



# The Herald

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

August 2016

## *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 welcomed into the community of faith, and become members of the **Royal Priesthood**: those called by God to mature in faith, manifest the gifts of the Holy Spirit (such as love and hope), bear witness to the in-breaking Kingdom of God, and offer the world back to God in thanksgiving (as revealed most clearly through the Liturgy and Holy Communion or Eucharist).

Building upon this foundation, the Sacrament of Ordination refers to a rite of worship – that always takes place during the Liturgy - in which qualified and tested men are set aside, within the Body of Christ, for a specific leadership role in the Church in what is called the **Ministerial Priesthood**. Each man remains a member of the royal priesthood, but now is also placed among the ordained clergy who are called to leadership in order to provide good order (hence the word ordination) and proper functioning for the benefit of every baptized member and for the salvation of the world. As with the entire life of the Church, Jesus Christ is the great High Priest who will be present through his Body, the Church, to ordain Joshua. In particular, he will do this through Bishop Andonios, our Chancellor, who will preside at the ordination of Joshua.

There are three ranks among the ministerial priesthood in the Orthodox Church. In descending order of authority, these are: bishop, presbyter (or priest as more commonly known), and deacon. Ordained men to one of these orders are chosen from within the Body of believers (the laity) and set apart for service to the people of God for whom they are called to lay down their lives and serve with their whole heart.

Indeed, since the order of deacon is the lowest, the ordination rite is actually the most distinctive because, unlike the orders of presbyter and bishop in which a man is already a member of the 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 phil-

anthropic 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 (Δεκαπενταυγουστο)***

As a community of faith, we prepare for the Great Feast of the Dormition (Falling Asleep; Κοιμησις ) 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 (Παρακλησις) 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 (Παρακλησις) 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](mailto: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](mailto:elolis@aol.com) 203- 569-3784

### ***Online Donations***

As previously reported, online donations can be made through our church website [www.archangelsgoc.org](http://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](mailto:timhartch1@outlook.com).

## ***Additional 2016 Stewards***

Evangeline Adams	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Cholakakis
Mr. & Mrs. Lambros Amanatides	Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Hughes
George Badoyannis	Mrs. Elle Massos
John Michael Caloyeras	Nicholas Nikas
Marie Carlucci	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Vanson

## ***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 Smina 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](mailto:jason.konidaris@yale.edu)



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



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



## MINISTRIES

### ANNUAL ARCHANGELS GREEKFEST!

*Thursday, September 22 to  
Sunday, September 25th*

*Mark Your Calendars!!* OPA!

#### ***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



A candidate for ordination to the Diaconate stands in front of the Icon of Christ during the first part of the Liturgy, all the while holding a pitcher of water & bowl with towel over head.

### SAVE THE DATE Saturday, November 12, 2016

*Church of the Archangels  
Capital Campaign Comedy Night  
with Basile the Comedian*

COCKTAILS ~ DINNER ~ MUSIC ~ AUCTION

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)



**Cooking Crew:** Mary Janocha, Bill Janocha & John Skoparantz (partially hidden); Evan Skoparantz, John Cocolis & Charlie Stamatelos (June 26)



**John and Evan Skoparantz and Mary Janocha serve fresh hot dogs off the grill at the Outdoor Liturgy & Picnic at Cove Park on Sunday, June 26.**

### ***Archangels 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 Koutroubis 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 Archangels Seniors "Kali Parea" Contact: Pam Koutroubis: 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

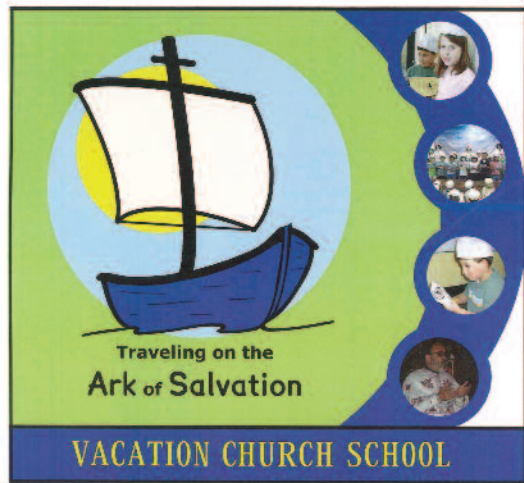
### ***Church School***

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 Biliias 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.





Ark of Salvation Cover

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.archangelsgoc.org](http://www.archangelsgoc.org). Please also check the website on how to volunteer at our annual Greek Festival Sept. 22 to 25. Contact: Rebecca Kelesidis at [Rebecca@Kelesidis.com](mailto:Rebecca@Kelesidis.com)

### ***Greek Language Classes for Adults***

If interested, please contact: Dr. Eugenia Zavras at 203-322-9561 or [etz124@yahoo.com](mailto:etz124@yahoo.com)

### ***Archangels 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.



Pam Koutroubis & Jane Perkins enjoy refreshments and good company together under the Cove Park Pavilion after Liturgy.



