



The Herald

Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Archangels • 1527 Bedford St., Stamford, CT 06905 **NOVEMBER 2018**

Direct or Indirect?

Ever had the experience of someone you heard about from others, or read about somewhere, that was noticeably different from what you expected when you actually met?

I grew up in St. Louis during the 1960's, a time of racial tension, the agony of the Vietnam War, violence at home and hippies. It was a flurry that I could scarcely understand as a school boy in the suburbs. Even though I graduated high school in 1973, I had a lot to learn about people and culture.

One painful lesson had to do with prejudice. I simply swallowed commonplace attitudes from my elders about people who were a different skin color. No one in authority ever sat me down and said, "Look, this is who blacks really are." They didn't need to. The innuendos, sidebar comments, and whispering aloud were more than enough to distort my own outlook.

That is, until I really met an African American fellow student in high school. His name was Gayland. We became friends through tennis, since we both played on the school team. He was respectful, fun, intelligent, and, in general, just a neat guy. Not exactly the type of person I thought he'd be. Without noticing it, my attitude toward a whole group of people began to change. It did not happen because I suddenly woke up, snapped to attention and realized, "Hey, black people are a lot like white people." It simply happened because of my own experience.

How great a teacher experience is! A direct encounter with another person can take us to places we could scarcely predict.

What were my own impressions about God growing up?

Someone who was "out there" somewhere, looking down on me in particular, ready to pounce if I did something really wrong. Not unlike a rather impersonal, unfriendly policeman in the sky ready to punish. No one ever drilled that into my head. I just accumulated it at home, school, church, as well as watching television. Bo good; do your homework; go to church; don't get out of line. I doubt I'm alone.

Imagine my own surprise at encountering the real Jesus Christ as a young adult. I was studying the humanities over two full years at a liberal arts college, working hard to make good grades, and studying classical Western civilization from about 1500 B.C. to the present. This included studying the Bible for the first time along with great works of ancient and modern Christian writers. Mind you, my only real contact before this was memorizing a Bible verse each week during 4th grade Sunday School.

Low and behold, in the summer between my sophomore and junior years, I had the experience of Christ in my own bedroom one Sunday evening as I was resting before going to work the "graveyard shift" at a local grocery store (from 10 pm – 6:30 am). I did not see a vision; I was not in rapture. Rather, I discerned an unmistakable presence and heard (in a manner I cannot explain in words) a voice saying, "Come, follow me." That's the last thing I would have expected. I had left a typical family gathering with relatives playing penny-poker on the dining room table. No one ever told me something like this could happen. I was shocked into a deeper reality of life that I was totally unprepared for. It was disturbing. I had other ideas about my life – medical school, or a career in science (I had declared a chemistry major). Trembling and befuddled, I then experienced something utterly unmistakable and without precedent: profound peace. You see, my teenage years had been quite turbulent for a variety of reasons.

Sometime later, after I entered Seminary, Fr. Ted, our Professor of New Testament and Orthodox Spirituality, taught us the profound difference between knowing *about someone* and knowing *someone through direct experience*. Boy did that hit home. It encapsulated the wide gulf between **indirect** and **direct** knowledge. Not unlike my childhood prejudice that was changed by real experience.

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As for God, all I can say is that my experience of who God really is, how God actually works, and what God wants has led me to change the ideas, assumptions, and fantasies that I collected while growing up. I actually become more aware of reality (instead of living on the surface) as I began to learn the content of the Orthodox Christian Tradition (an amazing reservoir of truth & life), and more engaged in the ancient practices of living a Christian life:

- Every worship service, especially Liturgy, is an encounter with Jesus who invites us to be with him and his family (our church community) for praise, thanksgiving, willingness to change, hear his words (through hymn, Bible, sermon), and, above all, share dinner with him as our Host and the Menu (Communion);
- Developing my own personal Rule of Prayer that fits my station & circumstances in life, allows me to be fed spiritually every day, and challenges me to grow up in Christ; a rule that includes a prayer book, the Bible, meditation, time for silence, and fasting;

- Reading (or listening to) devotional material regularly, like daily emails, periodic articles and books (such as Beginning to Pray)
- Opening my heart to appreciate every single encounter with people and nature as an encounter with the Living God who, far from being remotely “out there somewhere” as I thought as a child, inhabits his awesome Creation, is present in people (everyone is born with some finite expression of the infinite God), and is particularly present as Christ in the Body of the Church (us), above all through holy people (I’ve been blessed to have encountered some living examples who are nothing short of amazing).

