



The Herald

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

October 2017

Retreat: Opportunity for Community

A golden opportunity for the deeper renewal of our parish presents itself this ecclesiastical year. We are in the midst of an overdue project for the renovation of our physical campus that is addressing deferred maintenance as well as preparing for the future. Our pastoral assistant, Steve, has established himself in this third year of ministry and has his own growing community through marriage to Theophani. Our office staff entered an unprecedented era with the sudden passing of Jane in Holy Week. Ritta Haralabidis has stepped into her role as Secretary and has been greeting everyone who ventures into church on weekdays, learning our parish history and culture, and working her way into daily responsibilities. Many new leaders have stepped up to the plate in Youth Ministry, from Little Angels to GOYA, our first significant changeover in 6-7 years.

On October 20-21, members of our staff, Parish Council, and such ministry leaders will assemble at the Norwalk Inn for a Leadership Retreat under the professional facilitation of Dr. Anthony Bashir (professor at Emerson College in Boston) and Mr. Richard Robbat (retired Superintendent of Schools in Massachusetts). Both are very active laymen in Antiochian Orthodox parishes and, at the national level, have been facilitating retreats for years. They will be offering their services without charge. They were highly recommended by two departments of our Archdiocese. The deeper work they will be drawing out of us can and does get easily brushed off as non-essential or simply overlooked by many organizations, including communities of faith.

Good thing we are not allowing ourselves to get swallowed up in the daily rush of life. This will be the 3rd such retreat with outside professional facilitation during my tenure. I for one am excited that 27 of us will be attending: most for the entire time,

while some can only make certain sessions. Every staff position and ministry will be represented, and at least 11 of the 15-member Parish Council will be on hand.

During such a concentrated time, we ourselves will be forming community more deeply through prayer, shared meals, joint work, and relaxed fellowship.

We will be engaging in such an intense period of reflection as a way of striving to be faithful to the upward calling of Christ along with fulfilling our diverse, privileged positions of leadership in our beloved community.

After conferring with the above facilitators recently, I anticipate that our primary task will be to learn more about what Christian leadership involves since Jesus both modeled and taught a radically new form of leadership that is unique in history and which has been very diversely manifested through the Apostles Peter and Paul all the way up to glorified Saints of America such as Raphael of Brooklyn and Herman of Alaska. We will be challenged to connect such leadership in the Church's Tradition with the actual circumstances of Archangels in Stamford at this juncture of our parish history.

If every organization depends naturally on the quality of its leadership, how much more a community of faith explicitly devoted to the Message and Kingdom-movement of Jesus Christ.

No doubt about it: our parish theme of "Renewing Community" this year stands to benefit distinctly from such a Retreat. Even if everyone cannot attend, your sincere thoughts and prayers are most welcome to inform and support those of us who will, and I look forward to providing you with a report of what we do!

– Fr. Harry

CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGELS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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Pastoral Question & Answer

Question: Why does our Church not accept cremation for a funeral? There seems to be a trend of using this method for disposing of human remains, and some communities of faith have begun to permit it.

Answer: One must wonder how much the growing popularity of cremation is due to convenience (it's quick, easy, and compact), cost (less expensive than a commercial burial), and personal feelings ("I don't want to be put in a box"). As the Pastoral Guidelines of the Archdiocesan Yearbook explain (p. 271), since the Orthodox Church considers material creation to be sacred, so our bodies are both holy and an integral component of who we are as human beings created in the image of God and re-created in the image of Jesus Christ through the Sacraments, above all Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist (Communion). Our hope is not in the immortality of the soul but in the resurrection of the body: just as Jesus' own body was treated with

utmost care for burial and he was raised from the dead with a new type of flesh that the world had never seen, so we teach and practice that the truest form of disposal is to inter the body with great care as we all await the coming of Christ in power and our own resurrection with a new body that will last forever.

Therefore, our Synod of Bishops, led by Archbishop Demetrios, do not allow a funeral for those who choose cremation, whether in a church or away from it in a funeral home or at a cemetery. At the same time, they have given permission for memorial prayers so that the Church can embrace those who are still living, but the Bishops direct that trays of boiled wheat (kolyva) are not permitted since the connection of the deceased body and wheat sown in the ground has been violated (see 1 Corinthians 15:35-45 for the Biblical foundation). As always, since there can be a variety of reasons why some choose cremation, it is always best to consult with a priest beforehand in order to dialogue about such an important final stage of our life on this earth.

