What on Earth is a Deacon?

On Sunday, August 7, during the Liturgy, Joshua Pappas will be ordained by Jesus Christ through Bishop Andonios as a Deacon in the Orthodox Church. While Joshua is obviously my son, I would welcome such an awesome occasion for any aspiring man in our midst. Perhaps some day our parish will have a permanent Deacon to assist me, as was the case throughout the history of our Church when every parish had at least one Deacon! Not only do ordinations not happen very often, but the entire order of Deacons has tragically become so rare in our Archdiocese in America that most of us have never even heard of Deacons much less know anything about them.

What better time to begin learning?

Let’s first understand the high calling and dignity of everyone who sincerely believes in Jesus Christ as Lord, God, and Savior. Whether we have been baptized and chrismated as infants or adults, we receive a completely new identity in the Lord, are ministerial priesthood, in this case he enters the ranks of ordained clergy for the first time. According to custom, the candidate is ordained first as sub-deacon at the end of Orthros (morning prayer) outside the altar area. The newly appointed sub-deacon then stands before the icon of Christ on the icon screen (iconostasis)

Then, during the Liturgy, the more elaborate ordination as deacon occurs within the altar area following the consecration of the holy Gifts and before the distribution of Communion, with the following elements:

1. Presentation of the candidate to the bishop, who alone has the authority to ordain, and to the congregation since the consent of the people is also required
2. Public reading of an official document that attests to the candidate’s preparation and testing, called the “Symmartyria.”
3. Opportunity for the candidate to make a personal statement, with the bishop responding
4. Procession around the altar table with acts of veneration
5. Two ordination prayers as the bishop lays his hand upon the candidate’s bowed head as the candidate kneels before the altar table
6. Vesting of the candidate as the bishop declares him worthy and the congregation accepts him publicly.
7. Assuming his new role as Deacon for the remainder of the Liturgy.

It should be noted that most ordained priests and bishops in our Archdiocese today have successfully completed some of the highest academic standards among Orthodox clergy in the world: a 4-year Bachelor degree, followed a 3- or 4-year Master of Divinity, the standard degree for professional ministry in the U.S. Further, each man has been tested in various ways, has been numerous times to the Sacrament of Confession, has a spiritual Father who attests to his sincerity and readiness, and is prepared to sacrifice a great deal of personal freedom in our society in order to serve others as well as be available, accountable, and obedient to his bishop. Most ordained priests are married men with children, dependent wholly upon the faithful and generous stewardship of the Church to provide for their family.

This first rank of deacon was instituted by the Apostles themselves very early in the Church with the following qualifications: a good reputation, being full of the Holy Spirit, and possessing wisdom (see Acts of the Apostles, chapter 6). Later, St. Paul added the following criteria: dignified presence, honest speech, sobriety, and a simple lifestyle not given to greed (see 1 Timothy 3:8-13). He further directed that deacons should be tested and proven blameless, have an honorable marriage, and
manage their own families well. These qualities do not mean that deacons are without sin, personal failings or limitations (indeed, all human beings have such flaws), only that they be capable of serving the Church, be well thought of by others, and live stable lives that exhibit Christian virtues.

The Apostles initially established deacons to meet some specific pastoral needs: ministering fairly to those in need (such as widows) and serving at common meals and fellowship. Over time, the role of deacons evolved into a broader ministry of service in churches, dioceses, missions, as well as specialized settings (such as hospitals and old age homes): assisting at worship services in various ways (intoning petitions, directing the congregation, reading the Gospel text, distributing holy Communion), visiting the sick and suffering, assisting in educational and philanthropic activities, and helping in various administrative tasks.

As our Archdiocese in America works toward restoring the presence of Deacons more generally, it will be a great blessing for us to be present, pray, and support Joshua as he enters upon a momentous new stage of life, together with his wife, Joanna, who is carrying their first child due in November. Archbishop Demetrios has assigned him to serve as a full-time assistant at Archangel Michael Church in Port Washington, NY (on Long Island), under Fr. John Lardas, the Presiding Priest. The Archbishop has indicated that he will preside at Joshua’s ordination as presbyter (priest) on Sunday, October 9, at Archangel Michael. I will keep you all informed of his progress and these plans as we walk with them in Christ!

