



The Herald

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

AUGUST 2019

Milestone

The ancient Romans became world famous for the road system they created throughout their vast empire. Our Holy Land Pilgrimage in May revealed striking evidence of this through well preserved and restored ruins of the ancient city of Gadara that reveal a magnificent, wide street of perfectly laid stones with very large columns on the sides. It reminds me that the Romans utilized upright markers to show the distance to another city, from which we still use the word “milestone” to indicate a significant event in life.

Notice how we, as a community of faith, have entered into more than one important milestone this summer:

- Our National Church, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, received a new Chief Shepherd in the person of 51-year-old Archbishop Elpidophoros, only the 7th such Archbishop in 100 years! Presvytera Kerry and I joined a throng of clergy families to welcome him at a warm, informal dinner on June 20. Most evident were his warm smile, friendly demeanor, and gracious words. Then, along with a variety of parishioners, we were at the formal Enthronement Service two days later where the Archbishop spoke more officially. Bear in mind that, in addition to serving as the Senior Bishop of our 9-member Synod, he is our Diocesan Bishop directly responsible for the 60 parishes of western Connecticut, the Hudson Valley, Westchester County, New York City, Long Island, Washington, DC, and the Bahamas.
- Our parish, after exerting enormous time, energy, collaboration, and resources is at the finish line of a Master Plan that started over 8 years ago, a Capital Campaign that raised nearly \$3,800,000 over 6 years, renovation of the Church and the Parish Complex that took 2 years (and resulted in profound improvements), along with adding an important Staff position (Bookkeeper). As I write the first draft of this article, we hope to receive a Certificate of Occupancy on August 2 for the Parish Complex.
- A Special Events Committee is actively working on publicity, planning, and execution of the most significant Milestone event of our Parish since the Greek Cultural Center was opened in 1975: *Archbishop Elpidophoros will lead worship on Sunday, September 8, in order to consecrate our new Altar Table, bless on Renovation, and join the Celebration Luncheon in our beautiful new Hall!* More details will follow soon.
- We welcomed Antonia Pergantis as our new Administrator on July 15! With her extensive background in Greek Orthodox Church Administration in 2 parishes in central Florida, fluency in the Greek language, and deep commitment to Christ and the Church, we have confidence that she will be able to stabilize the office that has been in need of a longer-term commitment since our beloved Jane Vorvis fell asleep in the Lord 2 years ago.
- We are bidding farewell on Sunday, August 4 to Steven Sargianis, our first ever Pastoral Assistant, following his 4-year ministry to our parish as a whole, as well as to our District youth programs. The oral tributes offered by many ministry leaders at our annual outdoor Liturgy on June 2 were moving and inspiring as they showed how Steve has touched our lives in many ways that have embodied Christ and the Orthodox Church (see video on our parish Facebook page). In view of Operating Finances for 2019 along with Staffing changes, the Executive Committee of the Parish Council has suspended our Search for a successor until next year so that we can stabilize our income and expenses.
- The Cultural Center Committee continues to work with Vendors who rent the Kitchen, Gym and Group Fitness Room, along with minimal staff to vastly reduce our expenses, and keep the building operational, clean and safe for ministry use. At the same time, they continue to interview commercial real estate companies for ideas about repurposing and developing such valuable property and building for long-term, sustainable use that will also preserve our uses for GreekFest, athletics, baking & cooking, and office space.
- Engagement in the life and ministry of our parish has risen to the level of vigorous conversation among the Parish Council, Staff, Ministry Leaders, and others. Under the leadership of Tim Hartch as President, the Council is listening, discussing, and planning ways to follow up on legitimate concerns, publicize positive developments, and broaden the dialogue to include all who wish to contribute.

As a result, this summer has been anything but quiet and uneventful: much more like a train speeding down the track with fast paced scenes out the window, a variety of important stops, and a highly anticipated final destination on September 8!

While the Romans produced engineering marvels that literally used milestones, we are blessed in Christ to be part of a variety of milestones this year as a Christian community of faith that stands more significantly in the Tradition of the Old Testament Prophets, the New Testament Apostles, and the Church Martyrs and Fathers.

Glory to the Triune God who has graced us to be present for this – those of us still alive and those who are remain with us even if beyond the thin veil of life in this world!

– Fr. Harry

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council

The Parish Council has had a busy and productive summer. We were excited to approve the hiring of Antonia Pergantis as our new Office Administrator, and are happy to report that she has already hit the ground running, working with our staff and the Council to get up to speed on her responsibilities and lending much-needed support to many efforts. Antonia speaks both English and Greek and we hope that all parish members will take time to meet Antonia in church on a Sunday or stop by the office during the week and say “Καλως ηρθατε.”