Just as there was no comparison for me between hearing about African-Americans and actually getting to know one, so there is simply no comparison between hearing about God and actual experience of God. It’s so easy to stick with indirect knowledge. But I’ll take direct anytime now.

– *Fr. Harry*

Pastoral Question & Answer

Question: What will our new part time Administrator do?

Answer: Working under the supervision of Fr. Harry, and alongside Steve & Laura (bookkeeper 10-12 hours/week), the new Administrator, who succeeds Ritta, will be responsible for answering the phone, greeting the public, maintaining the office (equipment, files, copier, supplies, etc), general emails, all non-financial data input for CCB (personal & family profiles,

ministries groups, communication, stewardship data & calendar), Sunday & monthly bulletins, and letters. His or her work hours will basically be Monday-Friday, from 9am – 2pm in the main office at the Greek Cultural Center (SAC), opposite the pool, and will report to the entire Parish Council, which includes printing and copying all documents that they need (fine for it to be in her job description, but not necessary as part of this writeup).

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council

Parish Council elections will be held December. Five of fifteen seats are up for election or reelection. We very much want to encourage new faces to join the leadership body of the parish. Laura Lopez, our new part time bookkeeper, was introduced to the Council at our most recent meeting. We look forward to working with her. The recently formed Cultural Center Committee is comprised of Steven Georgeou (Chair), Stephen Fornaciari, Peter Hantes, John Karakadas, Elias Lolis, and Ismini Naos. They will work closely with our athletic club’s management to revisit the business model and identify revenue and cost opportunities throughout. We recently voted to fund contributions to two organizations, totaling \$1,500, from our budget’s Mission & Philanthropy line item. They include support for St. Michael’s Home for the Aged, and further IOCC emergency relief of hurricane destruction in Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas. 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.

Online Donations

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

Master Planning

Construction work continues.

Inside – Under slab plumbing is being roughed in. Second floor fire suppression (sprinkler system) installation is underway. Structural steel work has begun.

Outside – Front and rear entrance foundations have been formed and poured. Concrete slab for the Fellowship Hall bay window has been poured.

We have finalized the following selections: Flooring, carpeting, tile, hardware, plumbing fixtures, decorative lighting fixtures, window trims, paints, and brick pavers. We are excited about these selections. They will bring a fresh and inviting feel to our facilities. We offer thanks to all parishioners for your support in our efforts. Contact: jason.konidaris@yale.edu

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

† Archangels Feast Day †

Wednesday, November 7

Great Vespers at 7 pm

Area Clergy to lead;

Visiting Chanters from Seminary

Reception to follow, offered by Philoptochos

Thursday, November 8

Orthros at 9:30 am

Divine Liturgy at 10:30 am

Seniors Luncheon 12:00 pm

Please RSVP for receptions:

203-348-4216 or office @archangelsgoc.org

Capital Campaign

We are blessed yet have much work ahead of us. Blessed with a \$400,000 anonymous matching pledge from an Archangels parishioner, we must raise \$400,000 in order to earn this match. It is a call to action! Whether you have pledged in the past or are considering it for the very first time, give deep thought to this challenge and to its potential rewards. We would be able to complete our construction work without the burden of debt. We will bring beauty and safety to our campus for decades to come. We will vastly improve our children's and grandchildren's experience. Contact: Elian Kulukundis, enek@erols.com

Buildings & Grounds

CULTURAL CENTER: During October we were challenged with humidity and condensation around the gym's locker ceiling diffusers, contributing to mildew buildup in the men's locker room. A contractor inspected the air system serving these areas. Our condensate line was blocked and certain filters were in need of attention. We are now in the process of securing prices to clean the duct work for the exhaust fan that removes condensation in the locker room. John Cocolis, our handyman, successfully removed the ceiling mildew. We have a couple leaky faucets in the kitchen. This straightforward issue should be resolved in-house. Bigger picture – we continue our due diligence on solar panel installation and roof repairs. We are now focused on cost, financing, and warranty representations. We have also requested details of potentially owning the solar panel array, which could provide additional savings over the long term. When we complete due diligence, we will report to the Parish Council for review. If approved, this would be a major undertaking for the Center and requires deep detail and scrutiny. At this time we must proceed with the roof and cladding repairs/replacements. We must limit water damage to the building.

CHURCH: Due to the extreme rain and age, water has penetrated the exterior brick mortar of our Narthex in certain spots. You can see the result in terms of water damage to the interior Narthex wall to the left of the front entrance. Certain segments of brick and mortar will require “re-pointing” in order to tackle the issue. We have vendors currently reviewing the issue.

