

# The Herald

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

**OCTOBER 2018** 

#### Why Read the Bible?

How would you try to convince someone to get to know another person? Logic? Argument? Persuasion? Humor? Manipulation? Attraction?

Recently someone sincerely asked me why it was so important to read the Bible. In return I began by asking this person a question: how did you get to know your wife? He picked up immediately on where I was going. But how many of us would? And where was I really going anyway?

Imagine for a moment – at least for those of us who are married – that we wound up marrying someone that our parents and grandparents merely told us about. Someone that we heard about from time to time when we went to a neighborhood gathering. Someone we saw a lot at school but never really spent much time with. Someone we had heard *about*, but whom we did not really know *personally*.

Not a great way to get married, is it.

But is this not the way we treat Jesus Christ? The Lord, God and Savior who actually "married" us when he gave himself away completely through his suffering and Crucifixion to lure us back to God's passionate and eternal love? The same One who encounters us in every Liturgy, Sacrament and worship service that he not only presides over (as the One and only Priest in the Church), and offers himself without reservation through word (prayer, hymn, Scripture & sermon), colors (icon & vestment), and food (bread & wine)? The Lord who made us members of his eternal Family of Faith? He who entered into our hearts and bodies through Baptism, Chrismation & Communion?

Do we really know Jesus or are we content just to know certain things about him?

So here is where I'm going: if you want to know Christ as he really is, you will naturally want to invest time and energy in order to listen to him tell his own story, and explain his life (and yours) through the Bible, the most important, written record of revealed truth.

Everything in the very long Old Testament either points to Jesus or can only properly be understood through him. Everything in the much shorter New Testament either is about his own life on earth or his life among us after he sent his most Holy Spirit to guide the Church for all time.

The next time you are at church, you may wish pay attention to the largest, most imposing icon: the magnificent mosaic of Christ in the dome. Most of us cannot see it from where we sit. But everyone can when they come forward to receive Communion or blessed bread (antidoron) at the end of Liturgy. Just look up! It's a marvelous image of how the world has gotten the better of us: we normally look around us at others, check ourselves out through a mirror, or look down for safety. And it's not accidental that the book the Lord is holding is the same one that sits on the Altar: the Gospel containing the inspired understanding of his life from the Apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.

Let's keep in mind what St. John Chrysostom straightforwardly taught rank and file Christians in his powerful sermons: there is no way we can understood who Christ is and what his world-changing, dynamic movement is all about unless we read (or listen to) Scripture regularly.

– Fr. Harry

#### CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGELS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



## 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



#### Pastoral Question & Answer

Question: What Bible is the best to use for regular devotion?

Answer: That depends on who we are. There are many excellent editions of the Bible in many different languages, starting with lots of translations into English, and including good modern Greek and other contemporary languages. First, we choose what language that we are most comfortable praying and reading. For most of us, this will be English. I recommend the following:

- Edition: one that includes the 10 extra books of the Old Testament called "Deuterocanonical" by us Orthodox, but "Apocryphal" by Protestants (who publish most Bibles in English). So, for example, our bookstore has a very inexpensive hard bound Bible that has everything in a good modern translation for only \$10 (published by the American Bible Society).
- Translation: the Revised Standard Version (RSV) is approved by our Synod of Bishops for use in public worship. But there are certainly other excellent translations. I prefer the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) because of its advances in textual refinement as well as its use of more inclusive language. Other excellent versions include the English Standard Version (ESV), the New International Version (NIV), the New King James Version (NKJV), and the Good News Version.
- Paraphrase: this is a freer adaption in contemporary language
  that attempts to capture the essential meaning but in non-traditional language. Generally, I don't recommend these, but there
  is one that I do for its reliability and freshness as a complement to a good translation: *The Message*, by Rev. Eugene
  Peterson, a best-selling author whose many books are widely
  read and quite compatible with our Church.
- Annotated (for further study): the Renovare Spiritual Forma-

tion Bible (NRSV) has introductory articles, short bios on important figures, footnotes at the bottom of each page, and a comprehensive index on themes, done by a wide range of scholars and pastors who are concerned about faith development of believers. Very nurturing and adaptable for us as Orthodox.

Aside from printed books (which most of us have), here is the free Bible Application that I recommended for your smart phones, tablets and computers: YouVersion (it's a brown colored icon). I personally prefer using this for my daily devotions and choose two particular translations since both have audio recordings that I can listen carefully to: the ESV and *The Message*. Such listening is the most traditional way of "reading" Scripture (rather than silent reading with the eyes) so that we can hear the sounds, cadence, and reflect. You can even adjust the speed at which the audio recording is played: I recommend .75 for listening 2-3 times to a short passage, and 1 [normal] for listening to full chapters or even a complete book.

As for Greek, I recommend a modern translation since the original can only be understood with training and education in Hellenistic Greek that most have never had. For a printed Bible, it's *Today's Greek Bible*, done by university professors in Greece, published by the Hellenic Bible Society, and approved by the Synod of Metropolitans there. It includes the 10 extra Deuterocanonical books and is very understandable. For a digital edition in the You Version App (above) I recommend "Today's Greek Version" (TGV) that also has an audio recording that you can listen to. A variety of people in our parish have been using either the printed Bible or the Bible App and have found them wonderful.

