

The Herald

Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Archangels • 1527 Bedford St., Stamford, CT 06905 September 2017

Patriarchal Message for Feast of the Indiction (Ecclesiastical New Year) & Day of Protection for the Environment (Sept 1)

Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord,

With God's grace, today we enter the new ecclesiastical year, even as we continue to provide witness "through him who loved us" (Romans 8:38) and "give an account for the hope that lies in us" (1 Peter 3.15), living in the Church, in Christ and according to Christ, who promised to be with us "all the days of our life, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Twenty-eight years have passed since the synodal decree of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to establish the Feast of the Indiction as the "Day of Protection for the Environment," when we offer prayers and supplications at the sacred Center of Orthodoxy "for all creation." The relevant patriarchal encyclical (September 1, 1989) invited all Orthodox and other Christian faithful on this day to lift up prayers of thanksgiving to the Creator of all for "the great gift of Creation" along with petitions for its preservation.

We express our joy and satisfaction for the broad reception and fruitful influence of this initiative by the Church of Constantinople. We demonstrated the spiritual roots of the ecological crisis as well as the need to repent and prioritize the values of contemporary humankind. We affirmed that the exploitation and destruction of creation constitute a perversion and distortion of the Christian ethos, rather than the inevitable consequence of the biblical command to "increase and multiply" (Genesis 1.22), but also that our anti-ecological conduct is an offense to the Creator and a transgression of his commandments, ultimately working against the authentic destiny of the human person. There cannot be any sustainable development at the expense of spiritual values and the natural environment.

The Holy and Great Church of Christ has championed and continues to champion the eco-friendly dynamic of our Orthodox faith, emphasizing the Eucharistic purpose of creation, the response of the faithful as "priest" of creation in an effort to offer it unceasingly to the Creator of all, as well as the principle of asceticism as the response to the modern sense of gratification. Indeed, respect for creation belongs to the very core of our Orthodox tradition.

We are especially disturbed by the fact that, while the ecological crisis is constantly escalating, in the name of financial growth and technolog-

ical development, humanity has become oblivious to the global appeals for radical change in our attitude toward creation. It is obvious that the resulting deformation and devastation of the natural environment is a direct consequence of a specific model of economic progress, which is nevertheless indifferent to its ecological repercussions. The short-term benefits dictated by the rise of living standards in some parts of the world simply camouflage the irrationality of abuse and conquest of creation. Corporate business that does not respect the planet as our common home cannot be sanctioned as business at all. The contemporary unrestrained commerce of globalization goes hand-in-hand with the spectacular development of science and technology, which despite manifold advantages is also accompanied by an arrogance over and abuse of nature. Modern man knows this very well, but acts as if he is entirely unaware. We know that nature is not restored and renewed endlessly; yet we ignore the negative implications of "trading" in the environment. This explosive combination of unrestrained commerce and science – that is to say, the limitless confidence in the power of science and technology - merely increases the risks threatening the integrity of creation and humankind.

The Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church spelled out with wisdom and clarity the dangers of "autonomizing economy" or separating economy from the vital needs of humanity that are only served within a sustainable environment. Instead, it proposed an economy "founded on the principles of the Gospel"¹ in order to address the modern ecological challenge "on the basis of the principles of the Christian tradition."² In response to the threats of our age, the tradition of the Church demands "a radical change of attitude and conduct"; in response to the ecological crisis, it proposes a spirit of asceticism, "frugality and abstinence"³; in response to our "greed,"⁴ it calls for "the deification of our needs and attitude of acquisition."⁵ The Holy and Great Council also emphatically referred to the "social dimensions and tragic consequences of destroying the natural environment."⁶

Therefore, echoing the decisions of this Council, we too underline through this encyclical the close connection between ecological and social issues, as well as their common roots that lie in the "imprudent heart" that is fallen and sinful as well as in the inappropriate use of our God-given values," by spiritual and ethical damage. When material

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possessions dominate our heart and mind, then our attitude toward our fellow human beings and toward creation inevitably becomes possessive and abusive. In biblical terms, the "bad tree" always "produces evil fruit." (Matthew 7.17) Furthermore, by extension, we would underline that respecting creation and other people share the same spiritual source and origin, namely our renewal in Christ and spiritual freedom. Just as environmental destruction is related to social injustice, so too an ecofriendly attitude is inseparable from social solidarity.

What also becomes apparent is that the solution to the multi-faceted contemporary human crisis – namely, the crisis facing human culture and the natural environment – demands a multi-dimensional mobilization and joint effort. Much as every other vital problem, the underlying and interconnected ecological and social crisis cannot possibly be addressed without inter-Christian and inter-religious collaboration. Therefore, dialogue becomes the fertile ground for promoting existing ecofriendly and social traditions in order to stimulate environmental and communal discussion, while at the same time initiating a constructive criticism of progress understood exclusively in technological and economic terms at the expense of creation and civilization.