— Fr. Harry

PARISH COUNCIL

**Fast of August (Δεκαπεντανυστική)**

As a community of faith, we prepare for the Great Feast of the Dormition (Falling Asleep; Κοιμήσεως) of the Theotokos, on Monday, August 15, by observing a 2-week fasting period that begins this year on Monday, August 1. The spiritual dimension of this Fast, which anyone can follow, prescribes that we intensify our personal prayer, attend weekday Supplicatory (Παρακλήσια) services along with Sunday worship, do works of mercy to help the poor, sick and suffering, reduce our entertainment, strive more consciously to fight temptation and avoid sin, and receive the Sacrament of Confession. As for the physical dimension, the Church encourages us to restrict our diet to vegetables, beans, pasta, grains, fruits, nuts, shellfish, and in general to eat less food and reduce our snacking. On weekends we may also consume alcoholic beverages, and, on the Great Feast of the Transfiguration (Saturday, August 6) we may eat boned fish. As with all fasting in the Church, the physical standards do not apply to young children, pregnant or nursing mothers, those who are ill, and the weakened elderly. Feel free to consult Fr. Harry or Fr. George about the specifics of your own practice.

**Paraklesis (Παρακλήσις) or Supplicatory Service**

Characteristic of this 2-week holy season are the Paraklesis Services offered 7 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays. This beautiful service consists of prayers, psalms, petitions, and a Gospel reading that are enveloped in magnificent poetry that glorifies Christ by honoring the Theotokos as his Mother. Please write a list of first names of the living that will be prayed for, especially the poor, sick, shut-ins and suffering, and bring this with you.

**Parish Council**

We congratulate Joshua Pappas on his upcoming ordination and feel blessed to have him in our midst. We would like to present the parish with interim financial results for 2016. The idea is to give everyone a sense for our financial wellbeing as the year progresses, rather than as the year concludes. We will be setting a General Assembly date for Fall in order to accomplish this. Parish Council member Maria DeVito recently resigned her position on the Council to pursue a teaching position with our Greek School. We are grateful to Maria for her past service and know that she will bring a lot of energy and creativity to the Greek School table. We would like to extend a special thanks to Peter Licopantis and his Building & Grounds Committee for their continued work. Troubleshooting never seems to take a summer vacation. Contact Jason Konidaris at jason.konidaris@yale.edu

**Treasurer’s Report**

The 2015 Audit committee met as a group a few weeks ago and is in process of its review. Statements on 2016 first half results will be ready by the end of the month for direct review, followed by a broader General Assembly presentation. We all must be aware that the summer months are here and cash gets very thin. Please remember to make a portion of your pledge during the summer. Contact: Elias Lolis elolis@aol.com 203-569-3784

**Online Donations**

As previously reported, online donations can be made through our church website www.archangelsgoc.org, where you are able to make one-time or recurring contributions. Please make sure to include a note in the “special instructions” field if you would like to direct your donation for a specific purpose or ministry. Donations can be made by bank account or credit card and are processed securely via PayPal, one of the largest and most trusted online payment processors. However, you do not need to have a PayPal account to make online donations. You can expect to see improvements and refinements to this capability over time, including the ability to more easily direct your donation to a particular ministry and provide online payment options for ministry programming (e.g., Greek School) and social gatherings (e.g., Mardi Gras, GreekFest). Contact: George Nanos
**Stewardship Report**

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

**Additional 2016 Stewards**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evangeline Adams</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Peter Cholakis</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Lambros Amanatides</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Ryan Hughes</td>
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<td>George Badoyannis</td>
<td>Mrs. Elle Massos</td>
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<td>John Michael Caloyeras</td>
<td>Nicholas Nikas</td>
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<td>Marie Carlucci</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Dennis Vanson</td>
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**Buildings & Grounds**

The steam generator serving the women’s locker room at SAC (previously reported) has been successfully relocated. It will allow better access for future repairs and maintenance. The Trane Company has completed repairs to the fan system serving the pool. The pool area was overheating and could only operate in a manual mode. SAC is renewing its maintenance agreement with Trane for the 2016/2017 year. The agreement provides System Analysis & Review, Tracer Database Backup, Software updates, Control Loop Fine Tuning, Sequence of Operation Verification, and operator coaching. During this period there have been no major concerns for the church other than the upcoming planned renovations for Phase I to begin soon. I bring your attention once again the great need to support our Capital Campaign. We are still driving toward our goal. No pledge or donation is too small. Please contribute to this worthy program.

