



The Herald

Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Archangels • 1527 Bedford St., Stamford, CT 06905 September 2016

Turning Up the Light

I wonder if you have ever been in a cave.

One of my memorable childhood experiences involved a grade school field trip to one in Missouri. It was my first time! An experienced guide led us down, down, down a winding path. Along the way we carefully watched our steps and were all eyes in such a different environment. Our guide taught us about climate, minerals, water, rocks, and how the earth was formed. At a level area where we all tried to be still and attentive, the guide suddenly said, "Now we are going to turn all lights off. Do not panic. We will turn them back on very shortly. We just want to give you a sense of total darkness." Boy, was he right! None of us had ever experienced the eerie feeling of seeing no light whatsoever, so that we could not even see the person right next to us. I for one was certainly relieved when the lights came back on!

We live in a world where experiencing pitch black darkness is rare. We have become accustomed to some form of light at all times, even in the middle of the night. Stars in the sky. Night lights in the hallway. Street lamps outside. Televisions, computers, smart phones and tablets. Flashlights or a candle during a power outage.

As a result, we have been conditioned to assume that there is no such thing as total darkness.

Life, however, does not prove to be so convenient.

There are all kinds of darkness that can cause anxiety, and there is one kind of light more than any other that can bring peace.

It is no accident that, among all the ways we understand Jesus, belong these words, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (*John 8:12*). Not very modest! Imagine what people thought of him at the time, when no one really understood who he was. But, then again, how well do we really understand him now?

Such a claim represents a fulfillment of what God long before said through the prophet Isaiah to Israel, God's chosen people: "I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have

taken you by the hand and kept you; *I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.*" (*Isaiah 42:5-6*).

When God sent his only-begotten Son to us, one of the things Christ did was, in his own person, accomplish what the community of believers never realized: to be the clear, brilliant light of God to illumine the world with love and truth.

Here's the catch: everyone who has been baptized, all who have accepted Jesus as Lord, God and Savior, have received him into his or her heart and soul forever as a member of the Body of Christ, which we more commonly call the Church.

So what about this light of Jesus inside and among us? Why do we not realize our upward calling? Shine more brightly God's love, wisdom and grace around us?

There are many ways in which divine light becomes dimmed over time. We push God off to the margins of our life. We become swallowed up in daily cares of work, home-making, school, and family. We never realize that growing up in faith requires a life-long process of training as adults through regular worship, education, fellowship, service, and mission.

Our parish Ministry Theme this new ecclesiastical year (Sep, 2016 – Aug, 2017) is "**Turning Up the Light.**" We will explore this image through sermons, teaching, all our ministries (e.g., Parish Council, Seniors, Philoptochos, Church School, Greek School, Preschool, Youth Ministry), and fellowship.

It's a simple, easily memorized way of lifting up the supreme goal of human life: to more consciously recognize and actively allow God to work in our personal life, family, and community. In this way, we become walking extensions of the divine light – the grace, love, and truth of the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints of all times and places, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, within our beloved, worldwide Church!

— Fr. Harry

CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGELS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

"Come let us
rebuild"



Church of
the Archangels
Capital Campaign

"Come let us rebuild"

**Please pledge or donate today
to help reach our goal!**

Mail checks to 1527 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT 06905

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

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council

We welcome everyone to the new church year. This month will be a busy time for all of us. Expect to see your parish council members working on many fronts: Festival volunteer work, education staffing, mid-year interim financial results, funding necessary Building & Grounds projects, providing parishioners with more online tools, and further Stamford Athletic Club improvements to name a few. Contact: Jason Konidaris jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Treasurer's Report

For 2016 year to date (through July 2016), revenues were \$462,000 with expenses of \$458,000 resulting in an operating surplus of \$4,000 year to date. Approximately 56% of revenues have come from Stewardship donations and approximately 29% have come from Other Donations. Other Donations can include such items as memorial and estate bequests. Although the parish is ever grateful for such gifts, one cannot count on such non-stewardship items when budgeting each year. Thus far 171 families have made their contributions. We have received 70% of 2016's Operating Plan projected Stewardship of \$365,000. The balance will be needed to cover our bills for the rest of the year. Please be sure to follow through on your Stewardship pledge. Again, thank you! Contact: Elias Lolis 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 nanos203@gmail.com

Stewardship Report

We have recently formed a new Stewardship Committee. The newly constituted committee includes Michael Anthony, Tim Hartch, Natalie Kulukundis, Rita Mehos, Katie Perimenis, and Hellen Vouthounis. We expect one or two additional parishioners will join the Committee in the near future. At the suggestion of Father Harry, the members of the Stewardship Committee are reading a short book written by Dutch theologian Henri Nouwen entitled *A Spirituality of Fundraising*. If any parishioners are interested in reading this book a few additional copies are available in the church office. Lastly, please continue to give generously, if you can, to the Church. The

summer months are always slower months for financial contributions, yet the Church's operating expenses remain the same. Contact: Tim Hartch, at timhartch1@outlook.com

