

# THE ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

THE FIRST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT



# The Good News



REV. FR. EVAN EVANGELIDIS, PRESIDING PRIEST

1230 NEWFIELD AVE, STAMFORD, CT 06905 + TELEPHONE: 203-322-2093 + FAX: 203-968-6632

EMAIL: SECRETARY@ANNUNCIATIONOFSTAMFORD.ORG + WEB PAGE: ANNUNCIATIONOFSTAMFORD.ORG

## OCTOBER 2016



### WORSHIP SERVICES IN OCTOBER

#### **Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Luke**

8:30am Orthros &

9:30am Divine Liturgy

#### **Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Luke**

8:30am Orthros &

9:30am Divine Liturgy

#### **Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumen. Council Sunday**

8:30am Orthros &

9:30am Divine Liturgy

#### **Oct 18<sup>th</sup> St. Luke the Evangelist**

9:00am Orthros &

9:30am Divine Liturgy

#### **Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

8:30am Orthros &

9:30am Divine Liturgy

#### **Oct 26<sup>th</sup> St. Dimitrios the Great Martyr**

9:00am Orthros &

9:30am Divine Liturgy

#### **Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

8:30am Orthros &

9:30am Divine Liturgy

### *Fr. Evan's Corner*

Our monthly "Good News" newsletter is back in circulation. Its purpose is to increase awareness and co-operation between our church organizations and its members. Hopefully, everyone has an opportunity to get more involved in the spiritual and cultural life of our church.

I encourage you to attend church regularly to "become partakers of the divine nature" and save your souls (2 Peter 1:4). My prayer is that the Holy Spirit moves you to get more involved in the life of your church so that you join in its sacred mission of passing our Orthodox Christian faith and Hellenic Culture to generations of Greek Orthodox Christians in Stamford and beyond.

### PHILOPTOCHOS

We held our first meeting of the year on Monday, Sep 19<sup>th</sup> and outlined a plan for reaching our goals for the upcoming year. Our chapter also hosted a Regional Leadership meeting on Saturday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. About 40 ladies from neighboring Philoptochos chapters attended this question and answer session led by our district president, Jennifer Constantin. Please attend our next meeting on Monday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Also, our **Tag Sale** will take place on Saturday, Oct 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-4. We rely on our community's donations of used, clean

items. Please bring them to the church before this date. We will visit St. Michael's Home on Saturday, Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> and will donate a set of bed linens to each resident. If you are interested in joining us, the bus will leave the church at 11:30am. Contact Christina Ramoglou at [cram@roscco.org](mailto:cram@roscco.org) to reserve your seat on the bus. Philoptochos donates thousands of dollars each year to local and national charities including local families in need, victims of domestic violence, and to the homeless. Please contact Stacey Karipides at [skaripides@optonline.net](mailto:skaripides@optonline.net) for further info on how you can get involved too!

### GREEK SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Our Greek School Class remodel is now complete! A new dividing wall with French doors was added in the main class area which created our official Annunciation Conference room. This room can be used by groups for meetings of 12 people or less. It is also being used on Sunday as a 7/8/9<sup>th</sup> Sunday School classroom. This renovation was generously funded by our very hard working PTA from the walkathon and other fundraisers throughout the year. We were fortunate to be able to get our student desks, chairs and tables donated to us by St Spyridon School in NYC. The Greek School Committee & PTA would also like to express their thanks to all who helped with special thanks to Angelo Diamantidis, Chris Radis, and Thanasi Bletsas for donating their time, supplies and expertise to this project. The teachers and kids are energized by their new colorful class areas and ample space. If you have not seen the beautiful rooms yet, please come by and visit. Sincere thanks go out to all for supporting our school and PTA. For further info on our School Committee, please contact Vicky Seremetis, our School Committee President, at [vickys@optonline.net](mailto:vickys@optonline.net).

### PTA

PTA is busy planning our annual **Halloween Party** that we host for our kids at 6:30pm on Friday, Oct 21<sup>st</sup> and our **OXI Day Celebration** on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> after the Divine Liturgy in our church's fellowship hall. We encourage all parents of Greek and Sunday School students to get involved in PTA. Contact Nia Thomas at [niaeli21@aol.com](mailto:niaeli21@aol.com) or Helen Vlahakis at

[helen.vlahakis@gmail.com](mailto:helen.vlahakis@gmail.com) to find out how you can help with PTA events!

