



The Herald

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

JANUARY 2018

Great Feast of Epiphany (January 6)

In His baptism by John in the Jordan River, Jesus manifested Himself for the first time as the Messiah (or Christ) of Israel through the following that also revealed Him to be the divine Son of God, one of the Holy Trinity:

- John the Baptist refers to him by the title “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”
- God the Father calls him the “Beloved”
- The Holy Spirit descends and rests upon him.

Thus the Church sings the following on this Great Feast:

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to You, calling You His Beloved Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God Who has appeared and enlightened the world, glory to You. — *Dismissal Hymn*

The Great Blessing of Water is celebrated after the liturgy of this Great Feast. It begins with the chanting and censing of the water placed in the center of the church building, surrounded by candles and flowers as the sign of the beautiful world of God's original creation and ultimate glorification through Christ and the Holy Spirit in the Kingdom of God. Sometimes the blessing is done outdoors at a place of natural flowing water. This sacred action was practiced by the People of God in the Old Testament (see *John 5 & 7*) and it continues in the New Testament Church of Christ with a new and very important meaning and significance. We only have to read the service carefully and celebrate it faithfully in the church for this meaning to become evident to our hearts and minds.

It is the faith of Christians that since the Son of God has taken human flesh and has appeared in the world, immersed in the streams of the Jordan River (which is itself full of biblical significance), all flesh and all matter is sanctified and made pure and holy in Him, purged of its death-dealing qualities inherited from the devil and the evil and wickedness of men. All creation becomes good again, indeed “very good,” the way that God called it and created it to be in the beginning of time (*Genesis 1:31*). For in the beginning the Voice of the Lord spoke, as at the time of Jesus' baptism, and “the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters” (*Genesis 1:2*). At this time as well the “Breath of Life” was breathing in man and in everything that was made to be alive by God for a life of living communion with Him (*Genesis 1:30, 2:7*).

The world and everything in it is indeed “very good.” And when it becomes polluted and corrupted and dead, filled with evil and not with God, then God Himself does everything to save it and glorify it once more. This is what Epiphany, and the Great Blessing of Water specifically tells us: that God has saved and glorified by Christ and the Spirit the “very good” creation that He made through the same Christ and the same Spirit in the very beginning of the world.

The consecration of the waters on the feast of the Epiphany places the entire creation – through its “prime element” of water - in the perspective of the cosmic sanctification and glorification of the Kingdom of God brought to the world by Christ and the Spirit. The Great Blessing of Water tells us that man and the world were indeed created and saved to be “filled with all the fullness of God” (*Ephesians 3:19*), the “fullness of him who

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fills all in all.” It tells us that Christ, in Whom “the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,” is and shall be truly “all in all” (*Colossians 2:9, 3:11*). It tells us as well that the “new heavens and the new earth” which God has promised through His prophets and apostles are truly “with us” – for God is with us – already now in the mystery of Christ and the Church (*Isaiah 66:22, 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1*)

The central sign of God's sanctification of all things through Christ's epiphany to the world and His baptism in the Jordan River, is the act of blessing the homes of the faithful Christians. On the feast of the Epiphany, the Orthodox priest visits all the members of the Church in order to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the sanctified water.

According to the Orthodox Faith, the family is considered to be a “small church,” and the family table is the “home altar” where the people gather each day to receive their “daily bread” from God with thanksgiving in the Name of Christ. Thus, during the Epiphany season, the priest, who is the father of the greater “family of God,” the Church community, comes to each of the “small churches” bringing the blessings of God the Father and all of the brothers and sisters in Christ.

The sanctification of the home takes place not only by the words of prayer, but by the sprinkling with the blessed water which, as we have seen, stands for the new creation of the Kingdom of God in which God Himself “fills all things with Himself” including even the smallest particles of material existence.

When the priest comes for his annual visit of prayer and blessing, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. All pray together for the good of the living and the dead of the family, and of all who live and have lived in the house. All sing together the great hymn, of salvation that Christ, the Son of the Father by the grace of the Holy Spirit, “has revealed Himself and has enlightened the world.” Thus the house itself, together with the living persons of the family, is “filled with all the fullness of God.”

– by Fr. Thomas Hopko of blessed memory (†2015), Dean of St. Vladimir's Seminary, Professor of Dogmatic Theology, author of numerous books and widely known speaker.

WORSHIP FOR EPIPHANY

Worship for Epiphany

Saturday, January 6: Orthros – 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am

Great Blessing of the Waters – 10:30 am

Saturday, January 7: Feast of St. John the Baptist

Orthros – 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

Distribution of Holy Water after Liturgy

Blessing of Homes & Businesses

The annual brief blessing service (about 10 minutes) of home & work begins on the Great Feast of Epiphany or Theophany (January 6) and will continue until Great Lent begins (on Feb 19). All that is needed is an icon, candle, medium size bowl of water, and a list of the first names of family members (or co-workers), including the deceased. *Note:* a sprig of basil (or other green) is optional this year because Fr. Harry has a permanent sprinkler. Also: no honorarium is sought or needed, since this is part of his normal responsibilities. You may schedule an appointment either through Ritta in the office (203-348-4216) or with Fr. Harry (hpappas@svots.edu).

