



# The Herald

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

January 2017

## *Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I*

Pay to all what is due them-- taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. (Romans 13:7)

These words were written about 2,000 years ago by the Apostle Paul who wanted the earliest Christians in Rome to respect those in authority, even if the religion and convictions of such authorities were completely different.

We need not worry about respecting the Ecumenical Patriarch, our Chief Shepherd, since he shares our faith completely. He has been first among equals in the worldwide Orthodox Church for 25 years now, and it is only proper that we honor him and his legacy by learning, appreciating, and applying what we can. For Patriarch Bartholomew has accomplished far more than most realize.

But what on earth can such a high-ranking bishop who lives 5,000 miles away in a country and culture so different from ours possibly mean for us in the Stamford area? After all, we are consumed with making our pensions last while living longer, caring for our elders and grandchildren, raising our children while both parents work long hours, struggling financially to afford a mortgage and the cost of higher education, and giving our time and effort to Archangels.

Here are some ways that the ministry and leadership of our Ecumenical Patriarch have impacted the global Orthodox Church, the world (us included) since he was enthroned in 1991:

- He has worked tirelessly to bring worldwide Orthodoxy into greater cooperation, and organized, against nearly insurmountable odds, a meeting of Orthodox Bishops last June in Crete, the first such meeting in many centuries for an ancient Church that has had difficulty in coordinating its witness and confronting issues of contemporary life. Conciliar documents, that are worth studying, addressed the Church as the Body of Christ, Mission in the World, Marriage & Family, Christian Education, Contemporary Challenges (such as secularization, science & technology, violence, refugees and migration, human rights, fundamentalism & extremism), and Dialogue;
- He is the global Christian leader today for integrating various disciplines to study and address the primarily spiritual crisis of our relationship with the environment, commonly known as the "Green Patriarch;"
- He has helped reopen scores of Orthodox shrines in Turkey persevering patience and long-suffering exposure to non-compliance with international law, indifference, antipathy in many forms, and even violence;

- He has traveled more extensively than any other Orthodox patriarch in history, deliberately building bridges among the divided Orthodox world itself, with Christians from other traditions, with Jews & Muslims everywhere, and with other religious traditions such as Buddhism along with atheists and agnostics;
- He has virtually transformed the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey itself, from a tolerated and token position to one that is now sought after and highly respected;
- He has furthered cooperation, mutual understanding, and reconciliation with 3 Roman Catholic Popes – John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and now Francis I – including high profile encounters at the Vatican in Rome, at the Patriarchal compound in Istanbul, and on a joint Holy Land Pilgrimage in Jerusalem.
- He has been prominent in organizing or speaking at Conferences focused on issues of war, violence, peace and religion, arguing tirelessly that all forms of violence in the name of religion are an attack on all religion, and that the varied religious traditions of the world can and must contribute to peace-making, advancing respect for all human life, and creating more just social structures;
- His personal qualities of keen theological insight that applies ancient wisdom to modern problems, deep faithfulness to Christ and the Church, charity toward all, flexibility and comfort in all different settings (from the high and formal to the everyday and informal)
- Unlike no one before, he has brought the Orthodox Church to the forefront of global attention.

So, as we turn the page into 2017, it is only appropriate that we heed apostolic counsel as well as the challenge of our own Archbishop Demetrios who urged every parish priest in our District to honor in some way Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during this important anniversary. With your interest and consent, I will seek to share – both personally and in ministry groups - how his striking worldwide leadership has even impacted our busy, stressed lives here at Archangels. By the way, a beautifully written biography has just been published – Bartholomew: Apostle and Visionary, by John Chrysavgis (archdeacon to the patriarch). It is easy to read, captures the essence of the man and his ministry, and my copy is available for anyone to borrow.

Happy New Year & Congratulations to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew!