In closing, we once again reiterate the inseparable nature of respecting creation and humanity, and we call upon all people of good will to undertake the good struggle for the protection of the natural environment and the establishment of solidarity. May the Lord and giver of all good things, through the intercessions of the all-blessed Mother of God, grant all of you "a burning within your hearts for all creation"⁷ and "a stirring of love and good works." (Hebrews 10.24)

† Bartholomew of Constantinople Your fervent supplicant before God

3 "The Mission of the Orthodox Church in the Contemporary World," paragraph 10.

ADMINISTRATION

Parish Council

The Council welcomed the fifth of many Ministry presenters at its most recent meeting - Eugenia Zavras on behalf of Philoptochos. This initiative is designed to get to know our ministries better in order to support them better. Helping our ministries begins with understanding them. Eugenia gave the group a better understanding of Philoptochos and talked us through her ministry's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. That was followed by Q&A with Council members. We will look to engage one ministry per month like this throughout the year. At the same meeting we addressed a very critical item - the HVAC shortfall in the church. We voted to approve the work necessary to get past this major issue (details can be found in this month's Master Planning article). It will allow us to get back on track toward completing Part 1 of the Master Plan. Separately, we continue to work with Father Harry to define the church office's job descriptions and working hours. Our aim is to staff the office, within budget, to serve the parish's needs. We will participate in an Archangels leadership retreat on October 20th & 21st. It will include all Council members along with ministry leaders more broadly. Aims include fellowship, strategy, leadership development and spiritual growth. Note, as GreekFest approaches, raffle tickets are available in the church office. Council members have committed to selling or personally purchasing 10 tickets each, for a total of 150 tickets. This provides a good start, but it is just a start. We need everyone involved! Please do your part to make this year's festival a success. Our September meeting date has been moved to the 26th to better accommodate GreekFest setup. Contact: Jason Konidaris, jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Treasurer's Report

For 2017 year to date (through July 2017), revenues were \$432,000 with expenses of \$404,000 resulting in an operating surplus of \$28,000 year to date. Approximately 70% of revenues have come from Stewardship donations and approxi-

mately 10% have come from Other Donations. Please be sure to follow through on your Stewardship pledge. Again, thank you! Contact: Elias Lolis, 203-569-3784

Online Donations

As previously reported, online donations can be made through our church website www.archangelsgoc.org, where you are able to make one-time or recurring contributions. Please make sure to include a note in the "special instructions" field if you would like to direct your donation for a specific purpose or ministry. Donations can be made by bank account or credit card and are processed securely via PayPal, one of the largest and most trusted online payment processors. However, you do not need to have a PayPal account to make online donations. You can expect to see improvements and refinements to this capability over time, including the ability to more easily direct your donation to a particular ministry and provide online payment options for ministry programming (e.g. Greek School) and social gatherings (e.g. Mardi Gras, GreekFest). Contact: George Nanos, nanos203@gmail.com



Removal of old air ducts took place throughout the month of August.

¹ Encyclical of the Holy and Great Council, paragraph 15.

² Encyclical, paragraph 10.

^{4 &}quot;The Mission," paragraph 10.

⁵ Encyclical, paragraph 14.

⁶ Encyclical, paragraph 14.

⁷ Isaac the Syrian, Ascetical Treatises, Homily 81.

Stewardship Report

We are pleased to report that the Church received over \$58,000 in Stewardship gifts during the month of July, bringing the yearto-date Stewardship gift total to \$321,000. The comparable figures from last year were \$18,000 for July and \$280,000 for the seven months through July. The three reasons for the strong month of July were: (i) a few individuals/families made large gifts in July, (ii) certain stewards, who historically have given later in the year, gave earlier this year in order to help the Church fund its operations during the historically slower summer months, and (iii) the mailing of the Stewardship giving statements and letters in July prompted a number of new and long-time parishioners to make gifts to the Church. The strong inflow in July means that the Church has a reasonably healthy cash balance at present and we are hopeful that the positive impact of the quarterly giving statements will carry through for the remainder of 2017. We are very appreciative that the Church of the Archangels is blessed with many generous and cheerful givers. Contact: Tim Hartch, at timhartch1@outlook.com

Additional 2017 Stewards (as of August 25, 2017)

Mrs. Evangline Adams Mr. & Mrs. John-Michael Caloyeras Thalia L Cardel Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Giannos Ritta Haralabidis Mr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Kakouros Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Makrides Mr. Perikles Sentementes Mr. & Mrs. Evans Stergianis Mr. & Mrs. Alkaviadis Valassis Ms. Barbara Varunes Mr. & Mrs. John Ventsias Ms. Angelica Verses

Master Planning

Recall, work on Part 1 (the church) was halted in July to address a critical shortfall - the church's air distribution. Its HVAC ductwork had degraded beyond repair. We found it necessary to cut into the concrete floor and the walls to assess and attempt to solve the issue. Working closely with our architect, contractor, engineer, and consultants, it was resolved that we abandon our existing airway infrastructure (ductwork, diffusers, registers, grilles) in favor of a rebuild. Note, the majority of our mechanical and electrical equipment (air handler, condenser, coils, dampers) is sound. Given the magnitude of the work it was important to source multiple bids, which we did.