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council

Chronia Polla! January marks the start of our 3rd year – the 3rd year of a new Parish Council and its officers. Two years ago we made some promises. We promised we would build upon Archangels' historic accomplishments by driving evolution in many aspects of our parish's life - better communication, ministry participation, clearer finances, more helpful technology, infrastructure, even athletics. We even went so far as to publish those promises in the 2016 February *Herald*. I believe we are delivering significantly on those fronts. But we still have much to accomplish. This year expect to see us lean in on:

- Ministry participation – particularly youth
- Finances – a continued drive toward self sustainability
- Technology – with a decidedly more dedicated social media presence
- Infrastructure – concluding church renovation and moving on to the rest of the building

We are a group of 16 Stewards who dedicate our time to the present and future needs of the church community. Don't be surprised if we reach out to you this year to work alongside us; to tap your strengths; to serve on committees; to roll up your sleeves, to build our future.

Recently, Chris P. Nanos chose to step down from his Council seat. He has wrestled with health and surgical recovery for quite some time and is determined to focus on that. We wish Chris God's speed in his recovery and vow to support him in every way we can. Per Uniform Parish Regulations the Council has appointed Argyris "RJ" Vassiliou to serve out the remainder of Chris's term.

Congratulations to newly elected Council members Steven Georgeou, Natalie Kulukundis, and Robert Spanos, along with re-elected members Steve Fornaciari and Georgette Perimenis. We applaud your generosity of time and willingness to serve the parish. We offer our sincerest thanks to outgoing members Jim Cocolis, Maria Otis and Chris Nanos. We know they will continue to serve our parish's mission in many ways. We will recognize and again thank all three of these outgoing members on Sun, Jan 7, just before Liturgy concludes. Contact: Jason Konidaris, jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Parish Council Elections

Parish Council Elections were held on Dec. 10, with 73 valid ballots (there was one invalidly completed ballot). Here are the results:

| Elected to a 3-year term | | Not elected | |
|--------------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Georgette Perimenis | 68 | James Cocolis | 46 |
| Stephen Fornaciari | 58 | Argyris Vassiliou | 46 |
| Steven Georgeou | 53 | | |
| Natalie Kulukundis | 47 | | |
| Robert Spanos | 47 | | |

After these results are confirmed by Archbishop Demetrios, the newly elected will be installed on Sunday, January 7, along with the on-going members of the Parish Council: Jason Konidaris, Elias Lolis, George Paparis, Aggie Sotire, George Khouri, Theophilos Nikolis, George Nanos, Pam Koutroubis, Dr. Steven Valassis. Then, following the Vasilopeta Program, the new Council will meet privately to elect its officers. We thank the Board of Elections for their service – George Perkins, Lou Blanco & Penny Nanos – and pray God's blessing on those who have been elected to serve!

Leadership Retreat, part 2

Dr. Anthony Bashir and Mr. Richard Robbat, our facilitators for the successful Leadership Retreat in October, will return to guide us in completing our work on Saturday, January 20, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm @ Norwalk Inn. Agenda: writing concrete, measurable tasks to fulfill our Vision Statement over the next 3-5 years. All Staff, Parish Council members, and Ministry Leaders are automatically invited. In addition, both Tony Richard have asked that we invited others who are interested to assist us. Contact: Jason Konidaris or Fr. Harry

General Assembly

Per the Uniform Parish Regulations of our Archdiocese, we will meet in a General Assembly after Liturgy on Sunday, January 21, to

- Approve the Audit Committee report of 2016
- Hear a preliminary report of 2017 Operations
- Approve the 2018 Operating Budget
- Elect at least 3 members to the Audit Committee to review 2017 Finances

Please plan to attend and spread the word. Contact: Elias Lolis, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

For 2017 year to date (through November 2017), revenues were \$684,000 with expenses of \$687,000 resulting in an operating deficit of \$3,000. Approximately 65% of revenues have come from contributions through our Stewardship program that includes pledges, free will offerings, candles and trays.

The estate of Margaret Rubirosa recently made a bequest to the parish in the amount of \$10,000. The Parish Council voted to direct 100% of this bequest to the Archangels Capital Campaign where it will help further fund our renovation and enhance our community for generations to come.

We are currently working on finalizing the 2018 Operating Budget that will be presented at the General Assembly on Sunday, January 21, 2018. Chronia Polla to all! Contact: Elias Lolis, elolis@aol.com



Church Renovation: first coat of primer paint on walls (week of Dec 17)



painting prep

Stewardship

Our parish celebrated Stewardship Sunday on December 3rd with liturgy followed by a complimentary lunch for all in the Stamford Athletic Center. Two key themes of our 2018 Stewardship Program are the importance (i) of thanking God for our many blessings and (ii) of giving back proportionately of our time, talents, and treasures. The aim of our Stewardship program is to help individuals and our community build a new way of life centered on Jesus Christ and the Gospel.