ADMINISTRATION

Parish Council

We extend a warm "EFHARISTO!" to all GreekFest volunteers who gave countless hours of their time this year especially GreekFest Committee chairs Margaret and Steve Fornaciari. There are too many other well-deserving folks to mention by name, but it should be noted that GOYA aged children played a real part in this year's festival work. They should be very proud of their efforts. At our most recent meeting we approved projects strongly recommended by the Building & Grounds Committee including - church boiler replacement (original to the building in 1958), SAC swimming pool boiler replacement (original to the building in 1975), women's shower base repairs, and SAC roof parapet wall repairs. These are being funded by the generosity of the Archangels Foundation; effectively our endowment fund. All work will likely be completed by the end of October. We are currently working on our Archdiocese assessment process for 2018. We will participate in an Archangels leadership retreat on October 20 & 21. It will include all Council members along with ministry leaders more broadly. Aims include fellowship, strategy, leadership development and spiritual growth. We wish Council member Chris Nanos a continued surgical recovery, having emerged from the hospital and physical rehabilitation recently. Our October meeting date is the 17. Note, our November meeting date has been moved to the 28 so as not to conflict with Thanksgiving week. Parish Council elections are two months away. Five seats will be up for election or re-election. Please consider joining our efforts in managing and supporting our parish. It is a rewarding labor of love. Contact: Jason Konidaris, jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Special Assembly

A brief Special Assembly will take place on Sunday, October 29, immediately following the Liturgy in order to:

- Elect a 3-member Board of Elections to oversee Parish Council Elections on Dec 10
- Permit nominations for the Parish Council from the membership at large (see below for qualifications)

Note that nominees must be present, nominated by someone else, and accept the nomination. Members in good standing can choose to run for the Parish Council outside this Special Assembly (most do anyway) but this open forum makes clear that the process is open and public. Contact: Fr. Harry or Jason Konidaris

Parish Council Elections – Sunday, December 10

Members in good standing in the Orthodox Church (18 years of age & older) may submit their name for election (either at the Special Assembly above or privately) if they meet the following criteria:

1. regular attendance at worship services, acceptable moral lifestyle, and up-to-date stewardship;
2. sacramental harmony: \baptized and/or chrismated in the Orthodox Church; if married, a marriage blessed in the Orthodox Church
3. membership at our parish for at least one year prior to the election;
4. attendance at a seminar conducted by area clergy – nearest ones are here at Archangels on Thu, Nov 9, 6:30-9 pm, and at St. Barbara in Orange on Tue, Nov 14, 6:30-9 pm;

5. signed documents – to abide by the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese, along with Conflict Disclosure Statement.

Five positions on the Parish Council will be elected to a 3-year term. For more info, contact Fr. Harry or Jason Konidaris

Treasurer's Report

We are currently in the process of reviewing and reconciling all the expenses related to the 2017 Festival. In the next week or so, we will be providing details on its net profit. As for Festival revenues, total amount was \$127,700. Food and beverage revenue - 1% vs. 2016. Ride/games revenue -13% vs. 2016. Raffle revenue -6% vs. 2016. Festival donations for food and supplies +1800% vs. 2016. We are grateful to Margaret and Steve Fornaciari and the tireless work of the entire Festival Committee and workers in putting on such a great event. Contact: Elias Lolis, 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 Stewards (as of Sep 30, 2017)

Olga Athanasiadis	Rachel Jones
Pantelis Athanasiadis	Alice & Denise Kallas
Mr. George & Mrs. Martha Bakes	Elaine & George N. Kanelas
Dena Burke	Mr. and Mrs. Savvas Kelesidis
Helen Chagaris	Mr. Marc & Mrs. Maria Magliacano
Mr. Agop & Mrs. Nafsika Chalekan	Kristin Redaelli
Peter & SoulaFreda Hantes	Mr. Demetrios & Mrs. Leda Tsapralis



The south sidewall and floor channel in the church nave receive new HVAC 'BlueDuct' (Oct. 10)