In plain English - solving this problem will cost a lot of money close to \$300,000 (approximately \$150k for the HVAC build, split system heat pumps, piping, and insulation + approximately \$120k in demolition and restoration + approximately \$20k in architectural, engineering, and consulting fees). To fully appreciate the magnitude of this near-\$300k problem, our total church refurbishment was slated to cost \$330,000. Although painful, this is the correct path to go about solving a seemingly longstanding issue. Our committee agreed on this internally with the support of all professionals involved. We then presented the case to the Parish Council on August 29th, seeking approval to fund and pursue this work. Having received that approval and funding from the Capital Campaign, we will carry on with this essential item. Completing it will then allow us to pursue the remainder of Part 1 to completion.

The downside to all of this is obvious – time and expense. The upside is that we'll finally conquer the illusive temperature

issues we experience in the church throughout the year. We owe this to ourselves as parishioners for the decades ahead. It is clear that Part 1 work will now extend into early winter. Again, we share your frustration in not having the church available to us sooner. Our work has never been easy. We do not expect that to change. But we fully expect to succeed. When we do succeed we look forward to having:

- Narthex fully renovated floors and ceiling, lighting, paint, and trim
- Brides Room renovated along with the addition of a separate small bathroom for parishioners
- Cry Room for parents and babies who may need a quiet break or a diaper change
- Nave New paint and carpet throughout. Upgraded lighting in certain areas. Reconfigured pews and handicapped-accessible spaces
- Choir Loft tidied up and new carpeting installed
- Altar New flooring and paint
- Sacristy and Vestry fully renovated
- Proper HVAC throughout

Thank you to all who have contributed or continue to contribute to the Capital Campaign.

Contact: Jason Konidaris, jason.konidaris@yale.edu



The church awaits installation of new air ducts in the fall.

Buildings & Grounds

At this time we are in the process of replacing the church's boiler which is long past its useful life. The new unit has a high efficiency rating of 94%. It will serve all areas of the church, hall and classrooms. Previously there was a separate boiler for the second-floor classrooms. The new unit will serve both floors. In addition to improved operating efficiencies, were are happy to report having secured \$ 8,000.00 in efficiency rebates. In the Greek Cultural Center, we recently replaced the air handler serving the men's locker rooms. Currently we are performing due diligence on the building's various roofs and securing bids for essential repairs/replacements. These would be costly projects requiring careful consideration of the most qualified contractors to establish the scope of work. We have made progress in understanding leak issues related to the women's showers. We are close to a decision on repairs. These showers will be temporarily closed for a few days in order to make the necessary repairs. Please look to gym management for advance notice. Contact: Peter Licopantis, pglydl3@optonline.net

ANNUAL ARCHANGELS GREEKFEST!

Thursday, September 21st to Sunday, September 24th

Volunteers of All Ages Needed Sign up Today to Help Cook, Bake, Set-up, Serve and Clean-up

Sign-Up Posters in Church Hall

Online: See link below Church Hall: sign-up sheet near Festival poster Contact Diane Sierpina at sierpina@yahoo.com

Baking for GreekFest!

Spanakopita: Greek Cultural Center Kitchen Gregg & MaryBeth Demetros Sat, Sept 2nd, 9am – 1pm

Nitsa's Koulourakia: Greek Cultural Center Kitchen

Helen (Nitsa) Chagaris

Sat, Sept 9th, 9am – 12 noon

Consider donating to help defray some of our many expenses. You can do so by going online to the church's website,

www.archangelsgoc.org, and finding the Festival Page. Or, visit

Thank you to all for all of your giving in every way! It means so

much. Sincerely, Co-Chairs Margaret and Steve Fornaciari and

the Festival Committee. Contact: Margaret Fornaciari,

the church hall and see the donations poster by the entrance.

GreekFest Around the Corner – Volunteers Needed!

Sell & purchase raffle tickets:

zamsfam@optonline.net

https://go.rallyup.com/archangels-raffle

Dearest Parishioners:

Our festival allows us to share our heritage, our traditions, our faith, and our love for food and dance with one another, our neighbors, and the broader community.

This is our largest, annual fundraiser and we are counting on everyone, so please help your community by doing three things:

Volunteer: by signing up online:

www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.signup&urlid=4090d4 fa5a62da3fb6-archangels&view=standard

Or print a volunteer registration form and return by email to Diane or Vicki or drop off at church.

Volunteer Opportunities for the Greek Festival

Saturday, Sept. 16 – Tables & Station Set-up: 12 to 5 pm.

Sunday, Sept. 17 – Tables & Station Set-up: 12 to 5 pm.

Monday, Sept. 18 – Set-up & Decorations: 5 to 8 pm.

Tuesday, Sept. 19 – Set-up & Decorations: 5 to 8 pm.

Wednesday, Sept. 20 – Set-up & Decorations: 5 to 8 pm.

