



# The Herald

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

## *Are There Any Elections in Heaven?*

This has been quite an election year in America, especially at the national level of picking public officials. Extraordinary. Divisive. Bitter. Contested. Passionate. Surprising. I'm sure you could find many more words to describe what we have all lived through.

All the same, this is just part of living in a republic that depends upon democratic voting. Qualified citizens are empowered to speak their mind and vote their conscience. Then, we are expected to honor the results, no matter where we stand on the candidates or the issues. Certainly, there are a variety of unresolved issues in how we vote, not least of which is the fact that so many never do, some still find it hard to get to the polls, and our methods of actual voting do not necessarily reflect the best and safest procedures available to us.

By contrast, our Parish Council elections this month seem like a snooze. How many of us even want to consider offering ourselves for leadership in our parish? How many of us take it seriously enough to scrutinize the candidates and vote not for our friends and family, but those most qualified?

Given how messy elections can be in our country, are there any in heaven? Why does God get a free pass with no one looking over his shoulder? Don't you and I have a few bones to pick with the Almighty? Why should there be any eternal position since power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely? Or so the common wisdom contends.

It appears that ultimate authority in heaven – and on earth, by the way – has never been up for grabs in any of the conventional ways human beings have been organizing government. We simply are never afforded the right to decide on who really is in charge. Not very inclusive. We are given free will to choose and decide on a lot of things in life. But one thing is never afforded us: picking and choosing Authority with a capital "A." Hmm...I guess one could interpret this to resemble a dictatorship.

Apparently, the Lord set some limits on our precious freedoms.

Probably for our good.

Remember the older commercial that invited wide participation across all automakers and lots of different consumers in order to design the perfect car that would satisfy everyone? The result was a mish-mash of styles and components from all different directions that created a ridiculous disaster!

I wonder if that's why divinity is not so interested in seeking human counsel, much less consent to rule. If we had our way, what would God really look like and how would he act? Would he act for our satisfaction and convenience? To arrange our affairs so that we are as happy as possible in this life? To stay out of our way so that we could finally live like we want to?

None of us would probably ever have thought that the Holy One's ultimate move would be to voluntarily get off his high and mighty throne, become a weak and defenseless infant, conceived by a teenage girl who gets pregnant before marriage, within a small religious group tolerated (at best) by one of the greatest empires of history, in a remote corner of the world, in a stable with smelly animals. Not exactly how we would expect the greatest Power to show up. Yet this is precisely what we are preparing to celebrate this month!

So, there are no elections in heaven, and we do not get to decide how God gets things done while in office. However, we can relax, breathe deeply, rejoice and enter into the wonderful season of the Nativity Fast (see below) as we prepare to encounter the most surprising gift Authority could ever give us: Jesus Christ, not just our Savior on high, but our model below of what it means to really be human.

Merry Christmas!

— 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](http://www.archangelsgoc.org)

## PARISH COUNCIL

### *Parish Council*

We focused our 2016 efforts on solving longstanding issues, improving upon existing initiatives, and putting more structure and process around the parish's administrative efforts. It was an extremely productive year, though somewhat reactive. 2017 will be a proactive year. At our most recent meeting we set aside time to discuss big picture initiatives for the coming year. Conventionally, it was a brainstorming session. Top level thoughts centered around growing our parish and our faith in ways that resonate with young and old. Administrative thoughts centered around identifying work patterns and providing our staff and ministries with tangible standards and guidance. There were thoughts on furthering family engagement - including a platform for voluntary and school-required community service. This is just a sampling of what we will devote our attention to in the coming weeks as we distill it into actionable items. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, let's be grateful for what we already have - a longstanding parish supported by hundreds of families; a true gift! - as we continue to improve wherever possible. Contact: Jason Konidaris, [jason.konidaris@yale.edu](mailto:jason.konidaris@yale.edu)

### *Parish Council Elections*

Elections are Sun, Dec. 11, for about 1½ hours following the Liturgy (approximately 11:45 am – 1:15 pm). Absentee ballots (available Sun, Dec. 4) must be returned by Friday, Dec 9, in order to be valid; any ballot returned after this date will be declared invalid (per our own Parish By-Laws). Eligible Voters: all baptized or chrismated members of the Orthodox Church who are 18 years or older, worship regularly, are currently stewards in good standing (if you have not yet made a financial offering this year, you may do so on Election Day), & have been members in our parish at least since Sept 11 of this year. We will elect 4 of the 5 candidates listed below. Contact: Board of Elections – George Perkins (chair), Louie Blanco, Roula Stergianis & Eugenia Zavras.

### *Meet the Candidates*

#### *George Khouri*

##### **Parish Ministries**

- Parish Council Member
- Church Treasurer
- Head of Stewardship
- Former Young Adult Teacher

**Reason for Running:** I wish to continue to serve the church I love.



#### *Christopher (Chris) Nanos*

##### **Parish Ministries**

- Church Sexton
- Member Parish Council
- Lifelong Member of Archangels
- Altar boy 10 years
- Member Junior Choir
- Festival Volunteer



**Reason for Running:** I want to help move the Church forward with the changes necessary to insure future generations have a meaningful house of devotion and worship.

