



The Herald

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

April 2017

Why the Cross?

Although we may never really give it much thought, our Christian faith is radically centered upon the Cross of Christ. We will process a wooden cross in the Passion Service on Holy Thursday evening and venerate it on Good Friday. We wear metal crosses around our necks. Two days of every week are devoted to the Cross (Wednesdays & Fridays), along with special Feast Days (the Elevation on Sept 14 and the 3rd Sunday of Lent). Baptized men and women are named for the Cross (Stavros – sometimes “Steve” in English; or “Stavroula” – sometimes with a nickname like “Roula”).

Wouldn't it be nicer if God could have just worked out our salvation without the cruelty, violence, and death that a cross represents? After all, crucifixion was a form of public execution reserved only for slaves and treasonous rebels in the ancient world, deliberately designed for a slow, agonizing death with great suffering, out in public for all the world to be shocked and horrified. Indeed, the average person 2,000 years ago could be traumatized just by hearing the word “crucifixion” mentioned in conversation.

Yet, this is what is at the heart of Holy Week and Easter. The first icon Sunday evening is “Christ the Bridegroom” but he is depicted like no other man who's about to walk down the aisle. Instead of a tuxedo, beaming smile, and beautiful church background, he is dressed in a purple robe that ridicules the claim he is a king, his hands are tied to show he is in jail, and his face expresses deep sadness at being rejected. There is no bride anywhere in sight, certainly not someone beautifully clothed in breathless anticipation. Consider this sobering truth: Jesus cannot marry us who believe in him without suffering more than we could ever imagine.

The final icon is the Resurrection that shows Christ who has come back from the dead with a new type of physical body no one has ever seen. He moves energetically to pull all the dead from the grave (symbolized by Adam and Eve who are grasped by their arms) after smashing the gates of Hades (represented by unhinged doors and strewn hardware).

In between we get the Crucifix. Fortunately, the iconography is rather discreet: there is a strategically placed cloth to cover his naked body, and the impact of his torture is somewhat muted since he is God, not

just man. But make no mistake, our deliverance from the powers that threaten us internally and externally came with the highest price tag: the brutal execution of God's Only-Begotten Son who, far from sailing effortlessly through the Passion because he was divine, suffered even more because he was fully human and accepted in himself the collective consequences of our rebellion, bad choices and misguided adventures.

The only way to realize why is to know the Story of God's dealings with us through the Bible. We were originally created to be living icons of God's presence on earth – pure, holy, loving, wise, just – but we chose to do things our own way and allowed other forces to take over. Even though these powers have been decisively defeated by Jesus on the Cross, they are still around and, to the extent we give them room to operate in our personal and collective lives, they can wreak havoc with our lives:

- the desire to control and manipulate, overtly or subtly (power);
- an insatiable appetite for getting more things that are newer, better, and bigger (possessions);
- ever present ways to satisfy our unrestrained lust for food & drink, sex, and entertainment (pleasure);
- honoring something (such as money, power, career) or someone (lover, family, culture or country) more than allegiance and loyal worship of God alone (idolatry).

During Holy Week, I'll be exploring the many sides of what God has so amazingly done for us through Christ, with a sharp eye on the Cross that will be so powerfully presented to us through icons, hymns, prayers, readings, and actions. But be prepared: there is nothing conventional to unpacking this Great Mystery of the God-Man who suffers in the flesh as the culmination of his brief life with us on earth.

And there will be nothing mundane about what it means for us here and now.

Blessed Holy Week & Easter/Pascha!

— 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

ADMINISTRATION

Parish Council

At our most recent meeting we voted to approve the hire of Ritta Haralabidis as part-time secretary. She will begin by filling the role left open by Patricia's departure. Ritta is a current Archangels parishioner along with her two daughters. Welcome aboard Ritta! We are grateful to Tim Hartch and his Stewardship Committee's update to the Council. There is clearly a focus on organizing people, data, and getting good reporting to parishioners on a quarterly basis. Expect to see Council members busy this month giving of themselves as Pascha approaches. We are all volunteers and hope to help your worship experience in any way we can. Our next council meeting has been moved from April 18th to the 25th. Contact: Jason Konidaris, jason.konidaris@yale.edu



General Assembly

Per the Uniform Parish Regulations of our Archdiocese, we will hold an Assembly after Liturgy on Sunday, April 23, for the report of the 2015 Audit Committee. Further information is forthcoming. Please plan to attend and spread the word. Contact: Elias Lolis, Parish Council Treasurer, elolis@aol.com