Thursday, Sept. 21 – 5 to 10 pm (Volunteers begin to arrive 4:30 p.m.) Shifts: 4:30-7:30 pm, and 7:30-10 pm

Kitchen, Hot-Food Servers, Raffle Ticket sales, Cashiers, Pastries, Coffee/Frappe, Loukoumades, Take Out, Greek Agora, Servers, Table Clearing, Bar, Security, Floaters

Friday, Sept. 23 – 5 to 11 pm (Volunteers begin to arrive 4:30 pm.) Shifts: 4:30-8 pm, and 8-11 pm

Kitchen, Hot-Food Servers, Raffle Ticket sales, Cashiers, Pastries, Coffee/Frappe, Loukoumades, Take Out, Greek Agora, Servers, Table Clearing, Bar, Security, Floaters for the Greek Festival Saturday, Sept. 24 – 12 noon to 11 pm (Volunteers begin to

arrive 11 am) Shifts: 11 am-3 pm, 3-7 pm, & 7-11 pm

Kitchen, Hot-Food Servers, Raffle Ticket sales, Cashiers, Pastries, Coffee/Frappe, Loukoumades, Take Out, Greek Agora, Servers, Table Clearing, Bar, Security, Floaters

Sunday, Sept. 25 – 12 noon to 7 pm (then from 7 pm on for clean-up) (Volunteers arrive at 11 am) Shifts: 11 am-3 pm, 3-7 pm until cleanup is finished

Kitchen, Hot-Food Servers, Raffle Ticket sales, Cashiers, Pastries, Coffee/Frappe, Loukoumades, Take Out, Greek Agora, Servers, Table Clearing, Bar, Security, Floaters

**Clean-up Crew (at least 20 additional people would make it easier for the rest of us all after an exhausting weekend!)

Help Support CreekFest 2017! Buy or Sell Raffle tickets!

Online: https://go.rallyup.com/archangels-raffle - or - In Person: contact Margaret, zamsfam@optonline.net

MINISTRIES



Over 40 parishioners and 10 GSC children attend Liturgy for the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (Aug. 15).

Sunday Worship in the Hall & Fellowship in the Cultural Center

Due to renovation of the church that will extend well into the Fall, we will continue worshipping in the Hall that has been so well adapted, using the furnishings from the church itself along with icons from Annunciation, our parish, and those kindly donated by different members. To accommodate more people after Labor Day when so many ministries resume, we will put more pews into the hall. With larger crowds during the school year, we will shift Coffee Hour into the Greek Cultural Center, beginning Sunday, Sept 10, and utilize the kitchen, with plenty of room for tables and chairs in the gym. *Remember that we resume regular hours for Sunday worship on Sept 10: Orthros* 8:45 am, Liturgy 10 am.

Parish Ministry Focus – "Renewing Community"

With our Renovation Project under full swing this year, it is a golden opportunity for us to focus on how we can renew our sense of Christian community. American culture is centered upon individualism, competition, success, and accumulating wealth and security. The dynamic movement of Jesus Christ is centered upon persons in community, cooperation, faithfulness, and contributing to the common good of all. Renewing our sense of community will require genuine effort on the part of clergy, council, leadership in all ministries, and members. Stay tuned to see how this can be worked out during this new ecclesiastical year from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018.

Adult Education

• **Bible Study** – Will focus this year on the Old Testament Prophets who bore witness to God in ancient Israel, prepared the way for the coming of the Messiah (our Lord, Jesus Christ), and continue to speak to us today in a variety of



All enjoy a bountiful potluck brunch and warm fellowship in jubilant celebration of the Feast! (Aug. 15)

inspiring and challenging ways. Study will include the major Prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel & Daniel – along with selected minor Prophets – such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, Zechariah, Jonah & Malachi. No prior knowledge is needed. Open to all, including those who are not members of our church. Monday evening sessions begin on Sept 25. Contact: Fr. Harry

- Orthodoxy 101 Basic catechism (instruction) in the Christian faith will be offered again as a class if there is sufficient interest. Aside from this, there are digital recordings of the class from last year on soundcloud.com. Required of all adults preparing to join the Orthodox Church; open to all other interested adults. Contact: Fr. Harry
- Koinonia Small Group Study & Fellowship. Meetings dates and times TBA. Contact the leaders for more information.
- **§ Women:** Natalie Kulukundis will continue utilizing the book *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life.* The 10 week course for no more than 12 people, will start in October. Contact: natakulu@hotmail.com
- **§ Young Adults:** More info under AYA. Contact: steve@archangelsgoc.org
- **§ Married Couples:** Presvytera Kerry will inaugurate a group that meets once a month. Contact: pappaskk@msn.com
- **§ Men:** Fr. Harry will inaugurate this and will decide on frequency based upon those who are interested. Contact: hpappas@svots.edu
- Marriage Seminar Sat, Sep 16, @ Holy Trinity Church in Bridgeport. For all couples preparing for a wedding. Offered by the District, with professionally trained leaders who engage couples to learn about a faithful Christian marriage. Contact: Fr. Harry

