



The Herald

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

May 2017

✠ Jane Vorvis: In Memoriam & Gratitude ✠

This month's *Herald* is devoted to the memory of our beloved Jane Vorvis, who fell asleep in the Lord on Holy Tuesday, April 11, just before the start of the Bridegroom Orthros. Her funeral was on Holy Saturday, exactly as happened to her own mother, a matter that she eerily pointed out the day before she died. Even though she was 91 and had lived a long, full life, her sudden departure physically was quite a shock. Of course, life as we know it is not permanent. Yet anyone who knew Jane became so accustomed to her presence and service that we just assumed she would always "be there." Early today as I write this article, Fr. George mentioned to me in his office that he instinctively reaches for the phone to call her and ask "Jane, what's happening?" Certainly, we express our sympathy first and foremost to Fr. George who worked hand-in-glove with Jane for nearly half a century.

I will leave the impact within her extended family to someone in the Vorvis clan. A variety of remembrances was offered at her Makaria (funeral meal) by her niece and goddaughter, Pati Esposito, and several great nephews and nieces. These were both revealing and funny. Did you know that Jane liked to finish a work day with some 7-star Metaxa (Greek brandy)? Or that she was a devoted fan of the New York Yankees?

I will simply attempt briefly to explore her person, outlook, and ministry that was so central to our dear community of faith for the 60 years or so that she was employed, not counting the rest of her young life of growing up here in an active family and fulfilling a variety of roles as a young steward.

Jane never married and never even learned to drive a car. She did not travel or take vacations. Jane was simply and totally committed to Christ and the Church here at Archangels. Opening & closing our facility; turning on lights; managing buildings and grounds; coordinating schedules; greeting everyone; handling finances and bills; serving as secretary to the Parish Council and at General Assemblies; keeping records and files; directing ministry; etc. Jane was a walking, breathing history of our parish: anytime I needed to know about someone or some event, I would invariably ask her and with very few exceptions she would provide extraordinary information that always helped. In fact, I took particular delight in the very rare occasions when she could not tell me something. Her memory – even to the end – was astonishingly sharp.

She was passionate about all of us as God's children in Christ. Who and how many were attending worship services. Encouraging whatever was needed to help the community progress. Being a loving presence by listening to anyone who stopped in for a visit or called for information or support. With no children of her own, Jane was passionate about youth ministry at all levels: monitoring athletic activity at the Cultural Center, observing the involvement of children, enjoying the interaction with Preschoolers, offering significant sacrifices to advance the cause of serving youth in a changing & challenging era, rejoicing in what our youngest members did to contribute to the common good.

Jane became in so many ways a spiritual mother to us. Monitor of children of all ages. Disciplinarian for those who got out of line in Sunday or Greek School. Ethicist for proper behavior ("be quiet!"; "make the sign of the Cross!"). Confidant for those

who needed an ear. Dispenser of advice. On a personal note, I easily fell into the habit, after starting here in the summer of 2009, of checking in with her at any time day or night when away from the office to let her know what I had been doing and where, to pick up messages, and to let her know what was next on my plate. Unbeknownst to me at the time, such instinctual behavior now makes perfect sense when I reflect upon Jane as a maternal figure in my life, more significant than I realized at the time.

Jane's enthusiasm for our Church never wavered, even as her body weakened. She was sharp in her opinions about what was right and wrong, even with small, seemingly inconsequential details like the color of tablecloths or the arrangement of chairs.

While set in her ways – like the rest of us – Jane showed a remarkable ability to adapt, change, and learn something new. She learned to use a computer in her 80's after keeping records with pen and ledger book for decades. She strongly supported our Master Plan for renovation of our facilities and developing our professional staff. She supported the use of English in worship to aid those who no longer understand or identify with Greek.

Despite her failing eyesight, Jane remained a keen observer of behaviors, attitudes, words and deeds: both those that she approved and those she did not.