Additional 2016 Stewards

Mr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Kakouros
Peter C. Nanos
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher P. Nanos

Hannah Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. Evan Stergianis
Mr. & Mrs. Alkiviadis Valassis

Master Planning Committee

Despite our since desire to start this summer with minor modifications to the church as an initial installment toward the larger renovation of the remaining first floor of our complex, this has not materialized as we had originally hoped. While a potential benefactor expressed great interest in the church improvements and even suggested additional changes, along with both professional and financial assistance, this did not happen for reasons that have nothing to do with our project. So, even though we were most grateful for the initial offer, we are back to square one and will need to refine our plan for the church improvements and revise our timeline. This means we are recommitted to honor the original minor modifications that include a make-over of the narthex (including bride's room), improved lighting throughout, new carpeting everywhere, new coat of paint that preserves the original colors, make-over of the vestry and sacristy (side rooms of the altar area) along with new floor for the altar area, and improving the balcony and side rooms. The only additional items to this original scope are a toilet in the bride's room (to make a half-bath with the sink that is already in place), and the construction of a cry room in the narthex for families with very young children. Both of these proposals have received clear support. Along with the completed architectural plans for the remaining first floor that have now been completed, we are ready to receive competitive bids from construction companies. Before we do that, we will have the plans reviewed internally as well as by a third party, at no extra expense. "Measure twice and cut once," as an old Theo used to say. Contact: Jason Konidaris

Buildings & Grounds

We were confronted with breakdowns in mechanical equipment at the Stamford Athletic Club after decades of overlooking essential preventive maintenance tasks. We will be scheduling much of our physical plant for periodic servicing going forward. During this past month repairs were completed to the pool's fan system. The men's locker room HVAC unit required a new fan blade and motor. A new carpet/runner was installed in the heavy traffic area entrance. The following work is pending: power washing the coils of the men's locker room HVAC units which have collected muck, reducing their efficiency, and replacing the fan motor and blade of the women's locker room HVAC unit (the parts are on order). Minor repairs were performed to the main entrance doors to the church. Contact: Peter Licopantis pglydl3@optonline.net

Capital Campaign

A traveler was engaged on a long journey. Three-quarters of the way to his destination he came upon a fork in the road. There was no sign to tell him which way to go. The road on the right led up over a high mountain pass and across a rushing river before he would reach his destination. The road to the left led over flat land and rolling fields to no place in particular. He did not know which road to take. The one to the left would be an easy walk, but would actually get him nowhere; the one to the right would require sacrifice, surmounting many obstacles, but would eventually get him to his destination. Which road should he take?

The traveler represents our community of the Archangels. The road is our Capital Campaign. The destination to be reached is the financial goal of our Campaign and the reinvigoration of our facilities. Where do we go from here? Getting to our destination requires the participation, effort, and sacrifice of all of us. Taking the wrong road leaves us in the middle of nowhere with precious little to show for it.

The new church year is starting in a few days. Our architects have completed plans to send out for bids, and the hope is that it will prove possible to break ground sometime this Fall. Yet, to break ground we must know that we are going to be able to surmount the obstacles and have the funds that will be needed to pay all the bills; that we will be able to get the whole pie we are seeking and not half of it. These next three months are crucial. To date, we have received pledges from 104 members of the community totaling \$1,595,300, of which \$1,123,515 has already been received. We have qualified for and received the anonymous matching grant of \$ 250,000, as well as non-pledge memorial and other gifts from another six members of the community and numerous friends amounting to \$ 37,900. Among these are gifts this month from Theodore C. Burt Jr. and Sophia Gevas in memory of Emmanuel Gevas, and from Drs. Stephen and Maria P. Glasser in memory of Anthony and Blanche Pavlis. May their memory be eternal. The total of pledges, the anonymous grant, and non-pledge gifts to date is \$1,882,100, of which \$1,411,305 is in hand. We still need more than \$300,000 in pledges to reach our goal.

Our campaign solicitors and I have spoken with quite a few members of the community these past months. We have received indications that most of you look favourably on the Campaign and support the planned renovations. Yet, only 110 of the nearly 300 active members of the Community have responded to our requests and sent in a contribution or a pledge. Now is the time to fulfill your promises. Now is the time to send in your contribution. Now is the time for all of us to get together and send in our pledges- whether one-time or, hopefully, spread over three years. Now is the time for all of us to look into our hearts and come to the support of the Campaign. This is a project to benefit all of us. We need your support. We need it now. We welcome and we thank you in anticipation.

It is with your help, with your efforts, and with your sacrifices that we will conquer the obstacles on the road to our destination. It is with your help that we will choose the right road and not end up wandering aimlessly. It is all together, all of us, that we will triumphantly reach our goals. Now is the time to act. Thank you. Contact: Elias Kulukundis



Philoptochos representatives Sylvia Kambas (pictured here) and Vicki Kyriakos (taking the picture) visited St. Michael's Home for Aged on August 10 to drop off donated items and enjoy fellowship.



