@yahoo.com 914-234-9420



Sunday of Orthodoxy Liturgy (March 20) Children hold icons at the Great Entrance and Synodical Proclamation that Restored Icons

Church School

The Church School Program would like to congratulate our students on their projects celebrating the Great Feast of the Annunciation last month! Parishioners are encouraged to view our students' projects on exhibit in the fellowship hall this month. The Church School children also participated in the school's second Philanthropy Sunday service project on Sunday, March 27th during which students learned about the fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, kindness, faithfulness, patience, goodness, self-control) and chose one to inscribe on a personalized bookmark for donation with books collected



CS Bookmark: The children of our Church School created bookmarks during the March Philanthropy Sunday book drive. Both the bookmarks and books will be donated to charity.



CS Annunciation: The Church School held it's Feast of Annunciation Exhibit on Sunday March 27th; these displays will remain in the hall for a several weeks.

from our book drive. The Church School Program will be hosting a book drive this month as part of this service project. Classrooms will be collecting new children's books to be donated to a local shelter or residential foster care facility. Please feel free to have children bring a new book to Church School class anytime this month. Save the dates for our two Lenten children's events. Please join us on Lazarus Saturday, April 23rd for palm plaiting and egg dying following Holy Liturgy. Our annual Good Friday Retreat will be held on Friday, April 29th. A Good Friday Retreat program will be emailed to families shortly. Wishing families a blessed Resurrection! Contact: Evelyn Bilias Lolis, Church School Director ebilias@aol.com 203-369-3784

Oratorical Festival

On March 20th, Dina Haralabidis, sophomore at the Academy of Information Technology & Engineering, gave her Oratorical Festival speech to the entire community on the senior division topic: How do you respond to people who question your belief in God and participation in the life of the Church? Her talk was an inspiration to all. Three years ago, Dina was the first student from Archangels to ever participate in the Oratorical Festival, and we are so proud that she continues to be a model for her peers. We thank judges Annie Konidaris, Evelyn Bilias Lolis, and Steve Sarigianis for evaluating her speech and offering Dina feedback after her talk. Thank you also to our time-keeper and judging coordinator, Steven Valassis. Dina will represent our community on Saturday, April 16th at the District Level Oratorical Festival, which we will host at Archangels. We welcome the entire parish to attend and to hear the speeches of students from parishes in Fairfield County and Central Connecticut, as well as the Hudson Valley, NY. Contact: Anastasia Valassis, avalassis@gmail.com 203-594-1309



Oratorical Fest: Dina Haralambidis offers a prepared essay to the congregation and a panel of judges during the Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival.

Greek School

On March 25th, the flag-raising at the Government Center was held with a fabulous turnout by both church communities. Our Greek school children performed skits of the Annunciation while others performed their traditional poems/songs and dances that reminded us of all the battles the Hellenes fought for their freedom in 1812. An overwhelming thank you to the Stamford Athletic Club for donating many gift certificates for our raffle this year. Thank you to the Gabriel and Jordanopoulos families for their donations as well. Easter is right around the corner and we have Easter lambadhes created by our own Nikki Glekas as well as Lord & Taylor coupons that will be available for sale this month. All proceeds benefit the Archangels Greek School. The last PTO meeting will be held on April 12th. Kalo Pascha! Contacts - Rebecca Kelesidis Rebecca@Kelesidis.com or 203-548-0228.



GS Ind. Program: The Greek School children eagerly await their turn to recite poems & dance at the annual Annunciation/Greek Independence Day program.

Greek Language Classes for Adults

If interested, please contact: Dr. Eugenia Zavras
etz124@yahoo.com 203-322-9561

Archangels Young Adults (AYA)

On Friday, April 8th at 8pm (following the 4th Salutations), the young adult group (“AYA”) is holding a Potluck Dinner & Forum event. This will be a casual evening of bread-breading and candid conversation about faith & life, and will be held in the familiar and ever comfortable environs of the church library. Those interested should prepare or bring a food dish or dessert (meatless please, since it’s Lent), and think up some honest discussion topics relating to faith & life. And of course, friends are invited!