Sure, she could be sharp at times, especially in her last years. Underneath her exterior that could appear intimidating not just to children but even to seasoned adults, was an authentic, devoted soul of a generation of fiercely loyal Greek Orthodox Christians for whom nothing was more important than the Church of Jesus Christ. All else was secondary in her life, including her salary that remained at the same 1960's level until she received her first raise in 2010 (and which she protested against). Jane made it patently clear to me about compensation: "Father, I've received far more from the Church than I could ever give back; I don't need anything more."

Finally, out of the deepest respect for her, I will deliberately not mention things that she did for us all that only a few people know about. But such confidentiality was entirely consistent with her personality: she never sought for recognition of any kind or even to be noticed publicly. It took all my meager negotiation skills to arrange a birthday celebration for her during coffee hour on Sunday last year when she turned 90 (without, of course, ever mentioning her age).

As we continue our period of mourning her passing, which I called for our parish to do the week after Easter, we will observe her 40-Day Memorial on Sunday, May 21, with a complimentary Lunch in memory and gratitude for who she is and how she lived and worked among us. Important details are listed on the following page: please carefully note these, help us prepare, plan to attend, and spread the word.

Christ is risen!

— Fr. Harry



CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGELS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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rebuild"*



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www.archangelsgoc.org

40 Day Memorial for Jane Vorvis

On Sunday, May 21, we will observe a 40-day Memorial for Jane, along with Marie Carlucci (longtime member of the choir) who also fell asleep in the Lord during Holy Week. The Parish Council is sponsoring a complimentary, catered Luncheon for everyone after Liturgy. Menu: Jane's favorite meal – roasted chicken Greek style, oven roasted potatoes, Greek salad, rice pudding (her favorite dessert), some Greek pastries and fruit. Steve will compose a slide show of her life: *please send him digital photos of photographs and other memorabilia of her life*

that was so intertwined with the life of our parish that was founded in 1928 when she was only 3 years old. A variety of short remembrances will be offered by ministries and organizations to allow for a public expression of gratitude. The Parish Council has already begun receiving suggestions for a more permanent way of honoring her amazing life and legacy, such as establishing a prayer stall or chapel in her memory or naming our renovated hall for her. You are welcome to make suggestions as well.

ADMINISTRATION

Parish Council

Xristos Anesti! During the same week that we commemorated eternal life, we were also faced with the loss of life. We mourn Jane's passing and offer our continued prayers to her extended family. The Parish Council will host a memorial luncheon for Jane on May 21st following liturgy. Please join us as we honor her memory. We welcomed the second of many Ministry presenters to our most recent monthly meeting - Diane Skoparantzios and Bill Giantomidis on behalf of GOYA. This initiative is designed to get to know our ministries better in order to help them better. Helping our ministries begins with understanding them. Diane and Bill gave us a better understanding of GOYA and talked us through their ministry's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. That was followed by Q&A from council members. We will look to engage one ministry per month like this throughout the year. We are grateful to the Audit Committee for their completion and presentation of the 2015 audit report recently - particularly Steven Georgeou and John Pasvankias, with guidance from Sophia Hartch and our accountant Dennis Vanson. The Council voted to ratify Souzana Tzaltzoul's hire as a Greek School teacher, following the Greek School Committee's recommendation. We discussed ways to aid the Festival Committee with their efforts this year, particularly the raffle. As a group we have committed to selling or personally purchasing 150 tickets, representing approximately 1/3 of the tickets historically sold each year. We hope it makes for a good head start! Contact: Jason Konidaris, jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Treasurer's Report

At the April 23, 2017, General Assembly, the parish voted to accept the report of the 2015 Audit Committee. The Council will review the report's recommendations. The 2016 Audit process will be launched shortly. The recently elected Audit Committee includes Steven Georgeou, John Pasvankias, Lou

Blanco, Jim Marcarello and Bob MacFarlane. We are grateful for their willingness to serve. 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. Maria Antondiades	Mr. & Mrs. Demetre Mentavlos
Mr. George Bindu & Mrs. Aleyamma Cherian	Mr. Radoslav Mintchev & Mrs. Maria Petrova
Mr. Peter Demetros	Mr. Nicholas Moisiades
Mrs. Stella Durdunas	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Poulos
Mr. & Mrs. George Gentekos	Mr. & Mrs. Aris Poulos
Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Karamanis	Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Soulios
Mrs. Helen Legato	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Valassis
	Dr. & Mrs. Steven Valassis