## *Worship for Christmas*

**Friday, December 23**

**Royal Hours – 9:00 am**

**Saturday, December 24**

**Orthros – 5:00 pm**

**Followed by Liturgy & Christmas Carols**

**Sunday, December 25**

**Orthros – 7:45 am • Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am**

#### *Theofilos (Theo) Nikolis*

##### **Parish Ministries**

- Former AHEPA Secretary
- Pilgrimage to Holy Land
- Byzantine Chanting Participant
- Dedicated Member of the Church of Archangels for Over 40 Years

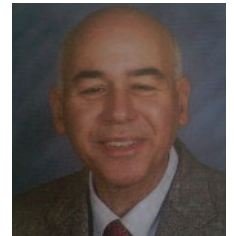


**Reason for Running:** My children grew up in the Archangels Parish attending Sunday School, Greek School, and members of the GOYA and Greek Cultural Center and now my grandchildren attend Church School here as well. I would also like to draw more young people to our Parish.

#### *George Pappas*

##### **Parish Ministries**

- Choir Member
- Church School Teacher
- Former Parish Council President
- Current Parish Council Member
- Capital Campaign Committee



**Reason for Running:** I believe that my service on the council, if elected, is part of my stewardship obligation. This is our church and we do what we can to help out. I hope that my financial background and management experience can be an asset to the council.

#### *Agessiliaos (Aggie) Sotire*

##### **Parish Ministries**

- Former Vice-President of the Parish Council
- Head Usher
- Master Planning Committee
- CCB Implementation team
- Bible Study attendance
- Pilgrimage to Israel-2013



**Reason for Running:** I have been a life-long member of the Church of the Archangels and it would be of great spiritual pleasure for me to perpetuate my service through the Parish Council to our church community

## ***Master Planning***

Five contractors have been invited to bid for our construction project. They received our construction documents on November 18th and will have until December 14th to respond. At that point we will level the bids, compare them, and prepare a contractor recommendation to be presented to our Parish Council. We will look to assemble a Building Committee, as an adjunct to Master Planning, to work more closely with that contractor at “ground level”. Our timing is very fitting, following the recent Capital Campaign Comedy Night gala. Close to 300 guests had a fantastic evening while sharing in the excitement of our upcoming work. Thank you to every one involved - donors, committee members, and staff. Your ongoing support is vital. Contact: Jason Konidaris, [jason.konidaris@yale.edu](mailto:jason.konidaris@yale.edu)

## ***Buildings & Grounds***

Stamford Athletic Club: November was a very active period. The exit lighting signage, boxing area hallway lighting and emergency lighting is now operational. The Trane company has completed their annual maintenance and presently the pool heating system is functioning properly. The women’s sauna system has been placed back in operation. The fire alarm system which protects life and property needed attention. The system has been upgraded with replacement of the primary control panel, batteries, and now includes 24/7 central station monitoring. We are reviewing the need for added fire magnetic doors, as well as replacing a door at the far end of the exercise room which must contain a window for visual entering and exiting. We have a great need to replace the roof and skylight opposite the pool roof, a proposal has been received and under review. As a further means of reducing our energy cost a study has been conducted for the installation of LED lighting throughout, as well as reviewing what economy measure can be applied to the mechanical systems. Plans are underway to review these energy savings with “Energy Resources.”

Church: Our primary concern remains having the in-house capability of adjusting comfort level to the Church’s heating and air conditioning unit. The system has off site monitoring where we are reliant on the installing contractor to make adjustments. We await this contractor’s instruction period and instructional data. Contact: Peter Licopantis, [pglydl3@optonline.net](mailto:pglydl3@optonline.net)

## ***Treasurer’s Report***

For 2016 year to date (through October), revenues were \$663,000 with expenses of \$699,000 resulting in an operating deficit of \$36,000 year to date. Approximately 47% of revenues have come from Stewardship donations and approximately 21% have come from Other Donations. We have received 84% 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***

We are now pleased to announce that stewardship pledges and other donations can be made through our CCB system.

Please follow the steps below to make your contribution:

- Log in to your profile on CCB – [www.archangels.ccbchurch.com](http://www.archangels.ccbchurch.com) –with your personal identity (typically your email) and password
- On the left column of the home page (dark background) click “\$”
- Select file tab marked ‘give’ or ‘donate’
- Select ‘one time gift’ or ‘repeating gift’
- Select ‘designation’ from the drop down arrow
- Select ‘giving amount’ using decimals
- CLICK ‘CONTINUE’ tab
- Visually verify ‘designation’ and ‘gift amount’
- Select payment type from drop down arrow (checking account OR debit / credit card)
- Visually verify donor/personal information
- Select ‘Update profile with this contact information’ if necessary
- Enter checking account or debit / credit card information as needed
- Select ‘Save payment information for future use’ if desired
- CLICK ‘CONTINUE’ tab
- CLICK ‘CONFIRM’ if all information is correct
- TRANSACTION IS COMPLETE – RETRIEVE RECEIPT FROM PERSONAL EMAIL

## ***Stewardship Report***

Stewardship Sunday this year will be December 11th, the same day as Parish Council Elections. All are invited that day for a complimentary lunch at the Church after liturgy. The purpose of Stewardship Sunday is to celebrate the enormous blessings we have received from God and to commit to sharing these generously with the Church and our fellow parishioners. Just as God sent his Son to save us, so Jesus asks us to use our time, talents, and financial resources to serve him in the world today. You should be soon receiving a pledge card for 2017. We ask that all church members bring in their pledge cards on December 11th.