Flag Raising: AHEPA President Nick Nikas offers a few words at the annual Archangels-Annunciation Flag Raising ceremony held at Government Center in celebration of Greek Independence Day.

GOYA

On Monday, March 14th Archangels and Annunciation churches held the annual Clean Monday Program at Annunciation. During the teen break out session, Steve Sarigianis lead a discussion on distraction & silence. The session brought together 15+ teens and pre-teens from both churches. On Sunday, March 20th, the Saint John Oratorical Festival took place following Liturgy. Dina Haralabidis, our sole participant this year, did a fantastic job presenting her essay. In it she responded to those who would question the faith, belief in God, and participation in the life of the church. She moves on to the regional level festival coming up on the 16th of this month hosted at our church. The Archangels-Annunciation GOYA Movie Outing to see “My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2” scheduled for Saturday March 26th was cancelled due a conflict with the CEOVL All-Star games. It will be rescheduled sometime in May. At the March meeting, our GOYAns voted to start a spring fundraiser by creating and selling all-Greek restaurant discount cards. A portion of the funds will be donated toward a church organization or charity, such as IOCC or OCMC.

Keep in mind the upcoming events for April 2016:

- Sunday, Apr. 3rd ~ Monthly Meeting in the Library.
- Saturday, Apr. 9th ~ District Scavenger Hunt at 9:30am at Museum of Natural History in Manhattan; luncheon to follow at the Cathedral
- Sunday, Apr. 16th ~ Regional Oratorical Festival at 10am in the church; youth & families coming from CT, Westchester County & Hudson Valley.

**Registration for Camp Saint Paul is now open! Don’t let your kids miss out on this top-notch ministry! Register online at: <http://www.campsaintpaul.org>.

Contact: Steve Sarigianis at sjsarge@gmail.com
203-348-4216

Athletics

The 2015-16 CEOVL season has come to an end. For our girls Varsity team, the season ended with a loss in the semifinal round of the playoffs to the Bridgeport girls squad. The team is young, has ample talent, and will retain solid leaders such as our very own Amalia Skoparantzou and Dina Haralabidis; the future looks bright! For the JV squad, congratulations are in order for their winning the CEOVL JV championship this year! The team and its coaches did an outstanding job throughout the season and we are quite proud of them for their accomplishment. It was a good year for Stamford United volleyball!



VBall Varsity: The varsity girls volleyball team at the season's close. We're proud of our girls for their third place finish in the league!

Family Movie Night

On Saturday, May 21st at 5:15pm in the church hall, we will be hosting our next Family Movie Night, open to all ages! The movie "The Incredibles" (2004 Disney Pixar; PG) will be shown. Join us for an enjoyable evening of family fun that will include a pizza dinner (for freewill offering), the feature presentation, and a meaningful discussion in conclusion. Hope to see you there. Contact: Steve Sarigianis

Hope/Joy

On Wednesday, April 27th at 3:00 p.m., Hope & Joy members, siblings, and their parents and/or grandparents are encouraged to meet at the Lower Fairfield County Food Bank located at 461 Glenbrook Road in Stamford. Executive Director Kate Lombardo will speak with the group about the importance of our giving and have the

children participate in a hands-on activity. According to Kate, our Church is the largest contributor to the facility and she is extremely grateful for our Church's generous weekly contributions. During this Lenten season, what a wonderful way for our children to see firsthand where their donated food goes each week and how it is distributed to those in need. Please be sure to bring a food item to donate that day. After the activity, we will return to Church at 4:00 for the afternoon Holy Unction service. To learn more about the organization, please visit their website: www.foodbanklfc.org. We are looking forward to this wonderful and educational event for our Church community. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Chris and Luisa Nanos at cnanos@optonline.net or 203-249-7403