Our temporary preschool space, located next door at the Residences on Bedford complex, now connects to our parking lot via a special staircase and gate. Nick Aivalis designed this temporary modification to serve Kyriaki and our ten young preschoolers, offering safety and ease of access for worship and recreation. Contact: Peter Licopantis, pglydl3@optonline.net



Nick Aivalis, standing next to the fence modification that he designed to allow Preschool children access to church facilities from their rental unit next door. (10/4/18)

Annual Turkey Bingo

Saturday, Nov. 17th

Doors open at 5 pm and games start at 6 pm

Proceeds will go to five charities

Bring Family & Friends!

Wine and Gift Cards needed

Contact: Lara Paschalidis



Administration

Office: Administration & Hours

Church offices moved at the beginning of July to the Greek Cultural Center as a result of Part 2 construction in the fellowship facilities. As you walk into the lobby, Fr. Harry's office is to the left past the front desk, and the main office (Steve, Laura, and Admin) is merged with SAC manager Jeff Kaminski, located near the pool and central stairways. **Hours are: Monday-Friday, 10am – 4pm.**

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) send an email to:

- Fr. Harry (hpappas@svots.edu)
- Steve Sarigianis (steve@archangelsgoc.org)
- Laura Lopez (bookkeeper@archangelsgoc.org) - financial matters

For all emergencies after hours, contact Fr. Harry at home (203-504-2689)

Please note that Kim Livesay, recently introduced to our parish as Administrator, unexpectedly resigned her position after only 3 days on the job. We will follow up with her to learn more and are now looking at previous candidates and any new ones.



Looking for 2 perfect Holiday gifts?

Stamford Athletic Club is offering parishioners a special **2-for-1 Membership Program**. Email jonl@sacteam.com for more information.

Christmas Breads for Sale

\$17 each – Prepayment Required

Available for pickup Dec. 21-23

Contact: Marion Vanson

marionvanson@yahoo.com or

914-234-9420

MINISTRIES

JOIN THE ARCHANGELS WELCOMING COMMITTEE

**Greet new families.
Welcome them to our community of faith.
Make them feel at home.**

Email Presbyter Kerry at kpappas@goarch.org for details.

Election Day – Tuesday, November 6

Every eligible voter is urged to become educated on the issues at stake, various policies supported by different candidates, and then vote your conscience to elect officials at the federal, state, and local levels. Please make sure you know your precinct and assist others who may need help with a ride, information, or an early ballot. We are privileged to fulfill our responsibility as citizens to participate in electing our public leaders as one way to contribute to the common good.

Prayer of the Month

In this year of the Bible, here is a classic prayer that was enshrined in the monastic tradition through great Elders like the Abba Isaac of Scete (an early Desert Father):

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me! (Psalm 70:1)

This verse that can be easily memorized, and is the first part of a short Psalm in the Small Compline (after dinner) worship service of the Orthodox Church. Here is some commentary on



This space shows three original classrooms near the rear corridor entrance that is being transformed into our new offices. (10/20/18)



The interior steps leading from the church into the original front corridor and Fr. Harry's office, being reconfigured into a bright foyer area. (10/20/18)



Father Harry joins many other clergy and laity in prayer during Archbishop Demetrios' Nameday reception at Archdiocese headquarters in Manhattan. (10/26/18)

its powerful importance from Abba Isaac: "For it embraces all the feelings which can be implanted in human nature, and can be fitly and satisfactorily adapted to every condition, and all assaults. Since it contains an invocation of God against every danger, it contains humble and pious confession, it contains the watchfulness of anxiety and continual fear, it contains the thought of one's own weakness, confidence in the answer, and the assurance of a present and ever ready help. For one who is constantly calling on his protector [God], is certain that He is always at hand. It contains the glow of love and charity, it contains a view of the plots, and a dread of the enemies, from which one, who sees himself day and night hemmed in by them, confesses that he cannot be set free without the aid of his defender."



Beloved dogs, cats and birds of our parishioners are brought together on a blustery fall day for the annual Blessing of the Animals service outside church. (10/21/18)



Federation of Orthodox Christian Churches (FORCC) holds their annual fall dinner fundraiser at St. Nicholas Antiochian Church in Bridgeport. (10/14/18)

Did You Know?