Master Planning

Church ductwork materials arrived on schedule this month. They included BlueDuct for underground installation, galvanized ductwork for wall installation, diffusers (air registers and returns) and associated connectors. The sidewall ducts have been installed. The channels for the underground ducts were properly prepped with pea gravel. We began laying the BlueDuct along those channels on October 9th. Installation of ductwork serving the split system in the loft, narthex, bride's room, restroom, and cry room is currently underway as well. This is all good news. While the HVAC ductwork continues we are incorporating any other work that does not interfere. Hot and cold water lines have been run from the bride's room restroom to the basement via the existing duct trenching through the church. A sewage line has been incorporated in the same manner. We continue to work on a cost effective solution for opening and closing the church's heavy wooden doors. As parishioners you have likely come across that issue, especially on windy days. The doors are difficult to operate. We will solve it. The ductwork is scheduled to be complete by October 27. When it is complete we will carry on with the rest of the project that includes:

- Narthex fully renovated - floors and ceiling, lighting, paint, and trim
- Bride's 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

Capital Campaign

Since June 1, \$42,759 has been received by the Capital Campaign. Of this amount, \$2,306 represents contributions in memory of the late Toulia Pappas, George Antipas and John Geas; \$33,903 represents payments on account of existing pledges; \$3,000 represents new contributions from individuals who have completed their pledges; \$50 represents a non-pledge contribution; and \$2,500 represents a special contribution from George and Cindy Paparis in memory of the late Helen Paparis. During that time, one new pledge in the amount of \$2,500 was made to the Campaign in the form of an added year on an existing pledge. The Campaign is deeply grateful to all who have sent contributions in memory of a departed relative or friend, and of course, to all who have continued to make timely payments on their existing pledges without any prompting. We continue to be impressed by your dedication and devotion, and we thank you all very much.

Good News... Not So Good News

Right now, as of September 30, the Capital Campaign is in a fairly good place. The generous gift of an anonymous donor last April sent the Campaign over the top of the goal set in 2014 of \$2.2 million in contributions and pledges. Of this amount, \$2,035,000 has already been received, and \$188,000 remains to be collected in 2017 and 2018. That is certainly a good place. At the same time, as Master Planning has reported, we have encountered a significant hurdle in the project which needs to be surmounted—the unexpected need to renew the duct system in the Church itself, which had been believed to be in good condition. This will cost around \$300,000 that was not anticipated, and result in delays to the contemplated conclusion date for Part I, with consequent negative impact on Part II. That is the not so good news. Add that not-so-good news to the other realities we face. The scope and cost of the work in Part I was underestimated three years ago, and planning dragged on longer than expected. As a result, the project fell victim to inflation. Features not considered in 2014 (a church bathroom and a cry room) were also added. As a result, the cost of Part I had grown to approximately \$350,000, more than twice the initial estimate.

The Campaign has spent \$492,000 on expenses for the project thus far: \$198,793 for architectural fees for both Part I and Part II; \$95,314 for contractors and equipment on Part I; \$117,524 for Archangels staffing—one of the non-bricks-and-mortar purposes of the Campaign; \$36,000 for solicitation; \$34,000 for the gala; and \$12,185 for furniture. A further \$260,000 is due to the contractor for Part I plus \$300,000 for the ductwork. That will leave around \$1,150,000 for the completion of Part II, far less than any of the bids received so far. As a result, in order to complete Part II, it is necessary to reopen the Campaign and raise a substantial additional amount of money.

‘The Archangels Need You’

During World War I, as part of its program to raise money to finance the war effort, the U.S. government created a poster showing ‘Uncle Sam’ pointing, with the logo, ‘Uncle Sam needs you!’. Of course, we are not ‘Uncle Sam’. But, like the Federal Government in 1917, we need you! We need your help, and we

need it now. We appreciate that many people have given or are still giving generously on existing pledges. Others have made a one-time contribution. Nonetheless, any additional help that all of you in the Community may be able to offer, whether a further one-time contribution or a multi-year pledge, will indeed be welcome. You will all be receiving information about the Campaign through the mail or you may be contacted directly by one of our Committee members during the coming months. If the enthusiasm, the devotion, and dedication that you have all shown heretofore is any indication, I am sure we will manage to raise the funds required and get on with completing Part II. We know you are all there, ready and willing to help us surmount the obstacles that have unexpectedly arisen, ready and willing to help Master Planning get on with the task ahead of it, ready and willing to respond to the needs of the Community and help bring our facilities at ‘The Archangels’ into the twenty-first century. We thank you for your consideration and goodwill. Contact: Elias N. Kulukundis, enek@erols.com