Contact: Peter Licopantis, Nick Aivalis or Gregg Demetros

**Capital Campaign**

In July five new contributors joined the campaign. Thank you for your generosity! That brings our total pledgers to 101. We would like to note the following memorial contributions: Katina and Margaret Tsirantonakis in memory of Thomas Tsirantonakis, Mihai and Cristina Sminia in memory of Gheorghe Sarbu, and Peter Vorvis in memory of Stephanie Vorvis

Please mark your calendars for the November 12th Capital Campaign Comedy Night. This event will be very unique in spirit, décor, audience, food, and fun. There will be music and signature cocktails, a live auction, and lots of laughter courtesy of a live performance by renowned Greek American comedian, Basile!

We are slowly but surely working our way toward our goal of $2.2 million. We still have some way to go to get there, and, as we get closer to starting construction, less time to reach it. We are a community of over 300 families. There are almost 200 of you from whom we have yet to hear. I look forward to all of you joining our greatest effort in many generations. Contact: Elian Kulukundis

**Master Planning Committee**

As much as we hoped to begin church work during the slow summer months, it just will not fit our timeline. No matter; it is more important to have all our details and finances in order first. For those who missed the last Herald, we intend to divide the overall work in to two components.

Component 1 – the “smaller” work

Renovation of the narthex, bride’s room, altar, vestry, and sacristy. A refresh of the remainder of the church with new carpet and paint. Component 1 will be handled by a contractor independent of the broader work to be performed in Component 2. That will be a more efficient and cost effective strategy given the relatively small size of the job.

Component 2 – the “big” work

Renovation of foyer, halls, auditorium, kitchen, meeting rooms, offices, downstairs classrooms, restrooms, entryways. We are reviewing JGRA’s stage 2 architectural drawings before putting them out to competitive bidding.

As we continue to do our work, the Capital Campaign Committee members continue to do theirs; Please join in and contribute! Contact Jason Konidaris at jason.konidaris@yale.edu

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**About 300 clergy at Breakfast with Archbishop Demetrios at Clergy-Laity Congress (July 5)**

**More than 1,000 attend Grand Banquet of Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress (July 7)**
**Ordination – Sunday, August 7**

Joshua Pappas, son of Fr. Harry and Presvytera Kerry, and 2015 graduate of Holy Cross School of Theology, will be ordained as Deacon on Sunday, August 7, at our church. The schedule will be:

- **Orthros**: 8:15 am
- **Ordination as Sub-Deacon** at the end of Orthros (9:25 am)
- **Liturgy**: 9:30 am - with Ordination as Deacon during the Liturgy (after the consecration of the Gifts of bread & wine)
- **Catered Luncheon** to follow for everyone who makes a reservation in advance

Bishop Andonios, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, will preside, with assistance from Deacon Panagiotis (DAD Youth Director), and a variety of priests. Everyone is encouraged to attend and join in prayer! Be sure to make your reservation for the complimentary luncheon either in person or by phone with Jane (203-348-4216), or by email with Patricia, our new part-time Secretary (office@archangelsgoc.org). Archbishop Demetrios has assigned Joshua to serve as full-time assistant to Fr. John Lardas, presiding priest, at Archangel Michael Church in Port Washington, NY (on Long Island), starting on August 1. The Archbishop has now confirmed that he will preside at Joshua’s ordination as Presbyter (Priest) on Sunday, October 9, at Archangel Michael. Joshua and Joanna will be most grateful for your presence and keep in mind that they are expecting their first child in November!

