



The Herald

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

February 2017

Fresh Insight for Youth Ministry

As a youth worker in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese (GOA), there are only a few on-going education opportunities to participate in on a yearly basis (i.e. seminars, lectures, or retreats). One reason for this is that the lay ministerial positions of “Pastoral Assistant” and “Youth Minister” have only started developing seriously in the last 5-10 years in the GOA; before this, they were few and far between. But the landscape in the church is changing. There are an increasing number of such positions and on-going education opportunities (hosted by Orthodox) of quality and substance. The foremost, in my opinion, is the annual *Youth and Camp Workers Conference (YCC)*, which I gratefully attended for the second time just last week. The 12th annual pan-orthodox conference was hosted by the Church of the Transfiguration (GOA) in Austin, TX; each year a different jurisdiction hosts. It brought together over 130 Orthodox energetic lay youth workers (i.e. Pastoral Assistants, Youth Ministers, Summer Camp Coordinators), clergy, GOYA advisors, and a few parents from across the US and Canada. What a bright, faithful, and fun group to be with!

The theme of the 2017 conference was, “*The Seamless Garment: Towards A Unified Model of Ministry*.” Steven Christoforou (GOA Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries) and his team hosted this year’s YCC. He explained in his opening remarks how many parishes have an “ice cube tray” model of ministries that work in parallel rather than cooperatively, in a spirit of true unity. He continued by saying that our parishes ought to move towards a more unified model of ministry grounded in the faith, where our programs more deeply interconnect and overlap, so to experience greater “oneness” in faith, regardless of the particular event. He concluded by saying that much of what we do in parish life we do well, but there are always ways to improve!

Together with dear friends and peers, I gained memorable insights from the other 9 speakers that both inspired and encouraged. Here are some of my takeaways:

- To strengthen ministerial unity, we must begin focusing on engaging others intentionally. Two ways of accomplishing this are to develop consistent, cross-ministerial programming, and focus on having sacramental experiences together!
- Youth ministry is not just about making “good kids.” It’s about making kids who understand the *importance of their faith*, and who

let their faith inform their decisions. As they go from one ministry to another, they will unconsciously recognize the interconnection, the core or which is faith in Christ.

- We live in a busy world with competing schedules. Our mission in the church is to grow lives in faith – a “schedule of faith,” if you will – the importance of which is immeasurable. The church must continue to compete, and compete well, for that which is most important!
- *Modeling the faith* (ie. experienced learning) is even more important than simply teaching the faith. One practical application is to encourage leadership to *spend time developing relationships*, in addition developing lessons and programs.
- Youth ministries need to remember parents more and continually find ways to involve them! Check in with parents, and discover if they feel uniformed, ill-equipped, or disconnected. Then, offer them what they need and reconnect them! Parental handouts on lessons and family activity nights are two practical ways to do this.
- The young adult population is a powerhouse of resources and talents, mostly untapped. *Empowerment* is key! We must express to our young adults that *they are needed*, and find ways in which they can apply their talents. Mentorship of younger age groups is one practical way to get young adults involved and activate their faith.
- Ministry is difficult work and can be isolating at times. Maintaining a network of trusted friends and colleagues has provided support during difficult times and bettered my own ministry through the exchange of ideas, feedback, and resources.

All in all, my time at the YCC was tremendous. I left Austin refreshed by powerful & prayerful services, strengthened by reconnecting with colleagues & friends, and inspired & challenged by the presenters to apply learnings and refine ministry. Over the course of the spring, I plan to meet with youth ministry leaders to find ways of applying these ideas (and others) to our programs here at Archangels. I am so grateful to the parish to afford me this wonderful opportunity for on-going education, and would enjoy sharing more of my experience to those who are interested.

Have a blessed month!