Our Philoptochos reps celebrate with dancing, cake, and fellowship at St. Michael's Home in Yonkers.

MINISTRIES

ANNUAL ARCHANGELS GREEKFEST!

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

Volunteers of All Ages Needed

**Sign up Today to Help Cook, Bake, Set-up,
Serve and Clean-up**

Sign-Up Posters in Church Hall

**For More Info, Contact:
Diane Sierpina at sierpina@yahoo.com or
(203) 554-6932**

SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday,
November 12, 2016**

**Church of the Archangels
Capital Campaign Comedy Night**

**with
Basile the Comedian**

**COCKTAILS ~ DINNER
MUSIC ~ AUCTION**

Cooking Schedule for Festival

- **Spanakopita: Cultural Center Kitchen**
Gregg & MaryBeth Demetros
Saturday, September 3, 9 am-1 pm
- **Nitsa's Cookies: Cultural Center kitchen**
Saturday, September 10, 9 am-12 noon
- **Stuffed Tomatoes: Church kitchen**
Thursday, September 21, 9 am-12 noon
Friday, September 22, 9 am-12 noon

GreekFest Just Around the Corner – Volunteers Needed!

Dearest Parishioners:

We still need volunteers...please stop by to sign up in the Church Hall or contact Diane Sierpina or Vicki Kyriakos. Our festival allows us to share our heritage, our traditions, our faith, and our love for food and dance with one another, our neighbors, and the broader community. See the schedule below.

Please volunteer: print volunteer registration form and return by email to Diane or Vicki or drop off at church. Also, sign up online by visiting the Festival page on the church's website.

Remember — this is our annual fundraiser and we are counting on everyone, so please try and sell raffle tickets and don't forget to also purchase raffle tickets (visit: <https://go.rallyup.com/archangels-affle>)

Consider donating to help defray some of our many expenses by clicking the link on the Festival page of church's website.

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

Volunteer Opportunities for the Greek Festival

Sunday, Sept. 18 – Set-up: 1 to 6 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 19 – Set-up: 5 to 9 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 20 – Set-up & Decorations: 5 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 21 – Set-up & Decorations: 5 to 9 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 22 – 5 to 11 p.m. (Volunteers begin to arrive 4:30 p.m.) Shifts: 4:30-6:30 pm, 6:30-8:30 pm, and 8:30-11 pm
Floater, Servers, Raffle Ticket sales, Pastries, Hot Dog Vendors, Take Out, Crafts, Coffee/Pastry

Friday, Sept. 23 - 5 to 11 p.m. (Volunteers begin to arrive 4:30 p.m.) Shifts: 4:30-6:30 pm, 6:30-8:30 pm, and 8:30-11 pm
Floater, Servers, Raffle Ticket sales, Pastries, Hot Dog Vendors, Take Out, Crafts, Coffee/Pastry Servers, Kitchen Help, Bar, Security

Saturday, Sept. 24 - noon to 11 p.m. (Volunteers begin to arrive 11:30 a.m.) Shifts: 11:30 am-2:30 pm, 2:30-5:30 pm, 5:30-8:30 pm, and 8:30-11:30 pm
Floater, Servers, Raffle Ticket sales, Pastries, Hot Dog Vendors, Take Out, Crafts, Coffee/Pastry Servers, Kitchen Help, Bar, Security

Sunday, Sept. 25 - noon to 7 p.m. (then from 7 p.m. on for clean-up) (Volunteers arrive at 11:30 a.m.) Shifts: 11:30 am-2, 2-4:30, 4:30-7 pm until cleanup is finished
Floater, Servers, Raffle Ticket sales, Pastries, Hot Dog Vendors, Take Out, Crafts, Coffee/Pastry Servers, Kitchen Help, Bar, Security

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

Ordination to Priesthood

On Sun, Oct 9, Deacon Joshua Pappas will be ordained as Presbyter (Priest) @ Archangel Michael Church in Port Washington, NY (about 1¼ hour drive from Stamford). Archbishop Demetrios will preside, and a lunch will follow. Naturally, Fr. Harry and Presvytera Kerry will attend that day, so a substitute priest to lead worship has been arranged for our parish. Since many are interested, we will investigate renting a luxury coach bus (with a fee/person) or arrange car-pooling. To indicate your desire to get a ride, contact either Jane (203-348-4216) or Patricia (office@archangelsgoc.org). For further information, contact Fr. Harry



Deacon Josh is lead around the altar table 3 times, similar to the wedding service, as His Grace looks on.



Clergy who participated in Ordination: Front row, left to right – Frs. Nikolas Karloutsos, Christopher Bender (Josh's godfather), Constantine Matthews, Theodore Petrifies, and Soterios Malamis (Josh's brother-in-law); Back row, left to right - Fr. John Lardas (Head priest under whom Josh will be working in Port Washington, NY), Deacon Joshua, Bishop Andonios, Fr. Harry, Deacon Panagiotis Papazafiroopoulos (District Youth Director).



