



The Herald

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

MAY 2018

Forward Progress & Jane's Legacy

One year after we were all stunned into silence and grief, we gathered on April 22 to pray for, remember, and honor the longest standing, most deeply involved layperson of our parish's 90-year history: Jane Vorvis, whose birth was only a few years before Archangels was founded. As someone alertly pointed out, this time we were much more composed than Holy Week last year. And everyone recognized that we were back in a beautifully renovated church building to which she gave the full measure of her devotion.

If our country recently honored the memory of Barbara Bush, one of our most beloved and dignified first ladies, it seemed no coincidence that about the same time we could quite legitimately consider Jane as longest running first lady of our parish. Never married and with no driver's license, she seemed to live as though wedded to Christ and all of us across four generations.

I think it only fitting to recall Jane's passionate commitments to the following aspects of our common life of faith here in Stamford as these have unfolded in recent years:

- Renovation of our physical facilities, starting with our worship space: Jane must be delighted with what we have accomplished and now enjoy
- Total makeover of the first floor outside the church – entrances, offices, bathrooms, hall, kitchen, hallway, library, classrooms – not just to refresh existing areas, but create new spaces that will better serve evolving needs of our community that have clearly changed since the 1950's
- Younger and newer members stepping into leadership roles in the Parish Council and various Ministries: not just those who were raised at Archangels, but those who have gravitated here for a variety of reasons.
- Computerization and continual updating of all record-keeping, even if Jane could not keep up with hardware and software and had her own quirky ways of using her computer!
- Creation of a full time, Pastoral Assistant specializing in all areas of Youth Ministry: even if Jane never had children of her own, she became a spiritual mother to generations of children who have grown up and was a grandmother to those who have yet to do so
- Implementation of a Stewardship Program to educate, model, and inspire spiritual growth by offering the Gospel of God's love in Christ and seeking heartfelt commitments of time, talents, and treasures: Jane always delighted to see people involved in church life, from worship to fellowship to service to ministry
- Raising sufficient money to pay for our Master Plan from pledges, bequests, memorial gifts, and contributions: Jane was never interested in making lots of money herself, but she was very generous and thoughtful of others, including our parish ministry
- Proper oversight and management of Stamford Athletic Club at the Greek Cultural Center in order to preserve and enhance such a significant resource for our parish ministry while offering something of substance to the greater Stamford community
- Developing our annual GreekFest to elicit collaboration and open the doors of our spiritual home to the public: Jane truly loved to celebrate while she worked her fingers to the bone
- Appropriate use of English in our worship services to better serve the needs of a significant number of members and seekers – from some seniors, to the middle-aged, to young adults and children, to those from other Orthodox lands along with those who are simply American: Jane recognized how easy it is to enjoy wonderful sounds but to miss meaning that connects mind with heart to inform and challenge, not just inspire
- Promotion of adult education of Orthodox Christianity through sermons and education using various methodologies: Jane was humble enough to admit when she did not know something about our faith and enjoyed learning.

CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGELS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

"Come let us rebuild"



Church of the Archangels
Capital Campaign

"Come let us rebuild"

Please pledge or donate today to help reach our goal!

Mail checks to 1527 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT 06905

For more information, call 203-348-4216 or visit www.archangelsgoc.org

In writing this I make no pretense to fully capture Jane's indomitable spirit, only to offer some reflection of who she really was and what she really thought. She would want us to trust Christ, pray with sincerity, work hard, and leave the full measure of our own lives for the glory of God, something she exemplified in her own unique way.

Holy Week reminds us that no one ever ceases to be a member of the Church. How could they when our Lord has decisively defeated the powers of evil and death, and opened the gates of eternal life?

Christ is risen...and he fully intends to raise Jane one day!

– Fr. Harry

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council

Christos Anesti! We hope you had a blessed Pascha. Thank you to everyone who helped manage critical details and traditions of the season. Staff, Council, and Ministry leaders could not accomplish it all without your help. Again, thank you! Stamford Athletic Club's management presented at our April meeting. This was a follow up to January's marketing plan presentation. We reviewed ad/marketing spend metrics, early data from their social media effort, a plan for video content and testimonials, and ROI (return on investment) targets for further marketing spending. We will meet as a full group in July to review the June quarter. On April 22nd we sponsored a memorial luncheon for Jane Vorvis, beloved parish secretary for nearly 60 years. It was a meaningful gathering for so many of us. We are grateful to Phil and Liz Costas, several Philoptochos members, and John Cocolis for all of their gracious work before, during, and after the event. Contact, Jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Special General Assembly – on Sunday, May 20, immediately following Liturgy in church to elect two voting delegates to the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress on July 2-5 in Boston, MA. They will join Fr. Harry and Steve to represent our parish. Official delegates must be members in good standing and nominated by someone else. Their registration fee will be paid by the church; they will provide their own transportation and lodging. For more information, contact the office.

