



The Herald

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

JUNE & JULY 2019

The Power of Pilgrimage

Fresh from another Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I wish to share with you some of my own personal reflections as a complement to those offered by others from our parish (see below).

It's not often that a group of believers has the opportunity to travel together for a specific faith-based purpose and share more intimate communal life of living in close quarters, sharing meals, praying regularly, and exploring our life in Christ at sacred sites with seasoned and knowledgeable guides. But that's precisely what happened between May 5-18. It was my third pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the second for the other 5 members of our parish, and the first for almost all of the other 30 members.

First and most importantly, our guides. Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky is a middle-aged, family man who pastors a small Orthodox parish in Binghamton, New York. I was introduced to him on the Pilgrimage to Russia two years ago. His gifts extend well beyond congregational life and include deep knowledge of Orthodox theology (he teaches part time at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA), up-to-date knowledge of archaeology (at one site in Jerusalem, he noticed a gentleman sitting nearby – Israel Finkelstein, famous archeologist excavating Megiddo), and a passion for Orthodox pilgrimages that he organizes at least 3-4 times each year for the last 20 years not just to the Middle East, but also to Romania, Greece, and Italy (among other countries) to help others explore Biblical sites, Byzantine & Orthodox Church treasures, and a wide variety of cultures that have impacted Christian life for thousands of years. Fr. Ilya partnered on this trip with Alexander Frel, a middle-aged family man who lives in Cyprus (raising 7 children), has no formal training in Orthodox theology, but who lived for 16 years in Jerusalem, is fluent in many languages (such as modern Israeli, Arabic, Greek, Russian, and English), knows the Holy Land sites like the back of his hand, and can convey the lived reality

for Orthodox and other Christians. Both are passionate, eager to share their knowledge and experience, and offered instruction well beyond anything I had previously experienced from more conventional local guides that most commercial travel agencies hire. This includes richer prayer at each site (including reading relevant portions of Scripture) and sharing the lives of glorified Saints.

Second, our diverse and remarkable group of 37 was comprised of Greek Orthodox from 3 different parishes (our own, along with Scranton, and Ottawa, Canada), Russians from Australia, Antiochians, Carpatho-Russians, and OCA from parishes nearby (Danbury), and further away in the South, Midwest, and West. These included cradle believers from Greek, Russian, and Arabic stock, converts from a variety of American backgrounds, more than one former atheist, and a catechumen preparing to be received into the Orthodox Church later this year. What a wonderful opportunity for getting to know one another, learning our diverse stories of faith, and forming community! Absolutely precious, especially considering how difficult it is in our fast-paced, over-scheduled society.

Third, the content. As Aggie Sotire mentioned 6 years ago at our previous Holy Land Pilgrimage, "it's like walking through the Bible." It's one thing to read or listen to the words of Scripture; it's another thing to be in Jerusalem, Nazareth or Bethlehem. Sometimes, we are overawed by being the most holy site of the Sepulcher – a complex building built centuries ago over the traditional site that encompasses where Jesus was crucified and buried. We had to wait in a very slow-moving line crowded with pilgrims from all over the world for three hours before finally gaining access to the Edicule (a small enclosed shrine inside the large domed exterior that was extensively refurbished in recent years). We periodically sang hymns and prayed, alternating at times with others who were praying in Romanian,

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Japanese, and English. At other times, we were amazed by excavated ruins that help us understand the lost city of Capernaum on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee, which served as the headquarters for Christ's 3-year itinerant ministry that took place primarily in northern Israel. A well-worn, elderly monk Fr. Justin met our group at the beautiful modern Greek Orthodox Church in Sychar which houses the most ancient site of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob's well (nearly 4,000 years old!), as we all received a blessing by drinking some fresh water from same spot. Even when we returned to places we have visited previously, we learned new, richer things from Fr. Ilya and Alex.

Lastly, we were introduced to the neighboring country of Jordan, where other Biblical sites are found, along with many ancient Byzantine churches that have been unearthed. Foremost was the more authentic site "Bethany Beyond the Jordan" where John the Baptist baptized many people, including Jesus himself. We saw the foundations of a Byzantine church nearby that dates to the 4th century, along with a shrine in the river where St. Basil the Great himself was baptized as a young adult around 350 A.D.! Touring many other sites where Orthodox Christians worshipped between the 4th and 9th centuries, one particular feature of this area stood out: mosaic tile that beautifully decorated floors and walls. One ancient church has a well-preserved floor that was a map of the Holy Land in the 5th century! Another highlight was visiting a workhouse that was established and is still maintained by Queen Noor (an American who was married for 20 years to the late King Hussein of Jordan) for

physically handicapped people to earn a living by perpetuating the nearly lost art of mosaics. We saw a few women at work, were given a detailed lesson by another man, and then toured the large shop that featured furniture, large and small frames, and, most spectacularly, very large eggs covered by pin-drop size crushed pieces from left over tiles that created a magnificent, colorful figure or scene. The most demanding experience, though, was touring on foot the ancient city of Petra in the desert: walking through steep ravines (sort of a miniature Grand Canyon), learning about the amazing Nabatean civilization that flourished from 300 B.C. to 100 A.D. before the Romans came in, praying in a cave Church from the early Byzantine era, and discovering how lush and beautiful this key city was along ancient trade routes, with rich gardens, flowing water from mountains, and vibrant life.

Such an intensive experience requires time to unpack so that, with careful attentiveness to Christ, we can more deeply absorb what God wants us to learn. For people like me who love learning, such a "seminar" will provide food for thought and prayer for quite some time. And I hope, with a professional photographer in our group who promised to send out a catalog of pictures of every site, to put together a video presentation that vividly shows the wonderful fruit of our faith-filled journey.

Blessed summer!

– Fr. Harry

Pastoral Question & Answer

Question: When will the new Archbishop arrive and what will be the process by which he assumes his new role as Archbishop of America?