Treasurer's Report

The 2015 audits for the Church and SAC have been completed by the audit committee. Details on its presentation will be announced shortly. 2016 Unaudited Financials for the Church and Stamford Athletic Club are currently available as well. Please stop by the office to review results. Contact: Elias Lolis, Parish Council Treasurer, elolis@aol.com

Online Donations

We are pleased to share 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

Additional 2017 Stewards

Mrs. Christina Beauclair	Mr. & Mrs. Robert MacFarlane
Mr. Douglas Burchard	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Nanos
Mrs. Helen Chochos	Mr. Dimitrios Hlebogiannis & Mrs. Veronica Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Diamond	Mr. & Mrs. Petros Papadopoulos
Mrs. Christina Giannoulis	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Perimenis
Mr. Michael Jackson	Mr. Aristotle Sentementes
Mr. & Mrs. William Kelesidis	

Master Planning

The Committee submitted its final materials selections to our architect for Part 1 (the church). These selections included light fixtures for the narthex, plumbing fixtures for the powder room, tile for the narthex and altar, carpeting for the nave and cry room, and flooring for the sacristy and vestry. Expect paint colors to be the same, though updated and refreshed. We are finishing up final adjustments to the overall scope of work and await a contract addendum for review. We intend to begin the church work right after Easter. Church services will be held in the Hall during this time period where we will have a temporary altar, seating, and even an organ. Perhaps longtime parishioners remember our original Hammond C organ. It has been sleeping in the loft for nearly three decades. We hope to wake it up.

We plan to begin Part 2 (the rest of the building) at the end of the ecclesiastic year in late Spring/early Summer. This will allow the Greek School, Church School, and Nursery to finish out this academic year uninterrupted. It also allows us to undertake the most disruptive work (demolition) during the quieter summer months. The work would carry on through winter. Expect no part of the administrative building to be available to us during that time. Of course the church itself will be available to us, and beautifully redone. We are provisioning for alternative class space during construction. Our aim is to keep everyone on campus rather than displacing ministries throughout town. We plan for it to include: 1.) A large modular classroom rental (portable classroom put up on our property) to accommodate some of our children. It would serve the nursery during the first half of the day, some of the Greek School during the back half of the day, and some of the Church School on weekends. It could also serve the adult ministries for meetings. It would have

all the necessary amenities - furniture, light, heating/cooling, water, bathroom. These structures are used all the time as alternative space when schools and other institutions undergo construction. 2.) Available space at the SAC for class and creative ideas about class, for any students not accommodated by the modular classroom space. We are also inquiring about available classroom space at neighboring communities of faith if it becomes necessary.

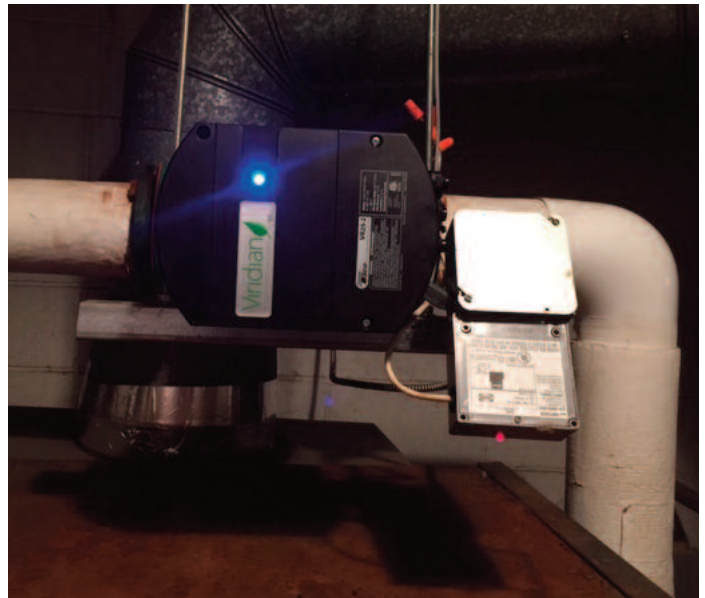
This is all exciting news. It also entails inconvenience. We would all be wise to appreciate that small inconveniences will lead to a large reward. Our campus will be beautifully refreshed and more welcoming to all of us. Contact: Jason Konidaris, jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Capital Campaign

This past month we received two new three-year pledges totaling \$ 13,500. In addition we have received two non-pledge contributions in the amount of \$ 2,500. We also received memorial contributions in memory of the late George Antipas, Helen Demetros, and Catherine Dokos aggregating more than \$ 4,500. Among these donations was a very generous gift from AHEPA Chapter 99. We very much appreciate the support of our AHEPA Chapter, not only for their gift to the Campaign but also for their continuing support of our Greek school and for the important contributions they make to the cultural life of the Church through the programs and lectures they sponsor. We are also very grateful to the Antipas and Demetros families for remembering the church and directing memorial contributions to the Campaign in their time of bereavement for their loved ones. We are deeply appreciative of all these gestures of support.