Master Planning

Last month we spent considerable time adjusting the scope of work and pricing for Part 1 of our project (church refurbishment). We now have a fully executed contract with builder, A. Pappajohn Company, to being May 18th. Expect the first two weeks to consist of behind-the-scenes work, with more visible movement after that. For those unfamiliar with the scope of work in the church, look forward to the following improvements: A fully renovated narthex, a renovated bride's room which will include a powder room for parishioners, a cry room for parents and toddlers who may need a quiet break or a diaper change, new carpeting throughout the church, new paint throughout the church, new flooring in the altar, a renovated sacristy and vestry, and a spruced up balcony which will also include new carpeting. This is all exciting news. Again, it also entails inconvenience. We would all be wise to appreciate that small inconveniences will lead to a large reward. Our church will be beautifully refreshed and ready for Fall. Contact: Jason Konidaris, jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Capital Campaign

On Palm Sunday, I gave the Community an update on the state of the Capital Campaign at that time. I spoke about a dream that I had, that the red paint on our billboard thermometer would not only rise to the top but explode out of it like lava pouring out of a volcano. Little did I expect that my dream would come true so suddenly. I am thrilled to report to you that, on that very day, a very generous anonymous donor stepped forward and made an extraordinary contribution that has put us over the top! It is difficult to find words to thank that donor sufficiently. Notwithstanding, we are deeply indebted to the family in question and thank them for their extraordinary gesture and their dedication to the Community. Yes, we are now over the top! We have reached the financial goal we set for ourselves in 2014. Thank you to all who contributed to the Campaign for your devotion and your generosity.

I would like to declare that the Campaign is over and that we have reached all the goals we had set when we started out. We have certainly attained one of them, seemingly the most important one. But I cannot say that we have reached all our goals. For one thing, only sixty percent of the active stewards in the Community have made a pledge or given a contribution to date. Not the eighty percent that we were hoping for. There is still room for improvement in that regard. The renovations are not for the benefit of just sixty percent of the Community, but for all. Secondly, we set our goals based on approximations we received back in 2014. In the interim, the inflation in prices (that anecdotally the Federal government says is not there) has eroded the

purchasing power of our dollars: the contract for the work in the church proper has come in much higher than what was anticipated in 2014 – some due to expanded work and some due to inflation. We can expect some increases when we get a final contract for the renovations to the Hall/Office/Classroom buildings as well. Thirdly, as plans for the Church progressed, there came a need for features that had not been anticipated in 2014: features such as a Cry Room and a bathroom in the Bride's Room. And asbestos remediation became a bigger problem than we had anticipated. We can confidently expect the same to happen as we get into deeper discussions on the renovation of the Hall.

So, as I announce to you that we have reached our financial goals of \$2.2MM for the first stage of the Campaign, I also announce the opening of a second stage for the Campaign, with the need to raise additional funds – perhaps \$ 500,000, perhaps more. This will enable the Master Planning Committee to proceed to realize the renovations to the Hall as we have presented them to you in the renderings and during discussions, without having to do away with the most attractive features of that concept. The dedication and devotion of all who have pledged or donated to enable us to get to this point is deeply appreciated. And, of course, the punctual manner in which all have delivered. As we embark on this second phase – and more details will be forthcoming in the near future – we look to increase the participation in the undertaking to at least eighty percent of the Community. We hope that you will all continue to support the Campaign and the Master Plan as you have up to this point so that our renovation will be something we can all be proud of. Elias N. Kulukundis