#### PARISH COUNCIL

#### Parish Council

Council Members wear many hats in serving our parish year round. At this time of year several of us put on Festival hats to share the labor. Greek Fest is a labor of love - one that requires special effort and coordination. We are very grateful to the Archangels Festival Committee for its planning and labor. Γεια στα γερια σας! We recently voted to fund contributions to four organizations, totaling \$1,700, from our budget's Mission & Philanthropy line item. They include Ecumenical Outreach to UConn Students, Holy Cross School of Theology, the IOCC for emergency relief of hurricane destruction in the Carolinas, and Fellowship of Orthodox Churches of CT. A small committee continues work on revamping our church's website. Expect to see a rejuvenated friendly site in the coming months. A new committee is being formed to work closely with our athletic club's management. They will revisit the business model and identify revenue and cost opportunities throughout. It is an

effort that I have personally driven for the past three years. It is time to direct fresh eyes and new energy toward that effort. I am grateful to those stepping up.

A couple items that bear repeating from last month: Father Harry and Steve have been working with parishioners to strengthen Archangels social media presence online. Christina Beauclair, Georgia Man and Theophani Damianakis recently offered their time and talents toward this effort. If you think your talents may align, please reach out to them! Would you like to help form the Archangels Welcoming Committee? This is a very needed ministry - one that we resolved to form at our most recent leadership retreat. If you have what it takes to greet new families, welcome them to our community of faith, show them around, and make them feel at home, please email Presbytera Kerry at kpappas@goarch.org. Contact: jason.konidaris@yale.edu

#### Parish Council Elections – Sunday, December 9

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

- 1. regular attendance at worship services, acceptable moral lifestyle, and up-to-date stewardship;
- 2. membership at our parish for at least one year prior to the election;
- 3. attendance at a Seminar conducted by area clergy nearest ones are at
  - a. Annunciation here in Stamford on Tue, Nov 6, 6:30-9 pm
  - b. St. Barbara in Orange on Tue, Nov 13, 6:30-9 pm
  - c. Assumption in Danbury on Sat, Dec 1, 9 11:30 am
  - d Annunciation in Manhattan on Sat, Dec 1, 9 11:30 am
- 4. signed documents to abide by the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese, along with Conflict Disclosure Statement, and attendance at a Seminar.

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

#### Treasurer's Report

We are currently in the process of reviewing and reconciling all the revenues and expenses related to the festival. In the next week or so, we will be providing details on the revenues and net profit for the 2018 Festival. We also will be sending out 2018 mid-year financial report. We are grateful to Margaret and Steve Fornaciari and the tireless work of the entire Festival Committee and workers in putting on such a great event. Contact Elias Lolis, elolis@aol.com

#### 2018 Stewardship

#### New Stewards: August 24, 2018 – September 18, 2018

Demakos, Popi / Galuris, Pauline Diamond, Ruth / Peter Galuris, Pauline / George Janocha, Mary C / William P Khouri, George A Leonard, Kimberely / Stewart J Magliacano, Maria / Marc Otis, Maria C / Mark J Spetsaris, Bonnie M / Konstantinos Spyreas, Andrew J Spyreas, George Spyreas, Peter Valassis, Matoula / Alkiviadis

#### Master Planning

Our work on Part 2 construction happily continues. Inside - Ceilings and walls have been taken down throughout the first floor. Plumbing and electricals have been exposed. Debris is being cleared out daily. Our sound systems are being moved and preserved. Outside – work is underway on our front and rear entrances along with the bay window for the Fellowship Hall. They have been excavated and concrete footings have been poured. We have made provisions with Eversource to relocate our gas service line. Also we will be moving our gas meter from inside our basement to outside the building - a modern day requirement. You will be happy to know that the unsightly white boiler flue pipe near the front entrance of the office will vanish! Its functionality will be tied into our existing chimney. This

month the Committee has met again with our architect's interior design team. We are honing in on our materials selection. Expect to see a "transitional" (traditional with a modern feel) look to our administrative spaces. We will avoid fads while looking to bring a fresh and timeless sense to our surroundings. We offer thanks to all parishioners for your support in our efforts. Contact: jason.konidaris@yale.edu

#### Capital Campaign

A couple of weeks ago, Jason Konidaris spoke to the congregation in Church, giving an update on the progress of the renovations to the Fellowship Facilities. Subsequently, he sent an e-mail message to everyone in the Community informing all about the anticipated final cost of the project, advising in round numbers the amount in hand or pledged to the Capital Campaign, and explaining reasons for any shortfalls. This will have come as no surprise to anyone who has been reading my recent comments in this publication. Right now, according to our best estimates and allowing for routine contingencies, we need to raise \$955,000 during the reopened Capital Campaign in order to complete our project.

On Sunday September 23rd, I announced some exciting news to the Community. A most generous anonymous donor has come forward and offered a matching grant of \$400,000, provided the Community gives or pledges a like amount of new money to the Campaign by next March. We raise \$400k, the donor adds \$400,000. Completing the match will allow us to effectively close the projected gap in our finances and avoid having to seek external financing. We do not want to take out a mortgage. The donor has specified that only new money or pledges made or received after September 15th of this year will count against the match. Payments on pledges to Part I of the Campaign will not count toward the match. Neither will pledges, payments on pledges, or contributions already received for Part II. On the other hand, the Donor does not require that pledges be paid in full by March 1, 2019, the cut-off date, to qualify.