Buildings and Grounds Committee oversees the installment of a new boiler in the Cultural Center (Sept. 27)

Buildings & Grounds

We will be replacing the Church’s boiler this month. It is original to the building (c. 1958) and on its last legs. Ironically the Stamford Athletic Club’s swimming pool boiler also expired recently. It too was original to the building (c. 1975). It was replaced this month and members report that water temperatures are back to normal. We expect to realize operating cost efficiencies from both replacements. We re-routed the gym’s clothes dryer vents out to atmosphere recently. The vents in their original position were discharging lint into the grills that bring needed fresh air into the basement equipment room. We are moving forward with the installation of metal cladding & coping to prevent further deterioration of the roof walls shown in the picture below. This work will also include the removal and disposal of a deactivated roof-top exhaust fan. There is further rooftop work to be done. However, given the financial outlay for this fall’s work, we will defer it until 2018. Contact: Peter Licopantis, pglydl3@optonline.net

MINISTRIES

SAVE THE DATE TURKEY BINGO



Saturday, Nov. 11th

(one week earlier!)

✠ *Archangels Feast Day* ✠

Tuesday, November 7

Great Vespers at 7 pm

with Reception offered by Philoptochos

Wednesday, November 8

Orthros at 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am

with Reception

Prayer of the Month

Due to so many catastrophes that have recently occurred – from hurricanes to earthquakes to mass killings to wild fires – in addition to on-going violence and threats of violence in various parts of the world, here is a “Prayer in Time of Need” that can be modified with the specifics of what is happening more globally or more personally by us:

“Almighty God, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, come to my help and deliver me from this difficulty that besets me. I believe, Lord, that all trials of life are under Your care and that all things work for the good of those who love You. Take away from me fear, anxiety and distress. Help me to face and endure my difficulty with faith, courage and wisdom. Grant that this trial may bring me closer to You, for You are my rock and refuge, my comfort and hope, my delight and joy. I trust in Your love and compassion. Blessed is Your name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.”

From My Orthodox Prayer Book, by Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, p. 59.

Did You Know?

We are now in our 5th month of worship in the hall while the church is being renovated. Our parish has shown a great deal of patience with this project. The hall has been very beautifully appointed with many furnishings from the church, along with some icons that members have loaned temporarily. Many have commented on the warm ambience, the familiar beauty of furnishings, and the close intimacy. So...while we look forward with excitement to returning to the church when completed, there is widespread joy in our temporary setting.

Week Day Worship

We continue our common worship with Annunciation Church on the following weekdays this month:

- Wed, Oct 18 - feast of St. Luke the Evangelist: Liturgy 9:30 am @ Annunciation
- Mon, Oct 23 - feast of St. Iakovos (James): Liturgy 9:30 am @ Annunciation
- Thu, Oct 26 - feast of St. Demetrios the Myrrh-streaming: Liturgy 9:30 am here
- Feast of St. Nektarios @ Annunciation (they have a relic in a side chapel)
 - ✠ Great Vespers Wed, Nov 8, 7 pm
 - ✠ Liturgy Thu, Nov 9, 9:30 am

Archbishop's Nameday Reception

We are warmly invited to celebrate the name day of Archbishop Demetrios on Thu, Oct 26, beginning with a brief Doxology for his health at 5:45 pm followed by an elegant reception of food and drink from 6-8 pm at the Cathedral Center (337 East 74th Street, New York). For those who live or work in New York, consider stopping by to greet him, receive his blessing, and enjoy some fellowship before returning home. He especially enjoys greeting us in this event.

Ecumenical Worship

- Oriental & Eastern Orthodox Worship service on Wed, Nov 8, 6:45 @ Holy Trinity Cathedral in NYC, led by Archbishop Demetrios. This brings together clergy and people from the Oriental Orthodox Churches (Armenian, Syrian, Coptic, Ethiopian, Eritrean, etc) along with all Eastern Orthodox in the U.S. (Greek, OCA, Antiochian, Romanian, Serbian, Ukrainian, Russian, Albanian, Georgian, etc.)
- To mark the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, Greek Orthodox & Roman Catholics are invited to join Protestants in an Ecumenical Service @ St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church, 4 Riverside Avenue, Riverside, CT, on Thu, Nov 9, at 7:30 pm.