As of March 23rd, pledges amounted to \$ 1,685,974. To this must be added the challenge grant of \$ 250,000, non-pledge donations of \$ 46,850, memorial donations of \$ 6,370, and proceeds from the gala of \$ 40,600 for a grand total of \$ 2,029,794. As of this date, 143 church members or families have participated in the Campaign, plus a further three have made memorial donations.

We are edging slowly toward the goal of \$ 2,200,000 that we set in 2014, each month getting closer. But we are still about \$170,000 short of that goal. Next month, work on the first phase of the renewal project will commence, and hopefully by late Spring, work will start on the larger second phase. The Master Planning Committee needs to know that funding is in place so that the project can be completed as planned. In that context, I ask those of you who may have been hesitating to join with those who have already stepped up to the plate and consider making a three-year pledge now. I also ask those of you who may have made and already completed a one-year pledge to consider making a further gift or pledge to the Campaign. It is our goal to reach our target by June, when work is scheduled to start on the second phase. It is our hope that you will all pick up the gauntlet and help us get there. Thank you in anticipation. Contact: Elian Kulukundis, 203-569-3784.



In with the new: a picture of the recently replaced hot water pump in the basement.

Buildings & Grounds

The recent snow and ice on our roofs resulted in numerous leaks throughout the athletic club building as the ice melted. We are investigating the source of these leaks and securing proposals to rectify the problems. City of Stamford inspectors have reviewed our kitchen and pool areas with favorable results. The lighting throughout SAC will be upgraded with LED's during the month of April. This is part of an incentive program being offered by Eversource (formerly CT Light & Power). This process will produce sizable rebates and energy savings while improving the quality of our lighting. The hot water pump which provides hot water to the pool has been repaired. In the church we have realized uncomfortable temperatures this winter. The problem relates to our aging boiler and related parts. Several emergency repairs have been made, most recently the replacement of the hot water pump and ignition. The church boiler has served the building for decades and is likely due to be replaced before the next heating season. Contact: Peter Licopantis, pglyd13@optonline.net

MINISTRIES

Prayer of the Month

Here is the wonderful hymn of the first half of Holy Week when the striking icon of Christ the Bridegroom is displayed. We sing it 3 times at each service:

Ἰδοὺ ὁ Νυμφίος ἔρχεται ἐν τῷ μέσῳ τῆς νυκτός, καὶ μακάριος ὁ δοῦλος, ὃν εὐρήσει γρηγοροῦντα, ἀνάξιος δὲ πάλιν, ὃν εὐρήσει ῥαθυμοῦντα. Βλέπε οὖν ψυχή μου, μὴ τῷ ὕπνῳ κατενεχθῆς, ἵνα μὴ τῷ θανάτῳ παραδοθῇς, καὶ τῆς βασιλείας ἔξω κλεισθῇς, ἀλλὰ ἀνάνηψον κράζουσα: Ἄγιος, Ἄγιος, Ἄγιος εἰ ὁ Θεός, διὰ τῆς Θεοτόκου ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Behold the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night; and blessed is the servant, whom he shall find vigilant; and unworthy is he, whom he shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, that you will not be overcome by sleep, lest you be given up to death, and be shut out from the Kingdom. Therefore, rouse yourself crying out: "Holy, Holy, Holy are you, our God, through the Theotokos, have mercy on us."

It is an urgent call for us to realize our need to wake up spiritually, recognize how easy it is for us to lapse into carelessness, recall the serious consequences of our behavior, and turn to God in faith.

Did You Know?