There are some caveats, however: In order to earn the promised funds, we must all make a pledge; we must all consider committing to a multi-year contribution in order to maximize the match; this contribution is over and above stewardship; and with an expected completion date for the renovations in the Spring, to qualify for the match, all pledges must be in writing and pledges and/or contributions must be received at the Church office by March 1, 2019.

In the original Campaign, everyone rose to the occasion and all have been exemplary in performing the obligations that they had undertaken. Looking forward, I am sure that all of us in the Community, working together, will attain and even surpass the match. And we will be able to enjoy our renovated facilities without a financial burden on our shoulders.

I am asking you all to consider what you can offer to the Campaign over the next one, two, or three years. Please make a pledge at your earliest convenience. Please be receptive when

and as a member of the Capital Campaign Committee may approach you. Pledge cards or forms will be available at the Office in the Center. If we all work together we will go over the top and earn the full amount of the match.

We are of course deeply grateful to the anonymous donor.



Mike Pitassi (Wernert Supervisor with blue hardhat) shows Jason Konidaris, Nick Aivalis and Fr. Harry open space where classrooms once were. (9-25-18)



New concrete footings are poured at the rear entrance near the parking lot. (9-25-18)

A bit of housekeeping to add. During the summer we received a number of donations in memory of the late Peter Kounevelis, Peter Handrinos, Margot Kalaizes, and Alice Kallas. May their memories be eternal. We are very appreciative to all who gave contributions in memory of their friends.

DON'T FORGET: PLEASE MAKE A NEW PLEDGE SO WE CAN EARN THE MATCH.

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

#### **Buildings & Grounds**

With the recent completion of the church and the ongoing upgrades to Fellowship Facilities, our emphasis has been on our Stamford Athletic Club. As a forty-three year old facility it clearly needs attention. Our committee continues to review a very detailed proposal for the implementation and the installation of solar panels. Such a project, though capital intensive, would reduce our energy cost, to be financed with an attractive return on investment. Roof repairs and roof replacements would be predicated. These could be funded outright or financed by the vendor and the State of Connecticut, in pursuit of relief to the area's power grid. Also under review and consideration is cogeneration equipment. It would further reduce our energy costs, but such a purchase may be deferred at this time. We are awaiting funding approval for repairs in the men's shower stalls and for replacing the water supply piping to the washing machines that are showing sign of corrosion. We are happy to announce and welcome Lou Kakaletris to the Building & Grounds Committee. We are honored to have him board. Contact: Peter Licopantis, pglydl3@optonline.net

#### Office Hours

Church offices moved at the beginning of July to the Greek Cultural Center as a result of Phase 2 construction in the hall. As you walk into the lobby, Fr. Harry's office is to the left past the front desk, and the main office (Steve & Laura) is merged with SAC manager Jeff Kaminiski, located near the pool and central stairways. Hours for October are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10am-5pm; Tuesday & Friday, 10am-4pm; closed on Saturday & Sunday.

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

- Fr. Harry (hpappas@svots.edu)
- Steve (steve@archangelsgoc.org)
- Laura (bookkeeper@archangelsgoc.org) financial matters For all emergencies after hours, contact Fr. Harry at home (203-504-2689)

#### **MINISTRIES**

#### Prayer of the Month

Here are another useful prayer *after* reading Scripture as persons, married couples or families:

I (we) thank You, Lord our God, that again on this occasion You have opened my (our) eyes to the light of Your wisdom. You have gladdened my (our) heart(s) with the knowledge of truth. I (we) entreat You, Lord, help me (us) always to do Your will. Bless my (our) soul(s) and body(ies), my (our) words and deeds. Enable me (us) to grow in grace, virtue and good habits, that Your name may be glorified, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

From: *My Orthodox Prayer Book*, by Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, p. 55.

#### Did You Know?

Regular contact with God through the Bible is a hallmark practice of the Orthodox Church, on a personal and family basis, in small groups, and as a gathered community in worship and fellowship. Here is some wisdom on the Bible from some of the best modern teachers and theologians of the Orthodox Church here in our country:

"In the great Tradition of the Orthodox Church, the Bible is the central source of truth and the most creative factor behind the worship, doctrine and practice of the Church. The great Fathers and saints of the Church viewed the Bible as an ocean of divine mysteries, having inexhaustible breadth and astonishing depths." – Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, retired Professor of the New Testament and Orthodox Spirituality at our Seminary in Boston

"The Bible is the book of the Church. It is the main written authority within the Church – not over or apart from it. Everything in the Church must be biblical: for the Church, in order to be the Church, must be wholly expressive of the Bible. The Bible lives in the Church! Without the Church, there would be no Bible. The Church gives the Bible its life as a book. It makes the book come alive!" – the late Fr. Thomas Hopko (died 2015), former Dean of St. Vladimir's Seminary and Professor of Dogmatic Theology

## † Archangels Feast Day †

#### Wednesday, November 7 Great Vespers at 7 pm

With area Clergy & faithful Reception offered by Philoptochos

Thursday, November 8 Orthros at 8:30 am Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am