Answer: Archbishop Elpidophoros will arrive in the United States on Wednesday, June 19, from Istanbul, Turkey. On Thursday, June 20, Fr. Harry & Presvytera Kerry will join the clergy and their families from all 60 parishes of our Diocese – called the Direct Archdiocesan District – for a welcoming dinner at Terrace on the Park Restaurant in Flushing Meadows, NY. On Saturday, June 20, all clergy and laity are invited to the 11am Enthronement Ceremony at the Archdiocesan Cathedral (337 East 74th Street, New York). This will be followed by an Enthronement Luncheon at 1:30 pm at the New York Hilton Midtown (1335 Avenue of the Americas). *Please contact the office if you are interested in attending – we will carpool or even rent a bus to accommodate everyone who wishes to be at this rare and historic event in the life of our Archdiocese.* Then, on Sunday, the Feast of All Saints, Archbishop Elpidophoros will lead the celebration of his first Liturgy as the chief bishop

of our 9-member Eparchial Synod. *Let us join together, in prayer and in action, to warmly welcome our new Chief Shepherd of the entire Archdiocese, as well as our Diocesan Bishop.* We look forward to his first pastoral visit to our parish as his schedule allows.



Newly elected Archbishop of America Elpidophoros (which means "one who bears hope"). (May 11)

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council

The Parish Council met on May 22nd with Council members and several guests present. After a recap of Holy Week, a review of the church's financials, and discussion regarding efforts to hire a new church administrator, the Council was happy to welcome Jason Konidaris to present a report from the Master Planning Committee. Jason shared an update on the construction project, which is on schedule for completion this summer.

Many Council members continue to bring their professional experience and expertise to serve our community in new ways. John Pasvankias is leading implementation of some of our Audit Committee recommendations by developing stronger financial controls, policies and procedures for the church and our book-keeping processes. George Paparis worked over the past several months to review the church's insurance coverage in order to ensure that both the church building and the Cultural Center are adequately covered.

The Greek Cultural Center Committee, led by Steven Georgeou, gave an update on the closing of the Stamford Athletic Club. The Council and the Committee are very focused on reducing the ongoing operating costs of the Cultural Center with a goal of reaching breakeven in 2020. The Committee has also started meeting to review longer-term plans for redeveloping or repurposing the facility.

With Steve Sarigianis planning to depart our parish in August 2019, the Council discussed whether to hire a new Pastoral Assistant to continue the work begun by Steve. A majority of the Council agreed that this position provides important spiritual and administrative benefits to our parish, especially with respect to the development of our youth ministries. The position has since been posted, and the Council hopes that we will be able to find a qualified candidate to begin work later this year.

The Council will meet this summer on June 18 and July 23, both at 7:15 p.m. We welcome any interested members of the Parish to attend these meetings or reach out to any Council member with questions or concerns. Contact: Georgia Man, Secretary, georgiavman@gmail.com

Master Planning

We are about month away from substantial completion and it really shows. Outside - the new roof has been laid over the Fellowship Building (see picture). The skylight overlooking the front entry foyer has been installed and looks magnificent (see picture). Glass installation is now taking place at the front and rear entrances (see picture). The children's playground is back up and running, complete with new fencing and wood chips (see picture). Inside - Ceiling soffits, tile, lighting, and smoke detectors have been put up throughout the hallways, offices, and classrooms. Ceramic tile is complete in all restrooms. Plumbing fixtures and dividers are currently being installed. The kitchen walls have been surfaced and await counter layout. Service wiring (information technology and building security) continues. We hope you enjoy the attached pictures as much as we do! Contact: jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Capital Campaign

Last month I announced to the Community that the Capital Campaign had reached its goal. Contributions and pledges had been received sufficient to cover the construction costs of refurbishing our Fellowship Building without having to resort to bank financing beyond the discounting of pledges payable in future years. In that context, this will be my last contribution to the Herald. The Campaign will not be completely closed down: contributions on existing pledges will continue to be received and processed, and any additional goodwill donations will be happily received in order to fund incidentals.

When we set out on the path to refurbish our campus five years ago, we adopted the motto 'Come let us rebuild', from the book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah, the leader of the Jews on their return from exile in Babylon, is exhorting his countrymen to rebuild Jerusalem. The city had been substantially obliterated following its conquest nearly a hundred years earlier by King Nebuchadnezzar. The people responded, 'Let us rise up and build', and rebuild they did. They rebuilt their homes; they rebuilt the walls of the City and eventually they rebuilt the Temple. Nehemiah's call resonated in our hearts as we set out in 2014 to restore and refresh the buildings of our church campus. No, our buildings



New fencing is erected around the re-constituted playscape. (June 4)



Glass windows are installed in the new rear entry. (May 31)



The roof above the fellowship hall is refinished. (May 31)



The large skylight in the new foyer brings in abundant natural light. (June 3)



The new church hall continues to take shape. (May 30)

were not in ruins. No earthquake or tornado had levelled them. But they were suffering from fifty years of neglect. No maintenance had been performed except what was absolutely necessary. If we were going to meet the needs of our community for the next fifty years, needs which in the twenty-first century were quite different from those when the complex was built back in the late 1950s, there was no choice but to refresh and restore our campus.

Like the people of Jerusalem, you responded with enthusiasm.

Committees evaluated the needs, drew up plans, and researched likely costs. A financial goal was established, and you all came together to reach and surpass that goal. Jerusalem did not get rebuilt without having to overcome hurdles. So too our project. It became clear early on that more improvements were needed in the church itself than had been initially anticipated. And once work got started, it was discovered that the ductwork under the concrete floor of the church—which we believed to be sound—was seriously compromised, impacting the functioning of our heating and air conditioning systems. More than half the floor of the church had to be torn up to replace the ducts. And when we finally set out to obtain bids for the refurbishment of the Fellowship Hall, not only had we fallen behind on our timetable and been obliged to dig into available funds that were supposed to be allocated for the Fellowship Building, but costs had run away in the four years since we first drew up our plans, and we were going to be short of money. As a result, it was necessary to reopen the Capital Campaign. Once again, you all responded enthusiastically. A number of donors, some big, and some small, some named and some anonymous, came forward and, over the course of not quite two years, the reopened Campaign reached its target. We anticipate that the refurbishment of the Fellowship Building will be completed in early July. The refurbishment of our church campus has been a project that will be of benefit to our entire community. It has been a project that so many of you, each in their own way, have been involved with. It has been a project that our whole community worked together to bring to fruition.