One of our most important jobs as a Council is to ensure that our church is living our mission statement – to be a community that welcomes everyone, experiences the love of Jesus Christ, and proclaims the good news of salvation through prayer, worship, fellowship, education, compassion, service and outreach. As a Council, we are undertaking new efforts to better understand the needs of our church community and help us better adhere to our mission statement. We have been blessed to have several new visitors to our church this summer. The Council, working with the Stewardship Committee and Antonia, intends to put in place new procedures to better track our visitor logs and ensure that we are proactively reaching out to visitors and connecting them with current members. In addition, we have begun keeping a tally of the number of people attending weekly church services. We hope to use that data over the coming months to better understand any trends in church attendance, as well as to inform our perspective on what other events and services the church could be offering.

We have an exciting and busy time ahead over the next few months – moving back into our newly renovated building, a historic visit from Archbishop Elpidophoros on September 8th, starting back up our wide offering of youth programs in the fall, and hosting our annual Greek Festival from September 26-29. On top of these great events, we continue to move toward our goal of operating the Greek Cultural Center on a breakeven basis and exploring long-term options for that building. We believe that executing effectively and collaboratively on these important initiatives will make us even stronger as a community, and the Council encourages all members to get involved in these great efforts and events. If you have questions about how to get involved, please reach out to a Parish Council member.

The Council will next meet on Tuesday, August 20 at 7:15 p.m. We welcome any interested members of the Parish to attend this meeting, or reach out to any Council member with questions or concerns. Contact: Georgia Man, Secretary (georgiavman@gmail.com)

Ways of Giving On-Line

Through CCB, by following the steps below:

- Log in to your profile on CCB – archangels.ccbchurch.com – with your personal identity (typically your email) and password
- On the left column of the home page (dark background) click “\$”
- Select file tab marked ‘give’ or ‘donate’
- Select ‘one-time gift’ or ‘repeating gift’
- Select ‘designation’ from the drop-down arrow
- Select ‘giving amount’ using decimals
- Click ‘CONTINUE’ tab
- Visually verify ‘designation’ and ‘gift amount’
- Select payment type from drop down arrow (checking account OR debit / credit card)
- Visually verify donor/personal information
- Select ‘Update profile with this contact information’ if necessary
- Enter checking account or debit/credit card information
- Select ‘Save payment information for future use’ if desired
- Click ‘CONTINUE’ tab
- Click ‘CONFIRM’ if all information is correct
- **Transaction is Complete!** Retrieve receipt from personal email

Contact: Laura, bookkeeper@archangelsgoc.org

Through our website www.archangelsgoc.org:

You can make one-time or recurring contributions through the lower right red-colored button “Donate Today”. 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. Contact: George Nanos, houseofnanos@gmail.com

Stewardship Report –

Additional Stewards: May 1 to June 30

Androulidakis, Jameela	Nijmeijer, Jerry and Ismini (Naos)
Cameron, Ian and Catherine	Oris, Michael and Joane
DeVito, Maria and Matthew	Otis, James and Marcine
Georgeou, Steven and Tina	Papadopoulos, Petros and Cleopatra
Horiatis, Hellen and Dimitri	Paparis, George and Cindy
Jackson, Michael and Elizabeth	Pappas, Fr. Harry and Kerry
Jones, Rachel and Denton	Scocimara, Manita and Eriberto
Kardaris, Maryanne	Shepard, Maria and Ken
Konidaris, Annie	Shola, Micheline
Kulukundis, Elian	Soulios, Soterios and Nicoletta
Licopantis, Peter and Yolanda	Speridakos, Demosthenes and Anthe
Man, Jonathan and Georgia	Touliopoulos, Nadja and Steven
Mehos, Rita	Tzoannopoulos, Evgenia and Igor
Mihaleas, Perry and Kim	Vanson, Marion and Dennis
Nanos, George and Amy	Ventsias, Ann
Nanos, Christopher and Christine	

SAVE THE DATES!

ANNUAL ARCHANGELS GREEK FESTIVAL

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 TO
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 OPA!**

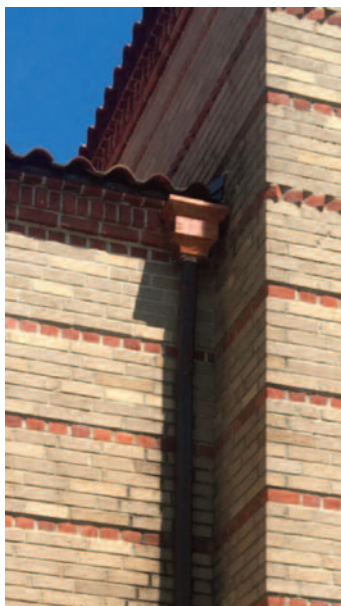
Master Planning

We welcome everyone back to our newly renovated home! Come see what this great labor of love has produced - a facility we can continue to be proud of for decades to come. It includes bright and inviting new entryways, lots of natural light, a gorgeous multi-purpose Fellowship Hall, new kitchen, conference room, offices, 1st floor classrooms, and storage. New LED lighting fixtures, doors, select windows and shades. New and efficient HVAC, electrical, and plumbing. Fire sprinklers on both floors. Broadband internet, audio/visual equipment for presentations, centralized restrooms and baby changing stations. New walkways, driveways and resurfaced parking. The facility is ADA compliant to aid the handicapped and our older parishioners.