Koinonia

Small groups will meet for prayer, study, discussion, fellowship and mutual support:

- **Couples Group** led by Presvytera Kerry will hold an inaugural session on Saturday, Nov 4, 9 am in the Hall. This will focus on Marital Enrichment in an age when we commonly take marriage for granted, are too absorbed in the demands of each day, or do not know the extraordinary treasures of faith that can deepen our primary human connection. Coffee and pastries will be provided, and the initial topic will be "Forgiveness." Contact: Pres. Kerry pappaskk@msn.com or 914-874-6146
- **Men's Group** led by Fr. Harry first met on Saturday, Oct 14, at 8 am in the Library, with 6 men (3 more are interested but were unable to attend). Introduction included coffee fellowship, prayer, a brief presentation on the purpose of a men's group, and open discussion on content, frequency, and place. Next meeting: Wed, Nov 15, 7 pm in the Hall. Contact: Fr. Harry
- **Young Adult Group** led by Steve S.: In this group, for young adults ages 18-35, we will explore what it is to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, understand the positive impact He will have in our lives, and what it takes to keep the relationship going and growing. We will discuss specifically the issues facing young adults in a fast paced, career driven, and secular world, and how this relationship (He) can and will help us. We will meet once a month at a day/time/place suitable for participants. Contact: Steve Sarigianis, steve@archangelsgoc.org, 203-623-5896

Adult Education

- **Bible Study** – every Monday evening (with some exceptions), starting with Compline at 7:15 pm, followed by presentation & discussion at 7:30 pm. Our focus this year is the Old Testament Prophets, a challenging but deeply nurturing portion of Scripture. A study guide is distributed in advance each week to promote discussion especially on 6 or 7 selected chapters. Coffee, tea, and light snacks are available. Upcoming schedule:

† Oct 16: Hosea chapters 1-4, 11 & 14

† Oct 23: Isaiah 1-6

† Oct 30: Isaiah 7-12

† Nov 13: Micah 1-5, 7

† Nov 20: Jeremiah 1-6

† Nov 27: Jeremiah 7, 12, 16, 20, 34, 37 & 40

Contact: Fr. Harry

- **Baptism Class** – scheduled for Sunday, October 29, 3-5:30 pm for all parents, godparents, and others who wish to learn about baptism, chrismation, and eucharist, along with raising children in Christ today. Please provide your own childcare to give your undivided attention. Contact: Fr. Harry

Kali Parea Seniors

The new year has begun and it is the perfect time to come to Kali Parea Seniors. The name says it all. We have delicious lunch and many sweet deserts each month, as well as a small cash raffle. The September meeting went very well at the Cultural Center, and all rejoiced in gathering after being away all summer. Fr. Harry offered us very interesting slide show presentation from the Russia Pilgrimage he and Nitsa Chagaris took earlier this year. The October meeting welcomed (check with Pam for name of her daughter and topic of presentation). Contact: Pam Koutroubis, pamelak2145@gmail.com



Fr. Harry leads the Kali Parea Senior group in prayer to begin the first luncheon of the year (Sept. 13)

Ladies Philoptochos Society

Thank you to all the Philoptochos members and ladies of the parish who contributed time, talents and delicious pastries to the very successful GreekFest. At our September meeting we approved donations to support St. Michael's Home, AmeriCares for hurricane relief, GreekFest and Father Harry's priest discretionary fund to meet desperate financial needs of parishioners and the local destitute. Our knitting project to make shawls for shut-ins and hospital patients from our parish has been very successful. All interested knitters are encouraged to join the group. Please contact Cindy Mixcus or Marion Vanson. Plans are underway for our church's Feast Day reception on November 7. More details will be shared at our next meeting. **Please note that the annual Turkey Bingo event has been moved a week earlier this year – to Saturday, November 11. Mark your calendars.** The next Philoptochos meeting is Monday, November 6. New members are welcome. Contact: Eugenia Zavras, (203) 322-9561 or etz124@yahoo.com