**Education**

- **High School Graduates** are invited to dinner and conversation with Fr. Harry and Steve on Monday, August 15, 6 pm @ Cosi (1209 High Ridge Road). Come to receive spiritual advise as you head out on such an important phase of life. And, we’re buying!
- **Christian Education Workshop** – Saturday, September 10, 9 am – 3 pm. Presenter: Dr. Anton Vrame, Director of the Archdiocese Department of Religious Education, and author of *The Educating Icon*. Open to all Church School, Greek School, Preschool Teachers, as well as parents and grandparents concerned about the faith formation of children. This event is being promoted to area Orthodox churches and will be offered to the public. We ask for participants to contribute $25 to provide a stipend for Dr. Vrame and cover all food costs (coffee reception, lunch).

**Ministry Fair**

On Sunday, September 11, when Church School and many ministries resume, we will conduct our 2nd annual Ministry Fair during Coffee Hour, following the successful inauguration last December. Every ministry and organization is invited to creatively set up a display of who they are and what they do, so as to encourage learning and promote participation. These should occupy a space of no more than 3-4 feet on a table top and will be located in the center of the hall so that people can walk around, observe and interact. Each group should have at least 2-3 representatives. Contact: Steve Sarigianis (steve@archangelsgoc.org)
Archangeles Greekfest - September 22 to 25
Planning and organizing for our biggest fundraiser is underway. Our annual Greek festival allows us to share our heritage, our traditions, and our love for food and dance. Please join us in supporting this year’s festival in the one of the following ways:
1. Buy a raffle ticket and sell one to a friend. Doing so is easier than ever and you might even win the grand prize of a 2016 BMW X1 Sport Activity Vehicle! Click here to buy your raffle tickets today!
2. Join your fellow parishioners in great fellowship and volunteer at our Greek Festival. Click here to sign up!
3. Make a donation! Please consider making a financial donation to help us defray some of our many costs and expenses. Click here to donate online.

Thank you in advance for your generous support! Contact: Margaret Fornaciari

Seniors (aka “Kali Parea”)
The June 8 luncheon ended our 2015-16 season with a wonderful social event. Good friends enjoying fellowship and delicious food: appetizers, a pastisio and salad dinner, and wine. We also had a plethora of desserts including Greek pastries. We celebrated the monthly birthdays and had the usual raffle. Father Harry led us in prayer and brought us up-to-date on the Capital Campaign and other church and community matters. President Pam Kourtoubis did a super job with the luncheon. Great help came from Peter & Yolanda Licopantis, Kathrine Kounavelis, Bill Jones, and others. We hope everyone is enjoying the summer and looking forward to our next meeting on September 14 at 12 noon, where we will welcome everyone back to start our new season, share the fellowship of friends. We definitely welcome new friends, so please come join us! The Archangeles Seniors “Kali Parea” Contact: Pam Kourtoubis: pamelak2145@gmail.com

Ladies Philoptochos Society
After a very busy and successful Spring, we are waiting to see how the renovations to the Church Hall will impact our events. Vicki Kyriakos is getting some ladies together to visit St. Michael’s Home on Wednesday August 10th. She will deliver Philoptochos’ donations of blankets and bath supplies at that time. All are welcome to join this group. Contact Vicki at 203-661-0650. Our next meeting is Tuesday September 6th. Please come to this meeting and help plan for the 2016-2017 year. Contact Marion Vanson at marionvanson@yahoo.com

Church School
Plans are under way for the Workshop on Christian Education mentioned above. All Church School teachers are urged to attend. Church School classes begin on Sunday, September 11. Contact: Evelyn Bilias Lolis, Church School Director (ebilias@aol.com)

Vacation Church School
We are quite excited for the second annual Vacation Church School summer program, going on now during the first week of August! The camp is for 3-6 year olds and runs from 9am-12noon Monday through Friday. Our enrollment has well exceeded that of last year’s program with 18 children total (verses 10 in 2015). The theme is “Traveling on the Ark of Salvation,” with a particular emphasis on the four Great Feasts of the Theotokos. The day will be structured with the following components: morning prayer, classroom lessons on the four Feasts (i.e. Nativity, Entry into the Temple, Annunciation, Dormition), crafts, Bible verse memorization, and music program.
The children get a chance to deepen their faith in church and the classroom, develop strong bonds and friendships with church peers, and have an absolute blast. Teachers Kyriaki Yoranidis & Steven Sarigianis delight in being with the children during this very special week, and are thankful for such a tremendous response from the community. Contact: Kyriaki Yoranidis: (knyrus@aol.com)