— 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  
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For more information, call 203-348-4216 or visit  
[www.archangelsgoc.org](http://www.archangelsgoc.org)

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## PARISH COUNCIL

### ***Parish Council***

We are grateful to the candidates who ran in this year's Parish Council election. We would also like to thank those who considered running yet decided not to this time around for one reason or other. Your interest is critical to the future leadership of our parish. Recently we voted to rebalance the council into three equal size classes of 5 council members. The classes will continue to serve on a rolling 3 year term basis. Per our updated bylaws, members are limited to two terms of service. This year we will alter the format of our monthly meetings. We plan to invite one ministry leader per month to present to the Council and host Q&A. Helping our ministries begins with understanding them. We would like to know their mission, size, resource pool, strengths/weaknesses, and goals. That information, presented to the Council personally, will increase our understanding of and connectivity with those who serve. We can then begin to formulate ways to help our ministries succeed. Xronia Polla to all! Contact: Jason Konidaris [jason.konidaris@yale.edu](mailto:jason.konidaris@yale.edu)

### ***Parish Council Elections***

Parish Council Elections were held on Dec. 11, with 71 valid ballots cast out of 76. Total votes for each candidate are in parentheses:

#### **Elected**

Agasilas Sotire (69)

George Papparis (64)

George Khouri (61)

Chris Peter Nanos (59)

#### **Not Elected**

Theofilos Nikolis (31)

After these results are confirmed by Archbishop Demetrios, the newly elected will be installed along with the on-going members of the Parish Council (Jason Konidaris, Elias Lolis, Jim Cocolis, Steve Fornaciari, Gigi Perimenis, Maria Otis, Argyris Vassiliou, George Nanos, Pam Koutroubis, Dr. Steven Valassis) through prayer on Sunday, January 8 toward the end of Liturgy. Then, following the Vasilopeta Program, they will meet privately in the Library to elect officers. Contact the Board of Elections: George Perkins (chairman), Lou Blanco, Roula Stergianis and Evgenia Zavras.

### ***General Assembly***

Per the Uniform Parish Regulations of our Archdiocese, we will meet in a formal Assembly after Liturgy on Sunday, January 22, to approve the 2017 Operating Budget. Further information is forthcoming. Please plan to attend and spread the word.

Contact: Elias Lolis, Treasurer

### ***Master Planning***

Contractors submitted bids in mid December for our construction project. Our architect leveled the bids to provide us with a basis for comparison. The Committee recently met via conference call to review the bids, discuss the scope of work including alternates, and set next steps for our architect. We will be eliminating high bids to narrow our focus to a short list of finalists in January. We plan to interview those finalists before presenting our contractor recommendation to the Parish Council. It is our intention to begin work on Part 1 (church interior) this month. Contact: Jason Konidaris [jason.konidaris@yale.edu](mailto:jason.konidaris@yale.edu)

### ***Treasurer's Report***

For 2016 year to date (through November 2016), revenues were \$718,000 with expenses of \$757,000 resulting in an operating deficit of \$39,000 year to date. Approximately 46% of revenues have come from Stewardship donations and approximately 23% have come from Other Donations. We are currently working on finalizing the 2017 Operating Budget that will be presented at the General Assembly on Sunday, January 22, 2017. Again, thank you! Contact: Elias Lolis, [elolis@aol.com](mailto:elolis@aol.com)

### ***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 – [archangels.ccbchurch.com](http://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

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

## ***Additional 2016 Stewards***

Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Adams	Mrs. Maria Laveris
Mr. & Mrs. James Antonopoulos	Mr. Nicholas Laveris
Mrs. Mary & Louis Blanco	Mr. & Mr. Athanasios Stambouloupoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Pericles Caminis	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Fornaciari
Mrs. Helen Dennis	Mrs. Georgette Perimenis
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew DeVito	Mrs. Christine Maskaleris
Mrs. Stella Durdunas	Mr. Radoslav Mintchev
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Esposito	Mr. Gerrit Nijmeijer & Mrs. Ismini Naos
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Feldman	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oris
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jackson	Mr. John & Evanthea Panulas
Mr. & Mrs. David Johnson	Dr. Peter and Mrs. Perimenis
Mr. & Mrs. Jordanopoulos, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Curt Seaton
Dr. & Mrs. John Kazianis	Mr. George Triantafyllos
Charles Kirkiles	Mr. & Mrs. Ilias Triantafyllos
Natalie Kulukundis	Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Young
Mrs. Pamela Koutroubis	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Zavos

## ***Capital Campaign***

Another month has passed during which the Campaign received five new one-time pledges totaling \$ 9,000. A total of 136 member families in the community have now pledged or given donations to the Campaign. In addition, we received donations of \$72,564.72 against existing pledges. We have now crossed the \$2 million threshold in commitments, of which \$1,671,954 represents pledges and \$ 250,000 represents the anonymous challenge grant. Total cash received to date (December 21) from all sources is \$1,606,999.86.