Buildings & Grounds

We continue make essential repairs and initiate maintenance programs throughout our buildings. During this period, we are undergoing a major energy savings program, facility wide, at Stamford Athletic Club. New LED lighting will be retrofit throughout. That work is currently under way. This retrofit includes optimizing the operation of three rooftop heating and ventilating units. The rebates and incentives offered by Ever-source, our local utility provider, make this a very inviting process with a short-term payback. A new skylight was installed over they gym's upper roof, replacing an old leaking one. The skylight leakage over the basketball court has finally been resolved; the issue was alignment related. The motor in our large commercial dryer has been replaced, saving us the need (and cost) to replace the dryer entirely. We will be scheduling proactive maintenance to include vacuuming the lint line periodically. Electrical wiring issues over the men's locker room ceiling have been corrected. Potholes throughout the parking areas and drive-ways were cold patched at the end of winter. This is a temporary fix. We do not want to invest money in new roadway work prior to heavy construction work on campus. Phase I of our master plan for the church is beginning this month and will continue for approximately three months. The start of Phase II (the entire non-church portion of the building) will begin following the completion of Phase I at summer's end. LET THE BEAUTIFICATION BEGIN. Contact: Peter Licopantis, pglydl3@optonline.net

MINISTRIES

Philoptochos Social

Last Meeting of Church Year

Thursday, June 1, 7pm

Open to all Ladies of the Parish

Prayer of the Month

From the glorious worship of Pascha/Easter, the following hymn is the Kontakion, one of the oldest forms of poetry in the Orthodox Church. The choir sings it every Sunday until Ascension:

Εἰ καὶ ἐν τάφῳ κατήλθες ἀθάνατε, ἀλλὰ τοῦ Ἄδου καθεῖλες τὴν δύναμιν, καὶ ἀνέστης ὡς νικητὴς, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, γυναιξὶ Μυροφόροις φθεγγόμενος· Χαίρετε, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις εἰρήνην δωρούμενος, ὁ τοῖς πεσοῦσι παρέχων ἀνάστασιν.
Although you descended into the grave, O Immortal One, you destroyed the power of Hades. And you arose as victor, O Christ our God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, “Hail!” and granting peace to your Apostles, since you also grant resurrection to the fallen!

Did You Know?

40 Day Memorials for our departed loved ones come from the life of Jesus Christ who ascended to heaven 40 days after his Resurrection with his new, risen body. Hence we pray for ourselves and for the departed on this day. Those who study practices of grief today have noted that, around a month or so following death, most if not all of the well-intentioned support of family and friends disappears. This makes our 40-day practice even more meaningful: we acknowledge that our mourning takes time, and that even our most personal losses occur within a community of faith that our Lord specifically designed to share our sorrow and pain with others in love.

Great Feast of Ascension

We will observe the Great Feast of the Ascension of our Lord on Thursday, May 25. As usual, we are invited to the neighboring parish of the Church of Our Savior (2195 Westchester Avenue East, Rye NY) since this is their patronal Feast, according the following schedule:

- Wed, May 24 – Great Vespers 7 pm, with area clergy and parishes, followed by a festal reception
- Thu, May 25 – Orthros 8:30 am, Liturgy 9:30 am, followed by a festal reception.

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017 • 10:00AM

**Outdoor Liturgy at Cove Park Pavilion
to Celebrate 60 Anniversary of the
“Opening of the Doors” / Θυρανοίξια
of the Current Church Building**

Barbecue – Games for the Family – Details to Follow

Office Hours

As we work our way over time to reorganize the office to continue serving you and the public, here are the posted office hours this month:

Monday. 8:45am – 5 pm
Tuesday. 8:45 am – 6 pm
Wednesday. 8:45 am – 3 pm
Thursday. 8:45 am – 6 pm
Friday. 8:45 am – 5 pm
Saturday & Sunday. closed

For all non-emergency needs, feel free to leave a voice message through the main office phone number when no one answers (203-348-4216) or send an email to

- Fr. Harry (frharry@archangelsgoc.org)
- Steve (steve@archangelsgoc.org)
- Basil (basil@archangelsgoc.org), or
- Ritta (office@archangelsgoc.org).

For all emergencies, feel free to contact Fr. Harry at home 203-504-2689.