Perhaps no glorified Saints in the Orthodox Tradition are invoked in prayer as often as the Angels, spiritual beings created by God before the universe was created, whose number is beyond counting and who are mostly invisible to us every day. They are ranked in 9 orders, starting with the Seraphim (“burning ones”) and Cherubim who we mention at every Orthros (the singing of the 9th Ode devoted to the Theotokos), and including Archangels such as Gabriel, Michael, Raphael & Uriel whom we know most from the Bible and ancient devotional writings. All angels exist to do very basic things: love God unconditionally; glorify and praise God unceasingly; assist in the well-being and salvation of God’s creation; and, when appropriate, deliver messages of God to humans. How blessed our community is to be named Archangels (Ταξιαρχαί in Greek), whom we call upon in prayer publicly at every Vespers, Orthros, Liturgy, Baptism, Wedding, Funeral. There are traditional prayers that we can also incorporate into our own Rule of Prayer to our Guardian Angel, for example, who is assigned to watch over us from the time we are baptized.

Worship Schedule – Feast Days & Special Events

- Wed & Thu, Nov. 7-8: PATRONAL FEAST OF ARCHANGELS – Wed Vespers 7 pm; Thu Orthros 9:30 am & Liturgy 10:30 am
- Thu & Fri, Nov 8-9: St. Nektarios @ Annunciation: Thu, Vespers 7 pm; Fri, Orthros 8:30 am, Liturgy 9:30 am (they have a relic of this popular modern day Saint of Greece)
- Sunday, Nov 18 – 1 hour earlier due to Stamford Thanksgiving Parade: Orthros 7:45 am & Liturgy 9 am
- Wed, Nov. 21 – Entrance of Theotokos into the Temple: Orthros 8:30 am & Liturgy 9:30 am @ Annunciation
- Fri, Nov. 30 – St. Andrew, First-Called Apostle: Orthros 9 am & Liturgy 9:30 am @ Annunciation

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

Adult Education

- **Morning Bible Study** – began successfully on Oct 24, with a general introduction by Fr. Harry, who awaits more feedback about what to study in the Gospels this year. Next meeting in the Church Narthex: Wed, Nov 14, 10 am. Bring your own covered beverage. Contact: Anna Diamantis or Fr. Harry
- **Bible Study** – Monday evenings: Compline 7:15 pm, Class 7:30 – 9:00 pm. Topic: Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7). Bring your own covered beverage. We meet in the Narthex.
- **Koinonia Groups** for more intimate sharing:
 - § Men – next meeting is Thursday, Nov 15, 7 pm in the Narthex; bring your own covered beverage.



Hellenic College Holy Cross (HCHC) President Fr. Chris Metropoulos shares a story at the HCHC fundraiser dinner at Holy Trinity in New Rochelle. (10/20/18)

§ Married Couples – Presvytera Kerry is planning a session for Sunday, February 3, 7 pm at her home.

- **Parish Council Seminar** – Tue., Nov. 6, @ Annunciation with refreshments 6:30 pm, and presentation by Fr. Harry at 7 pm for all prospective candidates (from area parishes) for election to the Parish Council. Topics covered: nature of the Church and Christian leadership; Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese; specific role and responsibility of the Parish Council in relation to the Archbishop, Presiding Priest, and General Assembly. All candidates must attend one of these seminars (full list of seminars in our District is posted at church). Next closest workshop is Tue, Nov 13 @ St. Barbara in Orange (6:30 pm refreshments; 7 pm Seminar), with Fr. Harry presenting.
- **Baptism Class** – TBA. Fr. Harry is currently surveying parents and godparents for a suitable day and time.

Kali Parea Seniors

The October Seniors meeting in the Greek Cultural Center brought together 32 members of both Stamford communities for fellowship, a delicious catered meal of meatloaf and mashed potatoes, raffle prizes, birthday wishes, and of course, plenty of dessert. November's Kali Parea luncheon will be a special one, as it will be held on our parish's Feast Day, next Thursday November 8th. Orthros will begin at 9:30am and Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:30am – all are invited to worship before our special luncheon meeting! The meal will be Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, and there will be festive music and movie played following the usual business. Spread the word and join us for this month's Kali Parea gathering! Contact: Pam Koutroubis, pamelak2145@gmail.com