We are encouraging all members of the Church of the Archangels community to fill out and return their blue 2018 Stewardship Commitment Cards. On one side of the Commitment Cards, stewards should indicate their financial gift to the Church for 2018 and on the other side the ministries in which they want to participate. So far we have received Commitment Cards for 2018 from 55 families. If you did not receive a Commitment Card, there are additional cards available at the usher stand or in the Church office.

The Stewardship Committee intends to host several small group meetings this year and to work with the Parish Council and other ministry leaders in speaking directly to parish members about Stewardship. In 2016, 242 families made Stewardship financial contributions to the Church of the Archangels and we expect a similar figure for 2017. We are hopeful that with additional Stewardship Committee activity this coming year, the number of stewards will grow meaningfully in 2018. Contact: Tim Hartch, timhartch1@outlook.com

Additional Stewards (Nov. 23–Dec. 19, 2017)

Adams, Dr. Arthur & Maureen K.
Blanc, Dimitra
Cocolis, Margaret M & James W
Fornaciari, Stephen J & Margaret D
Janocha, William P & Mary C
Nanos, Alexis Stacy
Nanos, Jennifer Pamela

Paspalis, Peter M & Joan C
Pasvankias, John & Megan
Poulos, Michael G & Pamela
Prince, Eleni V
Romas, Joanne
Scocimara, Marguerite Sophie
Seaton, Arete & John Curtis

Master Planning

We are happy to report that we are well into the beautification aspects of our work at this point. Wood wainscoting in the Nave



wainscoting completion

is complete. Painting is well underway. New flooring in the Altar, Sacristy, Vestry, Bride's Room, Narthex, and Cry Room is being laid. Almost all ceiling patching has been completed and light fixtures are being installed. New carpeting will follow. The mosaic tile Pantokrator Dome and Panagia Platytera have been cleaned. Decades worth of soot and grime were removed. The results are truly striking. The before & after pictures (attached) are pretty special. They echo the original beauty of our church. We are grateful to our founding families for that, and equally grateful to present-day families who continue to support our renewal project! Contact: Jason Konidaris, jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Capital Campaign

The Master Planning Committee informs that work on the Church is progressing well. All the holes in the floor have been filled in and covered over, work is progressing on the actual decorating process, and it looks as though we will be able to move back in to the Sanctuary by the end of January. One hole has been filled in (the floor). But in the process of digging and filling that hole, a second hole was created in our construction budget. I have pointed this out on a number of occasions. I do not have perfect information to tell you how big the hole is that

we have to fill. Just that it is pretty big, given the \$300k+ in ductwork and electrical work, \$16k+ in needed insulation work, and the added amenities of a restroom and cry room to the Narthex. We will certainly need additional funds to supplement the budget for Part 2 as well. Filling that hole will not be easy. We have made a start with the designation of the proceeds of the Couyoumjian bequest to the Capital Campaign by the Parish Council last month. In addition, to date, we have received in hand about \$ 30,000 in unsolicited new pledges or repeat contributions which all help to fill the hole, much of it this past month. But it will take the co-operation of the entire parish and a display of enthusiasm not unlike that which you all showed in helping us reach our first goal last Spring in order to do the job. We have made a start. You will be hearing more about this when I make an announcement on Sunday, January 7. Contributions toward existing pledges continue to come in. We are deeply grateful for the seriousness that you all display in fulfilling your undertakings toward the Campaign. We are proud of you all and we congratulate you and thank you. Contact: Elias Kulukundis, enek@erols.com

Buildings & Grounds

SAC: Our involvement was relatively quiet during this period. We do have an upcoming concern with the HVAC that serves the basketball court. We discovered that this unit is not operating as it should - not producing air movement. The electric motor that drives this unit is in need of replacement. The motor will take approximately three weeks for delivery, which we are looking to expedite. The corroded steel beam below the women's showers has been replaced. We are now addressing tile floor above it. A contractor is currently in the process of installing streamline siding on the upper perimeter walls above the roof to reinforce the integrity of this structure. Security cameras have been installed to insure the safety of our members and our building.

Church: We were given formal instruction on the digital control system that serves the church complex. The original installing contractor guided our designated personnel how to set and adjust start/stop times, and setting temperature set points for the space during occupied and unoccupied periods. Contact: Peter Licopantis, pglydl3@optonline.net



Before and after professional cleaning of the Platytera (Virgin Mary "Wider than the Heavens" holding the Christ child) in the Apse (week of Dec 10)



Pantokrator ("Christ Almighty" holding the Gospel book) in the Dome (week of Dec 17)

MINISTRIES

Vasilopeta Celebration

Sunday, January 7, after Liturgy

Extra Collection to Benefit St. Basil's Academy

Cutting of Vasilopeta (St. Basil's Bread) for 2018

*Recognition of Clergy, Staff, Parish Council Officers
& Ministry Leaders*

Singing of Kalanda led by the Choir

Prayer of the Month

A beloved hymn of the Great Feast of Epiphany is the following, sung according to a wonderful traditional melody and very expressive of the deeper meaning of this celebration.