With Reception afterwards

#### Blessing of Animals

Our annual celebration, in the month when St. Francis of Assisi is commemorated (Oct 4), will take place on Sunday, Oct 21, at 2 pm in front of the Church. So, invite your neighbors and friends, and bring your pet dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, birds, etc, to this wonderful prayer service from the Orthodox Monastery of New Skete (in Cambridge, NY)! Contact: Fr. Harry or Steve Sarigianis

#### Week Day Worship

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

- Thu, Oct 18 feast of St. Luke the Evangelist: Liturgy 9:30 am
- Tue, Oct 23 feast of St. Iakovos (James): Liturgy 9:30 am @ Annunciation
- Thu, Oct 26 Feast of St. Demetrios the Myrrh-streaming:
- § Great Vespers Thur, Oct 25, 6:30 pm (Bristol, CT)
- § Liturgy Fri, Oct 26, 9:30 am (Archangels)
- Feast of St. Nektarios @ Annunciation (they have a relic in a side chapel)
  - § Great Vespers Thu, Nov 8, 7 pm
  - § Liturgy Fri, Nov 9, 9:30 am

#### Electronic Giving in Church

The Church is making giving easier on Sundays by accepting credit cards for candles and donations. Some parishioners have asked that we offer this convenience, and a white credit card terminal is now located in the Narthex on top of the Pangari (candle stand on the right-hand side). Major credit cards are accepted so you won't have to make change. The terminal is located next to the cash slot and ushers are available to help you. Your feedback is always welcomed. Contact: Steven Georgeou, sgeorgeou@geocom-inc.com

#### Archbishops Nameday Reception

We are warmly invited to celebrate the name day of Archbishop Demetrios on Fri, Oct 26, beginning with a brief Doxology at 5:45 pm followed by a festive reception of food and drink from 6-7:30 pm at the Archdiocese (10 East 79th Street, New York). For those who live or work in New York, consider stopping by to greet him, receive his blessing, and enjoy some fellowship before returning home. He especially enjoys greeting us in this event.

#### Adult Education

• Peace-Making – on Sunday, Oct 14, Mr. Nicholas Sooy, Ph.D. student in Orthodox Theology at Fordham University, will be guest at Liturgy and offer a special Presentation during Coffee Hour on the virtually unknown but critical ministry of Peace-Making in the Orthodox Tradition.

- **Bible Study** every Monday evening (with some exceptions), starting with Compline at 7:15 pm in the Church Narthex, followed by questions and conversation at 7:30 pm. Our focus this year is the four Gospels, starting with Matthew. Coffee, tea, and water are available. Proposed schedule this month (subject to change):
  - § Oct 1: Introduction to the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12 compared with Luke 6:20-26)
  - § Oct 8: A Closer Look at the Beatitudes
  - § Oct 15: Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5:13-48
  - § Oct 22: Sermon on the Mount: Matthew, chapter 6
  - § Oct 29: Sermon on the Mount: Matthew, chapter 7

Contact: Fr. Harry

- Morning Bible Study our newest initiative is a response to young mothers who wish to gather once a month on the 4th Wednesday morning, starting on Oct 24 at 10 am in the Church Narthex! Anyone interested is welcome and no prior knowledge or experience in Bible Study is required. Contact: Anna Diamantis or Fr. Harry
- Men's Koinonia meets one evening each month in the Church Narthex, with date TBA in October. Format includes fellowship with light beverages (coffee, tea, water), prayer, brief presentation and open discussion on a topic we choose. Contact: Fr. Harry
- Baptism Class scheduled for Sunday, October 14, 3-5:30 pm for all parents, godparents, and others who wish to learn about Baptism, Chrismation, and Eucharist (Communion), along with raising children in Christ today. Please provide your own childcare to give your undivided attention. Contact: Fr. Harry
- **District Marriage Seminar** required for couples getting married and recommended for married couples; from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm on Saturdays:
  - § Oct 6 @ St. Paraskevi Church, Greenlawn, NY (Long Island)
  - § Oct 13 @ St. Demetrios Church, Jamaica, NY (Queens)
  - § Oct 20 @ Holy Trinity Church, New Rochelle, NY

#### GreekFest Observations – by Fr. Harry

Due to several factors this year, I wanted to express certain things publicly. First, our set-up went better than ever with planning, sufficient help, and excellent execution. The only rubs I noticed – and these were painful – was difficulty securing the Cultural Center Kitchen for certain preparation, especially the Spanakopita, now that a few outside vendors rent space (though they vacated for the entire week of the festival), along with the mess of the alleyway outside the Kitchen that a hardy group cleaned up. We immediately acted upon these issues, put in place new protocols, and faced up to some shared responsibility

## Fall Family Gym & Game Night

#### Saturday, November 10 at 5:30pm

**Greek Cultural Center (SAC)** 

Soccer, basketball, kickball, Olympic events, board games, etc.