- Moving Through Grief Ecumenical Grief Support Group offered by Rev. ReBecca Sala, Manager of Pastoral Care at Stamford Hospital, on Tuesdays 6-7:30 pm for 7 weeks starting Sept 12 @ Tully Health Center (32 Strawberry Court), in Conference Room A. Free & open to the public for all who have lost a loved one; full participation in all 7 weeks preferred. Contact: 203-276-7445 or rsala@stamhealth.org
- Orthodoxy in America Lecture Tue, Sep 26, 7 pm @ Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus (12th Floor Lounge, Lowenstein Center, 113 West 60th Street, NYC). Topic: "Orthodoxy in America and America's Orthodoxies", by Dr. David Bentley Hart, Research Professor at Notre Dame. Reception to follow. Register by Sep 20: https://www.fordham.edu/info/23001/. Contact: Fr. Harry
- Orthodoxy Education Day Sat, Oct 7 @ St. Vladimir's Seminary (575 Scarsdale Road, Crestwood, NY). Theme: "Modern Martyrs: Christians of the Middle East and North Africa." Rev. Dr. George L. Parsenios, associate professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary and St. Vladimir's, will present the Keynote: "We live the Resurrection by Carrying the Cross: Suffering and Martyrdom in the New Testament." Schedule includes Liturgy 10 am, Keynote address, wide variety of ethnic foods, workshops, bookstore, activities for children. Contact: Fr. Harry

Ministry Fair

On Sunday, Sep 10, we will hold our 3rd annual Ministry Fair during Coffee Hour, though this time in the gym at the Greek Cultural Center (due to construction in the church). Each ministry or organization will show its purpose and work in tabletop displays creatively in order to educate, inspire, and encourage wider participation. Contact: Steve Sarigianis, steve@archangelsgoc.org

Kali Parea Seniors

Make sure to attend Liturgy on Sunday, September 10, when we celebrate the annual American feast of Grandparents! A special prayer will be offered with a cake to celebrate during Coffee Hour. The first meeting of the new ecclesiastical year will be Wednesday, September 13 at noon in the Greek Cultural Center gym. If you are not a member of the Kali Parea, contact us to get in on the fun! Contact: Pam Koutroubis, pamelak2145@gmail.com

Ladies Philoptochos Society

The Archangels Ladies Philoptochos Society will hold its first meeting of the new ecclesiastic year on Tuesday, Sept. 12th at 7 p.m. in the church hall. New members are welcome and we look forward to seeing our returning members as well. We will review the past year's activities and donations and make plans for the rest of 2017. This includes the Archangels feast day reception, Turkey Bingo and a holiday activity. Bring your ideas for philanthropic and community service contributions. Thank you to Cindy Mixcus and Marion Vanson for coordinating our first knitting project for charity. The knitting session took place on Sunday, Aug. 13th, with more than a dozen women participating. Knitting knowledge ranged from novice to expert and



A record number of Phanouropites (sweet breads) were baked in honor of St. Phanourios, 'the one who reveals' and brought to Liturgy on Sunday, Aug. 27 for his feast day.

everyone's enthusiasm and talents are greatly appreciated. Cindy, an expert knitter, was a patient teacher! Finished shawls will be gifts for parishioners who are shut-ins or hospitalized. Extra shawls will be donated to patients at the new Hospice Center in Stamford. The next knitting session is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 17th after church. If anyone is interested in participating in this knitting project, please inform Cindy or Marion. See you all on Sept. 12th. Contact: Eugenia Zavras, (203) 322-9561 or etz124@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry Back in Full Swing!

As August gives way to September and as summer gives way to fall, our community of faith begins the new ecclesiastical year together (Sept. 1). Our youth ministry will be in full swing once again with a resurgence of activity and energy across all of our programs. Our ministry leaders have worked hard in preparation for the new year and are ready to engage our children and families to grow deeper and stronger relationships with Jesus Christ and each other, connect them to the sacramental life of the church, learn and grow and have a ton of fun in doing so.

The youth ministry calendar for 2017-18 kicks off on *Sunday Sept. 10* with the first day of *Church School* and the fall *Min-istry Fair;* the latter will take place in the Cultural Center gym during coffee hour. This will be the 3rd annual fair. Table top displays of all our ministries will be placed prominently and centrally in the gym as you enter, and representatives of each ministry will be present to interact & field questions. Be sure to spend some extra time after Liturgy on the 10th to sign up and get connected, engage our ministry representatives, and learn more about our programs.

We look forward to a beautiful year of growth in faith, love and community with excitement and anticipation. Please visit our CCB page "Youth Ministry" for the full 2017-18 youth ministry calendar. In October, we will launch a new family ministry for gaming and activities in the Cultural Center gym; it will be open to children of all ages, so get ready for family fun on a monthly basis! If you have questions, suggestions, or comments with anything regarding youth ministry, don't hesitate to contact me. Good strength to all our students, parents and families in returning to school and fall schedules! - *Steve*

Church School

The Church School program is eager to welcome back children and families on Sunday, September 10th! We are excited to announce that we will be utilizing a brand-new curriculum this year as well as brand new books/materials. We plan to continue to diversify our ability to engage our children in faith-based education that is engaging and developmentally rich. An at-aglance calendar will be published shortly highlighting programmatic events as well as Sundays dedicated to Music Ministry and/or philanthropy projects. If you have yet to register your child please go to https://goo.gl/forms/18huQSC3L4bOm6oc2 or stop by during the ministry fair and complete a registration form in person.