### GREEK SCHOOL

The 2016-17 school year began on Tuesday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup>. On Friday of that week, students and teachers gathered in church, where Fr. Evan performed a traditional *Agiasmo* Service (Blessing of the Waters) and wished our students and staff a successful school year. Our beloved Greek School Director, Kyria Popi Venetsanos, and teachers, Ioanna Kreatsoulas and Agapi Theodoridou have returned for what we hope will be another successful year! We are also happy to welcome Mrs. Patty Bakes-Servos as our new dance teacher who joined our teaching team this school year. Mrs. Bakes-Servos is a graduate of our Greek School, Sunday School, youth and sports programs. She was also a member of our Annunciation Dance Troup. Upcoming Events: **Open House**, Friday, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00 pm; **OXI Day**: Sunday, Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Currently, we have 41 students registered. We thank our parents for honoring our program. We still have room for more students, so if you haven't registered your child there is still time! Please contact Kyria Popi at [kladielias@yahoo.com](mailto:kladielias@yahoo.com) for further info.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday school program began on Sunday Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. We have 34 children registered so far! We also had a Sunday school teacher orientation that was led by Patty Bakes - Servos, our new Sunday school director. Fr. Evan talks to our Sunday school children at about 9:45am on the significance of the Divine Liturgy and Gospel in their daily lives. Sunday school plants timeless truths of our Orthodox Christian Faith in our kid's hearts and gives them the tools to make good moral choices. Children that attend Sunday school do better behaviorally, emotionally and cognitively than those who don't. This year we have added a class for high school aged children. There is a suggested \$20 donation for books and supplies. Parents are encouraged to enroll their K-12 children in Sunday school. Log on to our church's web page for registration, curriculum and Sunday school calendar info. You can contact

Patty at [pattybakesservos@yahoo.com](mailto:pattybakesservos@yahoo.com) for more info.

### GOYA

Goya's first meeting was on Friday Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. Twelve Goya members attended. We discussed our new meeting room renovation, the schedule of upcoming community service and social events on a local and district level. Goya sincerely thanks our PTA for renovating our new room. Philoptochos has invited us to join them in their visit to St. Michael's home for the elderly on Saturday, Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>. We as a Goya are also excited about our first visit of the year to Covenant House on Saturday, Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. Covenant House is a soup kitchen that ministers to the needy in the Stamford area and we serve food to their members on the fifth Saturday of every month from 4:30pm to 6:15pm. We will sell popcorn at the Halloween Party on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. Goya meets on the last Friday of each month. Our next meeting is on Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. We will also hold elections on that date. Goya is open to all that are in the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. For more info please contact our advisors, Ms. Joanna Gabriel at [joannamgabriel@yahoo.com](mailto:joannamgabriel@yahoo.com) or Ms. Gina Christakos at [gina2c@optonline.net](mailto:gina2c@optonline.net).

### HOPE/JOY

HOPE and JOY held their first gathering of the year on Friday, Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. About 20 children attended. The theme was St. Helen's discovery of the Holy Cross. After Fr. Evan spoke to the kids about the importance of perseverance, they made crosses and had a "Cross Scavenger Hunt". They also enjoyed dinner and dessert! Our kids also had a wonderful time joining the HOPE and JOY of the Archangels at the Stamford Nature Center for a "Bible scavenger hunt" on Saturday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. Our next Annunciation gathering will be on Friday, Oct 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm. If anyone would like to share their talent/hobby with our HOPE and JOY children (gardening, knitting, baking, etc.) or would like further information, please contact Stacey Karipides at [skaripides@optonline.net](mailto:skaripides@optonline.net)

### YAL

For more info please contact Dean Efstathiades at [kefstas@gmail.com](mailto:kefstas@gmail.com).

### MOMMY & ME

Our tentative start date for Mommy and Me Music classes is on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. We need more mommy/child pairs to enroll to have this great program! Classes will be held one weekend a month for an hour. Contact

Kiki Tournas at [kikikabouris@gmail.com](mailto:kikikabouris@gmail.com) for more information!