"AXIOS!" "WORTHY!" Joshua Pappas is vested by His Grace Bishop Andonios during his Ordination to the Diaconate during the Divine Liturgy on Aug. 7.



Deacon Joshua & Diakonissa Joanna (title for a Deacon's wife) stand on the solea following the Liturgy.

Introducing “Small Groups”

In view of the needs of our parish, and in response to God’s leading, we will introduce three Small Groups this fall. Each of these will meet under the leadership of a member of our parish who holds a graduate degree in Theology from our Seminary, Holy Cross School of Theology in Boston – Presvytera Kerry, Natalie Kulukundis and Steve Sarigianis. The groups will meet for prayer, study, discussion, fellowship and mutual support. Here is a brief description of each group:

- **Marriage Enrichment group** (Pres. Kerry): In this group, which is for young and old, we will discover the abundant blessings God desires for our marriages and ways in which, in the daily challenges of life, we can grow toward oneness with our spouse and have a vibrant, life-giving and growing marriage. We will meet once a month at a day/time/place that is suitable for participants. Contact: Pres. Kerry pappaskk@msn.com
- **Young Adult group** (Steve S.): In this group, which is for young adults ages 18-35, we will explore what it is to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, understand the positive impact He will have in our lives, and what it takes to keep the relationship going and growing. We will discuss specifically the issues facing young adults in a fast paced, career driven, and secular world, and how this relationship (He) can and will help us. We will meet once a month at a day/time/place suitable for participants. Contact: Steve Sarigianis, steve@archangelsgoc.org, 203-623-5896
- **Woman’s Group** (Natalie K.): Weekly small group sessions (up to 12 people) for 10 weeks (beginning in October). Soul Feast is a very readable and “non-technical” introduction to the basic disciplines of the Christian spiritual life. Using it as our guide and resource, the group will explore the riches of these spiritual disciplines. We will be guided how to develop and nurture these practices and make them a regular part of our lives. The topics will generate lively discussion as we share, learn and grow. Join us as we deepen and enhance our understanding of our faith and learn ways to renew and nurture and maintain on-going spiritual growth and well-being. Contact: Natalie Kulukundis, natakulu@hotmail.com or 203-857-1670

Adult Education

- **Workshop on Christian Education** – Saturday, Sep 10, 9 am – 3pm, led by Dr. Anton Vrame, Director of Archdiocesan Dept. of Religious Education. Open to all Teachers (Church School, Greek School, Preschool), as well as parents & grandparents raising children today, area Orthodox parishes and the general public. \$25 donation requested to cover food and stipend. RSVP with Jane (203-348-4216) or Patricia (office@archangelsgoc.org).
- **Baptism class** – Sun, Sep 11, 3-5:30 pm. Required for all parents & godparents, and open to all others, who wish to learn more about Baptism, Chrismation & Eucharist (Communion),



Steve Sarigianis teaches the day’s lesson to the children at Vacation Church School, held the first week of August.

life in Christ today, developing a family of faith, and raising children in the Lord. Please provide your own childcare.

Contact: Fr. Harry

- **Orthodoxy 101** – Basic catechism (instruction) in the Christian faith will resume on Monday, Sept 12, with Compline at 7:15 pm, followed by study at 7:30 pm. Required of all adults preparing to join the Orthodox Church; open to all other interested adults. Coffee, tea, and light snacks are available. Contact: Fr. Harry
- **Marriage Seminar** – Sat, Sep 17, @ Holy Trinity Church in Bridgeport. For all couples preparing for a wedding. Offered by the District, with professionally trained leaders who engage couples to learn about a faithful Christian marriage. Contact: Fr. Harry
- **Orthodoxy in America Lecture** – Tue, Sep 27, 6 pm @ Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus (12th Floor Lounge, Lowenstein Center, 113 West 60th Street, NYC). Topic: “Religion in America through Orthodox Eyes: The Travelogue of a 19th-Century Russian Orthodox Thinker”, by Dr. Vera Shevzov, Professor of Religious Studies & Russian Studies at Smith College. Reception to follow. Register by Sep 20: <https://www.fordham.edu/info/23001/>. Contact: Fr. Harry
- **Orthodoxy Education Day** – Sat, Oct 1 @ St. Vladimir’s Seminary (575 Scarsdale Road, Crestwood, NY). Theme: “Celebrating Mary”, an exploration of the Virgin Mary (Theotokos) through prayer, Keynote Address, workshops, exhibits, wide variety of ethnic foods, and fellowship. Free admission. For more info: www.svots.edu

Ministry Fair

On Sunday, Sep 11, we will hold our 2nd annual Ministry Fair during Coffee Hour. Each ministry or organization will show its purpose and work in tabletop displays creatively in order to educate, inspire, and encourage wider participation. Contact: Steve Sarigianis, steve@archangelsgoc.org

9/11 Memorial Prayer

In a solemn 15-year commemoration of the terrorist attack on America on September 11, 2001, special prayer will be offered during Liturgy that Sunday. Aside from our parish observance, the September 11 Memorial Museum at Ground Zero is remarkable and well worth visiting.