Greek School
Greek School starts on September 13th. We have sufficient new applications for teachers that assure us of a full and vibrant staff under the direction of Anna Lempesis. 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 our church’s website www.archangelsgo.org. Please also check the website on how to volunteer at our annual Greek Festival Sept. 22 to 25. Contact: Rebecca Kelesidisdis at Rebecca@Kelesidis.com

Greek Language Classes for Adults
If interested, please contact: Dr. Eugenia Zavras at 203-322-9561 or etz124@yahoo.com

Archangeles Young Adults ("AYA")
Young adult ministry in the Orthodox Church in 2016 is a challenge. The ministry models of old (i.e. YAL programs of the 80’s, 90’s & 00’s) simply aren’t impactful as they used to be. The millennial generation thinks, operates, and has been shaped in ways that require a fresh approach to ministering to them and connecting them to a life of faith in the church. This is a great challenge indeed. What does an impactful approach include then? Well, according to Steve Christophorou, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, a meaningful & vibrant young adult ministry to millennials needs to be relational, authentic, transparent, and one in which room is left for articulation of personal experiences & ideas of God and faith. It is primarily with small groups that the young adults of today will respond to the most.

The AYA is in most part a conversational ministry in which young adults can gather to have focused conversations in various environments (i.e. church, restaurant, park) that are both authentic and open, so to develop strong relations between persons and to grow together in Christian faith. The approach here is like the one described above. On Thursday June 23rd, three of our young adults gathered together for food, conversation and parea (fellowship) at the popular haunt Coalhouse Pizza on High Ridge. Like most of our gatherings this year, it was intimate yet substantive. Discusses on Orthodox spirituality and “new age spirituality” and our individual experiences of spiritual refreshment during Holy Week organically sprung up and enticed us as much as the food. Making time for these conversations & giving time for such relationships to mature is slow. What we’ve seen thus far though, is that when they happen, and
hearts & minds are open in authentic dialogue, true growth in faith and love matures. More small group gatherings like these are being planned for August and into the fall, but prayer services and work projects are also in the works. Our young adults crave belonging and authentic experiences in a secular, multi-religious society. The AYA ministry of the church is all about provided and facilitating this. For more info contact Steve Sarigianis (203-623-5896; sjsarge@gmail.com)

**GOYA**

During the slow “dog days of summer” our schedule with the GOYA is a light one. Two of our teens attended the ever-popular Ionian Village in southwestern Greece, while one other attended the more local Camp Saint Paul in Litchfield, CT (as did Steve Sarigianis). Both camps provide a tremendous boost to one’s faith life and are an absolute blast! The one upcoming event this month is the Gathering with the Graduates, happening on Monday evening August 15 (the Great Feast of the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos) for our four recent high school graduates and Fr. Harry. He will be engaging them in a discussion about the challenges of life on campus and faith life over dinner.

We also have action going on more “subtly” behind the scenes. The preparation and build-up for a year of healthy growth (spiritually, mentally, and physically) with our teen group in 2016-17 is continuous! Pastoral Assistant Steve Sarigianis has been working with advisors Diane Skoparantzos & Bill Giantomidis to plan out the entire 2016-17 schedule and implement new activities & strategies to better access the youth and connect them more securely to Christ and the Church. In the fall, meetings will be held not just on Sunday afternoons but on weekday nights, which will provide more time for relationships to develop and faith connections to deepen via conversation & media. We plan meet more regularly with Annunciation GOYA and build upon all the co-ministry done this past year, strengthening our ties and our sense of Christian community.

*If you and or your teen(s), or others you know of, haven’t been involved with our youth group, COME CHECK out GOYA this September! Our first event is the Youth Ministry Fair after church on Sunday Sept. 11th; we welcome new faces with the old!*

Contact Steve Sarigianis (203-623-5896; steve@archangelsgoc.org), Diane Skoparantzos (203-550-6824) or Bill Giantomidis (732-779-3696) for more info.