To whom do we give thanks? There are far too many to name. Instead let's start and end by giving thanks to God. Contact: jason.konidaris@yale.edu

Buildings & Grounds

Building and Grounds recently completed the installation of several oversized copper leader boxes to better direct water off of the roof of the church. We were having issues with water running off the roof and down the face of our brick walls, causing leaks in the building. We will now monitor this to ensure no other safe guards need to be put into place. The group will also be attending training sessions for equipment and systems in the coming weeks for the new church hall in order to put preventative maintenance plans in place to ensure we are good stewards of the Parish's investment in our facility. Contact: Peter Hantes, peter.hantes@gmail.com



Administration

Office Hours & Location

Here are the hours for this month:

- Antonia Pergantis, Administrator: Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm; office@archangelsgoc.org
- John Cocolis, Handyman: Mon-Fri, 8am-2pm; 203-536-2741 (cell)
- Laura Lopez, Bookkeeper: Mon, Tue & Thu 10am-2pm; 203-614-8143 or bookkeeper@archangelsgoc.org
- Fr. Harry: Mon-Thu, 9am-4pm; hpappas@svots.edu; 203-504-2689 (after hours)

Remember that Steve Sarigianis concludes his ministry on August 4, so that he will no longer be on staff but will be living in Orange and wants to stay in contact with us.

For all non-emergency needs, feel free to leave a voice message through the main office phone number if no one is available to answer (203-348-4216).

We will be transitioning our offices from the Greek Cultural Center back over to our new spaces that will be where 3 classrooms were previously – facing the parking lot near the back entrance.

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

GREEKFEST RAFFLE
TICKETS ARE \$20
FIRST PRIZE IS \$10,000

Single Largest annual fundraiser for the parish
Contact the office to get yours today!

MINISTRIES

Fast of August (Δεκαπενταύγουστο)

As a community of faith, we prepare for the Great Feast of the Dormition (Falling Asleep;) of the Theotokos, on Thursday, August 15, by observing a 2-week fasting period that begins this year on Thursday, August 1. The spiritual dimension of this Fast, which anyone can follow, prescribes that we intensify our personal prayer, attend weekday Supplicatory services (see below for explanation) along with Sunday worship & Feast Days, do works of mercy to help the poor, sick and suffering, reduce our entertainment, strive more consciously to fight temptation and avoid sin, and receive the Sacrament of Confession. As for the physical dimension, the Church encourages us to lighten our diet by avoiding animal products and eating vegetables, beans, pasta, grains, fruits, nuts, and shellfish. On weekends, we may also consume alcoholic beverages, and, on the Great Feast of the Transfiguration (Tuesday, August 6) we may eat boned fish. As with all fasting in the Church, the physical standards do not apply to young children, pregnant or nursing mothers, those who are ill, and the elderly who are too weak. Feel free to consult Fr. Harry or Fr. George about the specifics of your own practice.

Worship

- Paraklesis (Παρακλησις) or Service of Supplication – A characteristic feature of this 2-week holy season, offered 7 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays. This beautiful service consists of prayers, psalms, petitions, and a Gospel reading that are enveloped in magnificent poetry that glorifies Christ by honoring the Theotokos as his Mother. Please write a list of first names of the living that will be prayed for, especially the poor, sick, shut-ins and suffering, and bring this with you (copies are available at church).
- Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ (August 6) falls on a Tuesday this year. Aside from the beautiful hymns and icon, a special feature is the blessing of grapes (or other seasonal fruit). To honor this ancient custom, please bring some fruits or, if you have a garden, a few ripe vegetables. You can share these with others at church or take them home to enjoy afterwards.
- Great Feast of Dormition (Κοιμησις) is Thursday, August 15:

Altar Servers & Handmaidens Workshop

Saturday, Sept. 7 at 10am in church

All new & returning servers must attend!

Please reply to Antonia (203-348-4216)
or Fr. Harry (hpappas@svots.edu)

Orthros 8:30 am & Liturgy 9:30 am, and Coffee Hour 10:30am in our new Hall. This is the greatest Feast of August, and one of the 3 greatest of summer (along with Pentecost and Saints Peter & Paul).