We keep most of these dollars on deposit at Morgan Stanley, though the amount of interest received is minimal. On the expense side we have incurred, \$ 250,000 in architects' fees, printing and solicitation cost, gala expense, some small items of furniture, and 27 months' salary for the Church's administrative assistant. The assistant's salary will continue to be funded by the Campaign through September 2017, after which time the obligation will pass to the Church.

Elsewhere in this publication, the Master Planning Committee reports that bids have been received from four contractors that are presently being evaluated by that Committee. A contract for the work in the church is likely to be awarded in early January, and for the work in the Hall within the winter months. It is becoming rather urgent, therefore, that pledges to the Campaign reach or pass our goal of \$ 2.2 million so that the Master Planning Committee can tailor the work to be done to the funds available. In that context, I must repeat the exhortation that I voiced last month: if you are thinking about making a pledge or a donation to the Campaign – and many have expressed such an intent either to myself or to members of the Campaign Committee – please do so sooner rather than later. The Master Planning Committee needs to know the total amount of funds that they have to work with. It is indeed my hope that you will all respond generously so that we can reach and even surpass our goal. Three-year pledges need not be accompanied by any funds now.

I would like to thank the families who have already made pledges for being so punctual and responsible in honouring the installments on their pledges. There are many who pledged in 2014 who have already completed their obligation. Their support and conviction is deeply appreciated.

Four months ago, I compared the Campaign to a traveler who, in order to reach his goal, had to traverse the many obstacles that lay before him on the last part of his journey. We have made some progress on this path, but there are many difficulties still to be negotiated before we reach our destination. And time is getting short. You can all help the Campaign to get there. Please consider making a pledge now. As St. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians, 'Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.' Contact: Elias N. Kulukundis, 203-569-3784

## ***Buildings & Grounds***

Our efforts continue with the Stamford Athletic Club. The existing fire alarm panel has been replaced and activated with 24/7 off site monitoring. Some minor adjustments are underway for final completion. We are considering replacement of the lower roof in spring. Emergency and exit lighting has been repaired. We continue to have rain leakage from the four skylights over the basketball court. The skylight manufacturer inspected the installation and is determined to do whatever it takes to correct this problem. We have received final recommendations to further reduce our energy consumption and produce sizable savings by going to LED lighting, along with minor modifications to 3 of our heating and air conditioning systems. The Parish Council will review this proposal soon for approval. There is little to report at our church facility, other than replacement of the broken glass on the two front doors leading to our administrative offices. Contact: Peter Licopantis pglydl3@optonline.net



**Presvytera Joanna Pappas presents 6 week old Aimilianie to Archbishop Demetrios at the clergy dinner (Dec. 28)**



## MINISTRIES

### *Vasilopita Baking Workshop*

Thursday, Jan. 5th 2017 at 9am

*Free of cost – all materials provided*

### *Worship for Epiphany*

Thursday, January 5: Royal Hours – 10:00 am

Thursday, January 5: Vespertal Liturgy – 6:00 pm

Great Blessing of the Waters – 7:30 pm

Friday, January 6: Orthros – 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am

Great Blessing of the Waters – 10:30 am

Saturday, January 7: Feast of St. John the Baptist

Orthros – 9 am; Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am



Clergy families celebrate Christmas with the Archbishop at Limani Restaurant in Roslyn, NY (Dec. 28)

### *Blessing of Homes & Businesses*

The annual brief blessing service (about 10 minutes) of home & work begins on the Great Feast of Epiphany or Theophany (January 6) and will continue until Great Lent begins (on Feb 27). All that is needed is an icon, candle, sprig of basil (or other green), medium size bowl of water, and a list of the first names of family members (or co-workers), including the deceased. Please note that no honorarium is sought or needed, since this is part of Fr. Harry's normal responsibilities. You may schedule an appointment contact either Jane in the office (203-348-4216) or Fr. Harry directly (frharry@archangelsgoc.org). In addition, he will attempt to set up a schedule to visit homes by neighborhood in Stamford.

### *Adult Education*

- Orthodoxy 101 – this introduction to the basic teachings, worship, and way of life in the Orthodox Tradition continues for all adult members, along with prospective catechumens and inquirers. Mondays: Compline 7:15 pm, Class 7:30 pm with light refreshments. Schedule:

§ Jan 9: The Church: Body & Bride of Christ

§ Jan 16: History of the Early Church & Byzantine Empire

§ Jan 23: The Church through the Middle Ages to Modern Times

- Koinonia – Small Groups

§ Women – Our weekly meetings for Women's Koinonia this fall has been fruitful and edifying. Our exploration of various spiritual disciplines such as Prayer, Worship, Fasting, and others generated good questions, dialogue and discussion in a supportive environment. Our group will finish in

January and hopefully continue in the spring after Easter.