Church School

We are extremely grateful to all families for helping our Church School program to commence on such a tremendous start! Student attendance has been consistently strong and growing throughout the month of September. Nearly 50 students participated in our first Philanthropy Sunday in which the program engaged in a school-wide project assembling IOCC relief 'clean-up' buckets to assist with the cleanup of the recent hurricanes across the nation. A very special thanks to Mr. Timothy Hartch for leading our philanthropy lesson on the International



Little Angels children pose for a picture at the conclusion of the summer time Diapers, Wipes, and Formula drive (Sept. 10)

Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) mission and activities and to Steve Sarigianis for all of his help with the assembly portion of the project. This effort yielded a total of six relief buckets each retailing between \$80-\$100 in cleaning supplies to assist those in need of restoration. Our first Sacred Music Sunday will be held Sunday, October 15th. We would like to thank Presvytera Kerry and Stamatia Petsas for helping to lead our Sacred Music lessons this year. Finally, our new Church School books from the Orthodox Christian Education Commission (OCEC) have been delivered! We are so eager to begin using our new resources in order to craft lessons and activities that entice and engage students in faith-based learning. Contact: Dr. Evelyn Biliadis, ebiliadis@aol.com

Greek School

We are already over a month into the year with the lessons in our camp and a more flexible schedule during the week. This is a big help for a lot of families, as our children try to balance many after school activities. We are enriching our teaching method with more interactive applications via our classroom SmartBoard and online via Duolingo, an excellent free app. We believe these new interactive methods will round out our children's learning process and bring ease and fun to absorbing the Greek language!!! During October the Greek School students will participate in an internal assembly for OXI Day, with video and references to the historical events of October 28, 1940 - the day Greece proclaimed a loud OXI ("No") - to Mussolini's attempt to breach Greece, altering the course of the 2nd World War. Contact: Anna Lempesi, ann.lempesi@gmail.com



Fr. Harry teaching the preschoolers how to venerate the icon before the blessing for the new school year (Oct. 3).

Little Angels

The Little Angels Diapers, Wipes, and Formula Drive benefiting Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center in Stamford concluded in September with a lesson on the importance of helping members of our community in need. Thank you to all the families who donated items to help mothers and babies in the Stamford area! Also in September was the church-wide Ministry Fair. The Little Angels hosted a table display with photos and artwork by the children. We enjoyed seeing everyone who stopped by! Please also mark your calendar for the annual **Gratitude Celebration on Sunday, November 19th and the Christmas Mom's Night Out on Friday, December 1st!** More details for these events will be sent through email. Contact: Vasso Spanos, bkarachris@gmail.com



Director Evelyn Biliadis separates Church School children into groups in order to construct IOCC Clean-up buckets for Hurricane relief during Philanthropy Sunday (Sept. 17)



Fr. Harry petitions God to bless Church School and Greek School teachers for the beginning of the school year (Sept. 10)



Parishioners enjoy the contagiously warm atmosphere at the 3rd Annual Ministry Fair (Sept. 10)

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.

Our first event of the year will be the Nature Outing at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center, on Saturday Oct 28th at 1pm. Kids will enjoy scavenging for clues in woodland trails, finding answers to Bible trivia questions, playing on the jungle gym, making new friends. Parents will enjoy warm company and planned activities. All will enjoy coming together to learn about the faith, have fun, and enjoy the great outdoors (with wonderful fall foliage). As always, please feel free to contact us with ideas or questions. Contact: Ruth Diamond, rh67@cornell.edu

GOYA

September was a wonderful month for GOYA. At the first meeting of the year, we warmly welcomed several new teens into the group, and planned out an exciting fall schedule. We will have 2 fundraisers this fall: the first is our annual Christmas Wreath sale taking place in November/December, and the second is a Discount Card for local area Greek establishments taking place in October/November. The latter will be \$15 and include a 10% discount to more than 15 Greek establishments. Half of proceeds will be donated to IOCC for Hurricane Relief.

During the 2017 GreekFest the GOYAns made their presence felt by working significant hours in several different areas: serving, cleaning tables, take out, coffee, bookstore, pastry, and souvlaki. We are very thankful for the 10+ teens contributed to the success of the Fest!

Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

- **Friday, Oct. 28th: GOYA Hang-Out w/ Annunciation,** 6pm-9pm – The first of several events with our sister parish. There will be food, games, and open-gym time
- **Friday, Nov. 3rd: GOYA Lock-In,** 6:30pm to 10am (Sat.) – One of the most anticipated fall events, the overnight lock-in includes: prayer, dinner, faith discussion, monthly meeting, various games and open gym time, and breakfast in the morning.

Contact: Dorie Poulos, dorielp@yahoo.com

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! 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 to serve 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! Contact: Sophia Hartch, sophia.hartch@yahoo.com



Right to left: Nitsa Chagaris, Diane Sierpina, Marion Vansen, Vasiliki Thomas, and Connie Begetis prepare delicious trays of spanakopita in anticipation for GreekFest (Sept. 2)



Right to left: John Skoparantzios, Bill Giantomidis, and Nick Bakes take a minute while working under the new Souvlaki tent at the GreekFest. (Sept 22)

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 10 and under), **Junior Varsity** (boys ages 11-14 and girls ages 11- 15) and **Varsity** (boys and girls 19 and under). Youth & JV basketball practice will be at the Cultural Center on Fridays from 5:30-7:00pm through the end of November; starting December 1, practices will be Wednesdays 5:30-7:00pm. The league will begin after Thanksgiving.

CEOVL (girls' volleyball) is also being organized for the 2017-18 season. We hope to have another silver medal winning team like last year! Practices will start in November and the league will begin early January 2018.

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

Greek Language Classes for Adults

The world is shrinking with globalization and the internet! Now is a great time for adults to learn modern Greek. We are blessed to have an excellent instructor in Dr. Eugenia Zavras, a biology Professor at Fairfield University. For information and registration, contact her directly at 203-322-956, or call Ritta in the church office 203-348-4216.



Young adults take a picture with Pam Koutroubis (3rd from left), Eugenia Zavras (2nd from right) and Fredirika Nikolis (far right), at the conclusion of Day 1 (Sept. 21)

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Jordan

Fr. Harry continues to work on preparation of a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land that will include Jordan, visiting Biblical sites, traditional Orthodox monasteries and institutions, and interaction with current Orthodox communities. While details are still being worked out, the trip will fall within the period of Sunday evening, May 6, through Saturday, May 19, 2018. Further information will be released when available, including cost and date for making reservations. Both previous pilgrims and first time pilgrims have expressed interest. Contact: Fr. Harry, hpappas@svots.edu



Right to left: Roula Stergiannis, Penny Nanos, Evangelia Hleboigiannis, and Kerasoula Drosos at Coffee & Frappe (Sept. 21)



At the Pastry tent: Hannah Pappas (left) and Diane Skoparantzou (right) pose for 'sweet' picture. (Sept. 22)



Left to right: Brian Demetros, Dimitri Begetis and Peter Perimenis in the kitchen - watch your step! (Sept. 23)



Fr. Harry spins the raffle drum as bystanders look on with anticipation - congratulations to all our winners! (Sept. 24)

Stamford Team Wins National AHEPA Hellenic History Tournament

After almost nine years, the long-term goal of the AHEPA Hellenic History Tournament was achieved on July 28, 2017, at the desitst and the Southeast will soon follow suit. That would produce a total of 14 teams to join the competition in the Second National HHT to take place at the 2018 National Convention in Atlantic City. Contact: Nicholas Nikas, niketes@yahoo.com

Stamford Athletic Club

Great Weather. Great Food. Great People. Great Time. Thank you to the Archangels community for putting on such a spectacular Festival. We look forward to hosting such a wonderful event for years to come. Did you know that the SAC basketball court is available to rent for basketball, baseball/softball/cricket batting cages, volleyball, birthday parties, and so much more? Make your reservations now for Fall & Winter. Contact Paul@sacteam.com for more information on this

Also, special thanks to all, but particularly to the Archangels Building & Grounds Committee, for efficiently dealing with the SAC swimming pool boiler replacement. The pool is now heated by a new high efficiency boiler. More thanks go to all who contributed to our "I survived the SAC "cool pool" fundraiser. 100% of donations were added to collections for those affected by the recent natural weather disasters.

A new food option vending machine from Insta-Healthy has been added to SAC lobby. Nutritious snacks such as popcorn, nuts, and granola bars are available to purchase during normal SAC business hours. A FREE tasting event is being scheduled so look for more information on that event to be posted soon.