Pizza and salad dinner for free will offering

in creating both issues. Lessons learned. Second, in most areas during Greek Fest itself, we appeared to have sufficient help – not just from the core group and the "usuals" who work most days, but a myriad of people coming and going for one or more shifts: members of our parish, members from Annunciation (several offered extensive assistance), even a few non-Orthodox. Third, there was palpable joy among most as we worked hard side-by-side. Yes, a few tempers flaired as we became worn down over time, but for the most part, satisfaction and cooperation ruled the day. Fourth, the change in the Raffle was a huge success – not just in the bottom line of net proceeds that exceeded anything before, but in expanding interest and in drawing more participation from people who are far more likely to have a \$20 bill in their pocket than \$100. Fifth, our food generally was another big hit. I tried almost every dinner and heard from a variety of people – in our Church and total strangers whom I questioned – about the good quality and sufficient portions. Sixth, Fred, the Carnival Operator, was just a joyful and cooperative collaborator once again, along with this team. We are a small festival as these go, but he truly enjoys being with us and appreciates the warm hospitality we offer. Seventh, energy really picked up by Saturday evening due to the warming sunshine, the weekend's full arrival, the live music and dancing, and the large crowd. Eighth, I thought the break-down and putaway crew was outstanding: younger and older men and women who basically had most everything put away in a little over 3 hours! By Monday noon, all non-perishable supplies were put neatly away in the Cultural Center Storage Room, with clear labels and precise inventory. By Tuesday, you could not tell we had taken over our own property for a 4-day Festival. So, on behalf of the Parish Council, I wish to recognize and thank Chairpersons Margaret & Steve Fornaciari and the Committee (there are too many to begin mentioning) – along with members of our parish and from Annunciation, Parish Council members, and our staff. Well done!

#### Kali Parea Seniors

Our welcome back luncheon in September went very well. Many attended and shared experiences from summertime. Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 8th following the



Parish's Nameday Liturgy. There will be a special presentation by Fr. Harry and a film screening about ancient Greece. Contact: Pam Koutroubis, pamelak2145@gmail.com

#### Ladies Philoptochos Society

Philoptochos would like to thank all the members who volunteered at, cooked, and contributed baked goods for the annual GreekFest. It is very much appreciated. At the September meeting, members approved donations to National Philoptochos to support its national fundraising effort to benefit the victims of recent fires in Greece, to the AHEPA chapter to support its Oct. 13 dinner dance fundraiser in October that partially benefits the Archangels and Annunciation Greek Schools, to St. Michael's Home for the Aged, and to the District's dinner fundraiser in support of Hellenic College/Holy Cross. At the Oct. 3rd meeting, our chapter will be assembling gift packages of gloves, hats and other trinkets for low-income children attending the Children's Learning Center pre-school in Stamford in recognition of Make a Difference Day on Sunday Oct. 21st. Thank you to Maryanne Kardaris for coordinating this project. Please mark your calendar - Turkey Bingo takes place on Saturday, Nov. 17th. A charity selection committee was created to identify and recommend organizations to receive proceeds from the event. If you can contribute or solicit a gift card or gift certificate from local vendors as prizes for Turkey Bingo, please let Lara Paschalidis know. Our chapter also will be hosting the Archangels Name Day reception on Nov. 7th. Details will be discussed at our next meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 3rd in the church narthex. Please join us. Contact: Eugenia Zavras, etz124@yahoo.com

#### Church School

What a dynamic start to the Church School year! The CS faculty welcomed back students and families with a robust beginning! We held our first Philanthropy Sunday with a full house and helped to commemorate grandparents for Grandparent's Day. Children across all youth ministries participated in our first "Blessing of the Back Packs" and each child received an icon of our Lord for their backpacks. We'd like to thank our teacher Anna Diamantis and her family for helping to make and donating the icons for our children. Our Church School faculty held their

first meeting to plan for the academic year and offer new innovative lessons and opportunities for students and families. Our Church School Calendar for 2018-2019 has been finalized and shared with families marking all special Sundays and celebratory events. We will be holding our first Sacred Music Sunday on Sunday, October 14th. Many thanks for your continued energy and for your support of our program! To a blessed year! Contact: Dr. Evelyn Bilias Lolis (ebilias@aol.com)



The first day of the new year in Church School: students from Ruth Diamond (not shown) & Anna Diamantis' (not shown) Kindergarten/1st grade class work on a craft. (9-16-18)



All levels come together for a group picture after the first Church School Philantrhopy Sunday effort on Sunday, Sept. 23.

#### Preschool

With a genuine and heartfelt appreciation I wish to offer a huge THANK YOU to the following people for their willingness to help pack and move the preschool both into storage and then to its new location.

Pack and storage in June:

Jeanne Charcalis, Yianna Dimitroglou , Annie Konidaris, Elias & Evelyn Lolis, Steve Sarigianis, Zack & Alex Fornaciari, Jason Konidaris

Move to new location and set up:

John Skoparantzos, Gus Yoranidis, Phil Luongo, Savvas Kelesidis, Mike Pitassi (from Warnert), Jeanne Charcalis, Debbie Nanos, Mollie Sotire, John Cocolis

Many, many thanks!