– Steve

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PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council

This month we begin proactively welcoming Ministry heads to Parish Council meetings. This is a new initiative. It is a material change to how we approach our meetings and our use of time as a group. We will have 1 to 2 ministries per month present to the Council. Our aim is simple – to get to know our ministries better in order to help them reach their goals. Helping our ministries begins with understanding them. We want to understand your mission, size, resource pool, strengths/weaknesses, and overall goals. We will increase communication between you and the Council. We will give you the opportunity to enlist the support of church staff and leaders. We will encourage you to air latent issues that may otherwise fester and realign resources as needed. We will gain a better pulse on the health of the holistic church (i.e. outside of worship). In time we will look to strengthen our overall ministry goals, objectives, and outcomes. We are currently scheduling ministry updates for the entire year. A Parish Council member will reach out to you soon to schedule your ministry's slot and to walk you through the preparation. Thank you in advance! Contact: Jason Konidaris, jason.konidaris@yale.edu

General Assembly

Following presentation, discussion and dialogue, the 2017 Operating Budgets for the church proper and SAC were approved unanimously on January 22. The Parish Council is grateful to all who stayed after Liturgy. Contact: Jason Konidaris, Chairperson & Elias Lolis, Parish Council Treasurer, elolis@aol.com

Master Planning

In January we reviewed contractor bids for Part 1 of our project (church interior). We met with our architect and interviewed our finalist in person. During this meeting we discussed cost, scope of work, schedule, disruption, selection of materials, and personnel. The Committee later agreed to move forward with our Part 1 work, though there was dissent over broadness of scope and cost. On balance it was concluded that moving forward serves the interests of the community and the success of the plan best. That said, we are not out of the woods in terms of capital raising - we have quite a bit of work to do to reach our goal for Part 2. A contract is being drafted to reflect our terms, and is under review by parish attorney, Medina Vasily. The Master Planning Committee presented its recommendation to the Parish Council. The Council gave the Committee the authority to move forward with a contract, subject to final details. We will publish the firm's name once the contract is signed. By way of background, it is a midsize firm with a very good local reputation. Its work includes high end residential, mixed use commercial, office/apartment, schools, municipal, and (most important to us) community use - including 5 churches and a YMCA more recently. Its team would be repre-

sented by a Principal, a General Superintendent, a Project Superintendent, and a Project Manager. Two of them would be on-site at all times during construction. As of the writing of this article, we were targeting a January start date. This will likely be delayed by an asbestos review. Contact: Jason Konidaris, jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Treasurer's Report

The 2017 Operating Budgets for the church and the SAC were presented and approved at the January 22, 2017 General Assembly. This month we will be working on finalizing the 2016 year-end figures and should be ready to report out in time for the next issue of the Herald. 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, at timhartch1@outlook.com

2017 Stewards

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Capital Campaign – Where are the Others?

A couple of weeks ago, Father Harry gave a sermon on the Gospel reading for the week- the curing of the ten lepers. At the end of the reading, according to St. John, Christ asks the leper who returned to thank him, 'Where are the others?' Strictly speaking, Christ's message has nothing to do with the Capital Campaign. To date (January 22), we have received contributions from 140 families, including four who sent in pledges at the end of December. We are extremely grateful to all those donors both for their generosity and for their punctuality in honoring their undertakings. More than 85% of the total pledged so far has already been received. That is exceptional!

There are, however, more than 350 families on the church mailing list, and around 250 active stewards. Since the beginning of January, we have received no new pledges; only several payments on account of existing pledges. There are still between 100 and 200 families from whom we have not heard. This project is one that will benefit all of us. Not just the 140 families who have pledged so far, but all 350 families. It is a project for the betterment of our Community, a Community of 350 families, not just 140. So, while we are deeply appreciative of the interest of those families who have pledged and given so far, we must wonder with Christ, 'Where are the Others?'

As of 22 January, we have just crossed the \$2 million mark in total pledges and non-campaign contributions, including the anonymous matching grant. In term of expenses the Campaign has paid out \$ 156,000 to the architects, approximately \$100,000 for the cost of our part-time administrative assistant, \$10,000 for furniture and fixtures to be reused in the refurbished

administrative building, plus printing and solicitation expenses. And no actual work has yet begun at the time this is being written. We need to reach and surpass our goal sooner rather than later.