Adult Education

Orthodoxy 101 concludes on Monday, May 15, with a Pot-Luck dinner at 6:30 pm – bring your favorite main dish, side dish, salad or dessert. Please contact Penny Nanos to make a reservation, and tell her what you can bring: 203-322-8459 or pennynanos@gmail.com.

Baptism Class for all parents & godparents will next take place on Sunday, June 25, at 3 pm. Please arrange your own childcare to give your undivided attention to learning about genuine faith in Jesus Christ, raising children in the Church today, and the meaning and development of Baptism, Chrismation & Eucharist (Communion) in the Bible and the Orthodox Tradition.



Fr. Harry teaches about the Divine Liturgy (i.e., "Teaching Liturgy") on Lazarus Saturday (4/8).



Parishioners young and old gather in the hall to plait palms on Lazarus Saturday following divine liturgy (4/8).

Memorial Prayers at Cemeteries

Since he will be on Pilgrimage in Russia over Memorial Day weekend, Fr. Harry will visit the following area Cemeteries on Saturday, May 20, according to the following schedule:

- 9:00 am — St. John's (Darien)
- 9:30 am – Woodland
- 11:00 am — Fairfield Memorial
- 12:30 pm – Queen of Peace
- 1:00 pm — Putnam (Greenwich)

Please bring a sheet of paper or notecard with the first names of deceased family and friends (Orthodox & non-Orthodox).

Kali Parea Seniors

Xristos Anesti!

The Kali Parea Seniors offer our deepest condolences to our beloved Jane Vorvis who passed during Holy Week. She was a part of the fabric of the Seniors and always enjoyed our meetings thoroughly. She will be dearly missed. We also offer our deep condolences for the passing of Marie Carlucci who also was a long time member of Seniors. Our next luncheon meeting is this Wednesday, May 10th in the church hall. We look forward to seeing you! Contact: Pam Koutroubis, pamelak2145@gmail.com.



Children process around the church with palm branches at the Great Entrance on Palm Sunday on April 9.



Greek School teacher Ria Athanasiou poses for a photo with her enthusiastic and loving kids.



Students in the Greek School write letters of thanks to Interim Director Anna Lempesi and teachers for their work.

Ladies Philoptochos Society

The final meeting of the ecclesiastic year will take place on Thursday, June 1st at 7 p.m. Please note that this is a change from our normal meeting date and will be a social event. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend and learn more about our chapter's philanthropic work and some preliminary plans for the 2017-18 year. We will also announce next year's officers. The Philoptochos board members for 2017-18 are Eugenia Zavras, Marion Vanson, Maryanne Kardaris, Lara Paschalidis, Pauline Galuris, Diane Sierpina, Cindy Mixcus, DeeDee Aivalis, Marietta Morelli, Debbie Nanos and Penny Nanos. Thank you to Mollie Sotire and Vicki Kyriakos for their years of service on the board. Collections from the Good Friday tray and a donation from Debbie and Paul Nanos will enable us to contribute \$1,000 to Greek relief. At our April and May meetings, our members approved donations to the new Hospice House opening in Stamford, nuns in Greece who run a hospital for women, the Christian Appalachian Project supporting poor families in that region and a deaf Greek American high school student for college supplies. Our chapter will start a knitting project this summer to make shawls for cancer patients. The annual spring ladies luncheon on April 29th at the Long Ridge Tavern was a great success. It was wonderful to see women of all generations attending, including many mothers and daughters. Contact: Marion Vanson, 914-234-9420.

Church School

The Church School program would like to offer our deepest thanks to families for making this year's Good Friday Retreat our most successful one yet with approximately 60 children in attendance! Thank you to all teachers, parent and teen volunteers who helped run the varied learning stations! And a very special thank you to our Ladies Philoptochos for catering such a beautiful Lenten luncheon for adults and children. It was truly moving to see so many families in fellowship and communion on such a sacred day. Our program would like to announce that we are engaging in a special project to commemorate the memory of our beloved Jane Vorvis. This school-wide project



A wonderful gift package is prepared for Anna Lempesi for her innovative and delightful work with the March 25 Celebrations.



