

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 Chryssavgis (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 to help reach our goal!

Mail checks to 1527 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT 06905

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

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council

We 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

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	Not Elected
Agésilaios Sotire (69)	Theofilos Nikolis (31)
George Papparis (64)	
George Khouri (61)	
Chris Peter Nanos (59)	

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

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

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 – 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, timhartch1@outlook.com

Additional 2016 Stewards

Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Adams
Mr. & Mrs. James Antonopoulos
Mrs. Mary & Louis Blanco
Mr. & Mrs. Pericles Caminis
Mrs. Helen Dennis
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew DeVito
Mrs. Stella Durdunas
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Esposito
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Feldman
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. David Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Jordanopoulos, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. John Kazianis
Charles Kirkiles
Natalie Kulukundis
Mrs. Pamela Koutroubis

Mrs. Maria Laveris
Mr. Nicholas Laveris
Mr. & Mr. Athanasios Stamboulopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Fornaciari
Mrs. Georgette Perimenis
Mrs. Christine Maskaleris
Mr. Radoslav Mintchev
Mr. Gerrit Nijmeijer & Mrs. Ismini Naos
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oris
Mr. John & Evanthia Panulas
Dr. Peter and Mrs. Perimenis
Mr. & Mrs. Curt Seaton
Mr. George Triantafyllos
Mr. & Mrs. Ilias Triantafyllos
Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Young
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 pglyd13@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: Vespers 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

• 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

• 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.



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



Santa visits with Helen Demetrios at the 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. Ήχος 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 εἴδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίου τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεῖς 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 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 Biliaris (ebiliaris@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)

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

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 sang 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.



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



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.



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 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 Skoparantzou, 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 year's 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 Skoparantzou, skoparantzou@optonline.net; Bill Giantomidis, billgiant1@yahoo.com; or Steve Sarigianis, 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 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 Skoparantzou (203- 550-6894) or Steve Sarigianis (steve@archangelsgoc.org). Come join the fun!

Greek Language Classes for Adults

The world is shrinking with globalization and the internet! Now is a great time for adults to learn Modern Greek. We are blessed to have an excellent instructor in Dr. Eugenia Zavras, a biology Professor at Fairfield University 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 Tschlis, presiding priest of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA, will co-lead a Pilgrimage to Russia from Mon, May 22, 2017, to Sat, June 3. Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky, a native Russian Orthodox priest serving a parish in Binghamton, NY, will be our tour guide. The itinerary includes all major holy sites, significant cultural centers, and periods of relaxation:

- St. Petersburg: Cathedrals – Our Lady of Kazan, St. Isaac, St. Nicholas; Monasteries – St. Alexander Nevsky, St. John of Rila (relics of St. John of Kronstadt, modern Orthodox Saint), Nvodevichiy Convent; Museums – Russian Museum and The Hermitage (Icons, Rembrandt paintings – especially the

Prodigal Son); Smolensk Cemetery (relics of St. Xenia); Boat Tour through some canals of the city; Apartment of Fyodor Dostoyevsky & his grave (one of greatest modern writers)

- Moscow (5 full days): The Kremlin – Cathedrals (Dormition, Annunciation, Archangel Michael), Tomb of Lenin; Cathedrals – St. Basil's (Red Square), Kazan, Christ the Savior; Monasteries – Donskoy (grave of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and relics of St. Tikhon of America), Mary & Martha Convent (founded by St. Elizabeth, modern Saint), Holy Trinity Lavra (relics of St. Sergius of Radonezh & St. Innocent of America); Museum – Tretyakov Gallery (with world famous icon of Trinity by St. Andrei Rublev, along with Russian art through the centuries); Memorial prayers at Butovo, where thousands were executed under Communism, including many now considered as Martyrs.

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



**STAMFORD
ATHLETIC CLUB**



@ THE GREEK CULTURAL CENTER

**Come in as our guest for a
Free 1-Week Membership**

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.



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)

PARISH NEWS

Funerals

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

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



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 Cholakis, William Grosso, Timothy Hartch, James W. Kambas, George Khouri, Peter Licopantis, Penny Nanos, Chris A. Nanos, Chris P. Nanos, George Papis, 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 Households136

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.

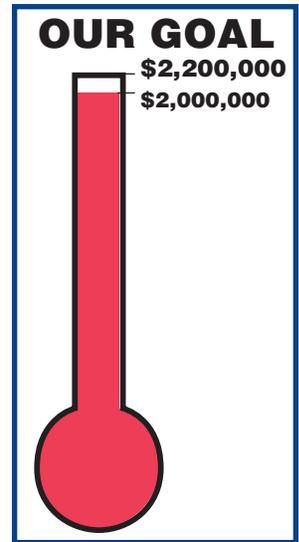
The Expenses:

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 Cholakis and Teresa Cassidy
 Helen Chochoz
 James W. and Margaret Cocolis
 Glenn and Angie Colarossi
 Harry Condos
 Savet Constantine
 Nicholas Daifotis
 Dr. James and Deborah Damascus
 Gregg and Mary Beth Demetres
 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
 Willian 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 Papis
 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
 Lee and Maria Sampanis
 Joseph and Rebecca Samra
 Pericles and Erika Sentementes
 Robert and Branislava Shekhidar
 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 Stamatiaides
 Evan and Roula Stergiannis
 Dr. Stelios Theofanides and Dr. Elizabeth Siderides
 Demetrios and Leda Tsapralis

Katina and Margaret Tsrantonakis
 Alkiviadis and Matoula Valassis
 Soulafreda 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 Cholakis and Teresa Cassidy
 Helen Chagaris
 Jeanette Chagaris
 James and Marge Cocolis
 Popi Demakos
 Katherine Ferentinos
 George and Pauline Galuris
 Peter Galuris
 Peter and Soulafreda 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 Joella Lykouretzos
 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 Papis
 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 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 Yekta

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 Mihaltsis
 Nicholas Nikas
 Tom and Nike Passios
 Timothy and Maria Scanlon
 Diane Sierpina
 Mihai and Cristina Smina