Kontakion. Tone 4

Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, καὶ τὸ φῶς σου Κύριε,
ἐσημειώθη ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, ἐν ἐπιγνώσει ὑμνοῦντας σε• Ἦλθες
ἐφάνης τὸ Φῶς τὸ ἀπρόσιτον.

You have appeared today to the world; and your light, O Lord, has been marked upon us, who with knowledge sing your praise: You have come, you have appeared, the Light that no one can approach!

Did you know?

As the Church developed in ancient society over centuries, feasts days emerged to honor the main events of the life of Christ, the Virgin Mary (Theotokos), and the glorified Saints, beginning with the Martyrs – those men, women and children who heroically gave up their very life in this world to bear witness to the Lordship of Jesus and his in-breaking Kingdom. One of these early developments was the combined winter Feast of Nativity & Epiphany: the celebration of both the birth of Christ and his Baptism in the River Jordan. In other words, before these were separated into two distinct Feasts on December 25 and January 6, they were celebrated together!

Weekday Worship

We continue our common worship with Annunciation Church on the following weekdays this month, with Orthros at 9:00 am and Liturgy 9:30 am:

Wed, Jan. 17 – St. Anthony here

Thu, Jan. 18 – St. Athanasius & Cyril at Annunciation

Thu, Jan. 25 – St. Gregory the Theologian here

Tue, Jan. 30 – 3 Hierarchs at Annunciation

SAVE THE DATE

*Mardi Gras
Dinner Dance*

Friday, February 2, 2018

Organized by Youth Ministries

Adult Education

- Koinonia – Small Groups
- Men – next meeting is Wed, Jan 24, 7 pm in the Library. The group has agreed to read the new pamphlet *Understanding the Divine Liturgy*, published by the Archdiocese Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism.
- Koinonia for Married Couples – will meet on Sunday, January 21, 6:30 pm at the home of Fr. Harry & Presvytera Kerry. Contact her at 914-874-6146 or pappaskk@msn.com
- Young Adults – TBA; contact Steve Sarigianis steve@archangelsgoc.org
- Interfaith Bible Study: Our successful ecumenical series the past 2 years broadens in 2018 to include the Jewish community! We will focus on the Old Testament/Hebrew Prophets on 4 successive Thursday evenings 7:30 pm, according to the following schedule:
- Jan 18 – Introduction: Who Speaks for God? @ Temple Sinai
- Jan 25 – How Will it all End? Apocalypticism @ 1st Presbyterian Church
- Feb 1 – Social Justice @ Temple Beth El
- Feb 8 – Mysticism & Spirituality @ St. John's Lutheran
- Feb 15 – make-up date in case of snow

Co-sponsored by the same 4 Christian churches as before – Archangels, 1st Presbyterian, St. Francis Episcopal, and St. John's Lutheran – along with 2 Jewish Synagogues – Temple Sinai & Temple Beth El. For more information, contact: Fr. Harry 203-348-4216 or hpappas@svots.edu

- Bible Study – as a result of the Interfaith series above, our own parish Bible Study on the Old Testament Prophets will resume in February. Details forthcoming.



December birthdays, from left to right, Peter Demetros, Yolanda Licopantis and Bill Jones.

Kali Parea Seniors

The Kali Parea Seniors had their lunch on Wednesday, December 13 in the gym. After a delicious lunch and some remarks from Steve on preparation for Christmas, we had entertainment by the Stamford Home Center band who played some wonderful holiday songs. Santa came for a visit too and gave a special treat to the Preschool who visited the seniors for a second year.

In this new year 2018, meetings will be on the second Thursdays of the month. The next luncheon will be on Thursday, January 11 in the gym. Join us and bring a friend! Contact: Pam Koutroubis

Coffee Hour Sponsorship welcomed

Consider sponsoring coffee hour for an upcoming Birthday, Name Day, Anniversary or Special Occasion. Contact Ritta in the office, Tuesday – Friday at 203-348-4216.

Ladies Philoptochos Society

Philoptochos held its annual Christmas gathering on Dec. 5th with a reception featuring pizza, appetizers and desserts provided by our members. Our guests included representatives from two of the charities that were recipients of the proceeds from our annual Turkey Bingo – AmeriCares Free Clinics (medical services) and Hour Children, an organization that serves incarcerated mothers and their children. They shared interesting and moving descriptions of their services and the individuals and families that benefit from them. IOCC, St. Michael's Home and the Bridgeport Rescue Mission also received donations from Turkey Bingo proceeds. Our knitting group created shawls now being presented to shut-ins, to their delight. Thank you to all who are participating in this project. Thank you also to everyone who supported the annual Vasilopita bread sale. Our next meeting is Feb. 6th. We hope to see you there. Please remember to pay your membership dues. Contact: Eugenia Zavras.