Hope/Joy kids Julia Nanos, Maria Olga Athanasiades, Alex Valassis and Tommy Nanos stock shelves at the Fairfield County Food Bank on Holy Wednesday (4/12).



Mr. Steve offers a mini-lesson to the youth on thankfulness to close the event.

will provide students with a tangible outlet for their grief and offer reflection for Jane's legacy of service to the Church and its children. Our Church School commencement ceremony will be held during the outdoor liturgy at Cove Island Park on June 11, 2017. Teachers and students will receive tokens of appreciation for their participation in our program. Also, in the spirit of Teacher Appreciation Week (May 8-12) – please join me in thanking all Church School teachers for their devotion in volunteering to teach our children about our faith and walk with them on their spiritual journey. We are so very blessed to have you. We will set up a table with cards and crafts that students can design offering thanks to their Church School teachers during Coffee Hour. Contact: Dr. Evelyn Biliias Lolis, ebiliias@aol.com

Greek School

Isn't it unbelievable that the end of the Greek school year is around the corner!!! This was a wonderful year with many projects and great progress for our students. An incredible moment for all the teachers was students' appreciation cards and gifts that made us feel so special!

It is a tradition to celebrate the end of the Greek school year in a special way and this year we are going to have a party at Chelsea Piers. It will be Tuesday, May 23rd, from 4pm – 7:30pm. Our children will have fun with trampolines, rock climbing and sports activities on the fields. The younger ones can use the nursery room for free with parent supervision. At the end of the party students will have dinner in the All Star Café, compliments of our PTA. Contacts: Rebecca Kelesidis, Rebecca@Kelesidis.com or Anna Lempesi, ann.lempesi@gmail.com

Little Angels

As the year winds down, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our ministry and its importance in our church community. Six or seven years ago there were few infants, toddlers and preschool-age children attending church regularly



Ilias Paschalidis has his hands full stocking shelves at the Food Bank (4/12).

at Archangels. Since then, there has been a veritable explosion of children, and we witness this every Sunday in the pews, in the communion lines, in the preschool Sunday School classrooms. Little Angels was formed about five years ago to enhance the experience of these smallest children in the community and in our life of faith. An incredible thing happened. Children formed friendships, parents bonded, and young families were woven into the fabric of our church. I have done what I could, and I am grateful to see how far we have come. I write to introduce our new ministry leader, Vasso Spanos, who has



Fr. Harry reenacts the Last Supper with children during the Good Friday Retreat on April 14.



Church School Director Dr. Evelyn Lolis leads a hands-on craft session at the Good Friday Retreat (4/14).



Presvytera Kerry enthusiastically engages children in a teaching lesson during the Retreat (4/14).



Penny Nanos teaches how to make "Lazaropita" (Lazarus bread), including a finishing touch of cinnamon.



GOYAn Marina Marianthopoulos helps younger ones make crafts (4/14).



It took many hands and several hours for the Kouvouklion (symbolic tomb of Christ) to be decorated (4/14)



During the Unnailing Service (Apokathilosis) following the Good Friday Retreat, Fr. Harry has children help him wrap the icon of the body of Christ (4/14)



Over 40 children and their parents diligently hunt for Easter eggs on our front lawn on Easter Sunday, April 16, following Agape Vespers.

two young children of her own, Penny, 3, and Theodora (newly-illuminated), 5 months, and who has agreed to steer our ministry into the future. Vasso has been my right hand in the last year or two, and given generously of herself in planning and executing events for Little Angels. I hope many young parents can give her the support she will need in order to continue the valuable work of this ministry. Little Angels seeks to welcome all families with young children into the church community, provides programs suitable to infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and thoughtfully engages parents about the spirituality of their work in raising children. Please help this ministry to continue to grow and thrive! Welcome, Vasso! It has been an honor for me to serve the community in this way! Signing off, Anastasia Valassis. Contact: Anastasia Valassis, avalassis@gmail.com.