Ladies Philoptochos Society

November is a very busy month for the Archangels Philoptochos. At our Nov. 6th meeting, we will be setting up in the Stamford Athletic Club for the Archangels Name Day vespers reception that takes place on Nov. 7th and also putting together Bingo ticket packets in preparation for the annual Turkey Bingo on Saturday, Nov. 17th. For Turkey Bingo, we are in need of donated gift cards, wine, toys, restaurant gift certificates, and other gifts for the prize baskets. We can also use volunteers for set-up, clean-up, kitchen duties and selling raffle tickets. Please contact Lara Paschalidis, Bingo chair, to tell her how you can help. Her email is: larapaschalidis28@gmail.com. We need all hands on deck! Proceeds from Turkey Bingo will go to five charities: Bridgeport Rescue Mission, Circle of Care for Families of Children with Cancer, Pacific House shelter, Fairfield County Hospice House and Fisher House. Bring your family and friends to this wonderful and fun event! Thank you to all those who contributed to the tray passed to benefit Holy Cross seminary. A donation of \$400 was sent to Holy Cross. Our members also approved donations to the Direct Archdiocesan District of Philoptochos (DAD) to purchase toiletries for victims of sex trafficking; to National Philoptochos for hurricane relief and to Holy Cross/Hellenic College for general support. Philoptochos also celebrated Make a Difference Day by donating winter hats, gloves, socks, crayons, stickers and toothbrushes to the preschool class at the Children's Learning Center of our member Luz Tsiralidis. Nitsa Chagaris also donated enough children's books so that every child in the class was able to take one home and the extras were distributed throughout the preschool. Orders for Christmas breads are now being accepted. Pre-payment is preferred. The cost of breads is \$17. They will be delivered on Thursday, Dec. 20th and can be picked up on Friday, Dec. 21st from 9 am to 3 pm, Saturday, Dec. 22nd from 10 am to 2 pm and after Sunday liturgy on Dec. 23rd. Contact Marion Vanson for more information and to place an order. marionvanson@yahoo.com or 914-234-9420. Please join us for our Nov. 6th meeting at 6:30 pm at SAC. Contact: Eugenia Zavras, etz124@yahoo.com



Seniors President Pam Koutroubis offers a few updates to those gathered for the October luncheon meeting in the gym. (10/11/18)



The preschool children listen to a story read by Ms. Kiriaki on the first day of school back in September.



The Preschool children attending the liturgy for Luke the Evangelist. (10/18/18)

Church School

Greetings, Church families! As we delve deeper into the academic year we hope to begin a couple of new programmatic initiatives in line with our Parish's focus for the year. You will be receiving a weekly children's newsletter authored by Presbytera Alexandra Houch titled, Children's Word. This is a wonderful way to incorporate a 10-minute spiritual reading/lesson into your family time weekly. In addition to this weekly bulletin, we are in the process of purchasing children's bibles that will be given to every family registered in our program. This child friendly Holy Bible can also readily be incorporated into a nightly family routine. We are grateful for the opportunity to offer these wonderful resources to our families. We are also starting to cast roles for our annual Children's Christmas Pageant which will be held on Sunday, December 16, 2018 with a dress rehearsal scheduled for the day before (Saturday, the 15th). Lastly, please note that November 11th is a Music Ministry Sunday and that November 25th is a dedicated Philanthropy Sunday. Wishing families a beautiful month of November filled with reflection, bounty, and many blessings. Happy Thanksgiving! Contact: Dr. Evelyn Biliás Lolis, ebiliás@aol.com

Greek School

The Greek School is off to a great start this fall! Teachers and students have grown accustomed to the new learning space at St. Basil's Ukrainian Seminary in Glenbrook, and classes have been



Hope/Joy kids and parents sing a happy birthday and have cake at the conclusion of the Movie Night dinner fellowship at Summer Street Pizza & Deli. (10/28/18)

engaging and fun! We are very grateful for the use of their facilities. The new Cultural Night offering on Friday evenings brings life to the classroom with the elements of art, dance, and hands-on learning. Students rotate between sessions with their peers. This allows further language learning and cultural enrichment.

The first celebration of the year will be Friday, November 2 for our "OXI Day" (No Day) Program. Director Anna Lempesi and teachers have prepared a refreshing new program that includes poems, interactive visual presentation, dance, and choral singing. It will be held in the St. Basil's auditorium at 5:30pm and catered dinner, coordinated by our PTO President Vasso Spanos, will be served afterward to all Greek School families. Contact: Anna Lempesi, ann.lempesi@gmail.com

Preschool

We have adjusted to our new location quite well and enjoy using the Cultural Center for recess every day. We attended the liturgy for Luke the Evangelist on October the 18th and look forward to "Mr. Steve's" weekly visits for our Faith Lesson. Contact: Kiriaki Yoranides knyrys@aol.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.

Diaper Drive

In October, we concluded 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. Thank you everyone for your support of this special cause!

Gratitude Event

Come celebrate God's gifts and be thankful with us on Sunday, November 11th during coffee hour at our annual Gratitude Event! There will be a special thanksgiving craft and a fun treat for the kids. Please RSVP to the invite sent via email or directly to Vasso or Rachel so that we can get an accurate count! We can't wait to see you!