The preschool children enjoyed a visit from Santa at the Senior Christmas Party (12-13-17)



Shut-in Visits

Fr. Harry and at least 7 members of Philoptochos successfully visited around 40 shut-ins in order to share the love of Christ, prayer, and holiday treats such as tsourekia (sweet bread) or home baked pastries, along with the new 2018 Church Calendar. Contact the church office: 203-348-4216 or office@archangels.org

Church School

The Church School would like to thank all families and children for helping us prepare and execute a heartwarming children's Christmas pageant! This has been our youngest cast to date! We would also like to congratulate our children for taking such initiative and leadership. And thank you to all the parents who sacrificed time out of their busy holiday schedules to attend rehearsals, help us prepare for the reception, and help us costume our children. It certainly was a team effort. The first half of our school year showed increased energy in terms of student attendance and engagement in all aspects of our program. We



Children line up to visit Santa Claus and receive a present



President Eugenia Zavras (left) and Turkey Bingo Co-Chair Lara Paschalidis (right) present checks to representatives of Hour Children and AmeriCares Free Clinics at the chapter's Christmas reception.



Children listen in rapt attention to a magician perform



President Eugenia Zavras and Past President Marion Vanson display some of the shawls made by our Knitting Group as gifts to home-bound parishioners and hospice patients.

pray that the New Year will continue to bring us closer together in both fellowship and faith education. Please help us to joyfully begin 2018 by coming together for the **Mardi Gras Costume Party on Feb 2nd** that is jointly sponsored by all Youth Ministries! You won't want to miss this one: Live music, a family photo booth, a costume promenade, costume prizes, children's craft activities, and plenty of dancing are all in the mix. This will be a night of festivity for children and adults alike. Finally, an updated Church School calendar will be provided shortly highlighting events and activities for the latter half of the year. Wishing families every good gift and offering for 2018! Contact: Dr. Evelyn Biliadis Lolis

Greek School

The Greek school participated to the Christmas pageant at our church and all of us enjoyed the students honoring the Great Feast of Jesus' birth and singing Christmas songs both in English and Greek. We are so grateful for the memories they offered to us! Also, during the last lesson before Christmas vacation the

Greek School had a wonderful celebration in which students wrote their own Christmas Cards, made Christmas crafts and had fun by listening Greek Christmas songs and eating pizza and fruits salad. The Christmas vacation for Greek school extends until January 4. During this time all students who are participating in the Geography Fair will draw a map of their geography assignment. We are looking forward to exhibit these when they present them during the celebration of Three Hierarchs on January 28. Contact: Anna Lempesi, ann.lempesi@gmail.com

GOYA

On Sunday, December 3, the GOYA held its monthly meeting in the gym during the Stewardship Sunday reception. Both fall fundraisers continue to do well. We sold all but a few Christmas wreaths as part of our annual sale and the Greek Restaurant Discount Card sale continues to do well. Remember: half of proceeds go to Hurricane relief through IOCC. Please contact Maria Otis or Steve Sarigianis if interested in a \$20 card. For



The GOYA volunteered at the DOMUS organization's Holiday Mall on Saturday, December 23, helping parents of at-risk children 'shop' for Christmas gifts.

the 5th year in a row, the DOMUS Giving Tree gift donation drive was a success! Forty gifts were generously purchased by community members and delivered to DOMUS headquarters by our GOYAns; these gifts help bring smiles to families throughout the area. THANK YOU for your support of GOYA and DOMUS! On Saturday, December 23, the GOYA volunteered at the DOMUS Holiday Mall, where local parents of 'at-risk' and underprivileged youth came to "shop" for gifts. Every year our teen group intentionally involves itself in service to the community. Last year we participated in the Inspirica Wrapping Party; this year in the Holiday Mall. Both allow us to prepare for Christ's birth by opening our hearts to those in need by serving them. It was a beautiful morning of service work for our GOYAns. Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- **Friday, Dec. 29: GOYA Christmas Dance in Orange,** 7:30pm-11pm. \$10/person
- **Saturday, Dec. 30: Soup Kitchen service @ New Covenant,** 4:30pm-6pm
- **Sunday, Dec. 7: Monthly Meeting** in the library, 12pm-1pm
Contact: Dorie Poulos, dorielp@yahoo.com



HOPE/JOY

On Dec 9th, fifteen families came out on a snowy Saturday to attend the annual Christmas party at the Norwalk Inn hosted by Hope & Joy and Little Angels. The children and their parents enjoyed a lunch buffet, craft time to make a variety of nativity ornaments, a spiritual lesson by Steve Sarigianis, an amazing magic show by Danny Diamond and the grand finale of singing Christmas carols. Vasso Spanos and Rachel Jones of Little Angels held a raffle for wonderful prizes to help raise funds. Our next Ministry event will be on Saturday, January 6th featuring Family Gym & Game Night with sports, ping pong, foosball, board games and pizza, salad, snacks [with a request of free will donation.] and BYO desserts. This will take place at the Stamford Athletic Club. The next Annunciation Church Friday evening workshop is on January 19th featuring St. Noah on the theme of faithfulness.