New 2018 Stewards (March 20, 2018 – April 17, 2018)

Cherian, Aleyamma C / George,
Bundu C
Giannos, Marilyn M / Dennis G
Hughes, Diana / Dr. Peter
Karamanis, Zora A / Gabriel M
MacFarlane, Cassie / Robert C
Mintchev, Maria Petrova / Radoslav M

Moisiades, Nicholas
Nanos, Ann / Theodore
Oris, Joane A / Michael L
Passios, Julie / Kimon
Sioles, Louis W
Valassis, Anastasia / Dr. Steven A
Verses, Angelica B

Master Planning

Planning continues on pace. The floor plan revision was posted in the Fellowship Hall on Palm Sunday. 5 color renderings depicting physical perspectives were posted on Good Friday. Please stop in to see them anytime. Master Planning Committee members are happy to field any questions you may have. Seek out Nick Aivalis, Tim Hartch, Jason Konidaris, Elian Kulukundis, Fr. Harry, Jane Dragonas Perkins, or Aggie Sotire. On April 26th we interviewed 4 construction management firms for Part II of our project. Bidding from subcontractors is sched-

uled for early May. Concurrently we are working with our architect to lay out an early schedule for environmental abatement and materials selection. It is exciting to share these steps in the project with you. Without you there would be no project. With you we will renew all of our 1st floor interior spaces, repurpose square footage, tie in entrances and exterior elements in a welcoming way, and beautify our Christian home for decades to come. Thank you for your continued support. Contact: jason.konidaris@yale.edu



Jason Konidaris explains the latest church layout to several youngsters at coffee hour. (April 1)

Capital Campaign

THIS IS WHAT THE CAMPAIGN IS ALL ABOUT! Jason Konidaris is eagerly showing three curious and fascinated youngsters the updated plans and renderings for the to-be-renovated campus. These are the parishioners for whose benefit we are undertaking this project. These are the future church members who will be using the renovated Hall and other amenities. It is for them that we are updating our facilities, bringing them into the twenty-first century and making them ADA compliant. It is for their benefit and that of their children that we embarked upon the Capital Campaign in the first place. Just as sixty years ago our parents worked to build our new Church, not for themselves but for us.

To be honest, this project is also for our benefit and quite naturally we expect to be using the updated facilities to the fullest extent we are able. But our primary goal, now that the

refurbishing of the Church is completed, is to build something that will meet the needs of our children, a place where they will enjoy getting together, a place where they – and we – will feel at home. A place which, directly and indirectly, will become an integral part of our activities as a community of worship.

Our Church was not built without the unstinted support of our parents who, as my Father encouraged them, ‘gave until it hurt’. They believed in what they had set out to accomplish and pitched in wholeheartedly to make it happen: selling raffle tickets all over Stamford, baking Greek pastries, putting on a ‘festival’ every summer, helping out in whatever way they could until we were able to burn our mortgage many years before it would have become due. Ninety-five percent of the then community are listed in the commemorative album as donors along with many non-members; and everyone joined in to help reach their goals. And they did it mainly for our benefit and for the glory of God.

Now it is our turn. We are setting out to create something that our children will be proud of twenty years from now and that will be as responsive to their needs then as it may also be to our needs now. We have come a long way since we started this project in 2014. The Master Planning Committee will shortly be selecting a contractor to undertake Part 2 renovations. And preparatory work before actual construction will commence already in early June. The passage of time and the unexpected setbacks encountered during the refurbishment of the Church have led to a shortfall in the funds needed to complete the project and to realize the dreams of the young children in the photo. As a result, it has been necessary to reopen the Campaign in order to make it all happen. We are part of the way toward our new goal already. But there is still quite a tall mountain to climb before we actually get there.

We would be nowhere without the support and good will of all of you in the first phase of the Campaign. We need you now to help us reach our goal in the second phase. We ask you all to consider how you may be able to help us get there. You have all received pledge cards recently. We hope that you will all con-

sider seriously what you may be able to do to help, those of you who have not yet participated in the Campaign as well as those who have already made and completed a pledge. We would be appreciative if you would return the cards to the office in the near future, noting on them whatever amounts you may be comfortable pledging over the next three years. We are grateful for all your help bringing us to where we are. We are sure you will respond generously and put us over the top once again.

Yes, we have embarked on this project for our own purposes. But, more importantly, we are undertaking it for the benefit of our children, children like the three in the photo. Let’s work together to make it happen.

THAT IS WHAT THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS ALL ABOUT!

Contact: Elias N. Kulukundis, enek@erols.com

Buildings & Grounds

With the winter behind us our attention turns to the various roofs of the Stamford Athletic Club. We are assessing our priorities there. We have met with two roofers and are awaiting their recommendations and proposals. There are roof areas that will be repaired and others that will require total replacement. We have solicited a quote for a service maintenance agreement for the basketball court’s HVAC unit. It is needed after years of neglect. The carpeting in the woman’s locker room recently received a well-deserved steam cleaning. We are under contract and in the process of scheduling replacement of cracked and displaced tiles on the pool deck. Additionally, we are under contract and in the process of replacing deteriorating sheet metal casing on the lower section of the pool’s heating unit. Our new security camera system has proved beneficial by capturing footage of the most recent car break-in in the parking lot. These recordings were turned over to the police for their ongoing investigation. Last week signs were installed through our parking areas, warning of video surveillance. Conventionally, these serve to deter such occurrences. Contact: Peter Licopantis, pglydl3@optonline.net

MINISTRIES

Prayer of the Month

The following hymn from the most glorious Great Feast of Pascha/Easter captures Christ’s humanity and divinity in the supreme mystery of his Crucifixion and Resurrection in beautiful, concise language.