Psalm 127 begins: ‘Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it’.

The Lord has been with us as we worked on and completed the refurbishment of our worship space.

The Lord has been with us filling your hearts to give generously throughout the Campaign. The Lord has been with us inspiring anonymous donors to come to our aid at difficult moments. The Lord has been with us resolving problems that arose as construction progressed on the site. The Lord has been with us from the start of the project. We have not been laboring in vain. The Lord has inspired us all to respond promptly and generously to the needs of the project. And with the Lord’s help, we reached our goal. We thank you, Lord, for laboring beside us throughout this project. May Your Name be praised in all eternity.

In closing, I would like to thank you all once again for your support and help these past five years. We could not have reached our goal without you. And I would also like to thank you for having chosen me and entrusted me with the task of leading this Campaign.

We have not labored in vain. What we have built we, our children, and our grandchildren will all enjoy for many years to come.

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

Buildings & Grounds

A quiet month for B&G. We expect gutter work on the church to be completed in the next few weeks. We are actively working with the subcontractor to carve out some time in their busy summer schedule to get them onsite to do the work. B&G also continues to support the Greek Cultural Center as we continue

to navigate its reduced usage. In the coming months, we will work to get familiarized with new systems in the Fellowship Building to ensure that the proper maintenance contracts are in place, so we get the maximum life out of all the new equipment being installed. Contact: Peter Hantes, Peter.Hantes@gmail.com

MINISTRIES

Prayer of the Month

Given the profound experience of another Holy Land Pilgrimage filled with holy places and holy people, here is a prayer derived from the rich tradition of Saints – both glorified officially by the Church, and recognized more broadly as other true believers:

Thank you, Lord, for inspiring men, women and children of all ages, from very different walks of life and all parts of the globe, to bear witness to the truth in love, starting with the Old Testament Patriarch Abraham and Sarah, all the way to Mother Maria of Paris who saved many Jews in World War II and died in a Nazi prison camp. Continue to inspire us to grow in holiness by allowing your Presence, awesome truth, and amazing love to transform us from deep within our hearts and minds outward in our behavior and within our community of faith for the common good of all and to manifest the Kingdom of God breaking into this world. Lead us to recover the ancient Christian practices of prayer, meditation of Scripture, silence, solitude, contemplation, simplicity, fasting, worship, fellowship, service, and mission by which we place ourselves before you to do with us as you wish. Through the intercessions of all the glorified Saints, have mercy on us and save us!

Did You Know?

Christian Pilgrimages were first made to the places connected with the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some of the earliest evidence comes from Origen, the 3rd century genius, expeditions led by St. Helen, the mother of St. Constantine the Great, who found the precious Cross and built various shrines, and the diary of Egeria, a devout woman of the 4th century who wrote about many sites, churches, and worship during a 3-year sojourn in the Holy Land. Yet, for all the interest and importance attached to Pilgrimage, great Church Fathers such as St. John Chrysostom emphatically teach that we can fully experience Christ everywhere we live here and now, since by his Holy Spirit, Jesus is present at all places and all times. Right within our own heart, in our own home and neighborhood, the Crucified and Risen Lord has come to make his home and presence felt. All that is needed by us is not collecting enough money to make an expensive, long trip, but an open heart and mind that cost nothing but demand everything!

Liturgy Summer Hours

**Starting June 1: Orthros will begin at 8:15 am,
Liturgy at 9:30 am, and Coffee Hour at 10:45 am**

Summer Worship

- Great Feast of ASCENSION @ neighboring parish of the Church of Our Savior (2195 Westchester Avenue East, Rye NY) their patronal Feast day:
- Wed, June 5 – Great Vespers 7pm, with area clergy and parishes, followed by a festal reception
- Thu, June 6 – Orthros 8:30am, Liturgy 9:30am, followed by a festal reception.
- Great Feast of PENTECOST – Sunday, June 16 (the same day this year as Father's Day, on which we honor fathers, god-fathers and spiritual fathers). We will incorporate the Kneeling Prayers from Sunday Vespers toward the end of Liturgy.
- Feast of All Saints – Sunday, June 23, the Nameday for all those who do not have an identifiable Patron Saint.
- Fast of the Apostles – begins on Monday, June 24 – Friday, June 28, as we prepare for the following:
- Feast of Saints Peter & Paul, Chief of the Apostles – Saturday, June 29: Orthros 9am & Liturgy 9:30am @ Annunciation
- Feast of Prophet Elijah (Elias) – Saturday, July 20: Orthros 9am & Liturgy 9:30am
- Feast of St. Panteleimon – Saturday, July 27: Orthros 9am & Liturgy 9:30am

Adult Education

- Morning Bible Study – on May 30 involved study of Luke 18:1-8, a Parable that Jesus once told about a widow who persisted in wearing out an unjust judge until she got justice. The purpose? Surprisingly, to encourage all of us to pray always and not give up! Option will be sent out to the group to convene sometime this summer or just wait until fall.
- Rev. Dr. Rowan Williams, Oxford Professor and one of the foremost Christian theologians today, will offer the Patterson Conference Lecture on Wed, June 4, 6pm @ McNally



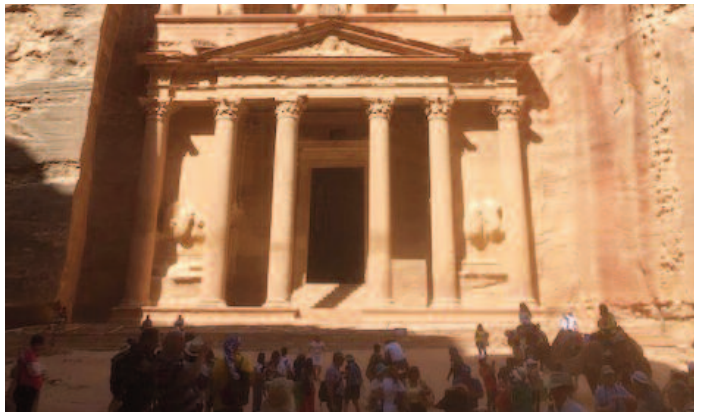
Fr Ilya explaining first site in Galilee on Day 1 of the Holy Land Pilgrimage. (May 7)