Did you know that Jesus Christ is married? Why else would the Church have an icon of "Christ the Bridegroom" and sing the hymns above? And, if so, who is his bride? Jesus never did have a conventional wife after all, even though some popular writers (like Dan Brown) like to speculate that Jesus married one of his followers (Mary Magdalene) and had children of his own. While such writing can be quite entertaining, it has no sound basis in history and flies in the face of taking the New Testament and the Church's experience seriously. But is this the only way someone can be married? Does not the Old Testament speak of the true God as the husband of his chosen people, such as in book of Hosea, Jeremiah 3, and Ezekiel 16? Indeed, the Gospel writers understand Jesus as the fulfillment of the whole story of the Old Testament, including God's passionate love for total union with us, just as a man and a woman are united in marriage. As Jesus enters into the final week of his suffering, one distinct way to realize what is happening – and how it affects us personally and collectively – is to see the Crucifixion as his Wedding: the dramatic event in which he expresses his unbelievable love for us (his bride is the Church) through extreme suffering and vulnerability. Jesus alone knows how much it will cost him to claim us as his own! You might say that what we commonly call "Holy Week" is also "The Week of God's Wedding": the only-Begotten Son of God laying down is life fully and without any reservation in order to enter into the deepest physical & spiritual Communion with us in order to change us by grace into beautiful, new people who will be his glorious presence in the world!

Sacrament of Confession

Recommended article to learn and prepare for this is "Confession, the Healing Sacrament" by Jim Forest (copies available in magazine rack outside office). The Sacrament includes a brief prayer service before the icon of Christ in Church, the actual confession while seated in the front pew facing Christ, and a final prayer of forgiveness. Fr. Harry will be available by appointment, or without an appointment before Wednesday evening Liturgy or after other weekday worship. Fr. George is also available. Contact: Fr. Harry frharry@archangelsgoc.org or 203-348-4216.

Pastoral Visits to Shut-Ins

Fr. Harry and a few members of the Philoptochos are visiting shut-ins to share God's love and the care of our parish for them during this sacred season. They will offer prayer, fellowship, and a loaf of sweet bread (tsoureki) or a small package of baked goods for Easter. There currently are 38 members on the list. Feel free to contact the office to request a visit for someone you know: Jane, 203-348-4216.

Holy Week Lead Chanter

Mr. Haralampos Kourgiantakis, a protopsalti and a professor of religion on the island of Kerkira (Corfu), along with his wife, Christofora, returns to lead chanting this year. Travel expenses and stipend are provided through the Operating Budget; they will stay at the home of Fr. Harry & Presvytera Kerry. Please welcome them!

Donations for Palms, Flowers, and Easter Reception

We are accepting donations toward the purchase of palms and flowers – for icons, the Funeral Canopy, and church – along with meat, cheese, etc., for the Reception Easter Night.

Please contact Basil Vanech – basil@archangelsgoc.org
or Jane Vorvis – 203-348-4216

Holy Week: April 8 – April 16

Our schedule of worship and ministry involves:

- Saturday of Lazarus, April 8: Public Preparation of the Gifts at 9 am & Teaching Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am on the Solea. Afterward we welcome families and grown-ups to help clean, polish, plait palms and prepare for Palm Sunday. Lunch is provided.
- Palm Sunday worship per the normal schedule
- Bridegroom Orthros at 7 pm on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings

- Holy Wednesday – Holy Unction at 4 pm (especially for all school age children), and Orthros of the Last Supper at 7 pm (includes anointing with Holy Unction)
- Holy Thursday – Liturgy of the Last Supper 6:30 am (before school and work); Orthros of the Passion 7 pm (with reading of the 12 Gospels)
- Holy Friday – Royal Hours 9 am; Children's Retreat begins with 9th Hour worship at 10 am, followed by Stations, Activities & Decoration of Funeral Canopy (Kouvouklion), & Lunch. Children's Retreat concludes with Vespers of Descent from the Cross at 1 pm; Orthros of Praises before the Symoblic Tomb of Christ 7 pm
- Holy Saturday – 1st Resurrection Liturgy 9 am, with Chrismation of Michael Jackson; Vigil for Pascha 11:30 pm; **Resurrection Service 12 midnight**; Orthros of Pascha 12:20 am; Liturgy of Pascha 1 am; Paschal Reception 2:30 am
- Pascha/Easter Sunday – Agape Vespers 11 am; Easter Egg Hunt for children 11:45 am

Readers for Holy Week

Adults and older altar boys and girls (ages 12 & up) are welcome to assist with the reading of Prayers, Psalms, Old Testament passages & New Testament epistles during Holy Week. Contact: Steve Sarigianis steve@archangelsgoc.org, 203-348-4216

Observing Holy Week in the Home

The Archdiocese Center for Family Care has put out two webinars with discussion questions on Holy Week for families to consider. As we enter this sacred time of the year, take the opportunity and check out at these wonderful resources:

#1: <http://bit.ly/holy-week-webinar-1>

#2: <http://bit.ly/holy-week-webinar-2>

Adult Education

- Orthodoxy 101 – continues on Wednesday evenings according to the following schedule:
 - ‡ Apr 5 - Preparing for Holy Week
 - ‡ Apr 24 - Practicing the Spiritual Life: Stewardship & Service.
 - ‡ May 1 - Missions & Evangelism: Sharing our Faith with Others.