Congratulations also to the faculty and children of our third annual Vacation Church School for a wonderful week of faithbased enrichment and fun for 21 campers! A very warm thank you to Kiriaki Yoranidis, Steve & Theophani Sarigianis, Natalie Koulukundis, Hannah Pappas and all who helped make this event successful.



Preschool Summer Campers making chocolate chip cookies with Ms. Kiriaki! (June 23)



Children pose for picture on the playground during Preschool Summer Camp (June 23).

Looking forward to deepening our relationships, growing in faith and fellowship, and celebrating the works of our children. To a wonderful year! Contact: Dr. Evelyn Bilias Lolis, ebilias@aol.com

Greek School

The new year with the Greek School is nearly here! The Greek School is excited to announce Anna Lempesi as the new full time Director for 2017-2018! We look forward to her continued leadership and thank her for her commitment to the program!

Registration for the school year is still open! Enroll online by visiting https://goo.gl/forms/K6x3BW9R3IwHCI312. For those who do not wish to register online and would prefer a traditional paper registration form please email ebilias@aol.com and one will be provided. Pre-K & Kindergarten will be held on Thursdays from 4:15pm to 6:15pm; all other levels will be held Mondays from 4:15pm to 6:15pm. Standard tuition is \$550 for Archangels parish members, and \$650 for non-members.

Congratulations also to the faculty and children of our summer Greek School Camp program for two beautiful weeks of cultural enrichment and fun for 18 campers! Thank you to our teachers Eleni Giagkos, Polina Anastos, and Glykeria Athanasiou, and admin helpers Steve Sarigianis and George Nanos for their tremendous efforts.

Our best wishes for great beginning of academic year and our deepest thanks for your continued support!

Contact: Anna Lempesi, ann.lempesi@gmail.com, Steve Sarigianis, steve@archangelsgoc.org

Little Angels

Sunday, September 10th is the last day to make donations for the Little Angels Diapers, Wipes, and Formula Drive benefiting Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center in Stamford. The drive will conclude on that date with a special lesson to our school children on the significance of helping needy families in our community. Afterwards, a photo will be taken of all the children at the donation bin in the lobby.

We also look forward to seeing everyone at the Ministry Fair on September 10th. The Little Angels will have a station set up with a special surprise for the children, so please be sure to stop by during coffee hour!

On October 7th, we invite all Little Angels families to Family Fun Night. Join us for pizza, snacks, games, crafts and ice cream at 4pm. The event will be held in the Clubhouse of 597 Westport Avenue Apartments in Norwalk. Address for driving directions: 597 Westport Ave., Norwalk, CT 06851

Contact: Vasso Spanos, bkarachris@gmail.com, or Rachel Jones, racheljones.cpa@gmail.com



Steve Sarigianis (center)and Natalie Kulukundis (left) and Hannah Pappas (right) teach a faith lesson during Vacation Church School (Aug. 10).



(Left to Right) Kiriaki Yoranides, Natalie Kulukundis, Steve and Theophani Sarigianis, and VCS children showing off their "Holy Spirit headbands," in connection to Pentecost (Aug. 8).



Children have fun 'playing house' at VCS (Aug. 9)

HOPE/JOY

The Hope & Joy ministry, for pre-K children through 6th grade, is designed to help young people learn more about their Orthodox faith, get to know their church friends better, and grow together in positive and spiritual ways. Please stop by our Hope & Joy booth at the Ministry Fair following Church services on September 10th, where we will highlight past & future events.

Also, we want to thank Chris & Luisa Nanos for their years of dedication & leadership of our Hope & Joy group. The new ministry heads will be Chris & Christine Nanos & Ruth Diamond.

Please remember to bring non-perishable food items to church each week to support the Lower Fairfield County Food Bank. As always, please feel free to contact us with ideas or questions. Contact: Ruth Diamond, rh67@cornell.edu

GOYA

The GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) ministry is open to all 12-18 year olds (7th-12th graders) in the church. We are excited to begin the new year together, and anticipate a fun, growth filled fall! Now is the best time to join GOYA for those who haven't been involved before! This ministry works to bring teens into loving relationships with Jesus Christ, foster the development of their faith, meaningful friendships, and a sense of belonging through substantive and fun-filled events. We warmly welcome Dorie Poulos and Maria Otis to GOYA this fall as new advisors (joining Bill Giantomidis)!



Greek School Camp week 1 teachers Eleni Giagkos (left) and Polina Anastos (center) take a picture with children around their freshly painted ship (Aug. 4)



Greek School Camp week 2 teachers Eleni Giagkos and Glykeria Athanasiou and children take a final picture with Fr. Harry (Aug. 18).



Georgie Nanos thoroughly enjoys painting at GSC! (Aug. 16)

Mark your calendars for the following:

• Sunday, Sept. 10th: at coffee hour (in gym) is our Ministry Fair. Meet advisors Bill, Dorie, & Maria, Pastoral Assistant Steve, and some of the GOYAns.