Last year's SAC Stamford High School t-shirt giveaway was a success. We are teaming up with Stamford High again to give out t-shirts during their boys and girls basketball home games. It is good advertisement for SAC while helping our neighbors at Stamford High.

We have added yet another high quality personal trainer to our staff. Please come in and sign up for a SAC membership and we will give you a FREE personal training session to help you get started. Contact Anthony@sacteam.com for more information on membership options.

SAC Group classes have been added with families and children in mind, including Mommy & Me as well as a Tiny Dancers. Call or stop by for more information.

Speaking of group classes, SAC Attack is back! Come Thursday, October 26 at 6pm for a 45 minute intense group class taught by SAC GM, Jeff Kaminski. It will be fun, educational, and a chance to sweat before the holidays creep in on us.

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

PARISH NEWS

Churching

Fotini Josephina Kaoutzanis, on September 17, first child of Christodoulos and Jocelyn Kaoutzanis who are new to our parish.

Baptism

Alkiviadis (Alex) Hantes, on September 30, first child of Peter and SoulaFreda (Valassis) Hantes

Wedding

Ioannis Vlantis & Georgia Vlantis on September 17 in Athens, Greece. The couple will continue to reside and work here.



Family and friends of Fr. George gather on Sunday of GreekFest weekend to celebrate his birthday - many years! (Sept. 24)

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

AHEPA

Save the Date: October 21, 2017

Two years ago, we hosted LYRA, the professional vocal ensemble of St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia, that performed Russian Orthodox Church hymns of incredible beauty, as well as colorful and lively Russian folksongs. Following that performance, audience consensus was that it was the best quality musical program to be presented at the Church in the last 15 years! We are happy to announce that LYRA will be coming back to perform for us in the hall of the Church of Annunciation the evening of October 21. Wine and cheese reception at 6:30 pm, performance at 7:00 pm. Adults \$30, Students \$15. Reservations required.

Stamford Team Wins National Tournament

After almost nine years, the long-term goal of the AHEPA Hellenic History Tournament was achieved on July 28, 2017, at the Annual AHEPA Family Supreme Convention in Orlando. Six teams of high school students who had been winners and runner ups of three regional tournaments were invited to compete in the first ever National Hellenic History Tournament. As the name indicates, the teams compete on how well they know the millennia-long history of the Hellenes by answering multiple-choice questions. The questions are drawn from "Hellenika: Heritage and History", a beautiful book written by Peter Limber that covers the entire sweep of Greek history. The participating teams from District 7 & Neighbors tournament were 1. The Hellenes: Alexander Koutsoukos, Phoebe Hartch, and Lukas Koutsoukos, sponsored by the Stamford, CT, chapter 99; and 2. Athena's Owls: George Kalyvas and Alexandros Kerwick, sponsored by the New Rochelle, NY, chapter 405. The final team rankings were: 1. The Hellenes, 2. Apteros Nike, 3. Athena's Owls, and 4. Pontos. The awards were: \$2,000 per team member for team 1; \$1,000 per member for team 2; \$500 per member for team 3; and \$250 per member for team 4. Congratulations to Alexander, Phoebe and Lukas! Contact: Nicholas Nikas, 203-554-5570, niketes@yahoo.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 Pappas, 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 September 30, 2017):

Total Commitments \$2,215,600.00
Total Commitments Paid \$2,046,633.86
Total Number of Households 156

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.

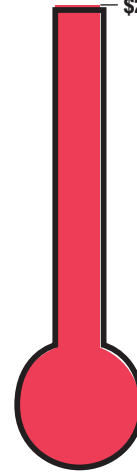
Inasmuch as funds are likely to be required on a regular basis once construction commences, the General Assembly gave the Campaign Committee the right to go to a bank and discount any unpaid pledge amounts in order to have funds available to meet expenses. Preliminary plans for the remodel are on display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

\$2,215,600



The Contributors (as of September 30, 2017):

<p>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 Burt 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 Dailiotis 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 Kirsatous 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</p>	<p>Bob and Cassie MacFarlane Marc and Maria Magliacano James and Kyriaki Marcarello J. Andrew McEntire Family Charitable Fund 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. 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