‡ Basic texts are by Fr. Anthony Coniaris, classmate of Fr. George Poulos, and available in our bookstore.

- Teaching Divine Liturgy – Lazarus Saturday, April 8, in front of the Icon Screen, beginning with Preparation of the Gifts at 9 am; brief explanations will be offered during the Liturgy; a great way to learn more about the richness and depth of Orthodox worship!

- Baptism Class – 2-hour session for all parents and godparents is being planned for late April, early May or early June.

Contact: Fr. Harry, frharry@archangelsgoc.org or 203-348-4216

Seniors

In case you didn't know, all those over the age of 55 are considered senior citizens according to AARP. In this day and age, most of us work until we are above age 66! If you have not joined the Kali Parea Seniors you are missing out. We do not sell tickets, and we do not do fund-raisers! We just come together to talk, laugh, share stories, learn from occasional presenters, and take fun trips to different places. Why don't you come join us and bring your ideas and experience?!

Our next luncheon will be in the 3rd or 4th week of April. Stay tuned for details. Looking forward to seeing new faces to join us.

Our deepest condolences to the family of Helen Demetros who passed in March. She will be greatly missed. Helen and Zoe were Seniors founders. Honor their memory by coming out to the next meeting! Kalo Pascha to all! Contact: Pam Koutroubis, pamelak2145@gmail.com.

Ladies Philoptochos Society

The annual Palm Sunday Bread & Bake Sale will take place on Sunday, April 9th. Donations of Greek pastries (especially koulourakia!) and cake/cupcakes/cookies for the Dollar Table are much appreciated. Financial contributions to offset the cost of baking ingredients are welcome. Proceeds from the bread and bake sale support the Philoptochos' mission. The annual spring luncheon for the ladies of our parish and their family and friends will take place Saturday, April 29th at noon at the Long Ridge Tavern. Tickets are \$45. Please join us for this fun event. Reservations and checks can be dropped in a specially marked box outside the Church Office. At the March 7th monthly meeting, our chapter approved a \$2,000 donation to the Pacific House men's shelter program for its new program and services

Palm Sunday Bread & Bake Sale

April 9th after Liturgy

Sponsored by Ladies Philoptochos Society

Contributions of pastries and funds
for ingredients appreciated!

Annual Ladies Spring Luncheon



Saturday, April 29th, Noon

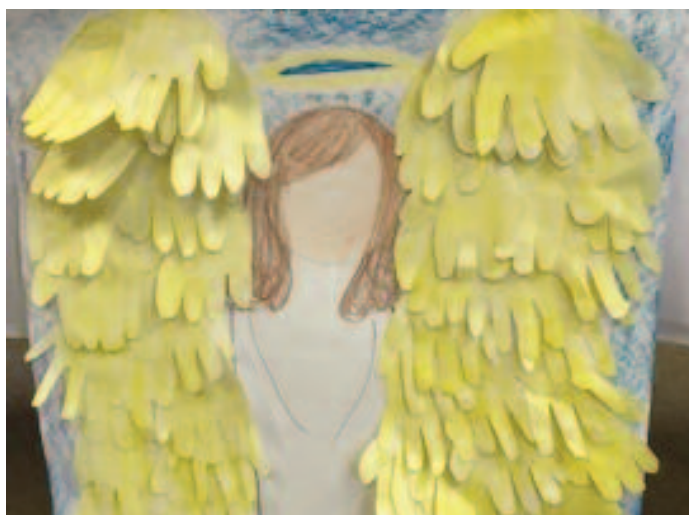
Sponsored by Ladies Philoptochos Society

Long Ridge Tavern • Tickets: \$45 • All Ladies Welcome!

for young adults ages 18 to 24. It is estimated that there are at least 300 youths in this age range in Fairfield County who are homeless. The next meeting of Philoptochos will take place Tuesday, April 4th at 7 pm. Please join us. Membership Dues are still being accepted. Contact: Marion Vanson, 914-234-9420.