In mid-November we sent out statements to the 215 individuals/families who have made Stewardship financial gifts or pledges in 2016. We also sent a letter to an additional 75 individuals/families who had made contributions in past years, but have not yet done so this year. We have received a couple questions, which we wanted to clarify. First, the statements reflected gifts made through October 31, 2016. Any gifts made after that date will be shown in the statements we will send out in January 2017. Second, the statements were addressed to one individual for each family. Several people have suggested sending statements addressed to both spouses. We are looking into doing so in the future. Third, the statements in most instances showed an entry for September, which reflects the fact that we entered into CCB, our online record keeping system, all gifts received through September as one batch. Going forward we are entering in gifts each month as they are received. We thank everyone for giving very generously to the Church of the Archangels! Contact: Tim Hartch, [timhartch1@outlook.com](mailto:timhartch1@outlook.com)



## ***Additional 2016 Stewards***

Alexander Amarilios

Mr & Mrs Nikolas Davatzes

Zoe Fountoukis

John Kantzas

Mr & Mrs Arthur Kiratsous

Mr & Mrs Kimon Passios

Mr & Mrs Louis Sioles

Mr & Mrs Emmanuel Ziboulis

## ***Capital Campaign***

The big news this month has been the success of the Campaign Comedy Gala. Nearly three hundred people packed the Greek Center on Saturday evening, 12 November, for cocktails, a gourmet dinner, and a laugh-filled performance by the well-known comedian Basile Katsikis. The Center was unrecognizable, transformed into a dreamland of white walls and navy blue tables. The atmosphere in the room was electric. And the excitement carried through the whole evening. That the event was such a success was due both to the imagination and hard work of the Gala Committee headed by Nikki Glekas, and to all of you who came to the gala. We thank the Committee for their unceasing effort to create such a spectacular evening, and you all for joining in so joyously to help us celebrate the Campaign.

While the Gala was planned to be an evening of fun and entertainment celebrating the Campaign, a live auction and a 'hands' auction at the end of the evening raised some funds for the Campaign. The five prizes in the live auction sold for a total of \$19,800, and the 'hands' auction generated an additional \$12,050. Add to that \$3,800 received from advertisements in the program and \$1,250 in other direct contributions, and the evening generated \$37,100 for the campaign. Complete data for

ticket income and expenses are not yet available, but I would anticipate that the affair generated a net profit in the vicinity of \$30,000 for the Campaign.

As of 23 November, the total commitments received from pledges, contributions, grants, and other sources totaled \$1,994,000 – though this number may have to be adjusted slightly downward when all data are available. It is clear that, thanks to the generosity of all who contributed at the Gala, the Campaign is closing in on \$ 2 million in total pledges and other contributions. Total cash received is approximately \$1,500,000. This past month, there were four new pledges totaling \$30,500, and an additional seven families made other contributions bringing the total number of families participating in the campaign so far to 131.

While we are closing in on our goal of \$2,200,000, we are not there yet. We still need new pledges in excess of \$200,000 to get there, and we are still 70 families short of our goal of 200 families participating in the Campaign. Please help us go over the top in both categories – sooner hopefully rather than later. If you have been thinking of making a pledge but have not done so yet, please consider joining in the effort. We need your help.

In closing, we would note that the end of the year is approaching and would like to express the hope that those of you who have made pledges with an installment due in 2016 and who have not yet paid that installment will do so in a timely manner. We thank you all very much. Elias N. Kulukundis

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## **MINISTRIES**

### ***Nativity Fast Guidelines***

The fast for Christmas this year began on Nov. 15 and lasts 40 days, ending with Liturgy on Dec 24 (eve) or Dec 25 (morning), the Great Feast of the Nativity of Christ (Christmas). Because Christmas is so important, the Church invites us to prepare for meeting the Lord by increasing our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (acts of mercy to the poor, sick, and suffering).

For the *physical* fast, there are two stages: 1) from Nov. 15 to Dec. 11, we fast from meat and meat by-products and consume boned fish, beans, pasta, rice, vegetables, grains and fruits; then 2) from Dec. 12-24, we are urged to abstain from boned fish as well. On weekdays, we are also asked to refrain from alcoholic beverages and olive oil. Such a vegetarian diet is actually quite healthy and nutritious, and cleanses our bodies of heavier foods and toxins. Along with restricting the kinds of foods we eat, the Church also recommends that we reduce the amount – by eating less often and by reducing (or even eliminating) snacks and dining out. The food and money we then save can be directly used to feed the poor and disadvantaged. If you have never really fasted before, start with something doable for you (and your family), such as abstaining from meat, or skipping a meal in the middle of the day, or eliminating snacks at night. The purpose is for us to learn greater self-control over one of our biggest needs – eating & drinking – in order to grow in holiness and receptivity to God's grace.