Seniors

Make sure to attend Liturgy on Sunday, September 11, when we celebrate the annual American feast of Grandparents! A special prayer will be offered with a cake to celebrate during Coffee Hour. First meeting of the new ecclesiastical year will be Wednesday, September 14th at noon, following the Divine Liturgy for the Great Feast of the Holy Cross at 9:30am. Contact: Pam Koutroubis: pamelak2145@gmail.com

Ladies Philoptochos Society

First Meeting of the new ecclesiastical year: Tuesday, September 6th @ 7pm. Please come and be part of this dynamic organization that helps so many people in need. Contact: Marion Vanson, 914-234-9420.

Youth Ministry Back in Full Swing

As August gives way to September and as summer gives way to fall, our community of faith begins the new ecclesiastical year together (Sept. 1). Our youth ministry will be in full swing once again with a resurgence of activity and energy across all of our programs. Our ministry leaders have worked hard in preparation for the new year and are ready to engage our children and families to grow deeper and stronger relationships with Jesus Christ and each other, connect them to the sacramental life of the church, learn and grow and have a ton of fun in doing so.

The youth ministry calendar for 2016-17 kicks off on **Sunday, September 11** with the first day of **Church School** and the fall **Ministry Fair**; the latter will take place in the hall during coffee hour. This will be the 2nd annual fair, but unlike last fall, it will carry a spirit more reminiscent of Stewardship Sunday (held this past spring). Table top displays of all our ministries will be placed prominently and centrally in the hall, and representatives of each ministry will be present to interact & field questions. Be sure to spend some extra time after Liturgy on the 11th to sign up and get connected, engage our leaders, and learn more about our programs.

We look forward to a beautiful year of growth in faith, love and community with excitement and anticipation. Please be sure to visit our CCB page "Youth Ministry" for the full 2016-17 youth ministry calendar. If you have questions, suggestions, or comments with anything regarding youth ministry, don't hesitate to contact me. Good strength to all our students, parents and families in returning to school and fall schedules! - *Steve*



Children process into the church nave for morning prayers: the best way to start the day!

Church School

The Church School Program is excited to welcome Dr. Tony Vrame, Director of the Department of Religious Education of our Archdiocese for a professional development workshop for church school teachers, youth ministry leaders, and members of the community who are involved in fostering the spiritual development of children. This workshop will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2016 beginning at 9am in the Church Hall. We then look forward to eagerly welcoming children and families to the start of the new ecclesiastic school year on Sunday, September 11, 2016. Students are to attend Holy Liturgy with their families and will then be called to the hall following Holy Communion in order to meet their teachers and be escorted to their classrooms. Following Holy Liturgy, we will join for our 2nd annual Ministry Fair reception in our fellowship hall. The Church School Program remains committed to further developing cross ministry events, deepening its programming, and offering creative ways to accommodate and engage families, particularly those with young children, to attend Holy Liturgy and Church School. Thank you for entrusting us with your children. Finally, we would like to offer our congratulations and appreciation to Fr. Harry, Steven Sarigianis, and teacher Kyriaki Yoranides for launching a successful and vibrant Vacation Church School filled to enrollment capacity with students! This is a tradition we hope to continue next summer! Looking forward to a fruitful new academic year filled with fellowship and a deepening of our faith and love in Christ. Contact: Evelyn Biliias ebiliias@aol.com

Greek School

The new year with the Greek School is nearly here! The GS is excited to bring on Anna Lempesi as the new Interim Director for 2016-2017. Anna comes with some refreshing, new ideas and creative energies to bring to our classrooms for the development of our children's Greek language skills. We look forward to her leadership and thank her for her commitment to the program!

Registration for the school year is still open!

Enroll online by visiting the following webpage:

<http://goo.gl/forms/SlxvWj8kgIbWJLO63>. For those who do not wish to register online and would prefer a traditional paper registration form please email ebilias@aol.com and one will be provided. Pre-K & Kindergarten will be held on Thursdays from 4:00pm to 6:00pm; all other levels will be held Tuesdays from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Standard tuition is \$550 for Archangels parish members, and \$650 for non-members. Our best wishes for great beginning of academic year and our deepest thanks for your continued support! Contact: Anna Lempesi, ann.lempesi@gmail.com, Steve Sarigianis, steve@archangelsgoc.org



Nicholas Pantel takes a fun ride on the swing, while other VCS friends play and wait their turn.

Altar Servers

Calling all boys to serve!

Serving in the Holy Altar during Sunday Liturgy and occasionally for weekday services is a beautiful honor, a unique blessing and a privilege that comes with responsibility. We have been so thankful for the help received these past years from all our great altar servers. Fr. Harry, Chris Nanos (our sexton), and Steve Sarigianis highly encourage mature boys (ages 8 and above) to serve this year if they haven't already. We can use your help!