Children's Church School Exhibit celebrating the Great Feast of the Annunciation and the St. John Chrysostom Festival.



Children of grades K-1 create guardian angels in honor of the Great Feast.



Church School Children in Pre-K made icons of the Annunciation for the Exhibit.

Church School

The Church School Program exhibited student art work, lessons, and projects for the Great Feast of the Annunciation as well as the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival on March 26th, 2017. Congratulations to our children for their excitement in engaging in such rich faith-based learning activities! And a very special thank you to the teachers of our program who offer their time, hearts, and talents every Sunday to assist our children grow in their faith. The Church School Program will be hosting our annual Good Friday Children's Retreat on April 14th from 10am-2pm. This is one of our most beautiful, most anticipated events of the year. Children of all ages are welcome with learning activities to accommodate all ages. Participants will also receive special gifts from each learning station that will serve as a reminder for their learnings of the day. Likewise, our Sacred Music Ministry will be held on April 2nd (make-up day for inclement weather) and children will rehearse hymns for the Agape Vespers service on Easter Sunday. Wishing everyone glorious and restorative Easter. Kali Anastasi! Blessed Resurrection! Contact: Dr. Evelyn Biliass Lolis, ebiliass@aol.com



Alex Valassis proves to be the perfect helper for "Mr. Steve" during his Children's Sermon on confession (3/5/17).

Easter Egg Dying



**Tuesday, April 11th
10:00am**

Volunteers Needed

SAVE THE DATE

Children's Good Friday Retreat

April 14th at 10:00am

Worship, Stations, Activities, Lunch



The youngest children of the Greek School confidently get on stage to recite their poems for the Greek Independence Day Program (3/26/17).

Greek School

On Sunday, March 26th, the Greek School hosted a special Program and luncheon including several skits and traditional poems in honor of Greek Independence Day and Annunciation. An overwhelming thanks to Kiria Anna Lempesi for organizing a creative play this year. A special thank you to Miss Eleni Giangkou for her paintings and decorating the stage for our performance. A big thank you to Mary Badoyannis for helping organize the church hall and having it ready for our use. Easter is right around the corner – thank you to Nikki Glekas for donating and making all the Easter Lambathes this year. Kalo Pascha!

Contacts: Rebecca Kelesidis, Rebecca@Kelesidis.com or Anna Lempesi, ann.lempesi@gmail.com

Little Angels

We are immensely grateful for the time and the enthusiastic leadership of Father Harry and Presvytera Kerry Pappas at our March 4th parenting discussion, which revolved around the written wisdom of the Elder Porphyrios collected in the text “Wounded By Love.” Porphyrios urges us, to become better parents, to become saints ourselves. He advises that we talk less, and that we listen to God more. Father Harry and Presvytera Kerry opened up and offered practical advice from their lives,



The Greek School children, lead by Interim Director Anna Lempesi & teachers, take stage after a refreshingly creative Annunciation/ Greek Independence Day Program following Liturgy.

and also brought us consistently back to the teachings of Jesus, particularly to the example of the Father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. It was a moving, elevating evening for all of us! We hope to continue parenting conversations in the future. Little Angels parents are invited out for a coffee and planning meeting on Friday evening, April 28th at 7 pm. Place is TBA. We would like to discuss end of the year events for our little ones and an exciting transition in our leadership! Lastly, we would like to, once again, collect donations (monetary, or new items) for our baby blessing gifts! Please help us to keep up this initiative! Contact: Anastasia Valassis, avalassis@gmail.com.

HOPE/JOY

On March 17th, members of Hope & Joy met at our sister Parish, Church of the Annunciation, for our monthly meeting. This month's theme and lesson were about the Virgin Mary and the Feast of the Annunciation. The children watched a short video, then made and presented artwork about what they learned. Coming up on Wednesday, April 12th at 3:00 p.m., Hope & Joy members, siblings, and their parents and/or grandparents are invited to meet at the Lower Fairfield County Food Bank located at 461 Glenbrook Road in Stamford. Executive Director Kate Lombardo will speak with the group about the importance of our giving and have the children participate in a hands-on activity. According to Kate, our Church is the largest contributor to the facility and she is extremely grateful for our Church's generous weekly contributions. During this Lenten season, what a wonderful way for our children to see firsthand where their donated food goes each week and how it is distributed to those in need. Please be sure to bring a food item to donate that day. After the activity, we will return to Church for the afternoon Holy Unction service. To learn more about the organization, we have attached their website below. We are looking forward to this wonderful and educational event for our Church community. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Chris and Luisa Nanos, cnanos@optonline.net or 203-249-7403; <http://foodbanklfc.org/>



GOYAns engage in silent 2 person 'stare-off' competitions at the Regional CT Lenten Retreat (4/2/17).