### ***Philoptochos Vasilopita Bread Sale***

**Orders Accepted Until Dec. 11th  
\$15 each. Prepayment Preferred**

### ***GOYA Christmas Wreath Sale***

**Sold after Sunday Liturgy until Dec. 25th  
\$25 each**

### ***Ladies Philoptochos Christmas Brunch***

**Saturday, Dec. 3 – 11:00am – Church Hall  
All Philoptochos Ladies Invited  
Mollie Sotire, Chairperson**

By the way, since there are many parties before Christmas, we can still observe the spirit of the fast by eating in moderation or selecting lighter foods, without drawing attention to ourselves. Any time we have to explain ourselves to someone else (not a member of the Orthodox Church) we violate the teaching of Christ to fast in secret!

As with all physical fasting in the Church, these guidelines are moderated (or even eliminated) for the sick, the elderly who are too weak, children under 7 years of age, and pregnant or nursing mothers. Children 7 and older are encouraged to fast by reducing the amount of meat that they eat, going without dairy on Wednesdays and Fridays, and reducing snacks. Parents can exercise wisdom in deciding what is best for each child, depending not only on age but temperament.

Further, the Church encourages us to modify other activities that, however good in themselves, often consume our attention: to reduce our dependence on entertainment (e.g., watching television, going out to movies, listening to music, playing games on the computer), and to abstain from sexual relations with our spouse for a brief period of time that is mutually agreed upon. The purpose of all this is to grow in self-control and to free up time and energy for prayer, meditation, reading Scripture, observing silence, and serving others, especially the less fortunate.

However, everyone, regardless of age and temperament, can fast *spiritually* by reducing sin (e.g., gossip, laziness, indifference, greed, anger, lust, gluttony, jealousy, pride, apathy, judging others), and by coming to the Sacrament of Confession to receive the great gift of forgiveness.

Feel free to direct your questions and concerns to the clergy who are here to help you grow in faith, hope and love as we prepare to encounter our Lord anew this Christmas!

### ***Prayer of the Month***

What is the most common prayer of the Orthodox Church that prepares us for Christmas? It's actually a hymn – a prayer of poetry and music - that the choir sings every Sunday between Nov 25 and Dec 25. It is beautiful in Byzantine music and can also be prayed at home without singing. Recalling the Gospel story of Christ's birth, the accent is on joy that is worldwide as we adore our Almighty God who becomes a little infant.

*Kontakion before Christmas. 3rd Tone*

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον,  
ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουλευθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Today the Virgin, comes to a Cave, to give birth beyond words, to the pre-eternal Word. Rejoice all the earth, upon hearing this, and glorify, together with the Angels and Shepherds, the one who willed to be seen, as a young child, the pre-eternal God!

### ***Adult Education***

- Orthodoxy 101 Class continues Monday evenings; we will break for the period of Christmas through Theophany (Jan. 6) & resume sometime in January. Presentations continue to be recorded and are available through our web site or our parish account on soundcloud.com. Contact: Fr. Harry, [hpappas@svots.edu](mailto:hpappas@svots.edu)



Good times abound at the Kali Parea Seniors meetings, and November's was no exception! The head table from left to right: VP Peter Paspalis, President Pam Koutroubis, Fr. George Poulos, and Steve Sarigianis.



No Seniors meeting is complete without birthday wishes and decadent desserts. Many thanks to fellow Annunciation parishioners Peter Adamis and Zoe Koutroubis.

Marriage Preparation – group classes and couple counseling will be available to those preparing for marriage early next year. Contact: Fr. Harry, [hpappas@svots.edu](mailto:hpappas@svots.edu)

### ***Kali Parea Senior News***

The Kali Parea Seniors had a wonderful lunch meeting on November 16. We enjoyed the presence of Fr. Poulos. The entertainment that day was a viewing of Basile the Comedian, played especially for those that did not make the Capital Campaign Comedy night. The next Kali Parea luncheon meeting is Wednesday, December 14th at 11:30 am. Please attend and bring a friend. We speak both Greek and English so please join us! Thank you. Contact: Pam Koutroubis, [pamelak2145@gmail.com](mailto:pamelak2145@gmail.com)

### ***Ladies Philoptochos Society***

Our annual Turkey Bingo held on Saturday, Nov. 19th was a huge success with approximately 230 in attendance. Proceeds from this event will enable us to make donations of more than \$1,500 each to five charities benefiting the poor, veterans, seniors, those struck by disasters, and children suffering from life-threatening diseases. The charities are Open Door, Home for the Brave, Silver Source, Americares and Friends of Karen. A special thanks to Bingo Chair Lara Paschalidis for again taking the lead on this major event, to Paula Glenges for helping prepare the beautiful raffle baskets, and to all those who helped and donated money and items to make this such a wonderful event.





Little Angels and parents are led in special prayers of Thanksgiving by Steve Sarigianis.



Little Angels Penny Spanos, Maddie Valassis, Emilia and Sophia Pasvankias & Chloe Magliacano enjoy making fall crafts at the Thanksgiving Feast & Pumpkin Painting.

We were pleased to sponsor the reception for our parish's Feast Day on Monday evening, Nov. 7th. Thanks to chairpersons Debbie and Penny Nanos for coordinating the lovely refreshments and for all who made donations and helped out. At our meeting Nov. 1st, Philoptochos members approved donations to St. Michael's Home, the IOCC for Greek Relief, Father Harry's discretionary fund that supports parishioners in need, and Lock City Detachment-Stamford, which provides gift cards to injured military being treated at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Bethesda, MD.