Merry Christmas and see you in the new year. On Friday, February 2nd there will be a Mardi Gras celebration at the church and on Saturday, February 10th, we plan to visit the senior residents at Atria Stamford to celebrate Valentine's day. Contact: Ruth Diamond, rh67@cornell.edu or Chris Nanos, cnanos203@yahoo.com





Church School and Greek School children perform the 2017 Christmas Pageant in the hall on Sunday, December 17.



A group shot of those involved in the Christmas Program organized by Church School Director Dr. Evelyn Biliadis (far right) and coordinated by Greek School Director Anna Lempesi (not pictured) and Steve Sarigianis (far right). (Dec. 17)

Little Angels

Little Angels is the church ministry group representing young families including infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Our purpose is to bring together parents and little ones for fun and fellowship, support, and to strengthen our faith and church family friendships and relationships.

In December, the Hope/Joy and Little Angels Christmas Party took place at the Norwalk Inn, where we held our Annual Raffle to support the Little Angels ministry. The raffle featured toys and gift cards for the children to bid on. A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the raffle and purchased tickets! We had so many generous donations of toys and gift cards, and the children had so much fun bidding and helping to announce the winners! Thank you for everyone's support this year!

Save the date: Little Angels is hosting another "Mom's Night Out" in January! Please join us for dinner at 7pm on Friday, January 19 at Ten Twenty Post in Darien. Look for the email invitation to RSVP in January. We look forward to seeing you!

Coming up on Sunday, February 11 is the Annual Little Angels Valentine's Bake Sale to support our ministry! The bake sale will feature homemade Valentine's Day themed treats made by the Little Angels and available for purchase during the coffee hour. Also during coffee hour, there will be a fun Valentine's Day craft for the children! Look for more details and sign-up closer to the date. Contact: Vasso Spanos (bkarachris@gmail.com) or Rachel Jones (racheljones.cpa@gmail.com)



Coach Skoparantzou huddling with JV basketball team during practice (Dec 8)



Coach Steve leads Youth Basketball team at practice (Dec 8)

Athletics

The Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Basketball League (CEOBL) and Volley Ball League (CEOVL) are now underway. Our JV team led by coach John Skoparantzios is off to a 2-1 start. Youth & JV basketball practices continue at the Cultural Center on Fridays from 5:15pm-7:00pm, and girls volleyball is on Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. 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).

Family Gym and Game Night

Save the Date: Our next Family Gym and Game Night is scheduled for Saturday, January 6th, starting at 5pm at our Cultural Center Gym. So mark it on your calendars and if you didn't make the first one, come on out and give this one a try. This fun, casual event will follow the same format as the last one: board games for adults and children of all ages; organized gym games for children ages 6-12 led by volunteer parent coaches; coloring and craft supplies for ages 5 and under; ping pong and foosball reserved for our teenagers and a free-will donation to cover pizza, salad, beverages and cookies. Families are encouraged to bring their favorite board game and a dessert, if they like. And we would love to see more Yiayias and Pappous in the crowd for some card playing or anything else. Contact: Peter Cholakis, peter_cholakis@conair.com

Greek Language Classes for Adults

The world is shrinking with globalization and the internet! Now is a great time for adults to learn modern Greek. We are blessed to have an excellent instructor in Dr. Eugenia Zavras, a biology Professor at Fairfield University and past teacher and director of the Greek School. For information and registration, contact her directly at 203-322-9561, or call Ritta in the church office 203-348-4216.



Painting the dome on a lift (Dec 27)

Pilgrimage to Holy Land & Jordan: May 6 – 19, 2018

As previously announced, Fr. Harry will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land next spring that is open to members of our church as well as all other interested persons, and will include some different sites in Israel, as well as Jordan for the first time. Itinerary includes:

- Departure Sunday evening, May 6
- Sea of Galilee – Magdala, Tabgha, Capernaum
- Nazareth, Mt. Tabor, Burquin, Nablus
- Bethlehem, Shepherd's Field, Hebron, Judean Desert
- Monasteries: St. Sabbas, St. Theodosios, St. Gerasimos, St. Simeon, Ascension & the Holy Cross
- Jerusalem – National Museum of Israel, Mount of Olives, Tomb of the Prophets, Kedron Valley, Garden of Gethsemane, Golgotha, Holy Sepulcher, Bethesda, Tomb of the Theotokos, Temple Mount, Pool of Siloam, Tunnel of Hezekiah, Upper Room, Russian Ecclesiastical School
- Midnight Liturgy at the Holy Sepulcher
- Jericho, Dead Sea, Bethany, Tombs of King David & Lazarus
- Taybeh, a Palestinian Christian village
- Jordan: Bethany beyond Jordan, Mt. Nebo, Madaba, Petra, Little Petra, Jerash
- Return Saturday morning, May 19