**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. On June 26th, we celebrated our outdoor liturgy and picnic at the Cove. Children participated in many activities, including whiffle ball, soccer, kite flying, three-legged races, potato sack races, a beanbag toss game, a water balloon toss and more (see photos)! It was a wonderful day with lots of fun had by all. Please remember to bring non-perishable food items to church each week to support the Lower Fairfield County Food Bank. As always, please feel free to contact us with ideas, questions, or concerns: Chris and Luisa Nanos at cnanos@optonline.net or 203-249-7403
Little Angels
On Friday July 1st we had our annual “mom’s night out” at Pinot’s Palette in Stamford. We painted a beautiful piece of artwork named “Catching fireflies” on a canvas that was dedicated to our children. We were guided by a wonderful instructor who led us step by step through our painting from mixing the paint, to using different brushes to how much pressure to use when painting. Everyone had a great night and all the paintings turned out beautifully. We hope everyone enjoys the rest of the summer and we look forward to seeing everyone at our next event which will be an outdoor picnic on Saturday, September 17th. More details including location and time will be announced. Contact: Anastasia Valassis, avalassis@gmail.com.

IOCC
To date, this international agency of all Orthodox in America has:
• provided more than $580 million in worldwide relief and development programs;
• 92% of all money donated directly helps those facing dire situations;
• Every dollar given helps IOCC secure $7 in support from various other sources (such as our federal government and other global relief agencies);
• Countries & regions being served: Greece, the Balkans, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Georgia, Haiti, Iraq, Jerusalem, West Bank & Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Romania, Syria, Uganda & the United States

Check out their inspiring website to learn more and how you can contribute: www.iocc.org
Contact Tim Hartch at timhartch1@outlook.com.
Stamford Athletic Club @ Greek Cultural Center

The term “Dog Days of Summer” comes from the ancient Greeks spotting Sirius, the Dog Star, before the rise of the sun during the long summer days of late July and early August. SAC continues to keep people and activities moving during and after the rise of the Dog Star. DJ Sackmann Basketball will make a tour stop in August to run a clinic for 3rd thru 8th grade boys and girls from August 15 thru August 18. Our swimming program, Take Me to the Water, has recently taken on a new staff member, Scott Snelwar, who will be the on-site liaison at SAC to arrange all swim lessons and programs. High Rise Basketball continues to fill the gym throughout the day with various programs and camps for kids of all ages. The kitchen will be put to use before the Festival as Chef Juste will have several cooking classes starting Saturday, August 20. A pay-as-you-go Zumba class has been added to the schedule due to the extreme popularity of one of our instructors, Yolanda Rodriguez, on Monday nights from 8 to 9 pm. Cost is $10 per class. Too hot outside to do anything with the kids? Then bring them to the indoor pool to cool them off. We will also be happy to help set up a kids birthday party at SAC using the pool as the activity any time during the year. Contacts: Jeff Kaminski, General Manager, at Jeff@sacteam.com or 203-357-7555

Mets Game

Join us for the second Archangels Family Day on Thursday, August 11, at 12:10 pm when the New York Mets play the Arizona Diamondbacks. Chris A. Nanos (husband of Luisa) & Peter Diamond will be leading adults and children to CitiField in Queens for the game. Whether you’re a Mets fan or not, this is wonderful opportunity to enjoy America’s favorite pastime with your family! Tickets are $27 (per the group rate for our church) and there will be a carpool to the game as well. For more info and to sign up for tickets, contact Pete as soon as possible so that we qualify for a group discount: pwdiamond@optonline.net

Area Events

• Norwalk Greek Festival @ St. George Church: Thursday – Sunday, Aug. 18-21
• Orange Greek Festival @ St. Barbara Church: Friday – Monday, Sep. 2-5