Our annual Vasilopita Bread Sale is underway. Breads are \$15. Pre-payment is preferred. Sales will take place after Liturgy every Sunday until Dec. 11th. The Philoptochos annual Christmas brunch will take place Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 11a.m. in the Church Hall. This brunch is co-chaired by Annie Konidaris and Natalie Kulukundis. Guests include representatives from the charities benefiting from our Turkey Bingo profits.

Philoptochos is pleased that we now have 88 paid members. However, attendance at meetings has been sparse. We would welcome more active involvement of our members and are happy to have new members join us at any time during the year. Please consider joining our dedicated group of parish ladies of all ages as we seek to help those in need across the world and in our community and to support our Archangels parish. Contact: Marion Vanson, 914-234-9420

## Children's Christmas Pageant

*Including*

**Church School, Greek School, GOYA,  
Hope/Joy, Little Angels**

**Following Liturgy on Sun., Dec. 18**

Special Coffee Hour • Everyone Welcome!

RSVP with Jane in the Office 203-348-4216

Please bring non-perishable food for  
Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County

## Church School

The Church School Program is currently preparing for our joint youth ministry Christmas Pageant to be held on Sunday, December 18, 2016 following Holy Liturgy. The celebration this year will include a small play with plenty of active and silent roles to highlight the beauty of our children and capture the spirit of our Lord's Nativity. We will be reaching out to parents across ministries for their support as we try to coordinate this effort. There is a tentative dress rehearsal scheduled for 10am Saturday, December 17th. Our music ministry will be held next Sunday, December 4, 2016 and children will begin to learn religious carols for their performance. Attendance is vital for each Sunday until the day of our performance. Please help us to accomplish putting on a spectacular event by bringing your children to Church School each Sunday. Wishing everyone a safe, joyous, and Christ-centered month as we prepare our homes and hearts to celebrate the Lord's birth! Contact: Evelyn Biliias Lolis, Church School Director, ebiliias@aol.com

## Greek School

Our first assembly for "Ancient Greece" took place on Tuesday, Nov. 15th. Students of all levels gathered to the Hall and watched a video about **the ancient Greek way of living**. Students learned that the methods of government varied among the Ancient Greek city-states. However, **Athens was famous for democracy**, which was introduced in 508 BC. Athletic competitions were popular in ancient Greece and held during religious festivals in every Greek city. **The Olympic Games began in Olympia in 776 BC in honor of Zeus**, and people came from all over Greece and the Greek colonies to take part in them. The Greeks are also famous for drama. Theater probably began with a group of people called a chorus, singing and dancing in honor of Dionysus, the god of wine. **The most famous work of Greek architecture is the Parthenon, a temple in Athens**. Building began in 447 BC and lasted 10 years. The Parthenon is made of marble and it has 58 columns. Around it was a marble frieze designed by a famous sculptor named Pheidias (c.500-425 BC). After the video, students answered questions about ancient way of living and they participated in an essay competition of what they learned. The assembly closed with pizza offered by our PTO. Contact: Anna Lempesi, Interim-director, ann.lempesi@gmail.com



Preschool children, parents, grandparents, friends and "Ms." Kyriariki gather together at their Thanksgiving Feast on Nov. 23.



Archangels and Annunciation children gather at their monthly meeting at the Church of the Annunciation in November.



Kyriaki Yoranidis leads her enthusiastic group of Preschool children in song at the annual Thanksgiving Feast.

### ***Little Angels***

Our Thanksgiving Feast & Pumpkin Painting event on November 19th was a wonderful morning of fellowship for our little pumpkins and their families! Children engaged in creative painting and fall crafts, added leaves to our Gratitude Tree, heard stories about thankfulness, and were led in song and prayer. Many thanks to Vasso Spanos for her exceptional dedication and generosity. We are grateful also to Ruth Diamond, Steve Sarigianis, and Steven Valassis for their various roles!

Our Youth Ministry-wide Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 10th at the Norwalk Inn from 12-4 pm. There will be music, crafts, food, and a visit from Santa! Please let us know if you can attend. It will be a beautiful way to embrace the holiday season together.

After the holidays, Little Angels will read *Parenting Toward the Kingdom* by Dr. Philip Mamalakis and engage in a discussion with Father Harry and Presvytera Kerry. We invite interested parents and grandparents within our community, and involved in raising children, to join us. The date will likely be a Friday evening in February. Watch for upcoming details and let us know if you want to order the book through us by Friday, December 16th. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Contact: Anastasia Valassis: avalassis@gmail.com

### ***Hope/Joy***

On November 18th, we attended our third Hope & Joy meeting of the year at our sister Parish, Church of the Annunciation. Centered on the theme of "Giving Thanks," we reflected upon all that we are grateful for and how all of our many blessings connect to God. Younger children made a Thanksgiving craft while the older children decorated their very own gratitude journal. Coming up soon, please join us at the Norwalk Inn on Saturday, December 10th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for our annual children's Christmas party featuring entertainment, crafts, food, music and a special visitor from the North Pole! The cost will be \$15/child and \$20/adult (pay at the door). If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact us by email at [cnanos@optonline.net](mailto:cnanos@optonline.net) or by phone at 203-249-7403. Chris & Luisa Nanos

### ***GOYA***

November was a full month for GOYA. On Friday, Nov. 4th, we had a fun *Meeting and Hangout* that brought 11 teens together for business, a fruitful discussion on being the "voices of equality and tolerance in the world", and some fun games. We hope to hold more of these balanced Friday evening gatherings in 2017. On Sundays, GOYA helped with *Coffee hour* service after liturgy, which brought our teens closer to each other and to the community. Our teens also started selling Christmas wreaths on Sundays for our *annual Wreath Fundraiser*; this will continue until 12/25. They are \$25 a wreath and are sold outside the rear door. We have sold many already, so get yours soon – they will go fast!