Fr. Perry Kallis (center), head priest of Holy Trinity in Waterbury, CT, presents to teens at the Lenten GOYA regional Lenten past Sunday (4/2/17) on "Finding Silence in a Noisy World."

GOYA

The GOYA started off the month of March with a meeting on the first Sunday (3/5) in the library – hot ticket items discussed were the Scavenger Hunt, the Regional Lenten Retreat, Preparations for Holy Week & Easter, and the reschedule for the postponed 9/11 Memorial & Museum trip. The 2017 District-wide Scavenger Hunt, held at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in Times Square on Saturday, March 18, was another smash hit for our teens.

As defending champions, our teens were motivated to compete. After a strong showing, we again came in first place (along with teammates from St. Markella in Astoria), and forged some new friendships! This past Sunday (4/2) at Holy Trinity in Waterbury was the regional GOYA Lenten Retreat. Fr. Perry Kallis led the retreat attended by nearly 60 teens. The topic was "Silence in a Noisy World," which resonated strongly with the teens.

Here are the April dates to mark in your calendars:

- Sat. April 8 ~ Lazarus Saturday Cleaning: 10:45am
- Sun. April 9 ~ Holy Week starts: 7pm Bridegroom Service
- Fri. April 14 ~ Good Friday Retreat: 10:30am; help needed!
- Sat. April 15 ~ Holy Saturday: Liturgy, 9:30am & Resurrection Service 11:30pm
- Sun. May 21 ~ 9/11 Memorial Trip: 9:30am – 5pm; RSVP to Diane ASAP

Contact: Diane (skoparantzosa@optonline.net) or Steve (steve@archangelsgoc.org).



Teens stop for a picture with "Jon Hamm" of Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, while searching for answers to the Scavenger Hunt questions (3/25/17).



Advisor Diane Skoparantzosa takes a fun selfie in Times Square with GOYAns (left to right): John Mirianthopoulos, Marina Mirianthopoulos, Bram Johnson, Lucas Giantomidis and Christopher Otis.



Young Adult Koinonia group members (left to right), Jason Ioannides, Nick Chingas, Hannah Pappas, Steve Sarigianis and Joe Palwrek meet at the Pappas house for fellowship, deepening dialogue & discussion (3/13/17).



Stamford United Varsity girls volleyball team won 2nd place overall this year! They stand with coaches John Skoparantzios and Larry Karipidis (Annunciation) after their semi-final victory (3/8/17).

AYA (Young Adults)

The young adult Koinonia group met twice this past month for fellowship, prayer, discussion and support. Both meetings centered on readings from the book, “Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives,” about the life and teachings of Elder Thaddeus. The group has grown together through self-disclosure, openness, and mutual accountability while discussing our lives in faith of Christ. Come join us every other Monday (starting again after Pascha) – meetings are held in relaxed settings, and provide an atmosphere for socialization in addition to spiritual growth & exploration.

Good strength as we conclude Great Lent, and Joyous Resurrection (Kali Anastasi!)

Contact: Steve, at steve@archangelsgoc.org or 203-623-5896.

Athletics

Congratulations to the Stamford United Girls’ Varsity Team for their 2nd place finish in the CEOVL league! Captain Amalia Skoparantzios will be graduating in June and deserves special mention for being the leagues co-MVP this year.

If your son or daughter is interested in playing with our Archangels-Annunciation basketball (ages 8+) or volleyball teams (ages 8+), please contact John Skoparantzios, 203-550-6824 or Steve Sarigianis, steve@archangelsgoc.org.



Amalia Skoparantzios, Senior Captain of our Stamford United team, was named the co-MVP of the CEOVL in 2017 at Bridgeport gym (4/1/17).

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.