Pavilion packed with a crowd (June 26)

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





**Lunch Line at Parish Picnic (June 26)**



**Desserts at Parish Picnic (June 26)**

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 Skoparantzios & 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@archangels-goc.org](mailto:steve@archangels-goc.org)), Diane Skoparantzios (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](mailto:cnanos@optonline.net) or 203-249-7403





Enjoying the nearby Playground at Cove Park (June 26)

### *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.



JOY/HOPE Kite Flying (June 26)



JOY/HOPE Sack Race nears the finish line (June 26)

### *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](http://www.iocc.org)

Contact Tim Hartch at [timhartch1@outlook.com](mailto:timhartch1@outlook.com).



JOY/HOPE Bean Bag Toss (June 26)





JOY/HOPE Whiffle Ball game (June 26)



JOY/HOPE Whiffle Ball game (June 26)

### ***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@sacsteam.com](mailto:Jeff@sacsteam.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](mailto: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 and 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 that 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/](http://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 Pasvankias, Elizabeth Jackson, Vasso Spanos & Stacy Valassis) paint pictures dedicated to their children at Pinot's Palette 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 Simaio, 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



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

---

## 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](http://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](mailto:niketes@yahoo.com).



Celebratory Breakfast of Neighbor's Link, and interfaith ministry for Immigrants in Stamford (June 1)

# 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 Paparis, 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 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:

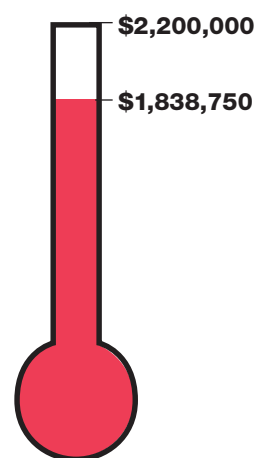
The Campaign's expenses to date include: Assistance from the Archdiocese Development Office, architectural fees, production of solicitation materials, and event planning. These are in addition to \$50,415 in salary & benefits for parish office support hired on in September 2014. The Campaign's responsibility 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.

## OUR GOAL



## The Contributors (as of May 25, 2016):

### PLEDGES

Anonymous (5)  
Evangeline Adams  
Michael and Jena Anthony  
George and Katina Antipas  
Angelo and Dena Aravides  
George Badoyannis  
Demetri and Constance Begetis  
Michael and Mimika Blanc  
Sophie Caloutas  
Nitsa Chagaris  
Peter Cholakis and Teresa Cassidy  
Glenn and Angie Colarossi  
Savet Constantine  
Nicholas Daifotis  
Matthew and Maria DeVito  
Elias and Anna Diamantis  
Stephen and Margaret Fornaciari  
Peter Gabriel and Mary Badoyannis  
Stephen and Tina Georgeou  
Effie Gianos  
William Grosso  
Rita Haralabidis  
Timothy and Sophia Hartch  
Brian Irizarry and Gigi Perimenis  
Maria Janedis  
William and Bertha Jones  
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 McEntire Family  
Charitable Fund

Bob and Cassie MacFarlane  
Marc and Maria Magliacano  
Rita Mehos  
Nicholas Moisiades  
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 Nikolis  
Nicholas Nikas  
George and Cindy Paparis  
Father Harry and Presbyteria Pappas  
Peter and Joan Paspalis  
Kimon and Julie Passios  
Tom and Nike Passios  
John Pasvankias  
George and Jane Perkins  
Katie Perimenis

Maria Poulos  
Lee and Maria Sampanis  
Joseph and Rebecca Samra  
Pericles and Erika Sentementes  
Diane and Ted Sierpina  
Louis and Anna Sioles  
Catherine Sofronas  
Agesilaos and Molly Sotire  
Sotiris and Nicoletta Soulios  
Konstantinos and Bonnie Spet-saris  
Evan and Roula Stergianis  
Dr. Stelios Theofanidis and Dr. Elizabeth Siderides  
Demetrios and Leda Tsapralis  
Alkiviadis and Matoula Valassis  
Soulafreda 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  
Nicole Yoranidis

### NON-PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS

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  
Ken & Maria Shepard  
Dennis and Marion Vanson

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

### MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

James W. and Margaret Cocolis  
Sharon Fornaciari  
George and Larissa Gentekos  
Christos and Demetra Halkias  
William and Mary Janocha  
Margot Kalaizes  
Annie Konidaris  
Elias N. Kulukundis  
John and Stacy Louizos  
Nicholas Nikas  
Timothy and Maria Scanlon  
Diane Sierpina  
Mihai and Cristina Smina