Cost: very reasonable price of \$2,760/person based upon double occupancy; for single occupancy, add \$750/person. This includes: tourist class hotels, air-conditioned coach bus, all transfers, tour guides, breakfast & dinner daily (and some lunches), all entry fees for sites. Not included: airfare. Currently our professional coordinator, Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky, the Orthodox Priest who organized the Pilgrimage to Russia, is working on round trip tickets that are less than \$1,000 from New York. Reservations are due by January 30, 2018 with a \$500/person deposit. For further details, contact Fr. Harry who can send out a detailed, color brochure.



Ramon (on right with blue cap) Supervisor of 12 man painting crew (Dec 27)

Stamford Athletic Club

January does not only mean a “New” Year on the calendar; it means all sorts of “new” things at SAC. We will have quarterly fitness competitions for SAC members to win a brand new Fit-Bit. New members will have a chance to win Del Frisco’s Grill gift certificates. New classes including Cardio Boxing have been added.

We look forward to adding a new athletic possibility at SAC – Pickleball!! Racquets and balls are now readily available at SAC or bring your own. Our badminton nets are designed to adjust for pickleball, giving us the ability to host 3 pickleball courts at a time. If you or even non members are interested in playing during the day, please stop by SAC or email jeff@sacteam.com to coordinate court time. Teams are encouraged to contact us for additional availability as well. Go this Reader’s Digest link to learn more about “America’s fastest growing sport” <http://www.rd.com/health/fitness/what-is-pickleball/>

Another “new” item of the year is the addition of a vendor working out of the SAC kitchen. Chef Rafael Medina of Steel Sharpens Steel will put the kitchen to good use when not needed by the parish. Chef plans to have delicious and nutritious lunch and dinner options prepared for anyone to order and take home. Free tastings will be offered in near future so please follow-up with SAC if you are interested.

A brand “new” badminton tournament is being organized for those interested. Contact Jonathan at JonL@sacteam.com for more information on that event.

Lana Karpel, a SAC member and Registered Nurse as well as one of the world’s leading Wellness & Nutrition coaches, is teaming up with Mark Covello, a SAC Group Yoga instructor for a “new” workshop taking place on January 20, 2018 at SAC from 10 am until noon. Lana and Mark will take you through deep relaxation practices and discuss such topics as the best diet without dieting and the power of the mind and body to heal. Workshop fee: \$20. Email lane.karpel@gmail.com today for more info and to sign up as space is limited.

And of course, a New Year means New Year’s resolutions. Join SAC today or take full advantage of all that SAC has to offer if you are already a member. Consider hiring one of our personal trainers to provide you with a new program that will encourage you to stay on task. Or bring a friend for motivation. Remember, if you bring a friend who becomes a new member at SAC, you will earn a FREE month of membership. If not a member, come for a FREE week trial.

Have a great New Year! Contact: Jeff Kaminski, jeff@sacteam.com



Introducing 3 great new programs at SAC

- **Our new FitBit Challenge:** Existing and new members can participate in our quarterly fitness competitions. The winner each quarter wins a new state-of-the-art FitBit.
- **\$125 Del Frisco’s Grill Gift Certificate:** Each month, new members are entered into a raffle and the winner receives a \$125 Del Frisco’s Grille Gift Certificate.
- **Introducing our new caterer Steel Sharpens Steel:** Stamford Chef Rafael Medina is launching his new food & catering service for club members and Parishioners.

As always, we offer parishioners a 50% membership discount. Email jonl@sacteam.com to schedule your *free 1-week membership*.

Collage of Pictures from the Children's Christmas Pageant (Dec 17)



Archangels Youth Ministries Present...

FRIDAY, **FEBRUARY 2ND**

Mardi **GRAS**



A Costume Party To Remember!

Feat. **DJ PETER VALIS**

6:00 pm-10:00pm

STAMFORD ATHLETIC CLUB

Costume Promenade, Prizes, Photobooth, Crafts, & Dancing

PARISH NEWS

40 Day Churching

- Ford Nanos on Dec 17, 3rd child of George & Amy Nanos

Baptism

- Sophia Georgia on Dec 3, 1st child of Christina Nanos & Jonathan Yeargan; sponsor was Alexis Nanos
- Isabella Panagiota on Dec 3, 1st child of Jennifer Nanos & Elwin Rosales; sponsor was Alexis Nanos
- Stavros Xenophon on Dec 16, 1st child of Robert & Daphne (Stavropoulos) Papp; sponsor was Andreas Stavropoulos

Wedding

- George Khouri & Marie Daleo on Dec 30. It was a second marriage for each.