HOPE/JOY

On Wednesday, April 12th, children, parents, and grandparents of Hope & Joy visited the Lower Fairfield County Food Bank located at 461 Glenbrook Road in Stamford. Executive Director Kate Lombardo addressed the group about the importance of our giving and had 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, this was 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. After the activity, some returned to Church at 4:00 for the afternoon Holy Unction service. On Easter Sunday, children participated in an Easter egg hunt on the front lawn of our Church and the Easter Bunny made a special visit. Christos Anesti! Chris and Luisa Nanos, cnanos@optonline.net or 203-249-7403



Chris Nanos, Fr. Harry, and Easter bunny pose for the camera as children and parents prepare for the annual children's Easter Egg Hunt (4/16).

GOYA

Christ is Risen! We started off the month with the regional Lenten Retreat at Holy Trinity in Waterbury on Sunday, April 2nd. Nearly 60 were in attendance! It was fun for the teens and they made connections about unplugging from "the world" and "plugging in" to God. As we approached Holy Week, the teens got together on Lazarus Saturday to clean the church and plait palms. Later in the week several GOYAns helped co-lead sessions at the children's Good Friday Retreat – a beautiful way for them to give back to the community. Steve also led a teaching session about the Crucifixion and it's personal significance. Finally, on Saturday April 29, we joined Annunciation GOYA at New Covenant House soup kitchen to serve food to those in want.



Pastoral Assistant Steve Sarigianis stands with Theophani Damianakis during their marriage service at Holy Cross Chapel in Boston on Saturday, April 29.



Steve's grandfather (Fr. Steven Sarigianis) crowns the couple during the service (4/29).



The newlyweds and their bridal party celebrate with a champagne toast in the limo following en route to the reception (4/29).

Now in May, we have the following events to look forward to:

- Sun. May 21 ~ 9/11 Memorial Trip - RSVP to Diane ASAP
- Fri-Sun May 26-28 ~ DAD Olympics at Suffolk County College on Long Island
- Sun June 5 ~ Final Year Meeting in Library: elections, lunch, games
- Sun. June 11 ~ Outdoor Liturgy & Picnic at Cove Park Pavilion: 10am

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

AYA (Young Adults)

Xristos Anesti!

The young adult Koinonia group suspended meetings in the weeks surrounding Holy Week and Easter. Meetings are held in relaxed settings, and provide an atmosphere for socialization as

well as spiritual growth & exportation. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday May, 22nd, in the library. Contact: Steve, at steve@archangelsgoc.org or 203-623-5896

Greek Language Classes for Adults

The world is shrinking with globalization and the internet! Now is a great time for adults to learn modern Greek. We are blessed to have an excellent instructor in Dr. Eugenia Zavras, a biology Professor at Fairfield University 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.

PARISH NEWS

Chrismation

Michael Jackson, on Holy Saturday April 15, with sponsors John & Georgette Piponidis.

Funerals

Elaine Vitulli, on Thursday April 6, who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, April 2 at 75 years old.

Marie Carlucci, on Holy Thursday, April 13, who fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, April 10 at 70 years old.

Jane Vorvis, on Holy Saturday, April 15, who fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, April 11 at 91 years old.

Graduations

Please submit names of all graduates from High School, Technical School, College, and Graduate School, along with degree earned, honors received, and future plans for further education or work. Contact: Ritta Haralabidis at 203-348-4216 or office@archangelsgoc.org.

Wedding

Steven Sarigianis to *Theophani Damianakis*, on Saturday, April 29, at Holy Cross Chapel in Brookline, MA (seminary).

AREA EVENTS

Greek Festivals

Holy Trinity in Waterbury – May 11-14

St. George Church in New Britain (301 W. Main St.) – May 26-28

St. George Cathedral in Hartford (433 Fairfield Ave.) – June 1-4

Annunciation Church in Stamford – June 1-4

Prophet Elias Church in Yonkers, NY (15 LeRoy Ave) – June 9-11

Assumption Church in Danbury (30 Clapboard Ridge Rod) – June 9-11

Stamford Athletic Club @ the Greek Cultural Center

The contest boxes are set up! Anyone can drop their name into one or all the boxes at the front desk for a chance to win FREE stuff from our wonderful SAC vendors like Take Me to the Water, At Your Best Fitness, High Rise Basketball, and Stamford Massage. Win prizes like FREE swim lessons, personal training, massages, and basketball sessions! The boxes will be set up for the remainder of May, but drop your name in a box today. One