•Sunday Sept. 17th: 12-4pm is the regional Cross Dive & Picnic @ Quassy Amusement Park in Middletown, CT; it is a full day of fun and activities for teens, including a dive for the Holy Cross, just like during Theophany celebrations on Jan 6.

Contact: Bill Giantomidis, billgiant1@yahoo.com, Dorie Poulos, dorielp@yahoo.com or Steve Sarigianis, steve@archangelsgoc.org

Altar Servers – Calling all boys to serve!

Serving in the Holy Altar during Sunday Liturgy and occasionally for weekday services is a beautiful honor, a unique blessing and a privilege that comes with responsibility. We have been so thankful for the help received these past years from all our great altar servers. Fr. Harry and Steve Sarigianis highly encourage mature boys (ages 8 and above) to serve this year if they haven't already. We can use your help! We are pleased to announce that Niko Chingas, new to our community, will be helping co-lead the ministry for 2017-18!

On Saturday Sept. 9 at 11:00 am, we will have an interactive *Altar Server Workshop* at the church. This is for returning and new servers and is extremely important for the purposes of on-going education, especially now that we are using the hall for worship! Please make every effort to come! We will cover entrances, censing, teams & captains, and learn more about the Divine Liturgy. It will run about 1.5 hours.

Contact: Steve Sarigianis (steve@archangelsgoc.org)

Handmaidens – Calling all girls to serve!

Now in our 3rd full year, the Handmaidens ministry provides girls with the opportunity, honor and privilege of serving during Divine Liturgy on Sunday. All girls ages 8 and above are encouraged to be a Handmaiden and serve every other week! We have a growing roster of girls and want to expand the ministry this fall. We are pleased to announce that Sophia Hartch will be the ministry's new leader for 2017-18!

On Saturday, Sept. 9 at 9:30 am there will be a *Workshop* at the church with Steve and Sophia. There will be an 'orientation' for new servers and returning servers alike, in addition to tutorials on the expanding roles of the ministry. It will run about 1.5 hours. Parents please consider having your daughters attend and participate in this year!

Contact: Sophia Hartch, sophia.hartch@yahoo.com or Steve Sarigianis steve@archangelsgoc.org

Athletics

The Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Basketball League (CEOBL) is being organized for the 2017-18 season. We hope to form teams for each division of play (either separately or with Annunciation): Youth (ages 11 and under), Junior Varsity (boys ages 11-14 and girls ages 11-15) and Varsity (boys and girls 18 and under). Practices will begin in October and games in November. CEOVL (girls volleyball) is also being organized for the new season. We hope to form another silver medal winning team like we had last year! Practices will start in November and games in December.

If you or your children are interested in playing with the church teams, please sign up with John Skoparantzos (203- 550-6894) or Steve Sarigianis (steve@archangelsgoc.org). Come join the fun!

AYA

The Young Adult Koinonia group will resume regular bimonthly meetings for the start of October. The group will meet for prayer, fellowship, study, discussion, and support; its primary goal is to offer spiritual substance to young adults. To get connected, reach out to Steve: steve@archangelsgoc.org, or 203-623-5896.

Preschool

Our preschool (ages 3-5) has two remaining spots available for school year 2017-18, which is set to begin on Monday, September 18. The school day runs 9am-2pm. Children must be up to date on all immunizations and must be toilet trained. Contact Kyriaki Yoranidis, knyrus@aol.com or 203-329-2353.

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. For information and registration, contact her directly at 203-322-956, or call Ritta in the church office 203-348-4216.

IOCC

In response to the devastation in Texas due to Hurricane Harvey, the IOCC has activated Frontliners, a volunteer group of clergy and laity who are highly trained in emotional and spiritual care counseling and rapid needs assessment. The IOCC encourages all Orthodox Christians to pray for those affected by the storm, as well as for the Frontliners team members as they support people in tremendous need. The IOCC has set up a Hurricane Harvey Response Fund to support its relief efforts in Texas. The IOCC is also looking for volunteers to join its emergency action team for immediate deployment to the Houston area. To make a financial contribution or volunteer for deployment please go to www.iocc.org. Contact: Tim Hartch, at timhartch1@outlook.com.



Eugenia Zavras (left) and Katie Antipas (right) knit shawls after church during the Philoptochos 'Shawls for Shut-ins' event (Aug. 13).

Knitting for Shut-Ins Meeting

Sunday, September 17 after Church

Beginners and Experienced All Welcome!