- Kiriaki Yoranidis, Preschool Director & Teacher

# GREEK FEST 2018



[Left to right:] Dena Burke, Fredirika Nikolis and Cindy Pappas pause for a picture on the food service line. (9-28-18)



Festival co-chair Margaret Fornaciari (left) stands with her cousin Mary Janocha at the cashier's table. (9-30-18)



"Team Loukoumades" lead by Connie Begetis (blue apron on right) come together for a kodak moment at their station. (9-28-18)



Grill masters John Skoparantzos (left) and Jim Stanton (right) go to work while wearing their signature grill team t-shirts. (9-29-18)



Louie Blanco & Tom Gionis say "Opa" to their patrons from behind the bar! (9-28-18)



Pam Koutroubis (left in red) leads a line of festival volunteers in a Greek dance and livens up the crowd. (9-29-18)



[Left to right:] Demetri Begetis, Aggi Sotire, Kerry Pappas, and Jonathan Man cooking up a storm in the kitchen. (9-28-18)



[Left to right:] Vassili & Evangeli Kelesides and George & Peter Gabriel help out at the Souvlaki Grill. (9-27-18)



[Left to right:] Christina Skoubourdis, Debbie Nanos and Gigi Perimenis taking orders at Take Out. (9-30-18)



Diane Sierpina, co-chair Steve Fornaciari, and Steve Sarigianis take a fun shot at the volunteer sign-in booth. (9-29-18)



The big moment: Steve Fornaciari spins the raffle cage for Fr. Harry, while President Jason Konidaris waits in anticipation. (9-30-18)



Bill and Mary Janocha smile for the camera! (Bill was our resident photographer during GreekFest. 9-29-30)



Eugenia Zavras and Chris P. Nanos making great raffle sales. (9-28-18)



Greek School Director & teacher Anna Lempesi and class pause their ice-breaker activity for a picture! (9-18-18)



Fr. Harry leads an Agiasmo service for children, teachers, and parents of Greek School on their opening day of classes. (9-18-18)

#### 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.

#### **Events in September**

On Saturday, September 15th, the Little Angels visited the New Canaan fire station! Little Angel's dad and firefighter, Michael Jackson, gave the children a fire safety lesson. Father Harry blessed the station and the fire trucks, and offered a beautiful icon of Christ to the Station to show our appreciation. Thank you to the New Canaan Fire Department for hosting us and for the important work you do!

During Liturgy on September 16th, Father Harry performed a blessing over the children's backpacks to kick-off the new school year. This was the first year for this special event, which we hope to be an annual tradition for our community!



Hope/Joy's Nature Outing & Scavenger Hunt: Chris P. Nanos (right) lines children line up to display their works of art made from freshly scavenged materials. (9-23-18)



Mr. Steve teaches Hope & Joy children about the importance of giving thanks at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. (9-23-18)

#### **Diaper Drive**

In October, we will conclude our annual diaper drive supporting Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center. Hopeline provides confidential pregnancy testing, medical support, and counselling free of cost to women in our community. Please include your children in collecting items for the drive and bringing them to church. Supporting young mothers and their infants is such a special cause for our ministry! Contact: Vasso Spanos (bkarachris@gmail.com) or Rachel Jones (racheljones.cpa@gmail.com)

#### HOPE/JOY

On Sunday, September 23rd, following church liturgy, Hope & Joy ushered in the start of autumn season with a spiritual scavenger hunt and craft afternoon at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. Chris and Christine Nanos provided the activities focusing on the theme of Thankfulness. Steve Sarigianis engaged the children in a lesson and discussion of how being thankful impact their lives. Following the hunt were refreshments, raffle and balloon games. It was a beautiful day to launch the Hope and Joy year with families and friends.



Over 30 teens and parents enjoy a fabulous meal and each other's company at Pellicci's Restaurant for GOYA's welcome back dinner. (9-21-18)



Margo Toscas-Kelly of the Orthodox Missions Center offers a brief and insightful teaching at the conclusion of the first GOYA meeting (10-7-18)

The next event will be an outing for Pizza and a Movie on Sunday, October 28. Our group will meet at Remo's Pizza downtown @ 2:30pm and walk over to the movie theatre to watch Littlefoot (PG, 2018 Warner Bros Studios). Please RSVP via the following link: http://evite.me/jY2fF4BCUp.v Hope to see you there! Contact: Ruth Diamond, cornellrh@yahoo.com

#### **GOYA**

GOYA, which stands for the *Greek Orthodox Youth of America*, is the ministry for teenagers within the Archangels community. It's primary aim is to build their faith and commitment in Jesus Christ & the Church through worship, service, fellowship and outreach. On Tuesday, July 24, GOYA youth leaders met with advisors Maria Otis & Dorie Poulos, Steve and Fr. Harry to create the yearly ministry calendar for 2018-19. The newly elected leaders are: Nick Otis and Matthew Poulos, co-presidents, Elena Muniz, Vice President, and Alexandra Vassiliou, Secretary.

On Friday, September 21 the 'gang got back together' for a warm spirited dinner at Pellicci's restaurant here in Stamford. The night was casual and as old friends recapitulated from the long summer vacation with stories about trips taken and other pursuits. It was a wonderful way to kick off the new ecclesiastical year.

The first GOYA meeting took place on Sunday, Oct 7 in the SAC aerobics room and was led by co-President Matthew Poulos. The agenda included GOYA's coffee hour service during October, our upcoming Lock-In, other events up and coming, and concluded with an insightful impromptu presentation on Missions from OCMC Assistant Director of Teams, Margo Toscas-Kelly.