entry per person please. Winners will be announced in early June. It is still a great time to sign up for swim lessons before the summer comes and the outdoor pools open. Always remember our referral program: FREE month for anyone who refers someone that becomes a new member! High Rise Basketball has added a summer basketball clinic to SAC schedule. For more information about these programs and others, stop by the front desk. Thanks for your patronage of SAC! Contact: Jeff Kaminski, General Manager 203-357-7555, jeff@sacteam.com



**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 Cholakis, William Grosso, Timothy Hartch, James W. Kambas, George Khouri, Peter Licopantis, Penny Nanos, Chris A. Nanos, Chris P. Nanos, George Paparis, Thomas Passios, Gigi Perimenis, Katie Perimenis, Jane Dragonas Perkins, R. J. Vassiliou, Basil N. Vanech

The Capital Campaign:

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

The Data (as of May 1, 2017):

Total Commitments\$2,208,119
Total Commitments Paid\$1,994,809
Total Number of Households 154

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

\$2,208,119



The Contributors (as of May 1, 2017):

PLEDGES

Anonymus (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 Cholakis and Teresa Cassidy
Helen Chochos
James W. and Margaret Cocolis
Glenn and Angie Colarossi
Harry Condos
Savet Constantine
Nicholas Daifotis
Dr. James and Deborah Damascus
Gregg and Mary Beth 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 Litivis
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 Paparis
Father Harry and Presbyter Pappas
Peter and Joan Paspalis
Kimon and Julie Passios
Tom and Nike Passios
John and Megan Pasvankias
George and Panaghiota Patsis
George and Jane Perkins
Katie Perimenis
Dr. Peter and Carmen Perimenis
Stefanos and Stamatia Petsas
Father George and Presbyter Poulos
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Peter and Geri Poulos
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Konstantinos and Bonnie Spetsaris
Helen Stamatidis
Evan and Roulia Stergiannis

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Demetrios and Leda Tsapralis
Katina and Margaret Tsirantonakis
Alkiviadis and Matoula Valassis
Soulafrada Valassis
Dr. Steven and Anastasia Valassis
Steven and Antonia Valassis
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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
AHEPA Chapter No. 99
Anonymous (3)
Peter and Christine Antipas
Evangelos Aposporis and
Victoria De Melo Paz
Archangels Greek School P. T. O.
Maria Olga Athanasiadis
Mary Louise Bennett
Dean Bouloukos
Peter Cholakis and Teresa Cassidy
Helen Chagaris
Jeanette Chagaris
James and Marge Cocolis
Popi Demakos
Christie Demetrios
George and Cheryl Demetrios and Family
Spencer and Catherine Demetrios and Family
Katherine Ferentinos
George and Pauline Galuris
Peter Galuris
Peter and Soulafrada Hantes
Chris and Athena Harisis
Tim and Sophia Hartch
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Dr. Anna Karidas
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Basile Katsikis
Annie Konidaris
Janie Konidaris

John Konidaris
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Natalie Kulukundis
Christina Kyriakiou
Nick and Vicki Kyriakos
Stacy and John Louizos
John and Joella Lykouratos
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Sonia Sotire Malloy
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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 Evanthia Panulas
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Father Harry and Kerry Pappas
Kimon and Julie Passios
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Nancy Savaides
Aristotle Sentementes
Nestor Sgourous
Ken and Maria Shepard
Bob and Ann Simon
Aggie and Molly Sotire
Jim and Freda Stanton
Dr. Steven and Anastasia Valassis
Dennis and Marion Vanson
John and Medina Vasily
Evangelos and Denise Venturas
Stephanie-Eva Venturas
Joanne Verses
Helene and Manoucher Yekta

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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Peter and Christine Antipas

Lisa Antone
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