Ἐν τάφῳ σωματικῶς, ἐν Ἅδου δὲ μετὰ ψυχῆς ὡς Θεός, ἐν Παραδείσῳ δὲ μετὰ Ληστοῦ, καὶ ἐν θρόνῳ ὑπῆρχες Χριστέ, μετὰ Πατρὸς καὶ Πνεύματος, πάντα πληρῶν ὁ ἀπερίγραπτος.

O Christ, you were in the grave with your body, in Hades with your soul as God, in Paradise with the Thief, and on your throne with the Father and the Spirit, filling all things, yet yourself limited by nothing.

Did You Know?

We are trying a new way of making an offering at the Candle Stand (Pangari) in the Narthex by placing contributions directly into a slot rather than into an open tray. Therefore, we ask that everyone bring correct change to church (such as single dollar

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2018

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

Barbecue – Games for the Family – Details to Follow



The faithful gather with Fr. Harry on the solea for the annual 'Teaching Liturgy' on Lazarus Saturday morning. (March 31)



Young and old alike raise their freshly made palm crosses during the annual Lazarus Saturday palm plaiting. (March 31)



Pam Koutroubis beautifully decorates several Holy Week icons, like this one of the Last Supper. (April 5)



Eleni Prince (second from left) leads a crew of women and men in decorating the wooden tomb of Christ, the Kouvouklion, on Holy Friday. (April 6)

bills, \$5's or \$10's) in order to avoid creating a line while seeking change of larger bills from the ushers. This system is used in many churches and expedites the flow of traffic entering into worship. We appreciate your patience as we work toward improving our ministry!

Great Feast of Ascension

We will observe the Great Feast of the Ascension of our Lord on Thursday, May 17. As usual, we are invited to the neighboring parish of the Church of Our Savior (2195 Westchester Avenue East, Rye NY) since this is their patronal Feast, according the following schedule:

- Wed, May 16 – Great Vespers 7 pm, with area clergy and parishes, followed by a festal reception
- Thu, May 17 – Orthros 8:30 am, Liturgy 9:30 am, followed by a festal reception.

Great Feast of Pentecost: Memorial Day Weekend (May 26-28)

Since Memorial Day weekend this year coincides with the Great Feast of Pentecost, here is our adjusted schedule for worship and ministry:

- Saturday, May 26: Saturday of Souls Liturgy 9:30 am, Memorial Prayers 10:30 am. Please bring a list of the first names of those who have fallen asleep. This will be our primary observance for the Memorial Day weekend since it is

most characteristic of our Church Tradition.

- Sunday, May 27: Great Feast of PENTECOST @ Cove Park Pavilion for our Outdoor Liturgy and Family Barbecue – Orthros 9 am, Liturgy 10 am with Chrismation of Manita Scocimara, Prayers of Pentecost 11:30 am; Coffee Hour 11:45 am, with Lunch, Games and Activities for the Family.
- Monday, May 28: Fr. Harry will not offer General Memorial Prayers at area Cemeteries due to the Saturday of Souls, but he will be available to visit individual Gravesides for those who ask him to come. Contact the office to arrange this in advance and spread the word.

Adult Education

- Bible Study continues on Monday evenings through May 21 as we study the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah. Our group is considering a celebration during the last session, perhaps with a pot-luck dinner as last year. The recommended devotional guide, *Run with the Horses: the Quest for Life at its Best*, by Eugene Peterson, is available in the bookstore (\$12).
- *Beginning to Pray* is a best-selling, contemporary classic introduction to developing our life of prayer by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom of blessed memory, whose writings and media appearances attracted widespread interest in Great Britain beginning in the 1960's. The Parish Council will meet on Tue, May 15, at 6 pm over dinner to discuss this book which was given as a gift to them last year by Fr. Harry.