On Saturday Sept. 10 at 10:00am, we will have an interactive Altar Server Workshop at the church. This is for returning and new servers and is extremely important for the purposes of on-going education. Please make every effort to come! [Note, this runs concurrently with the Christian Education Workshop (9am-3pm)] We will be covering entrances, censuring, teams & captains, and learn more about the Divine Liturgy. It will run about 1.5 hours. Please contact Steve Sarigianis (steve@archangelsgoc.org) or Chris Nanos (cpnanos@aol.com)

Handmaidens

Calling all girls to serve!

During the fall of 2015, we successfully launched a new Sunday ministry for the girls of our church called Handmaidens. Now our girls have the opportunity, honor and privilege of sharing duties with the boys in serving during Divine Liturgies. All girls ages 8 and above are encouraged to be a Handmaiden and serve every other Sunday! We have a growing roster of girls and want to expand the ministry this fall.

On Saturday, Sept. 10 at 3pm there will be a dedicated Handmaiden Workshop at the church. There will be an 'orientation' for new servers, a recap of the entrances, and explanation of the importance of this most holy service. Parents please consider having your daughters attend and participate in this ministry! Please contact Steve Sarigianis (steve@archangelsgoc.org) or Chris Nanos (cpnanos@aol.com)



Our dynamic teacher Kyriaki Yoranides offers instruction to Margaret Cholakakis on the playground.

Little Angels

Little Angels welcomes all young families of our parish back from what were hopefully restful and happy summer vacations! We are looking for dedicated parents to join our Little Angels planning committee. If you have any ideas, time, or energy to offer, let us know! The programs, activities and events we offer for infants, preschool children, and their families are contingent upon your support! You can also help by paying membership dues of \$20 to Vasso Spanos (bkarachris@gmail.com). We have noticed a real burst of baby births in our parish in recent months. Na mas zisoune! If you would like to join a special sub-group of Little Angels for moms & infants, please email me (avalassis@gmail.com). We would like to facilitate the formation of a mommy & me fellowship more appropriate for babies.

Keep the following dates in mind for our fall program:

- **Saturday, September 17** – Welcome Picnic, 11 am @ Chestnut Hill Park, Stamford. Pack a snack and/or lunch, and join us for some fellowship on the playgrounds!
- **Friday, September 30** – Mothers' Coffee/ Planning Meeting, 7 pm - location TBA. Come join us for a cup of coffee and a chat with fellow moms of young children, and give us some thoughts on our ministry planning!
- **Saturday, October 22** – Family Fitness Day, 10 am @ SAC gym.

Bring your children and all your energy for a morning of simple, fun activities to promote fitness for our preschoolers! If you can run a station, please let us know! Dads, we really welcome your help in particular!!

Please look out for Little Angels emails! Happy Fall! Contact: Anastasia Valassis, avalassis@gmail.com

Hope/Joy

The Hope & Joy ministry, for pre-school children through 6th grade, is designed to help young people learn more about their Orthodox faith, get to know their church friends better, and grow together in positive and spiritual ways. Be sure to check out our Hope & Joy booth at the Ministry Fair following Church services on September 11th where we will be highlighting some of our past events and talking about future events. Please save the following dates for events that we already have in the works for this upcoming year. 1) Saturday, October 1st (rain date October 8th) - Nature Outing at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. 2) Saturday, October 22nd - Family Fun Fitness Night at the Stamford Athletic Club. 3) Saturday, December 10th - Christmas Party at the Stamford Athletic Club. 4) Saturday, February 11th - Valentine Visit at Atria Senior Living Facility. 5) Wednesday, April 12th - Food Bank Trip. 6) Sunday, April 16th - Easter Egg Hunt. 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 at 203-249-7403 or cnanos@optonline.net.

GOYA

The GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) ministry is open to all 12-18 year olds (7th-12th graders) in the church. This ministry works to bring teens into loving relationships with Jesus Christ, foster the development of their faith, meaningful friendships, and a sense of belonging through substantive and fun-filled events. Our first event is one of the most fun all year, and brings together teens from throughout the State and even New York for a day of outdoor & indoor at Holiday Hill. Now is the best time to join GOYA for those who haven't been involved before!

Mark your calendars for the following:

- **Sunday, Sept. 11** at coffee hour is our Ministry Fair. Meet advisors Bill & Diane, Pastoral Assistant Steve, and some of the GOYAns.
- **Saturday Sept. 17**, 11am-7pm is the District wide GOYA Day at Holiday Hill event in Prospect, CT; it is a full day of fun and activities for teens from throughout Connecticut and New York.

Contact: Diane Skoparantzios (skoparantziosd@optonline.net), Bill Giantomidis (billgiant1@yahoo.com) or Steve Sarigianis (steve@archangelsgoc.org)

AYA

The Archangels Young Adult ministry (formerly YAL) serves 18 to 35 year olds who are interested in connecting with fellow Orthodox Christians to rekindle old friendships, create new ones, explore their lives and their faith more deeply and seriously, and enjoy quality time together. The AYA is primarily a conversational ministry, but isn't limited to such. It fosters a sense of belonging, and encourages young adults to connect with the life of the church and each other. We have held several gatherings in 2016 and look to increase the offerings into the fall.