We need to hear from the Others now. In fact, we need the continuing help of all of you. We have undertaken a project to rebuild our church and community hall. That project will soon become a reality. It can only become a reality with the help of all of you.

I look forward hopefully, when I may be asked the question in the future, to being able to respond, 'There are no Others. Everyone has joined the effort, each in accordance with their means'.

Thank you in anticipation for your generosity and support.

A breakdown of commitments to date:

Pledges:	\$1,671,454
Anonymous Grant:	250,000
Gala Auction & Program Ads:	38,900
Memorial Contributions:	1,930
Non-pledge Contributions:	42,950

NOTE: The above does not include cash receipts for Gala dinner tickets (as opposed to contributions). It does not also take into account the very few outstanding pledge amounts that may be uncollectable due to illness, death or changes in circumstances. At present, this does not appear to amount to more than \$ 4,000. Contact: Elias N. Kulukundis, 203-569-3784

Buildings & Grounds

The month of January kept our committee busy. The problem with erratic heat in the Church and Hall was resolved by replacing our boiler's igniter controller. We look forward to a toasty warm atmosphere in these areas going forward. The Stamford Athletic Club, where the majority of plant and equipment is as old as the building, received a lot of our attention this month. The gym skylight problem continues. We had two representatives from the manufacturer on site. They removed a skylight to determine the leak cause. A report will follow with corrective measures to be taken. We are concerned with the heating and ventilating unit that serves the pool area. Condensation is being discharged from the ductwork onto the boiler room floor. This matter is also under review with recommended solutions to follow. We are awaiting delivery of parts for the sauna system in the woman's locker room. Jason Konidaris and I are spearheading a proposal for the installation of LED lighting throughout the SAC that we result in considerable savings in energy consumption. This initiative would be heavily subsidized by Ever-source (formerly Connecticut Light & Power), with no capital outlay on our part. Contact: Peter Licopantis, pglydl3@optonline.net

MINISTRIES

Blessing of Homes & Businesses

The annual brief blessing service continues until Great Lent begins on Feb 27. All that is needed is an icon, candle, small sprig of basil (or other green such as parsley), 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. To schedule an appointment contact either Jane in the office (203-348-4216) or Fr. Harry directly (frharry@archangelsgoc.org).

Adult Education

- **Orthodoxy 101** – Continuation of introductory class Monday evenings on the basic teachings, worship, and way of life in the Orthodox Tradition to all prospective catechumens, inquirers, and interested adults. Upcoming schedule:

§ **Feb 13** – *Reading Scripture: The Bible as Sacrament*

§ **Feb 20** – *Studying the Bible: Being as Disciple of Jesus*

§ **Feb 27** – *Overview of Great Lent* (in conjunction with joint Clean Monday program with Annunciation)

- **Koinonia** – small group prayer, study, dialogue and support:
 - § Young Adults – led by Steve Sarigianis, premiers this month (more info below and on calendar)

§ Parents – Fr. Harry & Presvytera Kerry have been asked by Little Angels to meet with parents who are reading the recently published book *Parenting Toward the Kingdom*, by Dr. Philip Mamalakis, Professor of Pastoral Care at our Seminary; several copies are still available in the bookstore; date is Saturday, March 4.

- **Bible Study – Ecumenical Reflections for Great Lent:**

Members of our church, along with area churches, are invited to offer a brief meditation on a passage from the Bible prescribed daily during Lent according to the Orthodox Lectionary. Examples include a brief reflection, story, or poem. These will be compiled and made available publicly. For further details and to sign up, contact Fr. Harry (frharry@archangelsgoc.org)

- **Parish Lenten Retreat – “Building Our Home in Christ”**

on Saturday, March 11, 9am – 3pm, led by Paul Karos: a resident of Minneapolis, Paul became blind growing up, had an extremely successful career on Wall Street, is a financial advisor, and has been a devoted lay minister in the Orthodox Church for over 20 years. Schedule includes Prayer, Power-Point Presentation, a Personal Inventory for each attendee to complete, break-out sessions, lunch, and wrap up. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

- **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 February (see calendar for details). Includes warriors like Achilles,



Representatives of the Velux Skylight Company investigate recent skylight leaks at the Stamford Athletic Club.