Prayer of the Month

Of all the beautiful hymns in the Small Supplication Service (Paraklesis in Greek), this remains deeply meaningful, with a wonderful melody in Greek or in English. It is addressed to the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos (= Birth-giver of God) and expresses great yearning for her extraordinary help along with an honest outpouring from the heart of the many ways that we suffer in this life. It is a marvelous prayer for anyone in distress.

Plagal 2nd Tone

Μὴ καταπιστεύσης με, ἀνθρωπίνη προστασία, Παναγία
δέσποινα, ἀλλὰ δέξαι δέησιν, τοῦ ἱκέτου σου• θλίψις γὰρ
ἔχει με, φέρειν οὐ δύναμαι, τῶν δαιμόνων τὰ τοξεύματα,
σκέπην οὐ κέκτημαι, οὐδὲ ποῦ προσφύγω ὁ ἄθλιος,
πάντοθεν πολεμούμενος, καὶ παραμυθίαν οὐκ ἔχω πλὴν
σου• Δέσποινα τοῦ κόσμου, ἐλπίς καὶ προστασία τῶν
πιστῶν, μὴ μου παρίδῃς τὴν δέησιν, τὸ συμφέρον
ποίησον.

Do not entrust me, to any human protection, O Most Holy lady, but receive this supplication, from one who comes to you. For affliction has taken hold of me, and I am unable, to withstand the demons' darts; I do not have a shelter, nor a place to flee since I am miserable. Embattled on all sides, and I have no consolation except you. Lady of whole world, help and protection of the faithful, do not overlook my prayer, but do that which will benefit me!

Did You Know?

There were 4 major periods of fasting in the Old Testament, as recorded in the book of the Prophet Zechariah (8:18-19):

1. The 4th month of the year (roughly June/July)
2. The 5th month (July/August)
3. The 7th month (September/October)
4. The 10th month (December/January)



Children sport their pearly whites during craft time at Greek School summer camp, held in the 2nd floor of the Greek Cultural Center. (July 24)

Just like the Feasts of the Orthodox Church calendar derive from roots in the Old Testament, so we also observe 4 periods of fasting:

1. Nativity – 40 days before Christmas (November 15 – Dec 24)
2. Great Lent & Holy Week – 49 days before Easter
3. Apostles – variable period in June before the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul (June 29)
4. August – 14 days before Dormition (August 1-14)

There is a major difference, however: during Zechariah's life (late 6th – early 5th Centuries B.C.) Israel mourned the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile to Babylon, was living under foreign oppression, and kept waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue them. We of the New Israel know that the Messiah came as Jesus so that we receive complete forgiveness, joy, and eternal life here and now. Our purpose in fasting shifts from mourning disaster and awaiting salvation to control our natural appetites and energize our spirit for prayer and works of mercy.

At the same time, there is a very important point from Zechariah: such periods of fasting "shall be seasons of joy and gladness, and cheerful festivals for the house of Judah: therefore love truth and peace." In other words, while fasting will always involve a measure of discomfort and meaningful sacrifice, God's chosen people now can enjoy such disciplines that not only prepare us for joyful feasts but are opportunities for surprising joy themselves!

Help Make This Year's GreekFest the Best Ever!

GreekFest is right around the corner. Please save the dates of Sept. 26 to Sept. 29 for this annual celebration of our Greek culture, cuisine and fellowship. Each year, we count on all parishioners and their family and friends to help out at the various stations. Many of our fellow parishioners are contributing hundreds of hours to buy supplies; set up tents, tables and decorations; prepare food and work the grill, kitchen, pastries, food service line, take out, Greek agora, coffee, bar and other stations. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please sign up for one and hopefully more shifts at the link below. Please share this link with others. If you would like to take on a larger role at GreekFest, please contact Diane Sierpina at 203-554-6932 or sierpina@yahoo.com. Diane heads volunteer recruitment and can help you find the perfect assignment based on your talents and interests!! This isn't work; this is a labor of love for our parish!! Please also support the festival by purchasing or selling a sponsorship sign or raffle tickets or contributing funds to the Wish-list to defray the costs of supplies. Many thanks!!

Ministry Fair

On Sunday, September 15, in our New Hall we will offer the 5th annual "Ministry Fair" during Coffee Hour. Each ministry or organization will show its purpose and work in creative tabletop displays to educate, inspire, and encourage wider participation. Contact: Antonia, office@archangelsgoc.org

Adult Education

- Summer Reading: *Courage to Pray*, by (Metropolitan) Anthony Bloom. A few copies are in the bookstore, but these are also easily available online through major outlets like Amazon.
- Bible Study – the entire class, along with spouses & children, is invited to the home of Fr. Harry & Presvytera Kerry on Sunday, August 18, 5pm for a barbecue meal and fellowship as we formulate plans for the new ecclesiastical year.
- Baptism Class – Saturday, Aug 3, and Saturday, Aug 4, 3pm

Preschool

We are very excited to be back into our brand new preschool classroom! Our new classroom is in need of two area rugs for the Block Area and the Group Time/Reading Area. <https://www.kidcarpet.com>. Our preschool has available space for the school year 2019-2020. Contact Kiriaki, Tel: 203-329-2353 or Email: knyrus@aol.com



Over 40 members of our Kali Parea seniors take a wonderful group shot at their final meeting on June 13.