Archangels pilgrims in the Jordan desert (left to right): Paul Nanos, Molly & Aggie Sotire, Penny Nanos, Debbie Nanos, and Fr Harry. (May 12)



The group approaches the Edicule ("little house") of Holy Sepulcher after waiting 3 hours in line. (May 10)



The famous "Treasury" at Petra (Southwest Jordan), carved into solid rock, is one of the final destinations. (May 13)

Amphitheatre of Fordham University Lincoln Center Campus (140 West 62nd Street, NYC). A reception will follow. As the former Archbishop of Canterbury in the Anglican Church, he is one of the foremost Christian theologians in the world today, with many best-selling books on Orthodox persons and subjects. Contact: Fr. Harry

- Spiritual Growth Committee will convene this summer to review progress on our Ministry Focus of Reading the Bible. Here are the areas we published last year:
 - ‡ Sermon series on reading the Bible
 - ‡ Offer in print or digitally the schedule of daily Bible readings throughout the year
 - ‡ Incorporate Sunday Bible readings in the Church School program to encourage parents and children with a weekly assignment
 - ‡ Publicize free Apps for smart phones that offer the Bible in English, Greek and other languages to facilitate reading and even listening to audio recordings
 - ‡ Offer a weekday Bible Study during the daytime hours for seniors in English and in Greek
 - ‡ Facilitate greater knowledge of the larger story of the Bible through very popular and wonderful writings that present Scripture in captivating narrative

‡ Disseminate popular and well-done YouTube and Pod Casts that offer basic teaching of the Orthodox Christian faith to adults and teens

‡ Begin contacting Retreat speakers for next ecclesiastical year

- Men's Koinonia – summer barbecue social will take place at the home of Fr. Harry & Presvytera Kerry; date is TBA.
- Baptism Class on Sunday, June 23, 2-4pm in the Women's Lounge of the Greek Cultural Center. For all parents and godparents to learn more about the Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation & Eucharist, along with raising children in Christ in today's world

More Reflections on our Holy Land Pilgrimage

It was special that Fr. Harry read the Gospels in many areas of our trip. Many authentic biblical sites were venerated - i.e., the Nativity in Bethlehem which was the exact area depicting the birth of Jesus; at the Holy Sepulcher, the Golgotha, the explicit area of the Tomb of Christ and where the Resurrection occurred which brought tears to our eyes. One prominent monastery venerated was that of St Simeon, who received the Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus at the Temple 40 days after his birth. The first day, we enjoyed a relaxing boat ride around the Sea of Galilee where we were told that many types of fish are endemic to the area –



Fr. George is greeted by a cheery group of Preschool children outside his office at the Greek Cultural Center. (May 16)



"Mrs. Kyriaki" Yoranidis and her Preschool students offer songs & artwork as part of their graduation program. (May 31)



"Mr. Jeff" shows Preschool children how to do their stretches in the gym. (May 9)

such as Tilapia. In the country of Jordan, we visited the Bethany area where Christ was baptized; also, Mt. Nebo where Moses viewed the Promised Land of which he never made because of his lack of trust in God. In Petra, we walked a long way to the Treasury building and took a horse and buggy ride back to the visitor's area. We enjoyed our wonderful, friendly and caring group of 37 Pilgrims from Australia, Canada, and many U.S. states. The six Russian Pilgrims who sang Hymns in many places was beautiful. It was a very memorable tour to us - some old from our first visit in 2013 and some new in Jordan and Petra. In God's Love and our love. -- Aggie & Mollie Sotire

The second time visiting the Holy Land was more revealing. Being familiar with some of the surroundings, as well as numerous new sites, we were able to see everything in more depth. We were in constant awe being surrounded and by such vital events in Jesus' life that took place 2,000 years ago. Our soul searching and the ability to imagine these events were very emotional and of surpassing importance to us. It was also a unique and learning experience sharing our Orthodox Faith with people from

various religious backgrounds. Some were converts to Orthodoxy and one Catechumen along with two Atheists, who became true believers. Most of them very openly shared their trials and tribulations in search of a Christian faith that would fulfill their spiritual needs. If one of the definitions of a Christian is the knowledge of what took place during the life of Christ on Earth, yes, we definitely say that we felt Jesus' presence in our souls; absorbing, appreciating and "living" in our minds all those events! Truly Blessed for this unforgettable Pilgrimage. – Penny & Debbie Nanos

On-line Resources for the Family

The Archdiocese Center for Family Care continues to expand its varied on-line resources for individuals, couples, and families to assist them in deepening their relationship with Christ and the Church. Through weekly prayers, challenges, and inspirations, we can encourage one another to live out our faith daily in everything we do. To participate, check out this website <https://www.goarch.org/departments/family>, where you can subscribe on their listserv, and Facebook page each week for the weekly focus. Steve at steve@archangelsgoc.org, or Presvytera Kerry at pappaskk@msn.com

Greek School Camp

"My Magical Greek Village"

**Session I: Mon – Fri, July 22 – 26
9 am – 1 pm**

Hands-on learning, arts & crafts, song & dance, culture

Early bird registration by July 1 - \$150/child
(\$180 afterwards)

To register online: <https://forms.gle/92X3NrT9fhHBCGZK8>

For more information call 203-348-4216 or
steve@archangelsgoc.org



Chef "Danny" celebrates his birthday with cake and song during the May Seniors meeting. (May 9)



The Cholakis, Amanatides, Nikolis families, Fr Harry and Steve enjoy a Met's game in Queens on Saturday, May 25.