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 only necessary for dinner - Nick Nikas at 203-554-5570 or niketes@yahoo.com.

Prayer of the Month

Last month, Fr. Harry offered a sermonette to children and adults about *spiritual* breathing that is as essential to Christian living as *natural* breathing is critical to all human beings. How can we breathe spiritually? By becoming *people who are full of prayer (prayerful)*, not just people who pray. Prayer itself can be likened to *breathing in the Holy Spirit* through a conscious inward attentiveness and action of the heart or soul. Indeed, without learning and growing in prayer, we are spiritually starving and deprived! The classic prayer that is easiest to memorize and to pray at any time is called the Jesus Prayer. It is a summary of the entire Bible, and is known in several forms:

- Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, the sinner.
- Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me.
- Lord, have mercy.

In Greek, these are:

- Κυριε Ιησου Χριστε, Υιε Θεου, ελεησον με, τον αμαρτωλον.
- Κυριε Ιησου Χριστε, ελεησον με.
- Κυριε ελεησον.

Do you notice that the shortest form is the most common prayer of the Liturgy? Why not memorize this and use it throughout your day? It is a convenient way to remember God, and offer the most suitable response in many situations, such as when pausing in the middle of daily activity, waiting in line or on the phone, or stuck in traffic.



Dr. Lukas Konandreas, author of "Better Dead than Divorced," explains the process he followed to write his book at last month's Seniors meeting (Jan. 11).



The Kali Parea Seniors meeting enjoyed a delicious luncheon and interesting presentation from Dr. Lukas Konandreas on January 11.

Did You Know?

We most commonly think of prayer for our departed loved ones – Memorial Prayers – as something done on certain days after their falling asleep, such as the 40th day or 1 year. However, after the 1 year anniversary, it is most appropriate to pray for them on *Saturday* (the day of the departed) rather than on *Sunday* (the day of Christ's Resurrection). This is why the Church designates certain *Saturdays of the Souls* for everyone to bring a list of first names to church, and offer these in a General Memorial service during Liturgy. Three such Saturdays of the Souls occur around the beginning of Great Lent (*see the calendar for details*). It is customary to bring a small bowl or tray of boiled wheat mixed with nuts and dried fruit (such as almonds and raisins) covered by powdered sugar for the Memorial Service. This symbolized the distinct belief of the bodily resurrection of the dead, compared by Paul the Apostle to planting a seed such as wheat in the ground that must first break apart or "die" in order to grow.

Kali Parea Seniors

On Wednesday, January 11, Kali Parea had a great meeting. The speaker was Lukas Konandreas M.D. He is the author of "Better off Dead Than Divorced", which is a true story that took place in Greece. Our condolences to the family of Bill Grosso, who recently passed on; he will be greatly missed. The next meeting will be on February 15, 2016. We look forward to seeing you! Contact: Pam Koutroubis, pamelak2145@gmail.com.