Little Angels

We are looking forward to our Family Fitness Day on Saturday, April 9th from 10 am- 12 pm at the gym of the Stamford Athletic Club. We are asking for parent volunteers to "run" events that our Little Angels can rotate through. We will have junior basketball, balloon volleyball, relay races, a soccer kick, and more! After our sporting events, we will have a hearty snack and refreshments. It will be a great morning of fitness and fellowship for everyone! Please RSVP if possible. We continue to "greet" new babies on the day of their 40 day blessings. Thank you to all who have donated towards these gifts. Please continue the donations! We need brand-new baby books, toys, religious items, and infant clothing for boys and girls! We collect these items in classroom #5. We also welcome handmade cards and crafts from the Little Angels to enclose with the gifts. Contact: Anastasia Valassis, avalassis@gmail.com 203-594-1309

Stamford Athletic Club @ The Greek Cultural Center

A saying dating back to ancient times about the constellations goes, "March comes in like a lion (Leo) and out like a lamb (Aries the Ram)." Not true at SAC. We are continually pushing forward at an efficient, yet exciting rate. During March we updated our member computer software, giving members direct access to view their accounts. It will enable members to sign up for group classes and racquetball. Check out our newly designed website at www.sacnews.com. We addressed some needed repairs to the steam rooms and added a third badminton court to satisfy increased demand. In April, High Rise Basketball, a top notch AAU basketball program, begins

with clinics on our court. The Take Me to The Water swim program continues to flourish, so enroll now to get your spot for child or adult swim lessons. We are working on various summer camps, some with direct connection to the Archangels programs. Be on the lookout for those happenings. The most exciting news, in my opinion, to date: new weights and other exercise equipment have been ordered and are on their way, which will give the fitness area a fresh new facelift. Might I suggest taking some personal training sessions to get comfortable with the new equipment? Take advantage of the personal trainers'

knowledge in order for you to attain your goals. Please stop in and see all the wonderful things going on at your club. Contacts: Jeff Kaminski (General Manager) at jeffkaminski@optonline.net 203-357-7555. Parish contact: Jason Konidaris jason.konidaris@yale.edu

IOCC

If you are interested in helping with international relief for the poor and needy, please contact Tim Hartch at timhartch1@outlook.com

DIRECTORY

Staff

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Maria DelaCruz, Housekeeper – 203-981-6476 (cell)

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Kiriaki Bellos, Greek School Lead Teacher –
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Parish Council

Fr. Harry

Jason Konidaris, President (term expires in 2018) –
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Georgette Perimenis, Vice-President (2017) –
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Steven Valassis (2018) – steven_valassis@yahoo.com
203-594-1309

Argyris Vassiliou (2018) – rjvassiliou@yahoo.com
203-358-8371

PARISH NEWS

Births

March 9 – Henry Sebastian, first child of Rachel and Henry Jones.

March 25 – Marina Kallista, first child of Stephanie and Dean Aivalis.

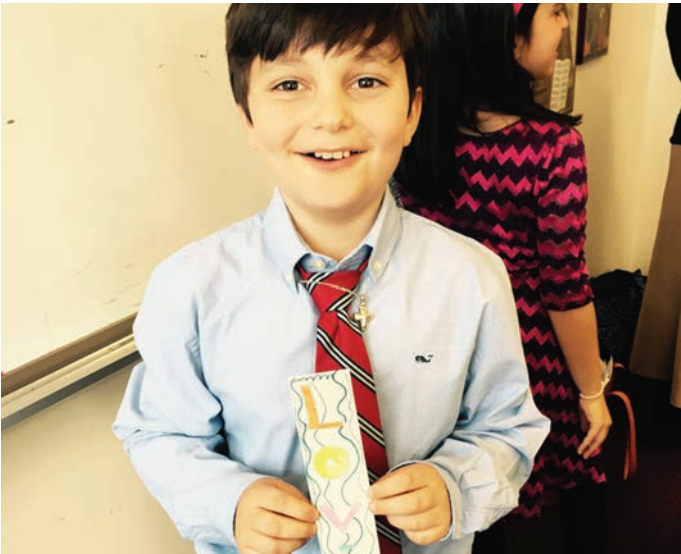
Church School Exhibit for Annunciation (March 27)