The first gathering for the fall will be what we call a **"Service Social"** on **Friday, Sept. 23**; the idea is for young adults to serve together at the Church Festival and later, head downtown to socialize and reconnect. New faces and friends are always welcome. We hope to see you at the GreekFest.

To get connected, reach out to Steve: steve@archangelsgoc.org , or 203-623-5896.

Athletics

The Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Basketball League (CEOBL) is being organized for the 2016-17 season. We are hoping to form teams for *each division* of play (either separately or with Annunciation): **Youth** (ages 11 and under), **Junior Varsity** (boys ages 11-14 and girls ages 11-15) and **Varsity** (boys and girls 18 and under). Practices will begin in October and games in November. **CEOVL** (girls' volleyball) is also being organized for the new season. We hope to form another championship winning team like we had in 2014-15. Practices will start in November and games in December. If you or your children

are interested in playing with the church teams, please sign up with John Skoparantzios (203- 550-6894) or Steve Sarigianis (steve@archangelsgoc.org). Come join the fun!

Greek Language Classes for Adults

The world is shrinking with globalization and the internet! Now is a great time for adults to learn modern Greek. We are blessed to have an excellent instructor in Dr. Eugenia Zavras, a biology Professor at Fairfield University. For information and registration, contact her directly at 203-322-9561 or call Jane in the church office 203-348-4216.

IOCC

The International Orthodox Christian Charities helps people in need around the world including in the United States. In August the IOCC activated its emergency network of “Frontliners” to assist people impacted by the severe flooding in the Baton Rouge area of Louisiana. In addition to making sure all Orthodox Churches in the region were safe, the IOCC volunteers have been providing emotional and spiritual care to hundreds of people displaced by the flooding who are staying at a shelter in Gonzales, LA. IOCC action teams are also helping to clean the mud and debris out of people’s homes. There are thousands of houses in the Baton Rouge region still waiting to be cleaned. For more information on how to become an IOCC Frontliner and/or join an IOCC Action Team see www.iocc.org. Also, for all of our parishioners who work or live during the week in New York City, the IOCC is holding a “Happy Hour Fundraiser” from 6-8pm on September 22nd at PS 450 located at 450 Park Avenue South. Contact our IOCC representative, Tim Hartch, at timhartch1@outlook.com.

Pilgrimage to Russia

Fr. Harry and Fr. Steve Tschlis, presiding priest of St. Paul’s Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA, will co-lead a Pilgrimage to Russia from Mon, May 22, 2017, to Sat, June 3. Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky, a native Russian Orthodox priest serving a parish in Binghamton, NY, will be our tour guide. The itinerary includes all major holy sites, significant cultural centers, and periods of relaxation:

- **St. Petersburg:** Cathedrals – Our Lady of Kazan, St. Isaac, St. Nicholas; Monasteries – St. Alexander Nevsky, St. John of Rila (relics of St. John of Kronstadt, modern Orthodox Saint), Nvodevichiy Convent; Museums – Russian Museum and The Hermitage (Icons, Rembrandt paintings – especially the Prodigal Son); Smolensk Cemetery (relics of St. Xenia); Boat Tour through some canals of the city; Apartment of Fyodor Dostoyevsky & his grave (one of greatest modern writers)
- **Moscow** (5 full days): The Kremlin – Cathedrals (Dormition, Annunciation, Archangel Michael), Tomb of Lenin; Cathedrals – St. Basil’s (Red Square), Kazan, Christ the Savior; Monasteries – Donskoy (grave of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and relics of St. Tikhon of America), Mary & Martha Convent

(founded by St. Elizabeth, modern Saint), Holy Trinity Lavra (relics of St. Sergius of Radonezh & St. Innocent of America); Museum – Tretyakov Gallery (with world famous icon of Trinity by St. Andrei Rublev, along with Russian art through the centuries); Memorial prayers at Butovo, where thousands were executed under Communism, including many now considered as Martyrs.

Members of both parishes are invited to participate, but space is limited to a total of 30. Already a number have indicated interest. Preliminary price of \$3,000-\$3,300/person includes everything, except airfare (which, from JFK airport right now is \$775 on Delta). Contact Fr. Harry for further information and to reserve a space now.

Area Festivals

- Odyssey Greek Festival: Fri – Mon, Sep 2-5, @ St. Barbara Church in Orange (Steve’s home parish)
- Greek Festival: Thu – Sun, Sep 8-11 @ Holy Trinity Church in New Rochelle
- Ukrainian Festival: Sun, Sep 11 @ Ukrainian Heritage Center in Glenbrook

Stamford Athletic Club @ The Greek Cultural Center

Back to school and back to SAC! Greek Church members take advantage of our special rates for members. If you are already a member, take advantage of our referral program where a lead that brings us a new member results in a FREE month for you! We are so excited to host the Greek Festival this month and encourage everyone to take a tour of SAC during this wonderful event.