Fr. Harry kicks off the children's Good Friday Retreat with a teaching lesson on the 'Epitafion', the cloth icon of Jesus Crucified, that is placed in the wooden 'tomb'. (April 6)



Mr. Steve offers an interactive teaching lesson on the agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. (April 6)

- Spiritual Growth Committee, from our Leadership Retreat in January, met on April 20, to strategize short and long-term goals for adult education in the Orthodox faith. Here are some preliminary results of their deliberation:
 - ‡ Sermon series on reading the Bible that will begin in part this summer but primarily in the fall
 - ‡ Offer in print or digitally the schedule of daily Bible readings throughout the year
 - ‡ Incorporate Sunday Bible readings in the Church School program to encourage parents and children with a weekly assignment
 - ‡ Publicize free Apps for smart phones that offer the Bible in English, Greek and other languages to facilitate reading and even listening to audio recordings
 - ‡ Offer a weekday Bible Study during the daytime hours for seniors in English and in Greek
 - ‡ Facilitate greater knowledge of the larger story of the Bible through very popular and wonderful writings that present Scripture in captivating narrative
 - ‡ Disseminate popular and well-done YouTube and Pod Casts that offer basic teaching of the Orthodox Christian faith to adults and teens
 - ‡ Begin contacting Retreat speakers for next ecclesiastical year
- Men's Koinonia – during the April 19, we discussed two recent articles about the role of women in the Church that focused on the reality and prospect of renewing the ancient order of Women Deacons. Next meeting: tentative date is Wed, May 23, 7 pm, with proposed topic of the Book of Revelation.
- Couples Koinonia – Presvytera Kerry will lead the small group discussion for married couples on Sun, May 20, 7 pm at her home (131 Silver Hill Lane, Stamford). Here is a quote she wishes to share: “Genuine mutual forgiveness is one of the most intimate acts of marriage, as it draws husband and wife into the depths of divine grace, the heart of the other, and oneness in Christ.” Please RSVP with her in advance: kpappas@goarch.org or 203-504-2689 (home).

- Marriage Class #2 for those who wish to learn more about Christian marriage along with those who are preparing for their wedding this year: Sunday, May 20, 3-5 pm in the Library. Contact: Fr. Harry
- Anyone interested in Greek Language instruction contact Dr. Eugenia Zavras at 203.322.9561 or etz124@yahoo.com

Kali Parea Seniors

At the April Seniors meeting and luncheon there was a particular joy that was felt as a result of the Resurrection. The group heard usual business from Pam the President, and Fr. Harry made some pastoral announcements before all feasted on a sumptuous meal of Pasticio and Greek salad prepared by Kathy Moschos (of Patio Café at Government Center). Dr. Mark Edelman, a Vascular Surgeon from Norwalk, was the guest speaker and offered wise words about maintaining vascular health. Afterward, the group enjoyed warm conversations and fellowship over desert. Please join us for our next luncheon on Thursday, May 10 at noon. Contact: Pam Koutroubis, pamelak@aol.com

Ladies Philoptochos Society

The annual Spring Ladies Luncheon took place at Madonia Restaurant in Stamford on Saturday, April 28th and was a great success. Thank you to Co-Chairs Cindy Mixcus and Pauline Galuris for planning the lovely event, which enabled mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts, daughters and nieces to enjoy each other's company. Thanks also to Marion Vanson for organizing the raffle. We also appreciate the support from our members and parishioners of the Philoptochos' annual Palm Sunday bread and bake sales, which was a great success. Some of the delicious baked goods were shared with homebound parishioners. At our meeting on April 10th, our members approved donations to Homes for the Brave, a charity in Bridgeport that assists military veterans, especially those who are homeless; National Philoptochos to support the Aid to Greece and Cyprus campaign; a priest in Corinth, Greece who provides aid to local families in need; the Ark of the World charity in Athens, an old age home in Samos, Greece and the Archdiocesan District Olympics for youth in recognition of its 40th anniversary. Our



The handmaidens adorn the symbolic tomb of Christ with fragrant rose petals on Holy Friday Evening. (April 6)



Fr. Harry (assisted by Joe Dos Santos) prays a few final petitions outside the church following the procession of altar servers, Handmaidens, choir and the entire congregation on Holy Friday evening. (April 6)

chapter welcomes new and returning members at any time during the year. We now have 62 dues paying members. Note, dues are very modest. Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 1st at 7 p.m. Please join us. Contact: Eugenia Zavras, etz124@yahoo.com.

Church School

Christos Anesti! The Church School Program would like to congratulate all families and children who participated in our annual Good Friday Retreat on April 6, 2018. We had close to 50 children, an all-time record attendance for a Good Friday that did not coincide with the western Good Friday date. A very special thank you to all of our station leaders for volunteering their time in their talents to making this event extraordinary: Presbytera Kerry and Diane Sierpina; Anna Diamantis and Anastasia Valassis; and my station co-leader Steve Sarigianis. We'd like to further offer our deepest thanks to the ladies of our beloved Philoptochos Society who prepared and served a beautiful Lenten lunch to all families and children. May the Lord bless your hands! We have two final events for the culminating month of May. Our final Philanthropy will be held on Sunday, May 13th and will be dedicated to Mother's Day. Lastly, our Commencement celebration will be held during our Outdoor Liturgy and Family Picnic on May 20th. We are so grateful to each and every one of you for making this year our most successful year yet in terms of participation and growth! Contact: Dr. Evelyn Biliias Lolis, ebiliias@aol.com

Greek School

On Sunday, April 29 following Liturgy there will be a ***Greek Language Summit*** held in the hall starting at 12 noon over catered lunch. The event will serve to collectively review, discuss, and actively create ideas, expectations, and strategies for increasing Greek language proficiency in our children today. These discussions will have an impact on the direction for current Greek School program students and for the next generation of children. The two most essential questions to be covered are:

1. What is the best way to teach Greek as a foreign language to students of today (2nd/3rd generation Greek-American students)?