Christmas Party Raffle

Look for the annual Little Angels Raffle at this year's Hope/Joy Christmas party on December 8th! We are very excited to announce that this year, proceeds from the raffle will benefit the new Sunday school classrooms and will be matched by an anonymous donor! We will be collecting toys and gift cards throughout November for the raffle. Please contact Vasso or Rachel to arrange drop-off. Contact: Vasso Spanos (bkarachris@gmail.com) or Rachel Jones (racheljones.cpa@gmail.com)

Hope/Joy

On Sunday, October 28th Hope & Joy gathered for their second event: Movie Night! Families first enjoyed warm pizza and delicious pizza, chicken fingers and birthday cake at Summer Street Pizza & Deli (owned by Lambros & Katie Amanatides, who are active with the ministry). The group then departed for Bow Tie Cinemas Majestic 6 downtown for the 4:15pm showing of "Littlefoot" (PG, 2018 Warner Bros Studios). The movie (about an adventurous lovable Yeti looking for evidence of human life, ie a "little-foot") was a hit with kids, and even adults. Before concluding the evening, Steve Sarigianis lead a brief discussion with the kids which made connections between faith and the movie.

The next event for our Hope/Joy families will be the parish-wide Family Gym and Game Night on Saturday, November 10 in the Greek Cultural Center. This is the first of the new church year and we hope to see you there! Contact: Ruth Diamond, cornellrh@yahoo.com

GOYA

The annual GOYA Lock-In took place on Friday, October 19 at the Greek Cultural Center (SAC) in the group fitness studio and other facilities. The program included compline prayers, a meal together (catered by Hope Pizza), a faith discussion led by Steve & Theophani Sarigianis (on "Offering our Struggles to God"), fire-pit and s'mores, and various gym games and activities late into the night.

On Friday, November 2, the teens will be joining forces with GOYA from Our Savior in Rye, NY to make a Midnight Run. The nature of their work will be distribution of donated food, clothing, and essentials to those in need on the streets of upper Manhattan. Our teens will prep food bags and other items at Rye, then load up cars/suvs and caravan to NYC to hand out goods along a pre-established route. An experience of this type will hopefully broaden our teens' perspectives about the nature of giving and life while practicing a tenet of their Orthodox



Teens wait in line for Pasticho, pizza and salad at the GOYA Lock In retreat held in the Greek Cultural Center. (10/19/18)

faith: almsgiving. GOYA is extremely thankful to all those who generously donated food and clothing from our parish!

Please note the following November events:

- Nov. 4th, Sunday – Monthly Meeting, in the aerobics room at Coffee Hour.
- Nov. 17th, Saturday – Philoptochos Turkey Bingo, at the Greek Cultural Center gym. Teens to help set up beforehand and will have dedicated tables during the event.
- Nov. 18th, Sunday – Poinsettia Sale Begins, (all Sundays prior to Christmas)
- Nov. 23rd, Friday – Christmas Tree Prep, in the church Narthex

Young Adults

This fall 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 began in October. Farm and Youth teams are now practicing at Archangels on Wednesdays from 6:15pm-7:15pm, and 6:15-8pm respectively. The JV team is practicing 7-8:30pm at Annunciation. Girls volleyball will practice will be starting in a few weeks – stay tuned!



Fr. Chris, Seminary President, surrounded by Seminary graduates and current students at Benefit Dinner. (10/20/18)

There is still time to sign up for our teams! Here are the benefits of playing in the church leagues:

- 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.

Camp Saint Paul Winter Camp 2019

The District Youth Office officially launched registration for Camp Saint Paul's 2nd annual Winter Camp this past Thursday, November 1! Camp Saint Paul has developed a sound reputation as a bonified youth ministry for deep spiritual, personal, and interpersonal growth and as a place of great fun and excitement. This year's winter camp will once again be held at the Boston Metropolis Camp Grounds in New Hampshire over Martin Luther King Jr weekend, January 18-21. Cost per camper is just \$350, which includes: meals, lodging, snow tubing, all activities, and transportation to and from NYC/Connecticut. This is a tremendous offering for youth ages 13-18 and is highly encouraged by Father Harry and Steve. For more information and to register, please visit: www.campsaintpaul.org.

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 at 203-322-9561, or call the church office 203-348-4216.