Submit ideas for future topics to Natalie Kulukundis  
natakulu@hotmail.com.

§ Young Adult – Steve is finalizing a date and time for the first meeting to be held within the first two weeks of January.

Please contact him if you are interested in joining, or know anyone who is; [steve@archangelsgoc.org](mailto:steve@archangelsgoc.org)

- Ecumenical Workshop: "Grace in a Nutshell: a Day with Julian of Norwich" on Sat, Jan 21, 9 am – 3 pm @ St. John's Lutheran (884 Newfield Ave, Stamford), with snow date Jan 28. Dame Julian was a medieval Christian mystic whose experience of God during terrible times has influenced thousands and given hope. Dr. Elaine Ramshaw, a professor of pastoral care and cancer survivor, will lead these sessions to help us reflect on our own experiences of God. RSVP in advance with name, email, and \$30/person payable to Archangels. Co-sponsored by us along with 1st Presbyterian, St. Francis Episcopal, and St. John's Lutheran churches. Contact: Fr. Harry 203-348-4216 or [frharry@archangelsgoc.org](mailto:frharry@archangelsgoc.org)
- Famous Greeks by Professor J. Rufus Fears – a series of Great Courses DVD lectures on ancient culture and history (from the Trojan War to the rise of Rome), sponsored by AHEPA, on selected Friday and Saturday evenings in January & February (see calendar for details). Includes warriors like Achilles, statesmen like Lycurgus, thinkers like Plato, and writers like Homer. Pizza and drinks served at 6 pm; DVD's start at 6:30 pm. RSVP with Nick Nikas only if you want dinner at 203-554-5570 or [niketes@yahoo.com](mailto:niketes@yahoo.com).



Bill Jones, Katerina Zoumboulis, Yolanda Licopantis, and Peter Demetrios celebrate their November birthdays at the December Seniors meeting (Dec. 14)

### *Prayer of the Month*

Every January, we focus on how God has changed creation through the birth of his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who is both completely divine and fully human. When his cousin John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, something we celebrate on Jan. 6, water itself (the most fundamental material for life as we know it) was blessed to become a vehicle of grace for humanity and all nature. Here is one key hymn that is worth learning by heart, even if we are not confident about singing:

Τροπάριον. Ἦχος α΄

Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη προσκύνησις· τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι, ἀγαπητὸν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα· καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἵδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίου τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεὶς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοι.

*Hymn of Theophany. 1st Tone*

When you were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to you, and called you his beloved Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the word as sure and steadfast. O Christ our God, who has appeared and illumined the world, glory to you!

### *Did You Know?*

In traditional Orthodox lands, such as Greece and Romania, every year parish priests visit homes after the Great Blessing of Waters on the Feast of Epiphany (Jan. 6) to lead prayer and extend Christ's grace to families and houses through the sprinkling of Holy Water. When was the last time your home was blessed? What about your place of work since it can be blessed as well? This is the ideal time of year for sharing in such a privilege by gathering the family for prayer and a visit from the priest. The clergy themselves look forward to spending some time with you at your own home. Why not make an inquiry today to schedule this?



Santa visits with Helen Demetrios at the Seniors meeting. (Dec. 14)



Santa Claus surprises the Preschool children with gifts and hugs when they came to the Seniors meeting to wish the group Merry Christmas (Dec. 14)

### *Kali Parea Seniors*

Merry Christmas! At our December meeting we had a Christmas Party where we served delicious wine and appetizers and then a sumptuous dinner. The preschool children of the church came to visit with teacher Kyriaki Yorandis and wished us a Merry Christmas. While the children were there we had a surprise visit from Saint Nicholas! He gave out goody bags to all the children and seniors. We also had a special raffle with over 10 great prizes! The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. As we start the New Year, it is also time to pay our dues for 2017. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year. If you are not a member of the Kali Parea, contact us to get in on the fun! Contact: Pam Koutroubis, pamelak2145@gmail.com