Mission Trip to Kenya

In two weeks’ time, on the eve of the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (Aug. 15), I will have the privilege and joy of travelling to Nandi, Kenya in East Africa to take part in an 8-day mission trip through the OCMC (Orthodox Christian Missions Center). This will be my second mission trip to Kenya (the first being in the spring of 2013) and I am excited to return again. The current team and I will be working with local leaders in Nandi (on Lake Victoria) to organize and lead a massive Youth Rally, which will attract hundreds of youth and youth workers from around the country. We will be teaching the attendees about various aspects of our faith and Tradition (i.e. iconography, courtship & marriage, spirituality, church history, etc.), and about youth ministry. In doing so, we will better equip them to serve in their respective churches and help develop their own support networks. This is the first ever nation-wide rally and it will be a marvelous opportunity for growth! Not only will our team have the blessing to teach, but we will have the blessing of being taught as well! On each of the several short mission trips I have attended, I always marvel at how we could leave
feeling as though I gave little in comparison to what I received. I don’t know exactly what I will receive or learn just yet, but I am eager to share with the community which I will.

For me, taking a trip like this one increases my passion to serve Christ & His Church and rejuvenates my spiritual reservoir. I am excited to continue fulfilling my call from God to serve as a cross-cultural missionary and to represent our Archangels community in doing so. Christ teaches that each of us is called to witness to Him in the world around us: in our immediate daily settings at home, when we travel out of state, and even out of country. Taking part in an international cross-cultural mission like this one isn’t for everyone. Yet those back at home can take part in integral ways by offering support to those going out. Missionaries from the earliest days with St. Paul & the Apostles, were “sent out” into the world to preach and teach by their home communities, who would also help them financially. Our entire community in a very real way, can participate with our team & this trip by offering your prayers and support.

During this fast period for the Dormition, I ask that you keep my fellow teammates and I, the faithful in Kenya, and specifically those attending the Youth Rally, in your prayers. I would also ask you to prayerfully consider participating with us through financial support (you can do this online: www.ocmc.org/about/view_team.aspx?TeamId=183/). In these ways we will work to build up the church, our brothers & sisters in Kenya, together, for God’s glory. If you would like to learn more about my trip, the church in Kenya, or the OCMC, please don’t hesitate to contact myself or Fr. Harry. Blessed preparation for the Dormition Feast on August 15! ~ Steve

Greek School Camp teachers Eleni Giakos and Paulina Anastos finish a group art project during the summer program.

Paulina Anastos leads the kids in some post-lesson Greek dancing. Opa!

Little Angels mom’s (from left to right: Megan Paspvankias, Elizabeth Jackson, Vasso Spanos & Stacy Valassis) paint pictures dedicated to their children at Pinot’s Pallete for their “Mom’s Night Out.”
**PARISH NEWS**

**Wedding**
Soulafreda Valassis & Peter Hantes on June 5; sponsors were Ioannis Tegas & Despina Konstantinides

**Baptism**
Alessandra Nedeltchev, 1st child of Ivan & Lexi (Damascus) on June 25; sponsor was Dominique (Damascus) Gesualdi

Landon Paul Simiao, 2nd child of & Shawn & Joy (Galuris) on July 10; sponsors were Lambros & Katie (Aivalis) Amanatidis

Keith Parrish Connolly, 3rd child of Keith & Lauren (Hughes) on July 16; sponsor was Vignette Areti Kaltsas

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**AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**

**AHEPA**
Stamford Chapter 90th Anniversary Celebration: Please join us as we celebrate our 90th anniversary with a fun-filled dinner-dance at Norwalk Inn on Saturday evening, October 29, 2016.

After a sumptuous appetizer buffet, we will be treated to a sit down dinner of prime rib in the magnificent ballroom. We will then enjoy a live performance by Ellen Karis, a rising star specializing on Greek American comedy (www.ellenkaris.com), before we dance to the music of George Caratzas and his band.

The net proceeds of the dinner-dance will benefit the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Church at Ground Zero. Tickets $75 per person. A simultaneous fundraiser soliciting ads for a commemorative album will extend the list of beneficiaries to include the Greek Schools of the two Greek Orthodox churches in Stamford.

Reservations & Information: Nicholas Nikas 203-554-5570 niketes@yahoo.com.