Please note the following Oct/Nov events:

- Fri & Sat, Oct 19 & 20: Lock-In Retreat @ Cultural Center, 7pm (until 10am Sat.)
- Friday, November 2: Midnight Run (food/clothing distribution in NYC), meet 7pm @ Church of our Savior in Rye, NY

Contact: Dorie Poulos, dorielp@yahoo.com

#### Young Adults

This October the first regional Orthodox On Tap (OOT) style event will be coming to our area. OOT is a grassroots fellowship and learning movement that is spreading to major cities within America. Events usually consist of a presentation from a speaker followed by casual networking at a local restaurant / bar. They bring together faithful Orthodox and others who are interested in learning more about Orthodoxy. Stay tuned for more info! Please contact Steve if you are interested in attending: 203-623-586 or sjsarge@gmail.com.

#### Athletics

The Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Basketball and Volleyball Leagues [CEOBL & CEOVL] operate November to March every year. Practices for the joint Archangels-Annunciation teams have already begun but there is still plenty of time for new registrants! We have 3 basketball divisions and 1 volleyball this year:

- Farm team (boy & girls ages 5-8)
- Youth (boys and girls 8-10).
- Junior Varsity (boys ages 11-13; girls ages 11-14)
- Girls Volleyball (ages -18)

Here are some of the benefits of playing in the church CEOBL & CEOVL:

- Fellowship and fun with other Greek Orthodox youth
- Develop basketball/volleyball and team-building skills
- Competitive but less stressful than town or school leagues
- Faith based program that embraces youth in the Church For more info contact: Steve Sarigianis (steve@archangelsgoc.org) or John S. (atoz@aol.com) for more info.



An all-star team of 24 women and men prepare 69 mouth-watering trays of spanakopita in 1 and ½ hours for the upcoming GreekFest. (9-15-18)

#### 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 the church office 203-348-4216.

#### **IOCC**

IOCC is accepting donations for disaster relief related to the devastating fires in Greece, Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas, and in many other regions of the world through their web site: https://www.iocc.org/ Contact Tim Hartch at timhartch1@outlook.com.

#### October is SAMP Awareness Month

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) headquartered in St. Augustine, FL is the missions agency of all the Orthodox in North America. OCMC trains & sends long-term missionaries abroad, raises missions awareness at home, and creates short term teams for relief & assistance of local churches, among other things. It has also developed a special program called Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) to assist clergy and families in mission fields around the world. The month of October is SAMP awareness month!

SAMP provides over 350 clergy with vital financial, spiritual, emotional support in their home lands. These men & their families labor in Christ's vineyard but work in a difficult environment to raise up the Church. We may not be aware of it, but a majority of the mission churches with Orthodoxy are within countries of 3rd world status, and their clergy struggle to with basics such as daily food, water and transportation, etc. Through this program, OCMC and its partners are able to create valuable connections with these men in mission fields all around the world. SAMP gives individuals and communities the opportunity to directly reach out and impact the lives of those mission



[Left to right:] George Paparis, Steven Georgeou, Aggi Sotire, George Khouri and Fr Harry with the Men's Koinonia group, take selfie at Yankee Stadium. (9-19-18)

priests by providing them the support they need to continue their ministries. All it takes to support each priest is \$50 per month, or \$600 per year.

Over the course of the month, OCMC is looking to raise \$2,400 – enough to support 4 mission priests for an entire year! Approach Fr. Harry or Steve if you would like to learn more about OCMC, and or the SAMP program. If you would like to make a one-time donate, or even offer ongoing support for a priest, please visit our web site: ocmc.org/about/samp.aspx. Please also keep the OCMC, SAMP priests and all Orthodox missionaries in your prayers!

#### Seminary Benefit Dinner

In an effort to help our Seminary, Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, our Clergy Fellowship of CT and Westchester County, representing 13 parishes, has organized a benefit dinner on:

- Saturday, Oct 20
- Appetizers 6 pm
- Dinner & Presentation by Seminary President Fr. Christopher Metropulos 7 pm
- Location: Holy Trinity Church (10 Mill Road, New Rochelle, NY)
- Cost: \$50/person (make checks payable to: Hellenic College)

Our own Philoptochos (along with other chapters) approved a \$1,000 contribution, and anyone who is interested can attend. Some Parish Council members will be soliciting in person to gather a table or two. The purpose is not just to raise money but to increase awareness and support of the Seminary's mission. Please let us know by October 18 if you would like to join us at this worthwhile event - we would be happy to carpool! Contact: Fr. Harry or Jason Konidaris

## Pilgrimage to Holy Land & Jordan: May 6-18, 2019

Fr. Harry will co-lead a pilgrimage with Fr. Evan to the Holy Land next spring that is open to members of our church, Annunciation, as well as others, and will include some different sites in Israel, as well as Jordan for the first time. Here is the basic itinerary:

- 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, May 18

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. For further details, contact Fr. Harry who can send out a detailed, color brochure.

Contact: Fr. Harry, hpappas@svots.edu

#### Stamford Athletic Club

Look again this year for SAC's sponsorship of the Stamford High School football program. SAC logo and info will appear on the back of t-shirts that will be given out at home football games.

We have recently partnered with the Agora Spa at the Stamford Marriott downtown. Check out everything they have to offer for our club members on the Club Concierge app on the iPad at the Front Desk. An entry of your name and email address will not only qualify you for their special deals, but will also enter you in THIS MONTH'S RAFFLE for a FREE MASSAGE coupon. The coupon will be sent to you by email and is redeemable at any time. You can even give this coupon as a gift if you wish to pamper someone other than yourself.