## ***Ladies Philoptochos Society***

We held our annual Christmas brunch on Saturday morning, Dec. 3rd, with a delicious meal and wide range of desserts. This joyous celebration, with 45 women and guests in attendance, was extra special because representatives from the charities that benefited from the proceeds of our very successful Turkey Bingo were in attendance. They shared information about their good work benefiting the poor, seniors, veterans, those in crisis around the world and children with cancer and were given checks for \$1,600 each. The charities are Open Door, Home for the Brave, Silver Source, Americares and Friends of Karen. Many thanks to Annie Konidaris and Natalie Kulukundis who chaired the brunch, and to those who donated desserts and helped with set-up and clean-up. The annual Vasilopita bread sale was also a big success. Thank you for your orders. Prepayments were especially helpful. A big thank you to Eugenia Zavras and Maryanne Kardaris for managing the bread sale. Please pay your membership dues for 2017 and consider increasing your donation to our chapter because most of the annual dues amount goes to our National and District Philoptochos offices. Philoptochos will host the Vasilopita reception after liturgy on Sunday, Jan. 8th. Volunteers are needed. We will not have a chapter meeting in January. Look for an announcement of the February meeting date soon. Happy New Year to all! Contact: Marion Vanson, 914-234-9420.



**Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon with awarding of Proceeds from Turkey Bingo to 5 area charities (Dec 3)**

## ***Church School***

The Church School program joined children of other youth ministries for a beautiful celebration of our Lord's nativity that included a brief performance - a showcase of carols and instruments, and many active and silent roles. The Church School would like to thank all faculty, ministry leaders, parents, and children who helped contribute to the success of this beautiful cross ministry festivity. We are so proud of our children and their many talents! The program is currently in the process of planning for the second half of our academic year. We look forward to continuing with our monthly Music Ministry, Philanthropy Sundays, as well as starting to prepare for our annual Oratorical Festival and Children's Good Friday Retreat. A calendar of events is forthcoming. Wishing all families a happy and healthy New Year filled with renewal, continued blessings, and hope. Kali Xronia! Contact: Evelyn Bilias Lolis (ebilias@aol.com)



**Stacy Valassis, her two children Maddie and Alki, and Steve Sarigianis sing Christmas carols with families at the Youth Ministry Christmas Party at the Norwalk Inn (Dec. 10)**



**Children were excited by a special visit from Santa Claus (Steve Valassis) or should we say, St. Nicholas! (Dec. 10)**





Fr. Harry sits down with the children in Preschool for a faith teaching lesson about icons and saints (Dec. 5)



Children watch attentively as Sunny the Clown performs some magic tricks at the Christmas Party. (Dec. 10)

## ***Greek School***

This past month the Greek school children wrote Christmas cards to their parents and had a great time learning the Christmas Kalanta and performing on Dec 18th with all the other ministries. On January 16th, we have planned a morning at Chelsea Piers for all the children of Archangels. The cost is \$25 per child for a two-hour activity. Lunch will be served within the facility at All Star Café for \$10 per child. On January 29th, the Archangels Greek School will celebrate the Feast of the Three Hierarchs and Greek Letters. On this day we congratulate Students, Teachers, and Parents for their successes throughout the year. Next PTO Meeting is January 10th at 5:30 p.m. Contact - PTO Board: Rebecca Kelesidis, [Rebecca@Kelesidis.com](mailto:Rebecca@Kelesidis.com)

## ***Little Angels***

On December 10th, Little Angels joined Joy/Hope at the Norwalk Inn for its annual Christmas Party. The children were filled with the Christmas spirit as they sung carols, danced Greek, made nativity crafts, and enjoyed Santa's visit. Many thanks go to Chris and Luisa Nanos for their generosity and hard work, to the Handrinos/DeVito families for providing a beautiful space for our gathering, to the Greek and Church Schools for support, and to Vasso Spanos for putting together a fun family raffle. We are extremely grateful to Steve Sarigianis for his leadership and attention to our ministry. We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday! Christ is born! Glorify Him!

In the coming year we look forward to an adult gathering on an evening in February to discuss parenting in the Orthodox faith. We will be guided by Presvytera Kerry and, if possible, Father Harry. Details about the reading and the date will follow in a Little Angels email.



Preschool children have fun learning how two primary colors make a secondary one (Dec. 16)

Lastly, we urge all of our young families to consider becoming more actively involved in our ministry, not simply by attending, but by planning and helping to carry out our events and activities for young children. The benefit to the children and the adults is vast. We need your help! Please reach out regarding the time and talents you can offer. Contact: Anastasia Valassis, [avalassis@gmail.com](mailto:avalassis@gmail.com).