Weekly Food Drive

Philoptochos encourages everyone to bring non-perishable food every week for the Lower Fairfield County Food Bank. There are 4 collections bins in the narthex, entry from back parking lot, and outside the offices. Items include: canned meat, tuna, chili, beans, vegetables & fruit; rice, pasta & tomato sauce;

peanut butter & jelly; cereal & parmalat milk; pancake mix & syrup; coffee & tea. Our parish continues to be one of the leading contributors and the Food Bank is very grateful for our generosity to the working class who are unemployed and under-employed. Contact: Penny or Debbie Nanos.

Thanksgiving in Stamford

- Sunday, November 18: Stamford Holiday Parade (12 noon – 2 pm): To accommodate many in our parish who will be attending, we will start Liturgy 1 hour earlier that day – at 9 am – instead of 10 am. This would make it easier to enter and exit the church before the downtown area becomes more crowded (for those who do not want to stay for the parade), and would allow families with children the opportunity to worship, attend Church School, and go to the Parade. Keep in mind that more than 100,000 people are expected this year.
- Ecumenical Worship to celebrate "A Time to be Grateful" in the season of Thanksgiving. Sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Southwestern CT, on Sunday, November 18, 5-6:30 pm @ Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford. Music by New World Chorus; open to the public. This is the synagogue that our Bible Study group visited earlier this year for a Sabbath service.
- Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thu, Nov. 22 @ First Congregational Church (Walton Place, Stamford): Interfaith worship 12 noon, Family-style Turkey Dinner 12:30pm. Offered free of

Stamford Athletic Club

BIG NEWS: SAC is launching a new membership deal specifically for Archangels Church members. SAC is offering a "buy one SAC Church membership at our normal \$35 per month rate and get one FREE SAC Church monthly membership!" Minimum commitment of one year is required. The deal expires at the end of this year so do not wait. Come over to SAC or contact Jon at jon@sacteam.com for more details and to sign-up today!

SAC now has an Instagram account @stamfordathleticclub. Please link to our account and start posting pictures of all the great activities at SAC, especially our wonderful members!

During the evening of Tuesday, November 12, a Gatorade representative will be in the SAC lobby handing out FREE products. Stop by to see and sample new Gatorade offerings.

SAC would like to officially welcome back the Evergreen Volleyball program to our list of renters for the gym court. If you are interested in renting the court for any event or program at SAC, please contact paul@sacteam.com as there is limited space. Other programs reserving court time include High Rise Basketball and several local cricket clubs.

Thanks to everyone who participated in Agora Spa FREE Massage Raffle during the month of October. An entry was given to anyone that completed the quick survey on our concierge app



Front view of the new Altar Table, with George Demetrakopoulos standing behind; the Alpha-Omega & Chi-Rho design is identical to the older Altar Table.



Fordham PhD student Nicholas Sooy offers a thought provoking presentation on Peace Making at coffee hour in the gym. (10/21/18)

that is located at the SAC front desk. 5 additional entries were given to anyone that posted a review on Yelp about SAC. Keep those Yelp reviews coming as well as other social media outlets such as Google, Facebook, TripAdvisor and more.

Hopefully you were at the gym late October as CVS was handing out FREE health and beauty products. We hope to have them back in the near future.

If any Archangels Church member comes to visit the Church staff in its temporary offices at SAC during the renovations, please also tour the rest of building to see all that SAC has to offer. And always remember 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.

SAC will operate on normal holiday hours for Thanksgiving, 8 am until noon, so make sure to get your workout in before the big feast. Have a great Thanksgiving.

Contact: Jeff Kaminski, jeff@sacteam.com charge to those who

cannot afford it as well as those who simply wish to share with others. Contact: Office at 203-323-0200 for reservations or fcc-stamford.org/events for directions, rides, shut-in meal delivery, or to volunteer your time or make a donation. Co-sponsored by 1st Congregation & St. John's Episcopal.

Christmas Concert

On Saturday, December 15, at 7 pm, our parish is honored to host the Archdiocesan Byzantine Choir in a Christmas Concert that will feature both sacred and folk music. The Yale Institute of Sacred Music and St. Vladimir's Seminary are in support of this event that will be open to the general public. Tickets are only \$30/person, and a reception will follow. It is hoped that Archbishop Demetrios will attend. For more information, contact Fr. Harry (hpappas@svots.edu)

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

PARISH NEWS

Baptism

- Oct 20 – Ioannis Matheis Antonopoulos, 1st child of George & Brooke; sponsors were Nick & Stephanie Antonopoulos

Funerals

- Margot Kalaizis, sister of Jim Cocolis – Sept 1
- Oct 15 – Irene Veniopoulos, mother of Andrew who grew up in Stamford; Irene had relocated to the Waterbury area in 2009.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