Ladies Philoptochos Society

On behalf of the Archangels Ladies Philoptochos Society, Mollie Sotire thanks all who were able to support our parish's Capital Campaign by attending the Splurge Gifts holiday shopping event. Sonia Sotire Malloy, proprietor of Splurge, extended her hours and the days of event due to inclement weather to help support the cause. We are delighted that \$400 will be donated to the capital campaign due to your generosity. Thank you to all who supported our Vasilopita bread sale in December. Pre-orders for Easter breads will be taken beginning in March. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, we were able to send a donation of \$320 from the tray passed to support St. Basil's Academy. A raffle during our annual Christmas party raised \$260, which was donated to Arts for Healing. A participant in the Arts for Healing program beautifully entertained us on the piano during the party. Philoptochos board members have suggested two new projects for the spring – knitting small shawls for shut-ins and a baby shower for the pregnant wives of military troops serving abroad. Please let us know if you are interested in the knitting project or are aware of military wives we can celebrate. A Saturday visit to St. Michael's Home is also being planned. Please let Marion Vanson know if you are interested in participating. Our membership drive is underway. Dues are \$25 for Seniors and \$35 for Juniors, most of which support our national and district Philoptochos organizations. Please join or rejoin Philoptochos to help support our work on behalf of those in need. Our next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 7th at 7 p.m. Looking forward to your attendance! Save the date of April 29th for our spring Mother's Day/Ladies luncheon. Contact: Marion Vanson, 914-234-9420.



Fredirika Nikolis leads Roula Stergiannis, Marion Vansen, and Ruth Diamond in the Vasilopita Baking workshop held on Thursday Jan. 5, the Eve of Theophany.



The little children of Preschool have a fun interactive lesson with Fredirika about Vasilopita baking (Jan. 5) with teacher Kiriaki Yoranidis assisting.

Church School

The Archangels Church School is preparing a rich program for this winter and spring. Sacred Music Ministry will be held on the last Sunday of every month. We plan to slowly develop a Junior Choir as a result of this effort. During the month of February our upper grades (Grades 3-Young Adult) will engage in a month long curricular exercise for deepening their faith by engaging in critical discussions, writing, and even creative art based on the questions posed by our Archdiocese for the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Please note that we are trying something different with the festival this year – *this will be a non-competitive endeavor* – an opportunity to deepen our faith collectively. A celebration of student work (their work products) will be presented to the congregation early next month. A Clean Monday Program sponsored by the Church School and Greek School programs will be held on February 27, 2017 at 6pm. We will be joined by our sister parish the Church of the Annunciation. Kindly refer to our Church Calendar for all upcoming events and special programs during Holy Lent. Wishing families a blessed Lenten period filled with reflection, quiet moments, and inner transformation. Contact: Evelyn Biliadis, ebiliadis@aol.com

Greek School

On the 16th the AGS children enjoyed a fun filled day at Chelsea Piers followed by a lunch at the All Star Café catered by Nikki Glekas. On the 29th we celebrated the Feast of the Three Hierarchs and Greek Letters. On this day we congratulated *Students, Teachers, and Parents* for their successes

throughout the year. The Greek School held an art exhibition and under the direction of Kuria Eleni the children produced amazing and inspiring paintings! We also gave out awards for all the children that participated in writing an essay about the Golden Age of Athens and its importance in the era of humanity. Next PTO Meeting is February 7th, 5:30 p.m. Contact - PTO Board Rebecca Kelesidis, rebecca@Kelesidis.com

Little Angels

Little Angels continues to “welcome” babies who receive blessings in the church with a gift. Monetary donations or donations of items (religious books, icons, clothing, small toys, etc.) are welcome. Items must be new. We have recently welcomed baby Simon Jackson and Theodora Spanos! Na zisoune! Little Angels is holding an evening event on Saturday, March 4th with Father Harry & Presvytera Kerry in which we will read an article on parenting in the faith and engage in discussion. Let us know if you can attend. On February 12th we will hold a small bake sale after church on Sunday to raise money for a worthy children’s charity. Our smallest children cannot do much to help others, but they can help mom or dad in the kitchen by baking something yummy! We’d like to teach them a lesson in philanthropy. Please dust off your best recipes and help us! Bring in baked goods on Sunday morning, the 12th, to the church hall where tables will be set up. Valentine crafts will also be available to keep the little ones busy! Contact: Stacy Valassis, avalassis@gmail.com.



Preschool children gather around as "Mr. Steve" offers a lesson on Theophany using the "mini-fountain" as a visual aid. (Jan. 10)



The GOYans enjoy some late-night co-ed volleyball at the Athletic Center during the Lock-In on Friday, Jan. 20th; even Fr. Harry couldn't resist the fun!