Kali Parea Seniors

The Kali Parea Seniors ministry is starting up again in September! Come join us Thursday, September 12 in our New Hall for our regular luncheon: catered food, fellowship, spiritual teaching, guest speakers and or entertainment. Remember that Seniors meet every 2nd Thursday of the month, and friends are always welcome! Contact: Pam Koutroubis, 203-348-7402.



Steve and Theophani make a presentation to seniors about their future missionary plans and potential destinations. (June 13)

Ladies Philoptochos Society

Our first meeting of the new ecclesiastic year will be Tuesday, Sept. 10th at 7 p.m. in our newly renovated church hall! We look forward to welcoming returning members and new members of all ages. We hope ladies involved in other church ministries will consider becoming active members of Philoptochos to promote our mission to help the poor, the ill, the elderly, veterans, victims of environmental tragedies, and others who need our help and support primarily in Stamford, Fairfield County, the U.S. and Greece. Our chapter will be redesigning our monthly meetings to include speakers on health, women's



Church of the
Archangels
1527 Bedford St.
Stamford
203.348.4216

Sept 26, 27, 28, 29
Thursday 5-10 pm
Friday 5-11 pm
Saturday 12-11 pm
Sunday 12-7 pm

Free Admission
Rain or Shine

Greek Food, Pastries,
Bar, Raffle, Music and
Dancing, Rides/Games,
Face Painting and
Vendors

Free Parking
Take-Out

**SCENERY
NOT INCLUDED**

ANNUAL ARCHANGELS GREEKFEST!

SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2019

We are preparing for the Annual Greek Festival, which permits everyone to exercise their Christian Stewardship by offering time, talents and treasure, as we share our heritage, faith, and 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.

See next page for the ways you can help make this four-day event even more successful!

GREEKFEST RAFFLE!

Our annual Greek Festival just around the corner, and raffle tickets are on sale now! The Grand Prize this year is \$10,000, Second Prize is \$3,000 and Third Prize is \$2,000. Tickets are only \$20 each!

The raffle is one of the key ways that we fund the ministries and operations of our church. In addition to purchasing raffle tickets for you and your family, we are encouraging all families to take at least 5 additional tickets to sell to friends, co-workers and neighbors outside of the Archangels community. This is a great way to raise more money for our community, and also a way to invite a wider range of people to experience our wonderful Festival.

You can help us by:

- buying one (or more) \$20 raffle ticket(s)
- selling these to friends
- encouraging others (at work, in your neighborhood) to buy one

Doing so is easier than ever:

- Tickets are available every Sunday at coffee hour, in the office, or via our website www.stamfordgreekfest.com

WISH LIST

Help us defray some of our expenses. 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 to "Church of the Archangels" and designate in the memo: "Festival." You can drop off or mail donations to the Festival Committee at the church address. Here are the items:

Chicken	\$1,000
Beer Greek and American	985
Beef for Stifadho (stew)	425
Butter	85
Feta	400
Flour for Pastries	250
Flour for Loukoumadhes	250
Grape Leaves (Dolmadhes)	95
Greek Olives	350
Greek wine	1,600
Groceries	6,750
Gyros	2,000
Honey for Loukoumadhes	125
Lamb Boneless Leg	2,000
Metaxa	125
Olive Oil	175
Vodka, Gin, Scotch, etc.	275
Ouzo	75
Paper Products	3,000
Potatoes	475
Printing	3,000
Produce	3,855
Propane (for grills)	1,350
Soft drinks	1,000
Souvlaki Pork	3,650
Souvlaki Chicken	3,500
Tables/Chairs	1,000
Tzatziki	1,500

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENTS

Please offer your help:

- During the Preparation, starting Saturday, Sept 21, and continuing every day/evening until the Festival begins
- During the Festival itself: Thu 5-10pm, Fri 5-11pm, Sat 12pm-11pm; Sun 12pm-7pm
- Clean up Sunday evening & Monday
- By displaying our Festival flyer at your home or business

You can sign up through the office at any time or sign up online at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d44a5ab2aabfa7-greekfest1>

Thank you in advance for your generous support!