Already joined the October raffle for the Agora Spa Massage? You can gain 5 additional entries to increase your chances to win! Simply head on over to Yelp and submit a review of the Stamford Athletic Club. Log in with a Facebook or Google account, or stop by the Front Desk for assistance getting set up to post your Yelp review.

To enter raffle, you need NOT be a member of SAC. Anyone can enter!

A Halloween event is being formulated but all the details were not ready at time of printing for Herald, so please stop by or call for more information.

Another successful Festival was held in part at SAC. If you attended we hope you had a chance to look around at all the wonderful changes at SAC including the newly resealed and relined basketball court floor as well as the racquetball court floor.

If you come to visit the Church staff, temporarily situated in the large SAC office across from the pool, please also tour the rest of the club to see all that SAC has to offer. Always remember about our referral program – if you are already a SAC member and you refer ANYONE who becomes a NEW SAC member, you earn a FREE month of membership.

Contact: Jeff Kaminski, jeff@sacteam.com



### Win a Free Massage at The Agora Spa

The Agora Spa, located at the Stamford Marriott, is raffling off a free massage. This offer is available to SAC members and parishioners. Please submit your raffle ticket at the SAC front desk. The raffle is on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Winner need not be present.

#### **PARISH NEWS**

#### 40-Day Churching

- Michael Anthony Burke, 3rd child of Michael & Dena (Mixcus) – Sept 9
- Preston Blaise Jones, 2nd son of Denton and Rachel Sept 16
- Nikiforos William Horiatis, 1st son of Dimitri and Hellen (Vouthounis) – Sept 16

#### Baptism

• Ford (Photios) Nanos, 3rd child of George & Amy – Sept 22

#### Deaths

- Margot Kalaizis, sister of Jim Cocolis Sept 1
- Irene Veniopoulos, long time co-owner of Pandora until 2010 (Greek Import Store in Stamford) and mother of Andrew who works for the Archdiocese on building St. Nicholas Shrine – Oct 9



#### **AHEPA**

Please plan to join us for the Stamford AHEPA Biennial Dinner-Dance and Fundraiser on Saturday, October 13, 2018 @ 6pm in Norwalk Inn. This is a wonderful opportunity to join together for a special evening of fine dining and entertainment for the entire family. It's also an effective way to support our Greek School to ensure the continuation of our Greek language and culture in future generations. It will include a generous appetizer buffet, prime rib dinner, live music by the Islanders, and cash bar for \$85 per person. It will be for the benefit of The Stamford AHEPA Scholarship Fund, which supports our 2 Greek schools (Annunciation and Archangels), sends high school juniors to AHEPAcademy, and sponsors high school teams competing in the AHEPA Hellenic History Tournament. If we meet our goal of \$4,000 per school, we will also donate to the AHEPA 2018 Greece Wildfire Relief Fund. At the event, we will honor all current Greek school parents who attend or contribute with a certificate of appreciation for their strong contribution to the preservation of our cultural heritage. Beyond buying tickets for the event, please fortify your contribution by buying an ad in our album for \$100. For additional information, dinner/dance reservations, album ads or membership applications contact Nicholas Nikas 203-554-5570 or niketes@yahoo.com. Thank you!



Fr. Harry stands with firefighter (and event leader) Michael Jackson and son Simon in front of a firetruck. (9-15-18)



Little Angels families gather for a group picture at the Fire House in New Canaan, their new year kick-off event. (9-15-18)

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

#### The Capital Campaign:

The 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.

#### Master Planning Fees and Funding as of September 2018

Expected Costs (figures are rounded)	2013	Now	Comments	Status	
Increase to Parish Staff*	150,000	120,000	Amount of billable hours worked came in under budget	Actual - Completed (2017)	
Church Facility Construction (incl. contractors fees) Fellowship Facilties Construction*** (incl. contractors fees)	150,000 1,500,000	650,000 2,500,000	\$175k in add'l improvements.** \$325k in air system deficiencies \$885k in scope of work expansion*** and cost inflation vs 2013	Actual - Completed (2018) Actual (Guaranteed Max. Price)	
Architects Fees Engineering MEP Fees Stamford Building Permits & Facilitation Owner's Rep Fee Contingency	230,000 30,000 20,000 - 120,000	250,000 50,000 35,000 40,000 250,000	Commensurate with expanded scope of work Commensurate with expanded scope of work Commensurate with expanded scope of work Too large an undertaking for Archangels volunteer to exclusively handle Commensurate with expanded scope of work	Actual Projected Actual Projected +/- 10% Projected	
Total Costs	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 3,895,000	-		
Original Capital Campaign Commitments Reopened Capital Campaign Commitments  Total Commitments  Amount needed to finish our work	<u>\$</u>	2,200,000 740,000 \$ 2,940,000 955,000	** Scope of work was expanded to include lavatory in Bride's Ro Narthex ceiling, and selective lighting fixture replacements. In  *** Full renovation and reallocation of space: Interior 1st Floor: New fellowship hall, offices, classrooms, ki corridors, swing space, and insulation. ADA compliant.	Interior 1st Floor: New fellowship hall, offices, classrooms, kitchen, conference room, restrooms,	

#### Capital Campaign Contributors (as of September 23, 2018):

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