Hope/Joy

On Friday, January 13, members of Hope & Joy met at our sister Parish, Church of the Annunciation, for our monthly meeting. This month's meeting was "game night". Children played many of their favorite board games while some adults couldn't resist joining in as well. Besides playing board games, each child made New Year's resolutions that were put into a "time capsule", to be opened up at next year's January 2018 meeting to assess how well they did. Some resolutions included, "to eat slower", "be better at math", and "be nicer to my sister". A good time was had by all. On Saturday, February 11th at 11:00 a.m., we will meet at Atria Senior Living facility (77 Third Street; Stamford) to make Valentine's Day cards with the residents and perform some musical acts for them. Afterwards, everyone is invited out for lunch. This is a very special event that you definitely do not want to miss. If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call at, 203-249-7403. We hope to see you soon. Sincerely, Chris & Luisa Nanos, cnanos@optonline.net

G.O.Y.A.

The GOYA is off to a strong start this year! On Friday January 20, 10 teens came out for the rescheduled Lock-In, held at the church. They engaged in prayer, a robust discussion on "modern day idols" led by Fr. Harry, enjoyed a pizza-dinner (their favorite), and several intense late-night co-ed games of volleyball in SAC. Diane and Bill the advisors should be commended for their coordination efforts (not to mention staying the night with the tireless youth!)

In February, we have two exciting trips scheduled with GOYA. The first is this Saturday, where the teens will enjoy several hours of *Snow Tubing at Powder Ridge Mountain* in Middletown, CT (north of New Haven). They have a dedicated tubing section, which is the finest in the state. The carpool leaves church at 3:30pm; tubing is from 5-7pm. Cost is \$25 (for life ticket). The second trip is to visit the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, and St. Nicholas Shrine in downtown New York on Sunday Feb. 12. We will depart for Astoria, Queens at 9:30am, attend Liturgy at St. Demetrios Cathedral, and have lunch nearby directly following. Then we will head downtown for a tour of St. Nicholas, a tour of the 9/11 Memorial, spend time in the Museum, and have a brief follow-up discussion, before heading back to Stamford. Cost is \$45 (lunch, Museum ticket, & tour).

Please do not wait to RSVP for either trip! Please contact Diane (skoparantzsd@optonline.net) or Steve (steve@archangelsgoc.org) ASAP with your interest.

A.Y.A

The young adult Small Group is beginning this month under lead of Steve Sarigianis. Of this most transient population, three individuals have expressed interest in meeting twice a month for prayer, fellowship, study, and meaningful discussion. A preliminary ("steering") meeting was held Monday Jan. 30 at Ferguson Library main branch, and Steve is finalizing curriculum for the first full group meeting the third week of the month. For more info contact him: steve@archangelsgoc.org, 203-623-5896.



The Greek School children enjoyed food and games at Chelsea Piers on Jan. 16.



Steve Sarigianis teaches the PreSchool children about the meaning and significance of the "censor" in worship (Jan. 24)