Painting the Sacristy (Dec 27)



Painting the altar area (Dec 27)



Freshly painted portion of nave (Dec 27)



Freshly painted South Transept, matching original colors (Dec 27)

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 Harch, 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 initial goal was to raise \$2,200,000 over a three year period 2014-2017. The Campaign now remains open to cover heavy additional work and associated cost. 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 December 20, 2017):

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Total Commitments | \$2,240,300.00 |
| Total Commitments Paid | \$2,114,350.00 |
| Funds Received from Contributions, Since 11/20 | \$28,102.50.00 |
| Total Pledgors/Contributors | 160 |

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.

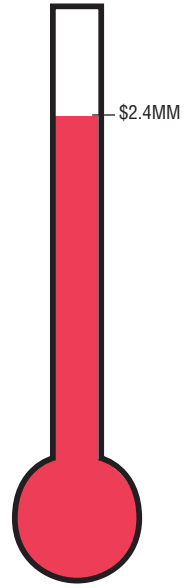
| | |
|--|-----------|
| Architects | \$232,089 |
| Contractors | \$208,813 |
| Salaries (Archangels office, non-construction related) | \$117,534 |
| Solicitation | \$36,234 |
| Gala | \$34,069 |
| Furniture | \$12,185 |

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



The Contributors (as of December 20, 2017):

PLEDGES

Anonymous (8)
 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 Burr Jr. and Sophia Gevas
 Sophie Caloutas
 Pericles and Diana Caminis
 Nitsa Chagaris
 Peter Cholakis and Teresa Cassidy
 Helen Chochos
 James W. and Margaret Cocolis
 Glenn and Angie Colarossi
 Harry Condos
 Savet Constantine
 Nicholas Dafiotis
 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 Harch
 Brian Irizarry and Gigi Perimenis
 William and Mary Janocha
 David Johnson and Nicole Stamatelos
 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 Littrivis
 George Khouri

Arthur and Elaine Kiratous
 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
 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. Nanos
 Theodore and Ann Nanos
 Theophilos and Friderika Nocolis
 Gerrit Nijmeijer and Ismini Naos
 Nicholas Nikas
 Mark and Maria Otis
 George and Cindy Paparis
 Father Harry and Presbyteria Pappas
 Peter and Joan Paspalis
 Kimon and Julie Passios
 Tom and Nike Passios
 John and Megan Paskvankias
 George and Panaghiota Patsis
 George and Jane Perkins
 Katie Perimenis
 Dr. Peter and Carmen Perimenis
 Stefanos and Stamatia Petsas
 Father George and Presbyteria Poulos
 Maria Poulos
 Peter and Geri Poulos
 Stephen and Susan Root
 Lee and Mary Sampanis
 Joseph and Rebecca Samra
 Pericles and Erika Sentementes

Robert and Branislava Shekhdar
 Ken and Maria Shepard
 Theodore and Diane Sierpina
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 Catherine Sofronas
 Agesilaos and Molly Sotire
 Sotiris and Nicoletta Soulios
 Demosthenes and Anthea Speridakos
 Konstantinos and Bonnie Spetsaris
 Helen Stamatiades
 Evan and Roula Stergiannis
 Dr. Stelios Theofanides and Dr. Elizabeth Siderides
 Dr. Steven and Nadja Toulipoulos
 Demetrios and Leda Tsapralis
 Katina and Margaret Tsiarantonakis
 Alkiviadis and Matoula Valassis
 Soulafrada Valassis
 Dr. Steven and Anastasia Valassis
 Steven and Antonia Valassis
 Basil and Terri Vanech
 Nadine Vasilacopoulos
 John and Medina Vasily
 Argyris and Ann Vassiliou
 Angelica Verses
 Penny Vorvis
 Peter M. Vorvis
 Paul and Goldie Winn
 Nicholas and Kyriaki Yoranidis
 Nicole Yoranidis

NON-PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS

Ladies Philoptochos Society, Church of the Archangels
 AHEPA Chapter No. 99
 Anonymous (3)
 Janiella Androulidakis
 Peter and Christine Antipas
 Evangelos Apopsis and Victoria De Melo Paz
 Archangels Greek School P. T. O.
 Maria Olga Athanasiadis
 Mary Louise Bennett
 Dean Bouloukos
 Peter Cholakis and Teresa Cassidy
 Helen Chagaris
 Jeanette Chagaris
 James and Marge Cocolis
 Popi Demakos
 Christie Demetrios

George and Cheryl Demetros and Family
 Spencer and Catherine Demetros and Family
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 Peter Galuris
 Peter and Soulafrada Hantes
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 Janie Konidaris
 John Konidaris
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 Natalie Kulukundis
 Christina Kyriakiou
 Nick and Vicki Kyriakos
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 John and Joella Lykouratzos
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 Dr. Steven and Anastasia Valassis
 Dennis and Marion Vanson
 John and Medina Vasily
 Evangelos and Denise Venturas
 Stephanie-Eva Venturas
 Joanne Verses
 Helene and Manoucher Yekta

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