Eleni & Nikoletta Valassis



Demetri Zouboulis



Johnny Konidaris



Katerina Zouboulis

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Foundation Fund

Contact: Elian Kulukundis, or Tim Hartch at timhartch1@outlook.com

AHEPA

AHEPA will co-sponsor with Archangels Church an evening presentation on "The Legacy of St. Constantine the Great" by Dr. George Demacopoulos, Professor of Theology and co-Director of the Orthodox Christian

The Herald

Studies Center at Fordham University, on Friday, May 20 at 7 pm, the eve of the Feast of Saints Constantine & Helen. Particularly in an election year, Dr. Demacopoulos' insights will be important for us since the relations between church and state began to change dramatically during the reign of the first Roman emperor to embrace Christianity and one of the towering figures of the Byzantine Empire. Contact: Nicholas Nikas niketes@yahoo.com or 203-554-5570

CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGELS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Capital Campaign Committee:

Elias N. Kulukundis, Chairman. Jason Konidaris, Vice Chairman. Father Harry Pappas. Mary Badoyannis, Peter Cholakis, William Grosso, Timothy Hartch, James W. Kambas, George Khouri, Peter Licopantis, Penny Nanos, Chris A. Nanos, Chris P. Nanos, George Papparis, Thomas Passios, Gigi Perimenis, Katie Perimenis, Jane Dragonas Perkins, R. J. Vassiliou, Basil N. Vanech

The Capital Campaign:

The goal is to raise \$2,200,000 over a three-year period from 2014 to 2017, now extended to 2018. The purpose of the Campaign is to fund upgrading and renewal of the church campus and ministry with specific emphasis on the Church Hall and offices, and minor cosmetic improvements in the Church itself, bringing our campus into the 21st Century. In addition, the amount includes the sum of \$150,000 to fund the salary and benefits of an Administrative Assistant for the Church for three years, after which the Church will take over funding that cost from stewardship. There are no plans to utilize any of these funds for repairs or improvements to the Greek Cultural Center.

The Data (as of March 20, 2016):

Total Commitments \$1,233,410
 Total Commitments Paid \$ 893,350
 Total Number of Multi-Year Commitments 57
 Total Number of Single Year Commitments 14
 Total Number of Other Commitments 12

The Matching Grant:

As of March 20th, we have achieved the \$250,000 Matching Grant level required to activate the grant! The anonymous donor must evaluate our documentation before ratifying the match result. We then hope to receive a delivery-of-funds date from the donor soon after.

The Requirements:

The General Assembly of May 4, 2015 set the following hurdles to be reached before the commencement of construction:

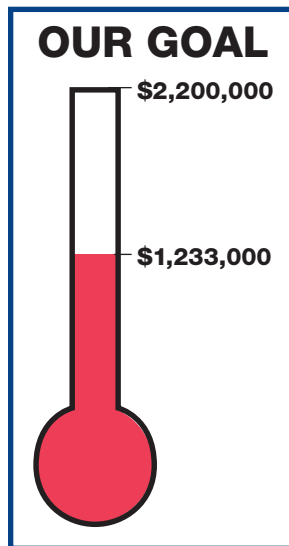
Total Commitments Hurdle \$1,500,000
 (67% of the stated target goal of \$2,200,000)
 Cash in Hand Hurdle \$ 726,000
 (33% of the stated target goal of \$2,200,000)

Donors should ideally spread pledges over a three-year period. For new pledges, that would be between 2016 and 2018. Pledges may be accompanied by an initial donation toward the first year's pledge, though remitting the entire first year's pledge amount can be done later in the course of 2016 if preferred.