Every fall the AHEPAns of CT hold their *Hellenic History Tournament* (a Jeopardy-style competition) in Orange, CT for teenage teams of three (there were 11 teams total). This year our very own Phoebe Hartch was a part of the 1st place team that won the final match by two points in overtime. Congratulations to Phoebe and her teammates!

December will be a busy month, so mark your calendars and join us!

- **Sunday Dec. 4th** ~ Meeting & Nativity Discussion in library over lunch, 11:45am





GOYAns Lucas Giantomidis, Nickia Muraskin, Dina Haralambidis, and Alexandra Vassiliou serve during Coffee Hour following Liturgy.



Vassili Seitaridis and Niko Giantomidis help put together Christmas wreaths for the annual GOYA fundraiser.

- **Friday Dec. 9th** ~ GOYA Dinner Dance at Norwalk Inn, 7-11pm; \$10pp
- **Saturday Dec. 10th** ~ Gift Wrapping @ INSPIRICA in Stamford, 1pm
- **Sunday Dec. 18th** ~ Christmas Pageant following liturgy, 11:45am
- **Saturday Dec. 31st** ~ New Covenant soup kitchen service with Annunciation, 4pm

Contacts: Diane Skoparantzios, [skoparantziosd@optonline.net](mailto:skoparantziosd@optonline.net); Bill Giantomidis, [billgiant1@yahoo.com](mailto:billgiant1@yahoo.com); Steve Sarigianis, [steve@archangelsgoc.org](mailto:steve@archangelsgoc.org)

### ***Athletics***

The Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Basketball League (CEOBL) 2017 season has now begun, and the Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Volleyball League (CEOVL) is gearing up! We hope to have another championship winning team like we had in 2014-15. Practices will start this next week and games will begin around the new year.

If you or your children are interested in playing on the church teams, please sign up with John Skoparantzios 203- 550-6894, or Steve Sarigianis, [steve@archangelsgoc.org](mailto:steve@archangelsgoc.org). Come join the fun!



The AYA gathers at EOS Restaurant for Greek coffee, food, *parea*, and good conversation about life and faith. Clockwise from left: Dean Ziboulis, Steve Sarigianis, Hannah Pappas, Alexis Nanos, and Stavro Begetis.

### ***AYA***

On the 23rd of November, several young adults from our community came for our “Kafe Gathering” at EOS Restaurant. The group thoroughly enjoyed the *parea*, kafe & mezedes, and most of all, the conversations. We spent the better part of 2 hours catching up on life aspirations, career goals, we discussed family Thanksgiving traditions, and for most the time discussed different matters of the faith: fasting periods and benefits, distractions of modern technology and effects on our faith lives, and more.

Steve is organizing a young adult small group to begin in January 2017, with times, dates, and location(s) to be announced. To get connected, reach out to him at: [steve@archangelsgoc.org](mailto:steve@archangelsgoc.org) or 203-623-5896.

### ***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***

After almost six years, the brutal civil war in Syria continues to rage with horrible atrocities occurring on a regular basis. Aleppo, which prior to the civil war, was a thriving city with over 2 million inhabitants has become a war zone and many of its communities have been reduced to rubble. Working through the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch, the International Orthodox Christian Charities is one of the few remaining humanitarian organizations operating in Syria. Since 2012, IOCC has provided humanitarian relief to four million Syrian people. IOCC is currently mounting a major effort to provide safe water to residents of Aleppo by digging new wells and distributing water storage tanks and purification filters. Let us all pray for peace in Syria. To support the IOCC’s relief efforts, you can make a gift at [ioccc.org](http://ioccc.org) or send a check to IOCC, P.O. Box 17398, Baltimore, MD 21297. Contact: Tim Hartch, [timhartch1@outlook.com](mailto:timhartch1@outlook.com)





Right from the beginning of his set, Basile the Comedian displays his zest and uncanny ability to make Comedy Night goers laugh. We enjoyed him thoroughly.



Parishioners, friends, and special guests enjoying a fantastic cocktail hour at the Capital Campaign Comedy night in the (transformed) Athletic Center gym.