AHEPA

Our Stamford AHEPA Biennial Dinner-Dance and Fundraiser on Saturday, October 13, 2018 was moderately successful. About 50 people came to the dinner and enjoyed themselves fully. About 50 people made financial contributions mostly purchasing ads in our commemorative album. We presented certificates of appreciation to the seven couples of Greek School parents who either bought tickets or contributed. In all, we raised about \$6,500 net. We plan to donate \$3,000 to the Archangels Church and \$3,000 to the Annunciation Church for the benefit of their Greek schools. We will also donate \$500 to the AHEPA 2018 Greece Wildfire Relief Fund. Thank you to all who participated in this fundraising effort. For questions or membership applications contact Nicholas Nikas 203-554-5570 or niketes@yahoo.com.

CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGELS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Capital Campaign Committee:

Elias N. Kulukundis, Chairman. Jason Konidaris, Vice Chairman. Father Harry Pappas. Mary Badoyannis, Peter Cholakis, 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 October 2018

Expected Costs <i>(figures are rounded)</i>	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)	150,000	650,000	\$175k in add'l improvements.** \$325k in air system deficiencies	Actual - Completed (2018)
Fellowship Facilities Construction*** (incl. contractors fees)	1,500,000	2,500,000	\$885k in scope of work expansion*** and cost inflation vs 2013	Actual (Guaranteed Max. Price)
Architects Fees	230,000	250,000	Commensurate with expanded scope of work	Actual
Engineering MEP Fees	30,000	50,000	Commensurate with expanded scope of work	Projected
Stamford Building Permits & Facilitation	20,000	35,000	Commensurate with expanded scope of work	Actual
Owner's Rep Fee	-	40,000	Too large an undertaking for Archangels volunteer to exclusively handle	Projected +/- 10%
Contingency	120,000	250,000	Commensurate with expanded scope of work	Projected
Total Costs	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 3,895,000		
Original Capital Campaign Commitments		2,200,000		
Reopened Capital Campaign Commitments		740,000		
Total Commitments		\$ 2,940,000		
Amount needed to finish our work	\$	955,000		

- * 3 yr. seed funding from Capital Campaign to provide admin/finance assistance to Jane in the office
- ** Scope of work was expanded to include lavatory in Bride's Room, a Nursery Room, upgraded Narthex ceiling, and selective lighting fixture replacements. Insulation throughout.
- *** Full renovation and reallocation of space:
 Interior 1st Floor: New fellowship hall, offices, classrooms, kitchen, conference room, restrooms, corridors, swing space, and insulation. ADA compliant.
 Throughout: Fire suppression on all floors. Building management system integration.

Extended Capital Campaign Pledges/Contributions

PLEDGES AND NON-PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS

Estate of Fay Couyoumjian	Angelo and Dena Aravides	Peter and Ruth Diamond	David Johnson and Nicole Stamatiolos	Natalie Kulukundis	Veronica C. Nelson	Ken and Maria Shepard
Estate of Marge Rubirosa	Pantelis and Georgia Athanasiadis	Stephen and Margaret Fornaciari	William and Bertha Jones	Peter and Yolanda Licopantis	Nicholas and Ruth Nikas	Ted and Diane Sierpina
Archangels Greek School	Mary Louise Bennett	Peter G. George	James and Sylvia Kambas	John Kazianis and Eugenia Littrivis	George and Cynthia Paparis	Louis and Anna Sioles
Archangels Ladies Philoptochos Society	Pericles and Diana Caminis	Stephen and Tina Georgeou	George and Alexandra Karayiannis	Rita Mehos	Father Harry and Kerry Pappas	Dr. Steven and Stacey Valassis
Anonymous (3)	Peter Cholakis and Teresa Cassidy	Dimitrios and Nikki Glekas	Annie Konidaris	James and Kyriaki Marcarello	Kimon and Julie Passios	Dennis and Marion Vanson
Janiella Androulidakis	Nicholas Chivilly	Nathaniel and Julia Gooding	Jason and Janie Konidaris	George and Amy Nanos	Tom and Nike Passios	James and Natalie Venetos
	Panagiotis and Maria Chlebogiannis	Margaritta Haralambidis	Pericles and Katherine Kounevelis	Paul and Debbie Nanos	Thomas G. Patsis	
	Harry Condos	Timothy and Sophia Hartch	Elias N. Kulukundis	Penny Nanos	John Pasvankias	
	Matt and Maria De Vito	Michael and Elizabeth Jackson		Gerrit Nijmeijer and Ismene Naos	Dr. Athanasios Petrotos	