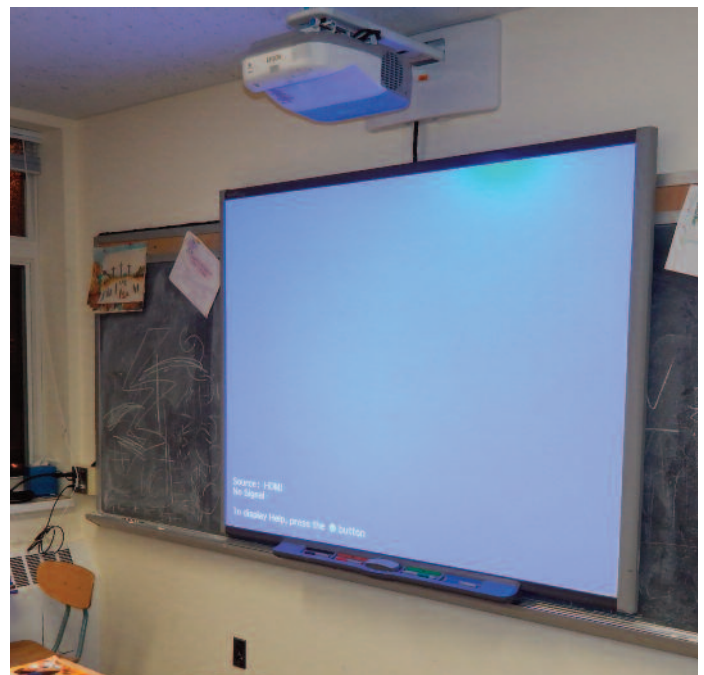
Athletics

Both the CEOBL and CEOVL seasons are in full swing. Our Senior Men's team is currently 3-4, and sits in a tie for 5th place. Coach John Skoparantzios is hopeful that the team will make the playoffs (which is the top 4 of 7 teams). The girls Varsity volleyball team, led by Amalia Skoparantzios, is off to a good start at 2-1. This team will look to make a deep playoff run, in the hopes of another title (i.e. 2015 team).

All of our home games are placed on the church calendar and in the Sunday Announcements; come support our teams! And when you do, look for the new Championship banners hanging on the wall: one for the 2012 Youth team, and one for the 2014 Senior team. Contact: John Skoparantzios (203-550-6894,) or Steve Sarigianis (steve@archangelsgoc.org).

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.



Thanks to a generous donation by Angel Muniz, Archangels now has a SmartBoard for use in one of the 2nd floor classrooms (Jan 18); Greek School and Church School will be piloting the use of this powerful technology.



Katerina Giannakopoulos makes it all the way up the climbing wall at Chelsea Piers (Jan. 16).



Steven Christoforou offers opening remarks at the YCC, titled, "Towards a Unified Model of Ministry." (Jan. 27)



Steve Sarigianis (middle left) stands with a large group of Holy Cross Alumni at the Youth Workers Conference (YCC) in Austin, Texas (Jan. 27-29)



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PARISH NEWS

Eagle Scout Award

On Friday, December 30, the Jonocha family celebrated their son Christopher's Achievement of earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Chris's Eagle Court of Honor ceremony and dinner reception was held at Villa Maria school on Sky Meadow Drive here in Stamford. Numerous fellow and alumni scouts from Troop 11 participated as Master of Ceremonies, with presentation of the Colors, lighting the 15 candles (signifying all points of the Scout Oath and Law) and administering the binding Eagle Pledge. Chris's cousin Dan Sentementes, currently a Federal Agent and Eagle Scout from Norwalk, recited the Eagle Charge to all the Eagles in attendance, reaffirming their allegiance to the obligations and responsibilities of the rank. In addition to the rank of Eagle, Chris also earned all three Eagle Palms (36 total merit badges, plus 9 months of additional service) and his Brotherhood level membership in the BSA Honor Society was also cited. Church members the Fornaciari, Sentementes and Sierpina families attended, and Pastoral Assistant Steve Sarigianis offered the opening invocation. Sister Carol Ann of Villa Maria hosted, providing a delightful display of 'patriotic magic' during dinner with 75 in attendance. Church members Mary Jonocha pinned on Chris' Eagle award while husband Bill, Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 11, presented the framed certificate and spoke for the family. Bill and his late father also earned eagle, making for three generations. John Clapps is Scoutmaster, and the troop meets Monday evenings at Holy Spirit school. Chris is a freshman at UConn, Storrs campus, studying digital media and computer science.

Funerals

William A. Grosso, on January 12th, who fell asleep in the Lord on Jan 7th at 88 years old.