Contact: Margaret Fornaciari (co-chair, GreekFest Committee), zamsfam@optonline.net





From left: Eugenia Zavras, Connie Begetis, and Cassie McFarland help package 10,152 meals (together with 50 volunteers) at the "Rise Against Hunger Project" event at St. Barbara church in Orange on June 8.

issues, family topics and other matters of interest to the ladies of our parish, as well as charitable, hands-on projects. Your ideas for speakers or projects are very welcome. We are very excited about what the 2019-20 year will bring. Please support Philopotochos with your membership dues (stewardship) and your time! 2019 dues can be paid throughout the fall. New membership begins Jan. 1, 2020. Reminder: please volunteer to bake or help at GreekFest Sept. 26-29! Contact: Eugenia Zavras, etz124@yahoo.com

Church School

The Church School Program hosts its 5th annual Vacation Church School the week of July 29! The theme this year is "Traveling on the Ark of Salvation", featuring the 4 great feasts of the Theotokos. Each day will be structured with morning prayer, classroom lessons, crafts, Bible verse memorization, music, games and activities. The children get a chance to deepen their faith in Christ and develop strong bonds and friendships with church peers and have an absolute blast. Our staff includes Fr. Harry, Kiriaki Yoranidis, Steve & Theophani Sarigianis, and Natalie Kulukundis. The Church School Program will commence Sunday, September 15. The annual Youth Ministry Fair will follow Liturgy in our new Hall. We would like to wish families a beautiful August! We look forward to seeing you in September! Contact: Dr. Evelyn Biliadis, ebiliadis@aol.com



Polina Anastos teaches a Greek Song called Ο Μπαρμπα Μπριλιος to the children during Greek camp. (July 23)

Greek School Camp

Greek School Summer Camp took place July 22-26 with an all-time high attendance of 18 students. This year's theme was: "My Greek Village." Teachers were Polina Anastos, Eleni Giagkos, with help from Steve, Evelyn Biliadis, Vasso Spanos, and Phoebe Hartch. Activities included: opening and ending prayer, learning a church hymn, language & culture lessons, art, dance, baking, games and activities. The children gave a wonderful program to parents at the end. Contact: Vasso Spanos, bkarachris@gmail.com

Little Angels

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

Ice Cream Social

Stay for Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 25th and join us for an Ice Cream Social! Little Angels is hosting an ice cream bar to celebrate the end of summer and welcome everyone back for a new church school year! Children of all ages are welcome! A freewill offering is optional but greatly appreciated. Contact: Vasso Spanos (bkarachris@gmail.com) or Rachel Jones (racheljones.cpa@gmail.com)

GOYA

GOYA, which stands for the Greek Orthodox Youth of America, is the ministry for teenagers within the Archangels community. Its primary aim is to build their faith and commitment in Jesus Christ & the Church through worship, service, fellowship and outreach, and of course to have some fun while doing so! If your teens have not tried this ministry yet, please let them know this is a very welcoming group of kids and always want to have more para from the community.

The new cabinet was elected at our June meeting and includes: Chris Seitaridis, President, Vasili Kelesidis and Bram Johnson, co-Vice Presidents, and Chris Otis, Secretary. The 2019-20 calendar has more initial input from the teens themselves than ever before, which is a great step forward. This year the group will take part in the Midnight Run food & clothing distribution

5th Annual Ministry Fair!

**Sunday, September 15
in our New Hall!**

All church ministries will have table-top displays
Refreshments will be provided for fellowship



Left to right: Aiden Clifton, Deena Amanatides, Theodore Diamond, and Gaetana Koutzouzis stand with Theophani Sarigianis for a birthday picture (of all those who celebrated during VCS week). (Aug 2)

service in upper Manhattan, they will return to St Nicholas Church in NYC to say a prayer and they have requested a paint ball war with the dads. There will also be continued collaboration with Annunciation's GOYA throughout the year.

Mark your calendars!! The first event will be a kick-off welcome back dinner for families at our Greek Cultural Center on Friday, September 20th at 7pm. Stay tuned for further details. Hope to see you there! Contact: Advisors Maria Otis, maria.otis@yahoo.com or Rebecca Kelesidis, rebecca@kelesidis.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 will begin Wednesday, October 2 @ Greek cultural center. Sign up your children for our teams at the fall Ministry Fair, Sunday Sept. 15 in the New Hall! We have 4 basketball divisions and 1 volleyball division:

- Farm team (boy & girls ages 4-7)
- Youth (boys and girls 8-11)



Teachers (right to left): Steve, Theophani, and Natalie offer a lesson on the Annunciation of the Theotokos. (Aug 1)



Fr. Harry shows children a mustard seed (as part of his sermonette) during Vacation Church School morning prayers (July 30)

- Junior Varsity (boys ages 12-14; girls ages 11- 15)
- Varsity (boys & girls ages 15-18)
- Girls Volleyball (ages 8-18)