The Expenses:

The Campaign's expenses to date include: assistance from the Archdiocese Development Office, architectural work on preliminary plans, and production of solicitation materials. These are in addition to \$50,415 for salary & benefits for Basil Vanech, hired in September of 2014 as parish Administrative Assistant. The Campaign's responsibility for reimbursing the Church for Mr. Vanech terminates on October 1, 2017.

Inasmuch as funds are likely to be required on a regular basis once construction commences, the General Assembly gave the Campaign Committee the right to go to a bank and discount any unpaid pledge amounts in order to have funds available to meet expenses. Preliminary plans for the remodeling of the Church Hall and offices are on display in the Hall.



The Contributors (as of March 20, 2016):

PLEDGES

Anonymous (3)
 Evangeline Adams
 Michael and Jena Anthony
 George and Katina Antipas
 Angelo and Dena Aravidis
 George Badoyannis
 Demetri and Constance Begetis
 Sophie Caloutas
 Nitsa Chagaris
 Peter Cholakis and Teresa Cassidy
 Glenn and Angie Colarossi
 Savet Constantine
 Nicholas Daifotis
 Matthew and Maria De Vito
 Elias and Anna Diamantis

Stephen and Margaret Fornaciari
 Peter Gabriel and Mary Badoyannis
 Stephen and Tina Georgeou
 William Grosso
 Rita Haralabidis
 Timothy and Sophia Hartch
 Brian Irizarry and Gigi Perimenis
 James and Sylvia Kambas
 Chris and Elaine Kanos
 George Khouri
 Arthur and Elaine Kiratsous
 Annie Konidaris
 Jason and Janie Konidaris
 Nick and Pauline Kounavelis
 Pam Koutroubis

Elias N. Kulukundis
 Stewart and Kim Leonard
 Peter and Yolanda Licopantis
 J. Andrew MacEntire Family Charitable Fund
 Marc and Maria Magliacano
 Rita Mehos
 Dr. Alan and Marietta Morelli
 Chris A. and Luisa Nanos
 George and Amy Nanos
 Paul and Debbie Nanos
 Penny Nanos
 Peter C. Nanos
 Nicholas Nikas
 George and Cindy Papparis
 Father Harry and Presbytera Pappas
 Kimon and Julie Passios

Tom and Nike Passios
 John Pasvankias
 George and Jane Perkins
 Katie Perimenis
 Maria Poulos
 Lee and Maria Sampanis
 Diane and Ted Sierpina
 Catherine Sofronas
 Agesilaos and Molly Sotire
 Sotiris and Nicoletta Soulios
 Evan and Roula Stergianis
 Demetrios and Leda Tsapralis
 Dr. Steve and Anastasia Valassis
 Basil and Terry Vanech
 John and Medina Vasily
 Argyris and Ann Vassiliou
 Jane Vorvis

Paul and Goldie Winn
 Nicholas and Kyriaki Yoranidis
NON-PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS
 Ladies Philoptochos Society, Church of the Archangels
 Mary Louise Bennett
 Steve Katsetos
 Miles and Joan Kulukundis
 Natalie Kulukundis
 Michelle Marmarinos
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Minetos
 Penny Nanos
 Phil and Frederika Nikolis
 Aristotle Sentementes
 Nestor Sgouros
 Dennis and Marion Vanson

Joanne Verses
 Helene and Manoucher Yektai
MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
 James W. and Margaret Cocolis
 Sharon Fornaciari
 George and Larissa Gentekos
 Christos and Demetra Halkias
 Willian and Mary Janocha
 Margot Kalazaizes
 Annie Konidaris
 Elias N. Kulukundis
 John and Stacy Louizos
 Nicholas Nikas
 Timothy and Maria Scanlon
 Diane Sierpina