2. What rate of progress is to be expected of learners in a 1x/week or at most 2x/week program over the course of a school year? How can we maximize it?

Your participation is vital to the scope of our work and to the future of our school! All are invited to attend, ask questions and offer feedback: current parents and grandparents, future parents, and anyone who is passionate about preserving our Greek language and culture given the constraints of today. Click on the link to RSVP: <http://evite.me/cKZ21c2vQ7>. Contact: Anna Lempesi, ann.lempesi@gmail.com.

Little Angels

Little Angels is the church ministry group representing young families including infants, toddlers and preschoolers (ages 0-5 years). Our purpose is to bring together parents and little ones for fun and fellowship, support, and to strengthen our faith and church family friendships.

Malta House Charity Drive:

Little Angels is currently holding a Household Goods Drive to benefit Malta House in Norwalk, CT through the end of May. Malta House is the only shelter for homeless pregnant women in Fairfield County and one of only a few for new mothers and babies who are homeless. Residents are provided with a nurturing home in addition to support services including financial education, parenting classes, and independent living skills. Malta House is currently seeking donations of household goods including cleaning and kitchen supplies for the shelter. A donation box is set up outside Steve's office. Allowing our youngest children to participate provides them the opportunity to practice the spiritual discipline of giving in a tangible and meaningful way. **Thank you to all the families who have donated thus far. We look forward to a strong finish this month!**

Spring Craft:

On Sunday, May 6th, Little Angels will sponsor a Spring Gardening Craft during Coffee Hour! The children will be invited to decorate a small flower pot and plant seeds. There will also be a yummy treat! We can't wait to see you!



Fr. Chris Moore, senior seminarian at St. Vlad's, stands with Fr. Harry in front of the Kouvouklion after the Holy Saturday morning Liturgy. (April 7)



Man-made lighting is turned off in deference to candle light during the Saturday night Anastasi service, as the congregation waits for the joyful exclamation that "Christ is Risen!" (April 7)

Mom's Night Out:

On Friday, June 1, Little Angels will host a Mom's Night Out to celebrate the end of the church school year. Look for an email with details and to RSVP. We look forward to seeing everyone! Contact: Vasso Spanos, bkarachris@gmail.com, or Rachel Jones, racheljones.cpa@gmail.com

HOPE/JOY

On Wednesday, April 4th, seventeen Hope & Joy children and their parents and grandparents gathered at the Lower Fairfield County Food Bank to perform community service during Lenten season. Our church collects food items throughout year for donation to the food bank. Executive director Kate Lombardo spoke about the importance of donating food to the hungry population and invited the children to stock cans and boxes of food from large containers onto the shelves. She explained how the food donations are collected and distributed throughout Fairfield County. Steve Sarigianis gave a spiritual lesson about giving to those in need and serving your neighbors. The children expressed their enthusiasm for helping their neighbors and hope many more volunteers will contribute to such a worthy cause. The Stamford Advocate featured our Hope & Joy event in the April 7th print edition under the community service section. The evening concluded at Church where Father Harry



Right to left: George Papis, Fr. Harry Pappas, protopsalti Haralampos and Christofora Kourgiantakis stand at center for a picture with the faithful after the Easter day Agape Vespers, the final Holy Week service for 2018. (April 8)

performed the Holy Unction service which provides physical and spiritual healing through anointing with holy oil. Contact: Ruth Diamond, rh67@cornell.edu

GOYA

Christ is Risen!

April activity for GOYA began on the great day of Palm Sunday, the very first of the month. At the end of liturgy, eight of the teens were called up to the solea to present a \$1,300 check to Tim Hartch, our parish's IOCC rep. Tim reflected openly to the community about the nature of giving, and most gratefully thanked the GOYA for their tremendous fundraising efforts for this cause. The teens found it quite worthwhile to fundraise monies to IOCC for Hurricane relief; as a group they were deeply affected by the devastation caused by the 3 powerful storms that hit Texas, Florida, and the Caribbean in the fall. Afterward, the monthly meeting was held in the library, which carried a festive atmosphere. Nick Otis (Treasurer) and Matthew Poulos (Secretary) did a great job leading. Among other business, the teens and parental advisors established a date for the Stamford Hospital visit to pediatric patients, and resolved to begin a gift-drive for these children they would visit (more below).

During Holy Week, our teens helped in various that ought to be highlighted. We had altar boys and handmaidens who served during services, readers who helped with psalms at the chant stand, some assisted with teaching and crafts at the Good Friday retreat, and others who decorated the church and kouvouklion for Holy Friday. This is the holiest week of the year and it was a beautiful thing to feel their presence.

As May approaches, please consider donating a new toy or gift (up to \$25) for pediatric patients at Stamford Hospital: infant toys, Legos, sticker books, Barbie's, action figures, action figures, gift cards (for teens), etc. Please drop of by Wed. May 16 to the church offices. Thank you in advance for your support!