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Crew at Philoptochos Tag Sale (left to right): Penny Nanos, Molly Sotire, Lara Paschalides, Maryanne Kardaris, Pauline Galuris & Evgenia Zavras (June 3 & 4)

Celebratory Breakfast of Neighbor's Link, and interfaith ministry for Immigrants in Stamford (June 1)
The Capital Campaign Committee:

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 August 2, 2016):
Total Commitments . $1,838,750
Total Commitments Paid . $1,344,440
Total Number of Contributing Families . 101

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
Cash in Hand Hurdle . $726,000

Both hurdle requirements have been met.

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 fees, production of solicitation materials, and event planning. These are in addition to $50,415 in salary & benefits for parish office support hired on in September 2014. The Campaign’s responsibility for seeding this office support expense 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 Matching Grant:
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 Contributors (as of May 25, 2016):

**PLEDGES**
Anonymous (5)
Evangeline Adams
Michael and Jena Anthony
George and Katina Antopoulos
Angelo and Dena Aravides
George Badoyannis
Demetri and Constance Begetis
Michael and Mimika Blanc
Sophie Caloutas
Nita Chagaris
Peter Cholakis and Teresa Cassidy
Glenn and Angie Colarossi
Savet Constantine
Nicholas Dafotis
Matthew and Maria DeVito
Elias and Anna Diamantis
Stephen and Margaret Fornaciari
Peter Gabriel and Mary Badoyannis

Stephen and Tina Georges
Effie Ganos
William Grosso
Rita Haralabidis
Timothy and Sophia Hartch
Brian Irizarry and Gigi Perimenis
Maria Janedes
William and Bertha Jones
James and Sylvia Kambas
Chris and Elaine Kanos
George Khouri
Arthur and Elaine Kiratous
Annie Konidakis
Jason and Jamie Konidaritis
Nick and Pauline Kouvalisis
Pam Kourobis
Elias N. Kulukundis
Stewart and Kim Leonard
Peter and Yolanda Licopantis
J. Andrew McEntire Family Charitable Fund
Bob and Cassie MacFarlane
Marc and Maria Magiacano
Rita Mehos
Nicholas Moisides
Dr. Alan and Marietta Morelli
Chris A. and Luisa Nanos
George and Amy Nanos
Paul and Debbie Nanos
Penny Nanos
Peter C. Nanos
Theophilos and Frederika Nikolakis
Nicholas Nikas
George and Cindy Paparis
Father Harry and Presbyteira Pappas
Peter and Joan Paspalis
Kimon and Julie Passios
Tom and Nike Passios
John Pavkivianas
George and Jane Perkins
Kate Perimenis

Maria Poulos
Lee and Maria Sampas
Joseph and Rebecca Samara
Pericles and Erika Sentementes
Diane and Ted Sierpina
Louis and Anna Siotes
Catherine Sofronas
Agielaos and Molly Sotiris
Sotiris and Nicoleta Soulos
Konstantinos and Bonnie Spetsaris
Evan and Roula Stergianis
Dr. Stelios Theofanidis and
Dr. Elizabeth Siderides
Demetrios and Leda Tsapralis
Alkiviadis and Matoula Valassis
Soulaefra Valassis
Dr. Steve and Anastasia Valassis
Steven and Antonia Valassis
Basil and Terry Vanech

Nadine Vasil
John and Medina Vasily
Argyris and Ann Vassiliou
Jane Vorvis
Paul and Goldie Winn
Nicholas and Kyriaki Yoranidis
Nico Yoranidis

**MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**
James W. and Margaret Cocolis
Sharon Fornaciari
George and Larissa Gentekos
Christos and Demetra Halkias
William and Mary Janocha
Margot Kalaitzes
Amie Konidaris
Elias N. Kulukundis
John and Stacy Louizos
Nicholas Nakas
Timothy and Maria Scanlon
Diane Sierpina

**NON-PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS**
Mary Louise Bennett
Steve Katsetos
Miles and Joan Kulukundis
Natalie Kulukundis
Michelle Marmarinos
Mr and Mrs Jerry Marmarinos
Penny Nanos
Phil and Frederika Nikolais
Aristotle Sentementes
Nestor Sgouros
Ken & Maria Shepard
Dennis and Marion Yovan

Joanne Verses
Helene and Manoucher Yektai
Ladies Philoptochos Society, Church of the Archangels

**OUR GOAL**
$2,200,000
$1,838,750

The Herald