Chris Janocha receives the rank of Eagle Scout (highest rank within the Boy Scouts) and stands proudly with his parents Mary & Bill after the ceremony (Dec. 30)

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

AHEPA

At the start of February we are exactly in the middle of our 6 DVD screenings of an educational lecture series, "Famous Greeks" by Professor J Rufus Fears. The series examines a gallery of fascinating characters who shaped the story of Greece from the Trojan War through the rise of Rome. On Friday, February 3, the subjects will be the circle of Pericles during the golden age of Athens: Anaxagoras, Phidias; Aspasia; Sophocles; Thucydides; and Alcibiades. On Saturday, February 11, we will continue with the people involved in the Peloponnesian War and its immediate aftermath: Nicias (no relation); Alcibiades (again); Lysander; and Socrates. And finally, on Friday, February 17, we will conclude with: Xenophon; Plato; Philip of

Macedon; Alexander the Great; Pyrrhus; and Cleopatra. Join us to enjoy some pizza and the company of like-minded history lovers at 6:00 pm and to watch four 30 minute videos staring at 6:30 pm (duration 2 hours plus a 15 min break). Contact: Nicholas Nikas, 203-554-5570, niketes@yahoo.com

Archangels Foundation

Our newly elected members of the Board of the Foundation have been assigned to specific classes by lot. Christopher Paul Nanos was assigned to the Class to be re-elected in 2019, Kimon Passios, Elias Lolis, and Dr. Elizabeth Siderides Theofanidis assigned to the Class of 2018. Contact: Elias N. Kulukundis 203-569-3784

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 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 January 22, 2017):

Total Commitments \$2,006,134
Total Commitments Paid \$1,776,844
Total Number of Households 140

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.

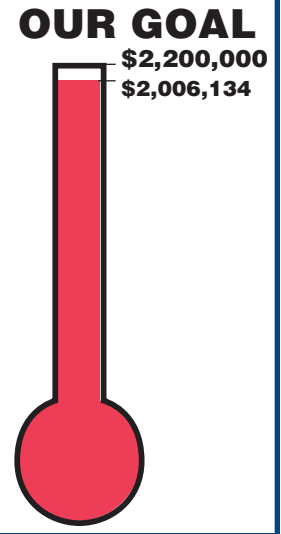
The Expenses:

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 January 22, 2017):

Anonymous (6)
Evangeline Adams
Nicholas and Deedee Aivalis
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 Burt 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
Gregge and Mary Beth Demetrios
Matthew and Maria DeVito
Elias and Anna Diamantis
Peter and Ruth Diamond
Stephen and Margaret Fornaciari
Peter Gabriel and Mary Badoyannis
Stephen and Tina Georgeou
Effie Gianos
William Grosso
Rita Haralambidis
Timothy and Sophia Hartch
Brian Irizarry and Gigi Perimenis
William and 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
Nicholas and Mary Karukas
John Kazianis and Evgenia Litivris
George Khouri
Arthur and Elaine Kiratsous
Annie Konidaris
Jason and Janie Konidaris
Nick and Pauline Kounelvelis
Pam Koutroubis
Elias N. Kulukundis
Stewart and Kim Leonard
Peter and Yolanda Licopantis
George and Angie Lines
Elias and Evelyn Lolis
J. Andrew McEntire 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 Paparis
Father Harry and Presbyteria Pappas
Peter and Joan Paspalis
Kimon and Julie Passios
Tom and Nike Passios
John Pasvankias
George and Jane Perkins
Katie Perimenis
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 Branslava Shekhdar
Ken and Maria Shepard
Theodore and Diane Sierpina
Louis and Anna Sioles
Catherine Sofronas
Agesilaos and Molly Sotire
Sotiris and Nicoletta Soulios
Angela Spanakos and Shannon Fales
John Spanakos
Demosthenes and Anthea Speridakos
Konstantinos and Bonnie Spetsaris
Helen Stamatades
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 GIFTS

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 Katselos
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 Lykouratzos
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
Dr. James and Marcine Otis
John Pantel
John and Evanthis Panulas
George and Cindy Paparis
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
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 Mihaltes
Nicholas Nikas
Tom and Nike Passios
Timothy and Maria Scanlon
Diane Sierpina
Mihai and Cristina Smina