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 John Skoparantzios, atoz@aol.com

Greek Language Classes for Adults

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



The entire group stands for one last picture before the close of VCS 2019! (Aug 2)

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

With an eye to expanding its successful initiatives of recent years, IOCC has renewed its far-reaching Give for Greece program, including a pilot program in vocational training. Since 2013, Give for Greece has been IOCC's flagship initiative in that country, addressing both immediate and longer-term needs brought on by Greece's slow-moving economic crisis, which has affected livelihoods, pensions, and employment levels. In partnership with Apostoli, the philanthropic organization of the Archdiocese of Athens under the Church of Greece, IOCC has reached tens of thousands of people affected by the economic downturn and the simultaneous refugee crisis. Response has comprised in-kind support (e.g., medical supplies to hospitals) worth over \$30 million since 2012, which helped leverage additional monetary backing worth over \$13 million from individuals and institutions—including the Ladies Philoptochos Society and the Order of AHEPA. Boosting the productivity and profitability of agricultural associations and small businesses throughout Greece has been an important focus of IOCC's work. Since 2015, more than 80 associations and microbusinesses (over 3,000 families) have participated in Give for Greece and received equipment and training. IOCC has provided more than 265 pieces of new production equipment valued at more than \$1.3 million and technical services worth \$40,000 to help recipients scale up production and improve economic viability.

In 2017, IOCC added business mentoring to the program, connecting participants with experienced professionals who volunteer through KEMEL, a Greek nonprofit dedicated to supporting businesses. The mentors help small enterprises create stronger business plans, improve productivity and marketing, and increase the businesses' sustainability.

The newest phase of Give for Greece adds a pilot program in vocational training to prepare Greek and asylum-seeker participants who meet certain language criteria to work in the growing caregiving sector. Participants will complete train in both theory and practice with a certified trainer in this field, learning skills they need to enter the caregiving profession. Once they've completed the curriculum, trainees will be placed in workplaces and matched with healthcare professionals who will also receive training in how to work with novices ("training of trainers"). In all, the project offers training and practical experience in an in-demand profession.

Other IOCC assistance to Greece includes prepaid grocery cards so families can shop for Greek-produced food, including vegetables, fruit, dairy, and chicken. IOCC has also offered aid to refugees and migrants arriving in Greece since 2015, addressing emergency needs in shelters on islands and the mainland. In addition to Give for Greece, IOCC responded with emergency assistance after the wildfires of July 2018, helping families who lost their only home.



On the last day of camp, students perform a skit about a Greek restaurant for parents, led by their teachers Polina Anastos & Eleni Giagkos, and helper Phoebe Hartch. (July 26)

To support IOCC's work in Greece with a financial gift, please contact IOCC online (iocc.org/greece) or by phone (877.803.4622). Contact: Fr. Harry

St. Phanurios (Feast Day - August 27)

The feast of St. Phanurios, patron Saint of lost things, is August 27, when an icon of him was discovered in the ruins of a Greek Orthodox Church on the island of Rhodes. On Sunday, August 25, you are invited to bake and bring a "Phanuriopita" (Bread of Phanurios) to Liturgy for blessing. The following recipe is from Roula Stergianis and Sophia Hartch:

Contents:

3 cups flour
2 level teaspoons cinnamon
3/4 cups extra virgin olive oil
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup cognac or brandy
1 3/4 cup orange juice
2 level teaspoons baking soda
2 level teaspoons baking powder
Zest from 1 orange
1 cup golden raisins
1 cup shredded coconut
Powdered sugar for the top (optional)

Directions:

Mix flour and cinnamon in a bowl. In separate bowl, combine oil, sugar, cognac, orange juice, baking soda, baking powder, and orange zest. Beat for a few minutes, then add flour mixture, raisins and walnuts. Grease and flour 9-inch round pan; pour in batter and bake at 350 degrees for 45-60 minutes. Test with a toothpick. When cool sift powdered sugar on top, if desired. An icon of St. Phanurios is nice addition.

Farewell Message

Dear church family:

"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven."

— Ecclesiastes 3

It is hard to believe that after four short years my time at Archangels is now concluded.

I still remember the warm welcome provided to me in 2015 when I first arrived. I didn't know what to expect from parish life but I was eager to serve and learn. As it turns out, these were four extraordinarily eventful years: the Capital Campaign opened & closed, and it was a success; beloved Jane Vorvis passed on, and our staff underwent significant change; new management was brought to SAC, and then it closed after 25 years; our ministries & staff successfully navigated a one year displacement while under construction; our worship space was refreshed, and our facility's 1st floor was completely renovated (and it is stunning!). I could never have imagined all this would take place.