Here are the upcoming May events with GOYA:

- **Sunday, May 5 – Monthly Meeting** in library at coffee hour, with special presentation by IOCC rep Lou Zagami (visiting that day).



Parish IOCC Rep. Tim Hartch (at center), receives a generous check from Nick Otis (to his left) and other GOYAnS after liturgy following a successful fall/winter fundraising campaign. (April 1)

- **Wednesday, May 16 – Drop-off deadline** for pediatric patient gift drive; please contact Ritta if dropping off later than this
- **Friday, May 18 – Visit to Stamford Hospital:** teens will learn about youth hospitalization, deliver collected gifts, and (potentially) spend time with pediatric patients; RSVP with Dorie!
- **Sat-Sun, May 26-17 – D.A.D. GOYA Olympics** at Suffolk Comm. College on Long Island. Local churches joining together to make teams (swimming, track, soccer, volleyball, basketball, etc). Contact Steve if interested!

Also, consider the following summer 2018 offerings:

- **Camp Saint Paul:** dynamic summer camping ministry located on Lake Bantam in nonwestern CT. Registration still open for kids ages 8-18: Week 4 (July 16-22) & Week 5 (July 23-29).
- **Project Mexico:** home-building mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico for teens & adults. Incredible cross-cultural service opportunity for teens and adults. Aug 6-12.

Contact: Dorie Poulos, dorielp@yahoo.com

Young Adults

Holy Week, the most sacred time of the year, was met by many of our community’s young adults with enthusiasm and self-offering. Young adults assisted daily with readings of psalms and prayers at various services, attended Fr. Harry in the altar, assisted with the children’s Good Friday Retreat, helped decorate palms on Palm Sunday and flowers for Holy Thursday and Friday, and helped carry the Kouvouklion Holy Friday evening. We are quite grateful for their time and efforts!

On Thursday, April 19, four young adults came together for a post-Paschal meal at Athens Pizza in Stamford. They conversed on a variety of topics, from Lenten & Holy Week experiences and family Easter celebrations, to current events and personal struggles. The food was divine and the company delightful. Please contact Steve if you are interested in joining us for our next gathering or outing! Steve, 203-623-586 or sjsarge@gmail.com



Parents and children of HOPE/JOY pause their shelf-stocking activity at the Lower Fairfield County Food Bank for a quick picture. (April 4)



Hope & Joy puts on the annual Easter Egg Hunt on a crisp Easter Sunday morning to delight of 30+ children. (April 8)

IOCC

On Sunday May 6th we will be celebrating the work of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). Lou Zagami, IOCC development officer, will speak during liturgy about the IOCC’s worldwide humanitarian programs and answer questions about how you support people in need around the world. The theme of his discussion will be “Faith in Action.” After liturgy, Zagami will meet with our Church of the Archangels GOYAnS, who recently raised funds for the IOCC, and lead the GOYAnS in an exercise about the IOCC’s mission. We will be passing a tray for the IOCC during liturgy. You can also give to the IOCC through its website www.iocc.org/ways-to-give.

The IOCC is an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. It represents Orthodox Christians in North America and seeks to develop in Orthodox Christians a commitment to philanthropy. The mission statement of the IOCC is as follows: “The IOCC, in the spirit of Christ’s love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.” The IOCC embraces Jesus Christ’s statement that, “For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me... as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:35-36, 40.



Children take part in the Unnailing Service on Good Friday afternoon by wrapping the icon of Christ crucified. (April 6)



Presvytera Kerry teaches a group of children about St. Mary Magdalene with Diane Sierpina (not pictured). (April 6)

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact our IOCC representative, Tim Hartch, timhartch1@outlook.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.

Missions Sunday

Each year in our parish (and parishes all over the country), one Sunday is designated as Missions Sunday in which mission work is preached upon and highlighted in different ways. On Sunday, May 12, our community will observe this day and will have a special visit from Fr. Elekiah Andago Kihali of Kenya. What an honor it will be to host him. He will preside during Liturgy, will offer a homily, and be with us at coffee hour. Here is an auto-biography of Fr. Kihali:

Elekiah Andago Kihali is the sixth of 10 children of Mzee Hosea Kihali and the late Mama Peris Gweyani Kihali: I taught secondary school before joining St. Makarios Patriarchal Seminary 1986 and graduated at the top in 1989. I was offered a scholarship by the Very Reverend Fr. Alexander Veronis as president of OCMC in collaboration with Holy Cross Greek School of Theology at the kind request of His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and all Albania (then the Archbishop of East Africa and Kenya). I arrived at Hellenic College/ Holy Cross February, 1990. There I took undergraduate classes before joining Holy Cross for the Master of Divinity; I graduated in 1993 with distinction. In 1994 I enrolled at Holy Cross for a Master of Theology (Th.M.) degree and at the same time enrolled for the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) at Boston University. In 1995 I was part of small group of young men and women who left the Diocese of Boston under the Leadership of the Very Reverend Fr. Ted Barbas for Tijuana Mexico to build a home for a needy poor family in Mexico. I did class work at both schools, Holy Cross and Boston, but due to financial constraints both efforts were left incomplete.