Kali Parea Seniors

Our May Senior Luncheon was well attended. Steve Sarigianis led us in prayer, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Our luncheon was prepared by Chef Rafael Medina, from our own kitchen. He prepared avgolemono soup, salad, roasted chicken with lemon potatoes. We served our usual beverages, consisting of wine, soft drinks and coffee, followed by many home-made desserts and a birthday cake. This was a social meeting with an exchange of experiences among the attendees. We encourage the many seniors who have not been members of "KALI PAREA" to attend our June meeting as our guest. We ask that you contact Pam at (203)348-7402 if you plan to attend. This will be a Special Meeting with a vast array of appetizers, as a nice sendoff before we meet again in September. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL! Contact: Pam Koutroubis, pamelak2145@gmail.com

Ladies Philoptochos

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual Mother's Day Spring Luncheon at Madonia's Restaurant on Sunday, May 5th. It was a lovely afternoon of conversation, fellowship and great food. Special thanks go to Maryanne Kardaris, Cindy Mixcus, Marietta Morelli and Eugenia Zavras for coordinating the event, along with Jackie Ciaraldi, co-owner of Madonia. On May 18th, Eugenia and Maryanne attended the Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos Society (DAD) biennial conference in Rye, NY. Members voted for a new DAD board. Disbursement of funds, membership and programs were discussed. Our chapter received an Award of Excellence for increasing our membership from year 2017 to 2018. The final meeting of the ecclesiastical year took place on Monday, June 3rd at the Greek Cultural Center (formerly SAC). Thank you to all who attended for contributing to the review of the past year and offering suggestions for 2019-2020. Our goal over the summer and in the fall is to attract new members and engage those who support us with financial contributions but may be unaware how they can help with their time and talents. Please contact any board member to learn more. The board is made up of Eugenia Zavras, Lara

Paschalidis, Pauline Galuris, Penny Nanos, Marietta Morelli, Cindy Mixcus, Diane Sierpina, Marion Vanson, Maryanne Kardaris, Dee Dee Aivalis, and Natalie Kulukundis. Please join us on Saturday June 8th at St. Barbara's Church in Orange for the annual Rise Against Hunger event. Philoptochos members and friends will be packaging food items that will be distributed to the hungry. At our May meeting, a donation toward the cost of the food supplies for this project was approved. Members also voted to purchase a brick at the Fairfield County Hospice House on Den Road in Stamford to help support that charity. Have a wonderful summer. Contact: Eugenia Zavras, etz124@yahoo.com

Church School

The Archangels Church School program held its commencement on Sunday, May 19th with a special ceremony at the conclusion of Holy Liturgy. All students and faculty were called up to receive special gratitude gifts for their participation in our program. Thank you to families for making this our best programmatic year yet! Our annual and highly anticipated Vacation Church School (VCS) will be held July 29th-August 2nd in the Greek Cultural Center gym. This camp is at no cost to families. Online registration to open and parents are strongly encouraged to register early as seats fill up quickly!

<https://forms.gle/j1E4a1oHi8iFDKV6A> Wishing families a safe and restorative summer! Contact: Dr. Evelyn Biliadis (ebiliadis@aol.com)

Vacation Church School

Monday – Friday, July 29 - August 2
9 am – 12 noon

For children 4 years and older – Limit 30 children
Prayer, Themed Crafts & Lessons, Activities,
Games, and more

To register online: <https://forms.gle/j1E4a1oHi8iFDKV6A>

For more information call 203-348-4216 or
steve@archangelsgoc.org



[Left to right:] Alexandra Spetsaris, Sophia Pasvankias, Peter Tsipralis, and Serafim Spetsaris having a blast at Skyzone trampoline park. (May 21)



Greek School staff, students and parents gather for a year-end graduation program and meal at Skyzone. (May 21)

Greek School

The time passed by so fast! Another school year has sadly come to an end. It was an especially fruitful year with all students making great progress in Greek language and strengthening friendships through our organized events. We were so blessed to use classrooms at St. Basil's Seminary for our school and their auditorium for three performances of OXI Day, Three Hierarchs, and Greek Independence Day.

For this successful and creative year, I would like to congratulate all the protagonists: the teachers who try to convey their knowledge and improve the Greek of our children, our Church that supports the Greek School in a variety of ways, the parents, who through the PTA contribute to make this experience unique and finally our students for their dedication and passion in learning the Greek language.

A wonderful year-end celebration took place at Skyzone Trampoline Park in Norwalk, with students and parents having great fun. After the certificates ceremony, faculty, students and families enjoyed a delicious pizza dinner and some final para.

This summer we will have one week of Greek School Camp with language & cultural learning. Register your children today! <https://forms.gle/92X3NrT9fhHBCGZK8>

Finally, with great love and anticipation, we already look forward to September to welcome back our students! Contact: Anna Lempesi, Principal: ann.lempesi@gmail.com

Preschool

It wasn't long ago that we were faced with the challenges that the new school year presented to us due to the major renovation of our campus. Numerous questions came to mind such as where will the Preschool be housed that would be close enough

to allow access to the gym for the children to safely have recess each day and will the children be able to attend liturgy during the week? Due to the tireless efforts of everyone involved, a space was found and those challenges were resolved successfully, producing a very positive and productive school year. On May 31st we had a wonderful celebration with an End of Year Party where over thirty family members and friends attended to congratulate the children and staff for, as one family wrote "Thank you for a wonderful school year! ...This was a fantastic first school experience for us and we couldn't be happier." With much appreciation a huge, heartfelt THANK YOU to the many people who willingly offered their expertise, guidance, labor, and know-how to make it, indeed, a successful and pleasant year especially for the children. That being said, we ARE VERY excited to soon be moving back into our new school space and begin to work towards yet another positive and productive year with the children. Our preschool still has availability for the 2018-2019 school year. We are excited and look forward to being back in our own, totally new space! Contact Kiriaki: 203-329-2353, or email knyrus@aol.com

HOPE/JOY

On June 2nd, Hope and Joy organized a host of fun outdoor activities for our Church's children during the 'Outdoor Liturgy & Picnic' at Cove Park. It was an afternoon of friendly competition and fun featuring: beanbag and egg carry relay races, waterballoon toss, and rocket launch.