A new corporate account with UBS financial services in Stamford has been established and has already added many new members to SAC. We are finalizing deals with several other corporations and local businesses to add to our SAC membership numbers as well.

The Fall is a great time to sign your child up for swim lessons. If cooking interests you, Chef St. Juste is continuing his culinary teaching in the SAC kitchen. Maybe your children would like to take their basketball skills to another level. High Rise Basketball is ready to help. Call SAC at 203-357-7555 today for more information about any of these programs and visit our website at www.sacnews.com

PARISH NEWS

Baptism

Isabela Maria Bacila Pantel, 2nd child of John & Ana (Bacila) on August 13; sponsors were Alexander & Julie Pantel.



Say "cheese!" The children at VCS weren't shy to show their pearly whites.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Preschool

Our preschool (ages 3-5) has one available spot for the 2016-17 school year, which is set to begin on Monday, September 19. The school day runs 9am-2pm. Children must be up to date on all immunizations and must be toilet trained. Please contact Kyriaki: knyrus@aol.com; 203-329-2353 if interested.

Foundation

The Foundation Board voted at its Annual Meeting in May to invite four members of the Community to join the Board. I am pleased to advise that all four accepted the invitation and to welcome Dr. Elizabeth Siderides Theofanides, Elias Lolis, Christopher Paul Nanos, and Kimon Passios to the Board. The Foundation is looking forward to their thoughts and guidance with anticipation. Contact: Elias N. Kulukundis

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 Karatzas and his band. The net proceeds of the dinner-dance will benefit the rebuilding of St Nicholas 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

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 20, 2016):

Total Commitments\$1,882,100
Total Commitments Paid\$1,411,305
Total Number of Households110

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.

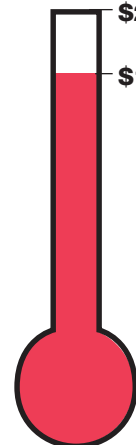
Inasmuch as funds are likely to be required on a regular basis once construction commences, the General Assembly gave the Campaign Committee the right to go to a bank and discount any unpaid pledge amounts in order to have funds available to meet expenses. Preliminary plans for the remodeling of the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

\$2,200,000
\$1,838,750



The Contributors (as of August 20, 2016):

PLEDGES

Anonymous (6)
Evangeline Adams
Michael and Jena Anthony
George and Katina Antipas
Angelo and Dena Aravides
George Badoyannis
Demetri and Constance Begetis
Michael and Mimika Blanc
Theodore Burr Jr. and Sophia Gevas
Sophie Caloutas
Nitsa Chagaris
Peter Cholakis and Teresa Cassidy
James W. and Margaret Cocolis
Glenn and Angie Colarossi
Harry Condos
Savet Constantine
Nicholas Daifotis
Matthew and Maria DeVito
Elias and Anna Diamantis
Peter and Ruth Diamond
Stephen and Margaret Fornaciari

Peter Gabriel and Mary Badoyannis
Stephen and Tina Georgeou
Effie Gianos
William Grosso
Rita Haralambidis
Timothy and Sophia Hartch
Brian Irizarry and Gigi Perimenis
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 Kounevelis
Pam Koutroubis
Elias N. Kulukundis
Stewart and Kim Leonard
Peter and Yolanda Licopantis
J. Andrew MacEntire 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
Christopher P. and Christine Nanos
George and Amy Nanos
Paul and Debbie Nanos
Penny Nanos
Peter C. Nanos
Theodore and Ann Nanos
Theophilos and Friderika Nicolis
Nicholas Nikas
Mark and Maria Otis
George and Cindy Paparis
Father Harry and Presbyter 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
Robert and Branislava Shekhdar
Ken and Maria Shepard
Theodore and Diane Sierpina
Louis and Anna Sioles
Catherine Sofronas
Agesilaos and Molly Sotire
Sotiris and Nicoletta Soulios
Konstantinos and Bonnie Spetsaris
Evan and Roula Stergiannis
Dr. Stelios Theofanidis and Dr. Elizabeth Siderides
Demetrios and Leda Tsapralis
Katina and Margaret Tsirantonakis
Alkiviadis and Matoula Valassis
Soulafrada Valassis
Dr. Steve and Anastasia Valassis
Steven and Antonia Valassis
Basil and Terri Vanech
Nadine Vasilacopoulos
John and Medina Vasily
Argyris and Ann Vassiliou

Angelica Verses
Jane Vorvis
Peter M. Vorvis
Paul and Goldie Winn
Nicholas and Kyriaki Yoranidis
Nicole Yoranidis

NON-PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS

Ladies Philoptochos Society, Church of the Archangels
Evangelos Aposporis and Victoria De Melo Paz
Mary Louise Bennett
George, Pauline and Peter Galuris
Dr. Stephen and Dr. Maria Pavlis Glasser
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 Yekta

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
William and Diana Mihaltes
Nicholas Nikas
Timothy and Maria Scanlon
Diane Sierpina
Mihai and Cristina Smina