Yet despite these events & changes, there have been a great many constants: the wise leadership & unfailing devotion of Fr. Harry, the prudent decision making of the Council, the fruitful time & talents offered by our ministry leaders, the desire of adults & youth alike to explore their faith & know Jesus Christ, the resilience of our entire community in handling the significant challenges faced, and many more that I will could mention.

With all of the ups and downs, the changes & the constants of the past four years, I am left with a profound sense of gratitude. My very understanding of community and being in communion with a parish has been shaped by my manifold experiences here. The memories I leave with will be warm, and the joy deep. I am thankful & privileged to have worked with & matured under such a gifted pastor as Fr. Harry. I am thankful to have co-ministered with such outstanding youth leaders. I am thankful for and have been deeply moved by our youth and their faith. I am thankful for the opportunity provided by the council & benefactors to work here in the first place. I am also thankful for the challenges we faced together, because they will inevitably help me (and Theophani) in future ministry. We both are grateful for the friendships we have enjoyed making here at Archangels, our home, our family in faith. Glory to God for all His abundant blessings!

As Theophani and I prepare and ultimately depart for long term mission service, please know that we cannot and will not forget this our church family. You will be in our hearts and minds where ever we go.

Until we meet again, with all our love and best wishes for the bright future ahead,

Steve & Theophani Sarigianis



Fr. Harry offers a beautiful icon of Archangels Michael & Gabriel to Steve on behalf of the whole community for his service. (Aug 4)



Alexis Morgan stands with a Theophani and Steve for a picture on their last day with Archangels. (Aug 4)



Pastoral Assistant Steve Sarigianis offers a heartfelt farewell address to the congregation at the conclusion of his 4 years of ministry. (Aug 4)



Left to right: Paul Nanos, Fredirika and Theofilos Nikolis bid farewell to Steve in the new Atrium.



Fr. Harry and Steve offer special young adult prayer books to out-going college freshman Matthew Poulos and Elena Muniz after liturgy concludes. (Aug 4)

PARISH NEWS

Births

July 12 – Peter Moses, 1st child of Dean & Paola Tsignopoulos

July 26 – Logan Daniel, 2nd son of Chris & Kara
(Psichopaidas) Greco

Baptism

Aug 10 – Preston, 2nd son of Denton & Rachel Jones; sponsors are Jonathan & Georgia Man

Aug 17 – Lucia Faith, 2nd child of Chelsea James; sponsors are Andrew James & Lea Williams

Deaths

July 26 – George Galuris



President Tim Hartch stands with Fr. Harry and Pres. Kerry at coffee hour after honoring them for 10 years of ministry and service to the community. (July 14)



Parishioners thoroughly enjoy the gorgeous new hall, kitchen, and atrium for the first time on Sunday, August 4.

Greek Cultural Center

Summer in the Center – August 2019

The Greek Cultural Center Committee (GCC) has been transitioning from operating the Stamford Athletic Center (SAC), which closed its doors at the end of April, to the Greek Cultural Center — a name many of you are familiar with. As the Greek Cultural Center, the primary use of the building is for Church Ministries and small businesses which rent space including the basketball court, the kitchen and the studio on the lower level. This summer, the Center was used by Greek School Camp and Vacation Church School session as well as Men's Basketball and our regular Sunday Coffee Hour (until the new Fellowship Hall opens).

We welcomed Pick Up And Go, a new kitchen vendor, which offers a popular food delivery service. We are encouraged by the growth in income from the vendors as well as the reduction in expenses since the closing of SAC particularly with regard to utilities which are starting to show a sizable reduction. While managing revenue and expenses, the GCC Committee has been meeting with real estate companies to explore ways that the GCC building and property could be utilized for the “highest and best” possible use. This process is at an early stage where a number of real estate companies have been briefed and are returning with their proposals. For more information contact Steven Georgeou at sgeorgeou@gmail.com

Area Greek Festivals

- Aug 22-25 @ St. George in Norwalk (238 West Rocks Rd)
- Aug 30-Sep 2 @ St. Barbara in Orange (480 Racebrook Rd.)
- Sep 12-15 @ Holy Trinity Church in New Rochelle, NY (10 Mill Rd.)



Pitcher Vasili Kelesidis starts for the Stamford Post 3 U-15 American Legion team at the state title game in Meridan on Sunday, Aug. 4. [They would later win 9-6!]

Archangels Greek Orthodox Church

SAVE THE DATE



Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

will worship with us, followed by the Consecration
Prayer of our new Altar Table, and the Blessing of our
renovated Community Center
1st floor complex

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2019
ORTHROS 8:45AM DIVINE LITURGY 10:00AM
Celebratory Luncheon will follow

Archangels Greek Orthodox Church
1527 Bedford Street
Stamford, CT 06905
Tel. (203) 348-4216
office@archangelsgoc.org
seating will be limited

For more details contact the Church Office