Stay tuned for our end of the year party coming up! The night will feature a fun movie (in the movie room), games, snacks, swimming, and a meal. More details to follow via email. Contact: Ruth Diamond at cornellrh@yahoo.com



Stamford United girls volleyball team prepares for the next game at the NY District Olympics. (May 25)



Stamford parents enthusiastically support their girls at the District Olympics. (May 25)

GOYA

At our monthly meeting on May 5, VP Elena Muniz lead the group through all talking points, including a recap of Holy Week and Easter, Gift Drive & hospital delivery, and discussion about the year-end party. Steve offered a thought-bite on the Christian understanding of sharing & charity, and teens reflected about their experience delivering toys to the Stamford Hospital Pediatric unit.

The last event of this ecclesiastical year will be the Year-End Party and Elections @ RPM Raceway in Stamford this Saturday, June 8 from 5:30pm-8pm. This is a hot new venue for go-carting, laser-tag and bowling, of which our group will enjoy the latter (along with some arcade games). Elections for President, Vice President, and Secretary will be held, graduating seniors & departing advisors will be recognized, and final reflections on our entire year will be offered by all. Contact: Maria Otis, maria.otis@yahoo.com, or Dorie Poulos, dorielp@yahoo.com

Young Adults

On Thursday, June 13 from 7pm-10pm, the first Connecticut Orthodox on Tap event for young adults 18-35 will be held at the Spinning Wheel, 106 Blackrock Turnpike in Redding, CT. The theme is "Ask the Priest" featuring Fr. Nikolas of Danbury, who is hosting the evening along with his community. A private room with drinks and food will be provided – all you have to do is come. If you are interested in attending, contact Steve, who is offering a carpool from Stamford (203-623-5896).

Athletics

Over Memorial Day Weekend the 41st annual Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Olympics (GOADO) were held at the Suffolk Community College Brentwood campus on Long Island. Featured events are: swimming, 3 on 3 basketball, chess, checkers & backgammon, track and field events, soccer, volleyball, softball, and kickball to name a few. (For more info, check out their website: <http://www.goado.com/#>.) This year our Stamford United girls' volleyball team took 3rd place overall amidst a dozen strong competitors. Congratulations to the girls of both churches and Archangels coaches John Skoparantzios and Hannah Pappas for all their accomplishments! This is a wonderful way to end the year in athletics.

Consider signing up your children for Archangels youth athletics this fall: farm team (ages 4-8), youth (ages 9-11), and JV (ages 12-15) basketball, and or girls' volleyball (ages 10-18). Registration begins in September. Contact: Steve Sarigianis (steve@archangelsgoc.org) -or- John S. (atoz@aol.com) for more info.

SAVE THE DATES!
ANNUAL ARCHANGELS
GREEK FESTIVAL!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 TO
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

OPA!



Although "still confused", GOYAns stand for a fun photo after escaping from one of the challenging escape rooms. (June 2)

Greek Language Classes for Adults

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

International Orthodox Christian Charities

With so much attention to international needs, do we Orthodox ever pay sufficient attention to crises here in our own country? In fact, since 2001, IOCC's United States Programs have provided more than \$60 million in aid and gifts in kind and over 40,000 volunteer hours to survivors of disasters across the country. Following severe weather events, emergency and home-rebuilding assistance has been provided to Missouri, North Carolina, West Virginia, Louisiana, Florida, and Texas. If you are not sure how to help relief efforts that are now needed in Arkansas, Oklahoma and other areas severely affected by recent tornadoes, storms and flooding, here is a safe and secure link to facilitate monetary donations that will be used wisely and securely through IOCC:

https://support.iocc.org/site/Donation2;jsessionid=00000000.ap30112b?idb=227098907&1400.donation=form1&df_id=1400&mfc_pref=T&NONCE_TOKEN=FAEE30B5D96710F8AC67FC3B0BFF69BA&idb=0&_ga=2.87536728.1956155889.1559334847-94403838.1551797115

Contact: Fr. Harry

GreekFest: September 26-29, 2019

Our Festival Committee is meeting regularly to prepare for another wonderful event this fall. Please save the date! Raffle tickets will be available for sale soon. First prize - \$10,000.00; Second prize - \$3,000.00; and Third Prize - \$2,000.00. Please help us by purchasing at least one book per family and selling another! As you know, there are many costs that go into preparing for the church's largest annual fundraiser - including food,

ingredients, supplies and security. Please review the wish list below. Consider making a cash contribution to defray these costs to help make the festival as successful as possible. Contact: Margaret Fornaciari, zamsfam@optonline.net.

Wish List for GreekFest

It is once again that time of year when our parish prepares for the Annual Greek Festival. The festival allows us to share our heritage, faith, culture, especially our love for food and dance. The Festival Committee is working diligently to keep expenses to a minimum and to maximize our profits. Below is a list with the costs of many of the items we use. Help support us by making a financial donation to defray some of our many expenses.

Chicken	\$1,000
Beer Greek and American	985
Beef for Stifadho (stew)	425
Feta	400
Flour for Loukoumadhes	250
Grape Leaves (Dolmadhes)85
Greek Olives350
Greek wine	1,600
Groceries (misc.)	6,500
Gyros	2,000
Honey for Loukoumadhes125
Lamb Boneless Leg	2,000
Miscellaneous Soft Drinks	1,000
Olive Oil	125
Ouzo	200
Paper Products	3,000
Potatoes475
Printing	3,000
Produce	3,500
Propane (for grills)	1,250
Souvlaki Pork	3,650
Souvlaki Chicken	3,500
Tzatziki	400
Water Bottles	300

Please note: It is not necessary to cover the entire amount of any one item. You may make a partial donation towards one or several items. ANY DONATION, LARGE OR SMALL IS WELCOME! Checks can be made payable to Church of the Archangels and designate in the memo: "Festival Expense Donation." You can drop off or mail donations to: Festival Committee, Church of the Archangels, 1527 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT 06905

Help us to make this four-day event even more successful! Your contributions are greatly appreciated, and we thank you in advance for your support! Yours gratefully, Greek Festival Committee



The annual Outdoor Liturgy & BBQ is held under the pavilion at Cove Park. (June 2)



Fr Harry prepares the Holy Gifts (Communion) and the choir sings. (June 2)

Greek Cultural Center

SPECIAL SALE - Used Fitness Equipment!