Tina and Bella Hlebogiannis enjoy their time wrapping gifts with GOYA at INSPIRICA (Dec. 10).



Teens smile for a group shot on Dec. 10 at the INSPIRICA holiday gift wrapping, where they wrapped hundreds of gifts for less fortunate children alongside dozens of other volunteers.

## Hope/Joy

What a wonderful Christmas season we shared together! On December 10th, our Church held its annual Youth Christmas party at the Norwalk Inn. The event was a collaborative effort between multiple ministries including Little Angels, Hope & Joy and the Greek School. The event featured fun and games with Sunny the Clown, Nativity crafts, delicious food, Christmas carols in English and Greek, and Santa Claus who gave gifts and took photos with all of the children. As we head into the New Year, we have two upcoming events that we encourage all members to attend. On Friday, January 13th, at 6:00 p.m., we will have our next meeting, which includes dinner and activities, at our sister Parish, Church of the Annunciation. Then, on Saturday, February 11th, be sure to save the date for our annual "Valentine Visit" to Atria Senior Living facility. Children will make Valentine's Day cards with the residents there, and they are also welcome to sing or play a song for those at the gathering. If you have any questions or ideas for 2017, please feel free to contact us by e-mail at [cnanos@optonline.net](mailto:cnanos@optonline.net) or by phone at 203-249-7403. Hope you have a happy New Year! Chris & Luisa Nanos

## G.O.Y.A.

### *Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*

December was another busy month for our GOYA. We had a wonderful Meeting & Nativity Discussion on Sunday, Dec. 4th that brought together a dozen teens for meeting, food fellowship, and a discussion about Christ's birth in our own lives. We were pleased that the teens themselves ran the meeting and that so many offered their thoughts and feelings on their faith. We wish to thank all those who participated in our DOMUS Giving Tree gift-drive this year! On Thursday, Dec. 8th, several teens came together with advisors Bill & Diane to prepare the 150 donated gifts for distribution. We learned that is always better to



Zach Muraskin, James Pease, and Niko Giantomidis sell Christmas wreaths to parishioners after Sunday Liturgy on behalf of the GOYA (Dec. 4)

give than receive. On Saturday, Dec. 10th our GOYAns helped wrap hundreds of Christmas gifts for children in need at INSPIRICA (a local non-profit outreach organization) – which was both fulfilling and fun. Finally, 9 teens participated in the Youth Ministry wide Christmas Pageant the Sunday before Christmas, and we are thrilled at their participation and leadership! Over 40 children were involved, and without our GOYA, this would not have been possible. We are thankful for fruitful year together in 2016. We pray for peace, love, joy, and strength to all for the New Year 2017!





GOYAns Lucas and Niko Giantomidis, President Amalia Skoparantzios, and Vasili Seitaridis prepare 150 gifts donated by our parishioners for DOMUS (Dec. 8)



John Pasvankias enjoys time with his adorable daughters Emilia (left), and Sophia (right) in the hall at coffee hour following the Christmas Pageant (Dec. 18).



Left to right, Sophia DeVito, Katie Zoumboulis, and Zoina Tzavarnas dress as angels for this years Christmas Pageant (Dec. 18)

And considering the new year upon us, please note the following:

- **Wednesday, Jan. 11th** ~ Officers Meeting in library; 7pm
- **Sunday Jan. 15th** ~ Trip to 911 Memorial & St. Nicholas; carpool at 2pm
- **Friday Jan. 20th** ~ Lock-In @ Church, 7pm (finishes Sat. morning @ 9am)

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

### ***A.Y.A***

Steve is organizing a young adult small group to begin this month; time, date, and location is to be announced after the New Year. To get connected, reach out to him: [steve@archangelsgoc.org](mailto:steve@archangelsgoc.org) or 203-623-5896.

### ***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 deep playoff run like we had last season. Practices have already started and games will begin the first week of January. If you or your children are interested in playing on the church teams, please contact: John Skoparantzios (203- 550-6894) or Steve Sarigianis ([steve@archangelsgoc.org](mailto: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 and past teacher and director of the Greek School. For information and registration, contact her directly at (203) 322-9561 or call Jane in the church office 203-348-4216.