### ***Stamford Athletic Club @ The Greek Cultural Center***

Exciting new things are happening at SAC! This winter a new indoor soccer program called LY Soccer Academy begins. The program is designed for elementary and middle school aged children. Experienced coaches will help your child learn the fundamentals of soccer. For more information, please contact Adolfo Lopez at 203-424-7594 or email [lysocceracademy@gmail.com](mailto:lysocceracademy@gmail.com). With the New Year right around the corner, what better way to start the year out right than to take advantage of a free 30-minute trial personal training session. A new personal training program called At Your Best Fitness begins. Owner Eddy St. Juste is offering a free 30-minute trial personal training session for all parishioners. To schedule an appointment, please call Eddy at 203-979-6257 or [atyourbestfitness-llc@gmail.com](mailto:atyourbestfitness-llc@gmail.com). Finally, a Zumba Class taught by Tristan Mongolon will begin in December. This private class is available to parishioners without having to be a member of the club. Simply pay as you go. Parishioners are entitled to a free trial class with Tristan or Yolanda Rodriguez, another Zumba instructor who has been teaching private Zumba classes since August. Please contact the club at 203-357-7555 for the private Zumba class schedule.

### ***Pilgrimage to Russia***

Fr. Harry and Fr. Steve Tsichlis, 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. Walking will be much easier on this particular trip, with no difficult climbs, steep stairs, or lengthy travel on foot. 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 our 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. Price of \$3,425/person (double occupancy) includes everything, except airfare (which, from JFK airport right now is \$775 on Delta). \$1,000 additional for single room. Contact Fr. Harry for further information and to reserve a space now.

### ***Area Christmas Concerts***

- Fri, Dec. 16, 7:30 pm @ Holy Trinity Cathedral in NYC: 40th Annual Cathedral Christmas Concert featuring the Cathedral Choir. For tickets: [www.thecathedralnyc.org](http://www.thecathedralnyc.org) or 212-288-3215
- Sat, Dec. 17, 6pm @ St. George Cathedral in Hartford: "Christmas Magic at the Cathedral," featuring the Archdiocesan Youth Choir. Tickets \$15/person. Reception follows performance. For more info: [www.stgeorgecathedral.org](http://www.stgeorgecathedral.org)



There were over 230 in attendance at the annual, and ever enjoyable, Turkey Bingo held in SAC and put by our Ladies Philoptochos.



Chris and Pamela Nanos, with daughters Christina and Alexis, and other family and friends at table with them, "say cheese" at Turkey Bingo.



A group of two dozen contractors are being given a tutorial in the Narthex, as the bid process for Capital Campaign renovations kicks off.



Dr. Aristotle "Telly" Papanikolaou, theology professor at Fordham University, lectures about fasting during an Orthodoxy 101 class.



**STAMFORD  
ATHLETIC CLUB**

@ THE GREEK CULTURAL CENTER

The club is a significant ministry of the Archangels parish. Make it a part of your daily regimen of mind, body, and soul. Have its welcoming staff show you around. See the tools available to you. Experience the gift of taking care of your health. Church members always receive a *50% rate discount*.

If you would like to schedule a free 1-week membership for you and your family, call Diane Caruso at 357-7555 or email [diane@sacteam.com](mailto:diane@sacteam.com).



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## PARISH NEWS

### *Baptism*

**William Raymond Hughes** – 1st child of Peter Ryan & Christina Hughes, on Nov. 12th, with sponsors Lauren Connolly and Joseph Riehl

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## AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

### *AHEPA*

Please allow me to be a little repetitive about October, since we now have some photos we want to share with you. The joint 90th anniversary celebration of October 29 by the Stamford and New Haven chapters at Norwalk Inn was a great success. Over 150 people attended and had the opportunity to see and hear AHEPA Supreme President Andrew Zachariades. Preliminary results indicate we will be able to match our previous donations to the two Stamford churches in support of their Greek schools. In addition, we will contribute towards the national AHEPA pledge of one million dollars for the rebuilding of St Nicholas at Ground Zero. On November 12, our AHEPA district held the 8th Annual Hellenic History Tournament at St Barbara GOC, Orange, CT. Eleven teams from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey competed fiercely for the top prize of \$1,000 per team member. After five rounds of competition, the Stamford team "Hellenes" composed of Alexander & Loukas Koutsoukos and Phoebe Hartch won first

place! Both fathers, Jim Koutsoukos and Tim Hartch, are members of the Stamford AHEPA. Runners up were "Athena's Owls" from neighboring New Rochelle, composed of Joanna Georgiou, George Kalyvas and Alexandros Kerwick. The final match was extremely close, with Stamford winning by two points 14-12 in overtime. Congratulations to all 11 teams and especially to the two prize recipients. If you know of any 8-11 graders, please urge them to sign up for next year's tournament! By now the HHT has expanded to other regions besides Connecticut. On November 19, the Cherry Hill, NJ, chapter sponsored the inaugural Mid-Atlantic AHEPA HHT, while on December 3, a Chicago chapter will host their third. As we have done in the last three years, we plan to show DVDs of an educational lecture series on six Fridays in January and February. This time, the subject will be "Famous Greeks". However, before we can actually do it, we need a few volunteers to step up to serve the pizza. Please let me know if you want to help: Nicholas Nikas, 203-554-5570, [niketes@yahoo.com](mailto:niketes@yahoo.com)



Stamford AHEPA President, James Cocolis, receives a commemorative 90th anniversary certificate from AHEPA Supreme President, Andrew Zachariades; standing by on the left is Region 4 (New England) Supreme Governor Jack Isaac.



Stamford & New Haven AHEPA 90th anniversary dinner-dance: memorabilia

# 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 November 23, 2016):

Total Commitments .....\$1,994,000  
Total Commitments Paid .....\$1,500,000  
Total Number of Households .....131

## 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 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 remodel are on display in the Hall.