I then returned to Africa and proceeded to Albania in summer of 1996 (sent by OCMC) to serve as a missionary teacher. At Holy Resurrection Seminary at St. Vlash I taught Preaching and Canon Law! My missionary tour ended in October 1998 and I returned to Kenya to teach at St. Makarios Seminary, my former school. On April 4 that year, by the grace of God, I was ordained to the rank of Deacon and given the revered name of my Spiritual Father, Anastasios. In the same month April 16, I was elevated to the Holy Priesthood, and on May 9 became an Archimandrite with blessing of Metropolitan Seraphim Kykotis. In 2000, while teaching Preaching, Canon Law and Missions at St. Makarios, I earned the title of Senior Lecturer from Metropolitan Seraphim (then Archbishop of Kenya and now the Archbishop of Zimbabwe). In 2001, I was offered a scholarship by then President of Hellenic College Holy Cross the Very Reverend Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou to return at Holy Cross to finish my thesis for the Theology Master (Th.M.) degree in History and Canon Law under the Direction of Professor Fr. Tom Fitzgerald and Professor James Skedros. I graduated in 2002 with high Distinction and my copy righted Thesis is entitled "Challenges facing the Orthodox Church Movements in East Africa. From 1928- to the Present."

In July of 2002, I returned to Kenya and was assigned to Kampala, Uganda to assist Metropolitan Jonah Lwanga and teacher at St. Paul's Seminary. My mission tour in Uganda ended in 2004 when again, by the gracious and generous offer of His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios, via the assistance of Metropolitan Jonah and Professor Dimitra Koukoura, I was offered a scholarship at The University of Aristotle Thessaloniki to study Greek Language and to do a doctorate of Philosophy in the History of Missiology. I graduated in June 2009 with the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and returned to Kenya summer of 2009, where I served as the General Vicar of Western Kenya Bishopsrics. I am currently the Dean of Embu in the Orthodox Diocese of Nyeri and Mount region Kenya.

Stamford Athletic Club

Come check out the recently screened/buffed basketball court along with newly painted lines for its multiple basketball hoops, volleyball, and badminton play. We can now accommodate up to 4 matches of badminton/pickleball at the same time! Please help us maintain the beautiful work by being mindful when moving chairs or tables during any event when the SAC courts are being used.



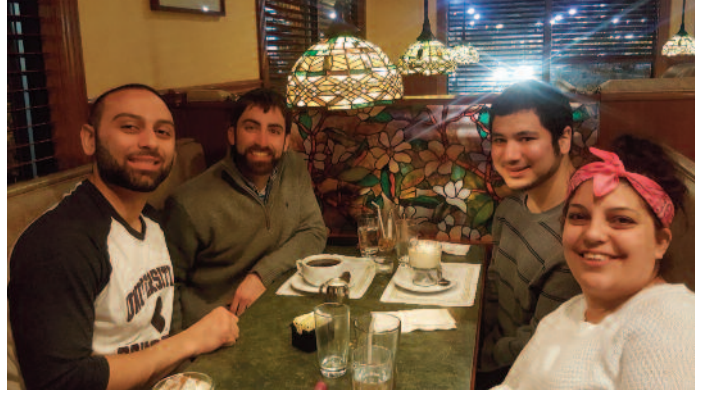
Mrs. Annie Konidaris talking with the preschool children about dyeing red eggs for Easter. (April 3)



The preschool children watch the ladies prepare red eggs for Easter Sunday. (April 3)



Parish Council President Jason Konidaris (standing left) offer a few memorial remarks at Jane's 1-Year Memorial luncheon at the Cultural Center. (April 22)



Young Adults (left to right): Stavros Begetis, Steve Sarigianis, Gary Morales, and Alexis Nanos enjoy fellowship and a tasty bite after Pascha at Athens Pizza in Stamford. (April 19)

Are your children ready for the upcoming swim season? Check in with Matt@takemetothewater.com for the latest swim instruction schedule to get your "little fishies" competent in the water.

Chef Rafael continues to create marvelous dishes in SAC kitchen that you can take home to your family for dinner. The meals are affordable, healthy, and delicious. Local food truck service provider, Hapa Meals, also continues to use the SAC kitchen to prep its meals before heading out. Their truck can be requested anywhere in the Stamford area to provide gourmet food for any event. Stop by SAC for more details.

A local scuba instructor is planning several certification events for the SAC pool in May. Call or stop by today for more info.

Our "Winter Fitbit Challenge" just ended in April. A new "Spring Fling Challenge" is being developed by a handful of our trainers to encourage SAC members to shed those last few pounds before the summer season. More details to follow.

As the weather gets nicer and daylight hours extend into the evenings, SAC is looking to take some of its group classes outside such as Jon's Boot Camp and a Yoga class.