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship is everyone's individual responsibility to help support, maintain, and grow our spiritual home here at the Annunciation Church. 2016 is shaping up into another record year for Stewardship. We have 170 stewards to date and approximately \$107,250 in collected pledges. There are about 200 steward families in our community. If you've already pledged, we sincerely thank you. If you haven't made your stewardship pledge for 2016, please do so now. The Church needs your time, talent AND treasure to survive. If you don't support your Church to promote our Orthodox Christian faith & our Hellenic Culture, WHO will? Please see the stewardship box in our church hallway, visit the stewardship booth during coffee hour after Sunday Liturgy or stop by the office. You can visit our church's web site or email the stewardship committee at [stewardship@annunciationofstamford.org](mailto:stewardship@annunciationofstamford.org) for further information.

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We will have our first meeting in October, depending on the availability of our members. Contributions to the Annunciation Scholarship Fund are always welcome. We need to raise more awareness, as we have received very few applications for the scholarships in the past couple of years. Our goal is to recognize college-bound students from our community for their academic excellence and service to our Annunciation community. To apply for a scholarship contact Lori Kremidas Kallenekos at [lorizoe17@gmail.com](mailto:lorizoe17@gmail.com). For further information on other scholarships for students of Greek decent, please visit Pan Hellenic Scholarship Foundation at [www.panhellenicscholarships.org](http://www.panhellenicscholarships.org) and [www.schoolsoup.com/scholarship-directory/race-minority/greek](http://www.schoolsoup.com/scholarship-directory/race-minority/greek).

### BASKETBALL

Practices for our co-ed midget and juniors basketball teams are underway on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30pm in the gym. The deadline to join the teams is Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a \$70 fee which covers the cost of uniforms and team parties. Please contact Coach Louie Recanatini at 203-524-4473 or at [xbigwheels@optonline.net](mailto:xbigwheels@optonline.net). All Parents invited to attend practice if interested.

### VOLLEYBALL

For more info please contact Coach Larry K. at [larry.karipides@returnpath.com](mailto:larry.karipides@returnpath.com)

### PARISH COUNCIL

We hope that all members of our church community have received by now the

letter from Fr. Evan and Lazaros Karipides, our Parish Council President, announcing that our AC and heating unit for our church hall is broken and needs to be replaced. The unit is 40 years old and weighs 50 tons. It is damaged beyond repair and parts are no longer available for it. Our church hall generated \$66K in rental income so far this year and replacing the AC and heating unit is an urgent capital expense that is necessary. The new unit will cost approximately \$90K and will need to be installed before the cold weather sets in. If the 200 families that call the Annunciation Church their spiritual home each gave \$500 dollars, the cost of the unit would be covered. So far our church has raised over \$50K. If you've already given, your church thanks you for your generosity. If you haven't given, please do so now because this is your church and we all need to support this urgent project! We also thank our PTA for donating their time, talent and treasure to wonderfully renovate our Greek School classroom area, with a special thanks to Angelo Diamantidis, Chris Radis and Thanasi Bletsas for also donating their time, talent and expertise towards this project.

### SUNSHINE CLUB

Our Sunshine Club had a great turnout for its luncheon on Tuesday, Oct 4<sup>th</sup>. Everyone was very pleased with the food, décor and raffle prizes. We had a delicious meal, including dessert, that was wonderfully prepared by Kiki Marmarinos. We played Bingo and congratulations to Joanie Philippopoulos for winning the Bingo. Our Sunshine Club luncheons are on the first Tuesday of the month at 12 pm in our Fellowship Hall. Sincere thanks goes out to our Sunshine Club Committee for making our gatherings a success, especially Kiki Marmarinos, Joanie Philippopoulos, Olga Chagaris, and Mary Monos. All from the Churches of the Annunciation and Archangels are welcome. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, Nov 1<sup>st</sup> at 12pm!

### MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

We renovated our upstairs bathrooms. We thank Lima Tile for generously donating the tiles and Louis Recanatini for his time and talent installing the plumbing. Now we're working with Hellas Air to replace our church hall AC unit and with our church organizations to renovate our main bathrooms. Please contact Iliia Bistolos at [ibistolos@gmail.com](mailto:ibistolos@gmail.com) for further info.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our parish will have its General Assembly on Sunday, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> immediately following Divine Liturgy in our church fellowship hall. Food, beverages and child care will be provided to young children so that their parents can attend. All steward members are invited to attend this important meeting on the governance of our church.