The former Stamford Athletic Club is selling its cardio fitness equipment. Parishioners can contact Jeff Kaminski at jeff@sacteam.com if interested in purchasing any equipment featured in the link to photos (below). Jeff will provide prices upon request. All the equipment is being sold as is - out of warranty and all sales final. We will need buyers to be responsible for disassembling and transporting any purchases. To secure equipment, payment must be made in advance. Sale ends Friday June 14th. Questions?...please contact Jeff. This sale is open to friends and family; feel free to pass the information along. Link to the photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/cc0Ah8HAQ8vDgeQy9>



The Parish Council meets for their monthly meeting in the girl's lounge of the Greek Cultural Center. (May 21)



John Skoparantzos (left) leads the grilling operation, with help from Jonathan (right) and Georgia Man (center). (June 2)



Children get into the water balloon toss (and other games) organized by Chris & Christine Nanos (at left). (June 2)



Father and ministry leaders surprise Steve Sarigianis with a small recognition & gratitude program after liturgy. (June 2)

PARISH NEWS

2019 High School Graduates



Elena Muniz – daughter of Angel & Athina (Nikolis) Muniz, from Norwalk High School with honors and distinction. Will be attending UConn Storrs campus majoring in Allied Health Sciences.



Jaden Matthew Spanakos – son of Peter & Laura Spanakos, grandson of John Spanakos, nephew & godson of Angela Spanakos, from Stamford High School with honors. Will be attending Southern CT State University majoring in Communications with a concentration in Advertising.



Nicholas Otis – son of Mark & Maria Otis, from Stamford High School with honors. Will be attending UConn Storrs campus majoring in Business.



Alexandra Vassiliou – daughter of Argyris & Anna Vassiliou, from Sacred Heart in Greenwich with honors. Will be attending Skidmore College majoring in Art History and will be on the Varsity Equestrian Team.



Matthew Poulos – son of Dean & Dorie Poulos, grandson of Fr. George & Presvytera Christina Poulos, from Stamford High School with honors. Will be attending Sam Houston State University in Texas, majoring in Marketing and minor in Business Analytics.

Baptisms

June 16 – Michael Anthony Burke II, third child of Michael & Dena Burke

June 29 – Evan Matt Hantes (Evangelos Stamatis) second child of Peter & Soulafreda (Valassis) Hantes

June 30 – Nikiforos (Victor) William Horiatis, first child of Dimitri and Hellen (Vouthounis) Horiatis

Summer Weddings

June 22 – Chris Crawford and Krista Palmer

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Foundation

The Church of the Archangels Foundation held its annual meeting at the Church on May 1st. In addition to annual housekeeping matters, various reports were presented to the Board. Kimon Passios, the Treasurer noted that the Investment account had recouped all the losses from last December's stock market slide and was valued at the end of April at approximately \$3.3 million. He further reported that portfolio allocations were currently 60% common stocks and 40% bonds and cash. Dennis Vanson, the Foundation's Accountant, presented the December 31, 2018 Accounts to the Board, which were accepted. Based on these accounts, amounts available for appropriation in 2019 amounted to about \$110,000. In addition, the Board had the right to invade principal to meet emergency needs up to \$117,000. Steven Georgeou, Chairman of the Cultural Center Committee of the Church, was invited to report on the recommendations of his Committee and update the Board on the closing down of the Stamford Athletic Club (SAC) and associated cost projections. The Board raised various questions which Mr. Georgeou answered, noting the process had only just begun and that there were many unknowns.

Elias Lolis and Tim Hartch presented a request from the Parish Council for a grant of \$100,000 to reimburse the Church for monies it had advanced for SAC between December 2018 and April 2019. These advances were used to cover operating deficits at SAC in the five months in question, and to pay old bills which had remained unpaid. After considerable discussion, the Board voted to make the grant in question, noting that doing so virtually exhausted funds available for grants for 2019.

The Board then considered the matter of funding the closing costs of SAC and the cost of operating the Center on a reduced basis for the remainder of 2019. It was difficult to provide sensible estimates for these costs inasmuch as it was not known how great the savings in utility costs would be nor how much additional rental income might be generated now that SAC was closed. The best guesses suggested that these costs would be around \$100,000. Funds to meet them would be needed at various times and not in one payment. After discussion, the Board voted to allocate the \$117,000 available for emergency funding to meet the expenses of the Cultural center over the remainder of 2019, and to authorize the Executive Committee of the Foundation to distribute them as emergency grants as and when needed. Inasmuch as the grants made virtually exhausted funds available for the purpose, the Board voted to suspend for the current year the annual grant of \$10,000 for Missions and Charitable contributions.

The Board made the following decisions (among others) on recommendation of the Nominating Committee:

Elias N. Kulukundis and Chris Paul Nanos were re-elected to a three-year term as Directors.

Elias N. Kulukundis was re-elected President, George Khouri Vice President, and Kimon Passios Treasurer. As Tim Hartch was stepping down as Secretary, Chris Paul Nanos was elected to the position.

Tom Passios was elected an Emeritus Director in recognition of his many years of devoted service to the Foundation as Director and Treasurer.