Stamford Athletic Club @ the Greek Cultural Center

April happenings.....Something FREE – who does not like free?! We will hold two fun contests in April for FREE months for TWO (2) SAC members. Members, take your best guess as to how many jelly beans are in the jar at the SAC front desk. Submit your guess on a Facebook post to SAC's Facebook page. Contest begins Saturday, April 1 and will end Sunday, April 16. We will announce the winner on Facebook. One entry per member. Our second contest will give each SAC member who participates in a SAC group class an entry into a drawing for a FREE month of membership in June! If you take 10 classes, you get 10 chances to win! Contest will run Saturday, April 15, through Sunday, April 30. Winner will be chosen Monday, May 1. March Madness may be over, but our basketball program, High Rise, is still going strong. Outdoor pool season will be here soon enough - make sure your kids reach their next swim level by taking lessons via our swim vendor, Take Me to the Water. Speaking of fitting into a swim suit, now is a great time to get into shape with any of our fantastic personal trainers. If the weather is not great outside and you want to get some baseball or softball swings in, the SAC court is available for batting cage rentals by the hour or day. Please stop by the desk today to inquire about these and all the other wonderful things going on at SAC.

Contact: General Manager Jeff Kaminski, 203-357-7555 or jeff@sacteam.com



Preschool children at Greek Independence Day flag raising. (Left to right) Kallie Murray, Nikoleta Valassis, Milto Dimitroglou, Natasha & Thalia Lolis.



One hundred Stamford Greek-Americans gathered at the Government Center on Greek Independence Day (3/25/17).



Children of Archangels & Annunciation Greek schools take turns raising the Greek Flag! (3/25/17)

PARISH NEWS

Funerals

Helen Demetros, on March 9, who fell asleep in the Lord on March 4 at 90 years old.

40 Day Churching

Arianna Antonopoulos, on March 26, the 3rd child of James & Aria Antonopoulos.

Births

Dimitri Leon Maizo, on March 1, the first child of Paulina Anastos & Ensly Maizo.



Fr. Harry teaches an Orthodox 101 class in the hall on Wednesday March 17 after Pre-Sanctified Liturgy.



Fr. Harry and Pres. Kerry Pappas lead the NY District's first ever married clergy Retreat on Saturday, April 1 in New Rochelle.



**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.

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 March 23, 2017):

Total Commitments \$2,029,794
Total Commitments Paid \$1,806,029
Total Number of Households 143

The Requirements:

The General Assembly of May 4, 2015 set the following hurdles to be reached before the commencement of construction:

Total Commitments Hurdle \$1,500,000
Cash in Hand Hurdle \$ 726,000

Both hurdle requirements have been met.

Donors should ideally spread pledges over a three-year period. For new pledges, that would be between 2016 and 2018. Pledges may be accompanied by an initial donation toward the first year's pledge, though remitting the entire first year's pledge amount can be done later in the course of 2016 if preferred.

The Expenses:

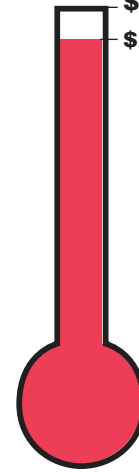
The Campaign's expenses to date include: Assistance from the Archdiocese Development Office, architectural fees, production of solicitation materials, and event planning. These are in addition to salary & benefits for parish office support hired on in September 2014. The Campaign's responsibility for seeding this office support expense terminates on October 1, 2017.

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

The Matching Grant:

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

OUR GOAL
\$2,200,000
\$2,029,794



The Contributors (as of March 23, 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 Burr Jr. and Sophia Gevas
Sophie Caloutas
Nitsa Chagaris
Peter Cholakakis and Teresa Cassidy
Helen Chochos
James W. and Margaret Cocolis
Glenn and Angela Colarossi
Harry Condos
Savet Constantine
Nicholas Daifotis
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Matthew and Maria De Vito
Elias and Anna Diamantis
Peter and Ruth Diamond
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Elias and Evelyn Lolis
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Eric and Lea Medow
Rita Mehos
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Paul and Debbie Nanos
Penny Nanos
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Theodore and Ann Nanos
Theophilos and Friderika Nicolis
Nicholas Nikas
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George and Cindy Paparis
Father Harry and Presbyteria Pappas
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Tom and Nike Passios
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Nicole Yoranidis

NON-PLEDGE GIFTS

Ladies Philoptochos Society,
Church of the Archangels
AHEPA Chapter No. 99
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
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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
Sonia Sotire Malloy
and Splurge Gifts Inc.
Michelle Marmarinos
Nikephoros Matthews
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Chris and Pam Nanos
Christopher and Christine Nanos
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Paul and Debbie Nanos
Penny Nanos
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Phil and Frederika Nikolis
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John Pantel

John and Evanthea 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
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Nancy Savaides
Aristotle Sentementes
Nestor Sgourous
Ken and Maria Shepard
Bob and Ann Simon
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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

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