Pilgrimage to the Hold Land

Due to interest in our own parish, among previous pilgrims and those who have never been, along with wider interest in other parishes, Fr. Harry will offer another 10-12 day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land during May of 2018. He is in the process of securing bids from two different companies. Feel free to contact him for further information – hpappas@svots.edu or 203-348-4216

Area Festivals

- Odyssey Greek Festival: Fri Mon, Sep 1-4, @ St. Barbara Church in Orange (Steve's home parish)
- Greek Festival: Thu Sun, Sep 7-10 @ Holy Trinity Church in New Rochelle
- Ukrainian Festival: Sun, Sep 10 @ Ukrainian Heritage Center in Glenbrook

Stamford Athletic Club @ the Greek Cultural Center

Looking for a great opportunity to advertise your business? SAC is offering towel sponsorship – your business logo, printed on our towels, can be seen by hundreds of gym members each and every week. Upon entry to the club, every SAC member is offered a towel to use during workouts. For a nominal fee, that blank advertising space could be yours. Please contact jeff@sacteam.com for more details on that as well as other sponsorship opportunities.

Several wonderful changes to our Group Schedule begin in September. Thursday's 6pm Zumba class will now include weights for toning and will be taught by Kelly. Group instructor Lisa will return to teach a brand new Intense Interval class on Fridays at 9:30am. Also, a Mommy & Me class will begin Monday afternoons. Participants can be any adult with any child, particularly in the 4 to 6 year old range. Our Wednesdays 9:30 Aqua Aerobics class will still be taught by Ellen & Diane, but "Water Lillies on Wednesday" will see some changes in class format.

A BRAND NEW food vending machine is set for installation at SAC this month. Insta-Healthy will offer delicious and nutri-

PARISH NEWS

Baptism

Joshua James Penebre, on August 6th (son of Joshua Penebre and Danielle Weeks)

tious snacks right in our own lobby. A FREE sampling event is being scheduled in the month of September, so look for information in the near future. Speaking of food, we anxiously await hosting the Archangels Greek Festival in September and hope you take a tour of our entire facility when you and your family and friends attend the event.

SAC will be featured on t-shirts handed out at during Stamford High School football games this Fall! We expect this promotion to be a success – helping a local school while promoting our gym, through fun give-aways. The shirts will be seen throughout Stamford and beyond, long after the game is over....Go Black Knights of Stamford High!

Kids get back to developing their minds in September – why not their bodies and overall wellness too?! Our physical activity programs include swimming and basketball. Call or stop by the front desk for more information on those and other programs available at SAC.

Call SAC at 203-357-7555 today for more information about any of these programs and visit our website at www.sacnews.com



The office staff takes a selfie on Thursday, Aug 31 and wishes John Cocolis a happy 54th birthday!

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Foundation

Over the past couple of months I have fielded questions about a \$ 10,000 grant that the Foundation gives every year to the Church for charitable purposes. I would like to share those details more broadly so that there are no misconceptions.

Each year, the board of the Archangels Foundation has voted at its Annual Meeting to make a special grant of \$ 10,000 to the Church – with the stipulation that it be used for external charitable purposes or to sponsor Missionary work. Beyond those rather general specifications, and the understanding that 'charitable purposes' does not include the internal Priest's Discretionary Fund, it is entirely at the discretion of the Parish Council, on behalf of the church, to distribute those funds. Each year, the Treasurer of the Parish Council gives a report at the Annual Meeting of the Foundation Board as to the disposition of the Funds. In each year, the Parish Council has distributed the funds in accordance with the instructions of the Foundation: a substantial donation is made in support of missionary Nathan Hoppe in Albania, and the remainder is donated to various Church or Missionary organizations, or in response to a special appeal such as earthquake relief. No portion of those monies is used for Church budgetary purposes or any other purpose.

The Foundation Board believes that those who have should help those in need, especially within the context of the activities of the Orthodox Church.

I hope the above will clear up any misconceptions you may have about the disposition of the grant.

Contact: Elias N. Kulukundis, enek@erols.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 23, 2017):

 Total Commitments
 \$2,208,994

 Total Commitments Paid
 \$2,004,034.86

 Total Number of Households
 155

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.

OUR GOAL

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 August 23, 2017):

PLEDGES Anonymous (7) Evangeline Adams Nicholas and Deedee Aivalis Michael and Jena Anthony George and Katina Antipas James and Aria Antonopoulos Angelo and Dena Aravides Archangels Seniors George Badoyannis Demetri and Constance Begetis Michael and Mimika Blanc Theodore Burtt 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 Demetros 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 Willian and Mary Janocha Denton and Rachel Jones William and Bertha Jones James and Sylvia Kambas Chris and Elaine Kanos John Kantzas Maryanne Kardaris Dr, Anna Karidas Sophia Karidas Nicholas and Mary Karukas John Kazianis and Evgenia Litrivis 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

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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 Demetro George and Cheryl Demetros and Family Spencer and Catherine Demetros and Family Katherine Ferentinos George and Pauline Galuris Peter Galuris Peter and Soulafreda Hantes Chris and Athena Harisis Tim and Sophia Hartch Jim and Sylvia Kambas Maryanne Kardaris Dr. Anna Karidas Steve Katsetos Basile Katsikis Annie Konidaris Janie Konidaris John Konidaris Miles and Joan Kulukundis Natalie Kulukundis Christina Kyriakou Nick and Vicki Kyriakos Stacy and John Louizos John and Joella Lykouretzos Bob and Cassie MacFarlane Sonia Sotire Malloy

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