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

AHEPA

Happy Summer from your Stamford AHEPA Chapter 99! We do not have events scheduled for June or July, but we do have work to do to recruit a local team or two to participate in our District's 2019 Hellenic History Tournament. It is a knowledge competition for secondary school students about the 3500-year-long history of the Hellenes (Greek speakers). It is open to students in grades 8-12 at competition time (November 23), but they must register by June 30. Participants have an opportunity to win a share of the \$4,500 in prizes. The 2019 HHT is the 11th such annual tournament to be sponsored by AHEPA Yankee District 7. This is a FUN and challenging event! Contestants must form their own 3-member teams, elect a team captain, and fill out and mail their registration forms by the deadline. In return, each contestant receives a copy of "Hellenika, Heritage and History" by T. Peter Limber, the book used as a basis for most of the competition questions. Contestants have the summer to study the book. The tournament takes place during a single Saturday in the fall (November 23 in 2019). We start at 11:30 am with a lunch of pizza and salad, take a group photo, discuss the tournament mechanics and launch into the first round of matches. All contestants who physically make it to the tournament receive a certificate of participation before the competition starts. During a match, each question and four multiple choice answers are projected onto a screen from the computer monitor. Questions are read and answers recorded by adult moderators. The computer keeps a running log of the teams' scores. The visual projection of questions, answers and scores simulate an exciting TV quiz show environment and keeps the audience aware and involved. The winner of a match will be the team that answers most of the 24 questions correctly. The team that wins the final round is the winner of the tournament. In recent years, other AHEPA regional groups have started to hold their own HH Tournaments. This led the AHEPA HQ to start holding an International HHT during the annual Supreme Convention (Chicago in 2019). Currently, the top 2 teams from each of 4 regional tournaments are invited to compete and win additional prizes. For additional information, look at <http://www.ahepad7.org/> (in the Hellenic History section). If you know of any interested students, please contact Nicholas Nikas, niketes@yahoo.com, 203-554-5570.

ARCHANGELS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Master Planning Fees and Funding as of May 31, 2019

Expected Costs <i>(figures are rounded)</i>	2013	2019	Comments	Status
Increase to Parish Staff*	150,000	120,000	Fewer billable hours	Actual - Completed (2017)
Church Facility Construction (incl. contractors fees)	150,000	650,000	\$325k in HVAC deficiencies + \$175k in add'l improvements.**	Actual - Completed (2018)
Fellowship Facilities Construction (incl. contractors fees)	1,500,000	2,500,000	\$885k in scope of work expansion*** + cost inflation vs 2013	Actual (Guaranteed Max. Price)
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment		50,000		Projected +/- 7%
Landscape Plantings - Front and Rear Entrances		10,000		Placeholder
Architects Fees	230,000	250,000	Commensurate with expanded scope of work	Actual - Fixed
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 - Completed
Owner's Rep Fees	-	40,000	Professional support for Committee required	Projected +/- 10%
Non Contracted Fees	-	10,000		Placeholder
Owner's Contingency	120,000	250,000	Commensurate with expanded scope of work	Actual - Static Figure
Savings vs GMP (Archangels portion)		(130,000)		Actual to Date
Total Costs	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 3,835,000		
Original Capital Campaign Commitments		2,200,000		
Reopened Capital Campaign Commitments		1,640,000		
Total Commitments		\$ 3,840,000		
Underfunding / (Overfunding)	\$	(5,000)		

Extended Capital Campaign Pledges/Contributions – As of May 31, 2019

PART II – PLEDGES AND NON-PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS	Dimitri and Connie Begetis	Margaritta Haralambidis	Pericles and Katherine Kounavelis	Penny Nanos	Steve and Theophani Sarigianis
	Mary Louise Bennett	Timothy and Sophia Hartch	Elias N. Kulukundis	Peter C. Nanos	Ken and Maria Shepard
Estate of Fay Couyoumjian	Pericles and Diana Caminis	Theodore and Susan Helms	Natalie Kulukundis	Gerry Nijmeijer and Ismini Naos	Ted and Diane Sierpina
Estate of Marge Rubirosa	Peter Cholakos and Teresa Cassidy	Michael and Elizabeth Jackson	Stew and Kimberly Leonard	Veronica C. Nelson	Louis and Anna Sioles
Archangels Greek School	Helen Chagaris	William and Mary Janocha	Peter and Yolanda Licopantis	Nicholas and Ruth Nikas	Aggie and Molly Sotire
Archangels Greek School PTO	Nicholas Chivilly	Thomas and Harriet Joannou	John Kazianis and Eugenia Littrivis	Mark and Maria Otis	Robert and Vasso Spanos
Archangels Ladies Philoptochos Society	Panagiotis and Maria Chleboγιannis	David Johnson and Nicole Stamatelos	Bob and Cassie MacFarlane	George and Cynthia Paparis	Evans and Roula Stergianis
Anonymous (3)	Harry Condos	William and Bertha Jones	Marc and Maria Magliacano	Father Harry and Kerry Pappas	Dr. Steven and Stacey Valassis
Nick and Deedee Aivalis	Elisavet Constantine	James and Sylvia Kambas	Jonathan and Georgia Man	Kim and Julie Passios	Dennis and Marion Vanson
Lambros and Katie Amanatides	Matt and Maria De Vito	John and Olga Karakadas	James and Kyriaki Marcarello	Tom and Nike Passios	John and Medina Vasily
Jameela Androulidakis	Peter and Ruth Diamond	George and Alexandra Karayiannis	Rita Mehos	Thomas G. Patsis	James and Natalie Venetos
Katina Antipas	Stephen and Margaret Fornaciari	Nicholas Karayiannis	Cynthia Mixcus	John Pasvankias	Peter and Dr. Eugenia Zavras
Angelo and Dena Aravides	Peter G. George	Nicholas and Mary Karukas	Dr. Alan and Marietta Morelli	George and Jane Perkins	
Pantelis and Georgia Athanasiadis	Stephen and Tina Georgeou	George Khouri	Chris A. and Luisa Nanos	Dr. Athanasios Petrotos	
George Badoyannis	Dimitrios and Nikki Glekas	Annie Konidaris	George and Amy Nanos	Michael and Pam Poulos	
John and Christina Beauclair	Nathaniel and Julia Gooding	Jason and Janie Konidaris	Paul and Debbie Nanos	Lee and Maria Sampanis	