## ***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. 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.



**STAMFORD  
ATHLETIC CLUB**



**@ THE GREEK CULTURAL CENTER**

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Church members always receive a *50% discount* on individual and family memberships. To schedule a **free 1-week membership** for you and your family, call Tristan Mongollon at 357-7555 or email [tristan@sacteam.com](mailto:tristan@sacteam.com).





We are so proud of the 40+ children from Church School, Greek School, GOYA, and Hope/Joy who participated in the Christmas Pageant, and thank Evelyn Lolis, Janie Konidaris & Anna Lempesi for all their help organizing! (Dec. 18)

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## PARISH NEWS

### *Funerals*

**Athina Natsi**, on Dec. 10th, who fell asleep in the Lord on Dec. 7th at 92 years old.

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## AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

### *AHEPA*

As we have done in the last three years, we plan to show DVDs of an educational lecture series on six Fridays/Saturdays in January and February. This time, the subject will be "Famous Greeks". Monitor your email for the specific dates. Contact: Nicholas Nikas, 203-554-5570, [niketes@yahoo.com](mailto:niketes@yahoo.com)



Fr Harry and other clergy were invited by Fr Andrew Awad (host pastor in middle) to attend and speak at the Memorial for Coptic Orthodox Christians killed on Dec 18 in Egypt, at Saints Peter & Andrew Church (Dec 21)

# CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGELS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## The Capital Campaign Committee:

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

## The Capital Campaign:

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

## The Data (as of December 21, 2016):

Total Commitments .....\$2,000,000  
Total Commitments Paid .....\$1,607,000  
Total Number of Households .....136

## 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.

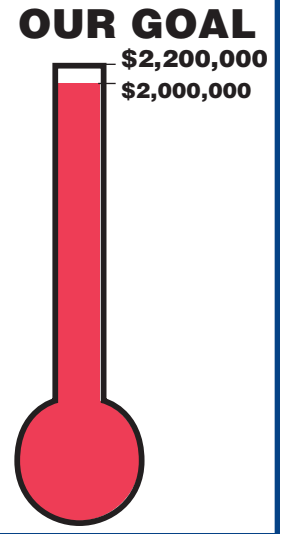
## The Expenses:

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.



## The Contributors (as of December 21, 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 Cholakakis 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 Demetrios  
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 Haralambidis  
Timothy and Sophia Hartch  
Brian Irizarry and Gigi Perimenis  
William and Mary Janocha  
Denton and Rachel Jones  
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 Kounevelis  
Pam Koutroubis  
Elias N. Kulukundis  
Stewart and Kim Leonard  
Peter and Yolanda Licopantis  
George and Angie Lines  
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 Medow  
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 Friderika Nicolis  
Nicholas Nikas  
Mark and Maria Otis  
George and Cindy Papparis  
Father Harry and Presbyteria Pappas  
Peter and Joan Paspalis  
Kimon and Julie Passios  
Tom and Nike Passios  
John Pasvankias  
George and Jane Perkins  
Katie Perimenis  
Dr. Peter and Carmen Perimenis  
Stefanos and Stamatia Petsas  
Father George and Presbyteria Poulos  
Maria Poulos  
Peter and Geri Poulos  
Stephen and Susan Root  
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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  
Demosthenes and Anthea Speridakos  
Konstantinos and Bonnie Spetsaris  
Helen Stamatides  
Evan and Roula Stergiannis  
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 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  
Archangels Greek School P. T. O.  
Anonymous (3)  
Peter and Christine Antipas  
Evangelos Aposporis and Victoria De Melo Paz  
Mary Louise Bennett  
Dean Bouloukos  
Peter Cholakakis 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 Katsos  
Basile Katsikis  
Annie Konidaris  
Janie Konidaris  
John Konidaris  
Miles and Joan Kulukundis  
Natalie Kulukundis  
Nick and Vicki Kyriakos  
Stacy and John Louizos  
John and Joella Lykourretzos  
Bob and Cassie MacFarlane  
Michelle Marmarinos  
Nikephoros 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 Papparis  
Father Harry and Kerry Pappas  
Kimon and Julie Passios  
John Pasvankias  
Stephen and Ana Ripp  
Dr. Nicholas and Serene Romas  
Scott and Helen Santoro

Nancy Savades  
Aristotle Sentementes  
Nestor Sgouros  
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 Mihaltsie  
Nicholas Nikas  
Tom and Nike Passios  
Timothy and Maria Scanlon  
Diane Sierpina  
Mihai and Cristina Smina