## The Matching Grant:

We achieved the \$250,000 Matching Grant hurdle and the donor has delivered the matching funds. We are ever grateful for this creative and impactful gesture on the part of the donor.

## OUR GOAL

\$2,200,000  
\$1,994,000



## The Contributors (as of November 23, 2016):

### PLEDGES

Anonymous (6)  
Evangeline Adams  
Michael and Jena Anthony  
George and Katina Antipas  
Angelo and Dena Aravides  
Archangels Seniors  
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  
Helen Chochos  
James W. and Margaret Cocolis  
Glenn and Angie Colarossi  
Harry Condos  
Savet Constantine  
Nicholas Daifotis  
Dr. James and Deborah Damascus  
Gregg and Mary Beth Demetros  
Matthew and Maria De Vito  
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 Haralabidis  
Timothy and Sophia Hartch  
Brian Irizarry and Gigi Perimenis  
William and Bertha Jones  
James and Sylvia Kambas  
Chris and Elaine Kanos  
John Kantzas  
Maryanne Kardaris  
Dr. Anna Karidas  
Sophia Karidas  
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  
Elias and Evelyn Lolis  
J. Andrew MacEntire Family  
Charitable Fund  
Bob and Cassie MacFarlane  
Marc and Maria Magliacano  
James and Kyriaki Marcarello  
Eric and Lea Meadow  
Rita Mehos  
Nicholas Moisiades  
Dr. Alan and Marietta Morelli  
Tom and Melissa Moulketis  
Chris A. and Luisa Nanos  
Chris P. and Pam 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 Fredrika Nikolis  
Nicholas Nikas  
Mark and Maria Otis

George and Cindy Paparis  
Father Harry and Presbyteria Pappas  
Peter and Joan Paspalis  
Kimon and Julie Passios  
Tom and Nike Passios  
John & Megan Pasvankias  
George and Jane Perkins  
Katie Perimenis  
Dr. Peter and Carmen Perimenis  
Stefanos and Stamatia Petsas  
Fr. George and Presbyteria Poulos  
Maria Poulos  
Peter and Geri Poulos  
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Lee and Maria Sampanis  
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Pericles and Erika Sentementes  
Robert and Branislava Shekhdar  
Ken and Anna Shepard  
Theodore and Diane Sierpina  
Louis and Anna Sioles  
Catherine Sofronas  
Agesilaos and Molly Sotire  
Sotiris and Nicoletta Soultis  
Demosthenes and Anthea Speridakos  
Konstantinos and Bonnie Spetsaris  
Evan and Roula Stergianis  
Dr. Stelios Theofanides and  
Dr. Elizabeth Siderides  
Demetrios and Leda Tsapralis  
Katina and Margaret Tsirantonakis  
Alkiviadis and Matoula Valassis  
Soulafrada Valassis  
Dr. Steven and Anastasia Valassis  
Steven and Antonia Valassis  
Basil and Terri Vanech  
Nadine Vasil  
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  
Archangels Greek School P. T. O.  
Anonymous (2)  
Peter and Christine Antipas  
Evangelos Aposporis and Victoria  
De Melo Paz  
Mary Louise Bennett  
Dean Bouloukos  
Peter Cholakis and Teresa Cassidy  
Helen Chagaris  
Jeanette Chagaris  
James and Marge Cocolis  
Popi Demakos  
Katherine Ferentinos  
George and Pauline Galuris  
Peter Galuris  
Peter and Soulafrada Hantes  
Chris and Athena Harisis  
Tim and Sophia Hartch  
Jim and Sylvia Kambas  
Maryanne Kardaris  
Dr. Anna Karidas  
Steve Katsetos  
Basile Katsikis  
Annie Konidaris  
Janie Konidaris  
John Konidaris  
Miles and Joan Kulukundis  
Natalie Kulukundis  
Nick and Vicki Kyriakos  
Stacy and John Louizos  
John and Joelle Lykourretzos  
Bob and Cassie MacFarlane  
Michelle Marmarinos  
Nikiforos Matthews  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Minetos  
Chris and Luisa Nanos  
Chris and Pam Nanos  
Christopher and Christine Nanos  
George and Any Nanos  
Paul and Debbie Nanos  
Penny Nanos  
Nicholas Nikas  
Phil and Frederika Nikolis  
John Pantel  
John and Evanthia Panulas  
George and Cindy Paparis  
Father Harry and Kerry Pappas  
Kimon and Julie Passios  
John Pasvankias  
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Dr. Nicholas and Serene Romas  
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Nancy Savaides  
Aristotle Sentementes  
Nestor Sgourous  
Ken and Maria Shepard  
Bob and Ann Simon

Aggie and Molly Sotire  
Jim and Freda Stanton  
Dr. Steven and Anastasia Valassis  
Dennis and Marion Vanson  
John and Medina Vasily  
Evangelos and Denise Venturas  
Stephanie-Eva Venturas  
Joanne Verses  
Helene and Manoucher Yektai

### MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

James W. and Margaret Cocolis  
Popi Demakos  
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  
Tom and Nike Passios  
Timothy and Maria Scanlon  
Diane Sierpina  
Mihai and Cristina Smina