Always remember, if you are a SAC member or become one, and you refer someone to us that becomes a new member, you will earn a FREE month of membership!

Contact: Jeff Kaminski, jeff@sacteam.com



Seniors President Pam Koutroubis stands (at center) with Dr. Mark Edelman, Vascular Surgeon, the guest speaker at April's luncheon. (April 19)

Area Greek Festivals

- Holy Trinity in Waterbury (937 Chase Parkway) – May 10-13
- St. George Church in New Britain (301 W. Main St.) – May 18-20
- St. George Cathedral in Hartford (433 Fairfield Ave.) – May 31 - June 3
- Annunciation Church in Stamford – May 31 – June 3
- Prophet Elias Church in Yonkers, NY (15 LeRoy Ave) – June 8-10
- Assumption Church in Danbury (30 Clapboard Ridge Rd) – June 8-10

PARISH NEWS

40 Day Churching

- April 22 – Ioannis Mathias Antonopoulos, 1st child of George & Brooke Antonopoulos

Baptisms

- April 14 – Anastasia Carolyn Hughes, 2nd child of Peter Ryan & Christina Hughes
- April 15 – Olivia Sofia Kakalettris, 1st child of George & Svetlana Kakalettris

Deaths

- March 31 – Lorraine Greco

Graduations

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



Women of the parish bake Easter cookies at the Cultural Center kitchen and have a good time doing so. (April 2)



George Williams, Sr. (on right), of A.G. Williams Painting Company with his sons Nicholas (far left) and George, Jr. (next to Fr. Harry) were recognized and thanked for their extraordinary benefaction of all materials and labor to paint the entire church. (April 22)

AHEPA

The Stamford AHEPA is eager to sponsor a team of local students willing to participate in our district's Hellenic History Tournament on Saturday November 3 at St Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT. The HHT is a knowledge competition about the 3500-year-long history of the Hellenes (Greek speakers). This is a FUN and challenging event! It is open to students in grades 8-12 at competition time. Participants have an opportunity to win a share of the \$4,500 in prizes. A Stamford team has won in 3 of the last 9 years of the tournament. If a participant has been a first-place winner in two previous tournaments, he or she cannot participate again. Contestants must form their own 3-member teams, elect a team captain, and declare a team name. After contacting their local AHEPA chapter and receiving confirmation that the chapter will sponsor them, they each fill out a personal registration form and mail it along with a \$25 registration fee by the deadline (June 30). In return, each contestant receives a copy of "Hellenika, Heritage and History" by T. Peter Limber, the book used as a basis for most of the competition questions. Contestants have the summer to study the book. All contestants will receive a certificate of

participation before the competition starts. During a match, each question and four multiple-choice answers are projected onto a screen from the computer monitor. Questions are read, and answers recorded by adult moderators. The computer keeps a running log of the teams' scores. The visual projection of questions, answers and scores simulates an exciting TV quiz show environment and keeps the audience aware and involved. The team that answers most of the 24 questions correctly is the winner of the match. Teams compete in simultaneous matches in successive rounds. The first 3 rounds are used to allow each team to play 2-3 other teams chosen by lot. At the end of the 3rd round, the top 4 teams based on the cumulative scores are selected to play in the 4th round (the semifinals). In round 4, the 2 teams that lose their match are eliminated. The two winning teams go on to compete against each other in the 5th and final round. At the end of the final match, the three members of the winning team are awarded a \$1,000 prize and a Hellenic History Trophy each. The three second place winners receive \$500 each. For additional information, look at <http://www.ahepad7.org/> (in the Hellenic History section), or contact Nicholas Nikas, niketes@yahoo.com, 203-554-5570.

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, Timothy Hartz, James W. Kambas, George Khouri, Peter Licopantis, Penny Nanos, Chris A. Nanos, Chris P. Nanos, George Papis, 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.

Phase I

Total Pledges, gifts, and other contributions	\$ 2,208,280.00
Total Cash Received	2,178,882.37
Pledge Payments received since 20 January 2018	48,533.33
Total Pledges/Contributors	160

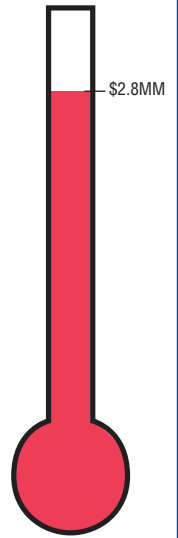
Phase II

Total Pledges (confirmed), gifts, and other contributions	\$ 613,185.00
Total unconfirmed pledges	100,000.00
Total Cash Received	299,712.52
Total Pledges/Contributors	28
Total First Time Pledges (included above)	7

Expenses:

Solicitation	\$ 37,534.22
Salaries	117,534.32
Furniture	12,396.67
Architects	241,100.75
Gala	34,069.99
Contractors	555,304.74

OUR GOAL



The Contributors (as of April 15, 2018):

PHASE I PLEDGES

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 Michael and Jena Anthony
 George and Katina Antipas
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 Angelo and Dena Aravidis
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