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QUICK NEWS & EVENTS

Sunday, September 12: Registration Sunday Sunday School Begins

Tuesday, September 14: GLI Agiasmo and Meet the Teachers

Wednesday, September 15: Preschool Begins GLI Classes Begin

Fri.-Sun., September 24-26: Festival on the Harbor

Sunday, October 17: General Assembly

Saturday, October 23: Harry Lascarides Volleyball Tournament

Sunday, October 24: GOYA Pancake Breakfast

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St. Paisios (July 12), St. Mary Magdalene (July 22), Sts. Constantine and Helen (May 21), St. Kalliope (June 8), St. Theodore the Tyron (Feb. 17)



St. John of Damascus (Dec. 4), St. Barbara (Dec. 4), Sts. Cosmas and Damian (July 1 & Nov. 1), St. Katherine (Nov. 25), St. Porphyrios (Dec. 2)

The Archangel Michael Church TIUMPET

About the Parish

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church 100 Fairway Drive Port Washington, New York 11050 Phone: 516-944-3180 Fax: 516-944-3185

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Archangel Michael Church is a parish of the Direct Archdiocesan District and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (www.goarch.org, 212-570-3500)

under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.





Archbishop Elpidophoros

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Clergy

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Chanter: Petros Malliaris

Office Staff: Dora Gouramanis, Catherine Papagianakis

Christine Zeiner

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About the Trumpet

The Trumpet is the newsletter of Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church.

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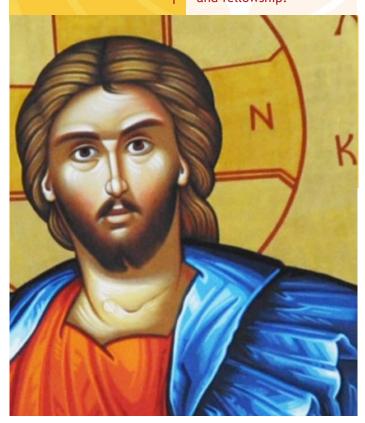
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The Archangel Michael Greek
Orthodox Church is dedicated
to the continuation of
our Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ's ministry of salvation
through the proclamation
and teaching of the Gospel.
We are a community of
individuals and families who
share the traditions and
ageless beliefs of our Holy
Orthodox Christian Faith.

MISSION STATEMENT

VISION STATEMENT Our vision is to provide a loving, caring and welcoming environment where all belong and grow in the faith through worship, service, witness and fellowship.



The Trumpet welcomes news and events from our community and organizations.

Please submit information as follows:

Articles: trumpet@archangelmichaelchurch.org

Advertising information and sales: trumpet@archangelmichaelchurch.org

Calendar events: christine@archangelmichaelchurch.org

Sep-Oct Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday Services: 8:00am Orthros, 9:30am Divine Liturgy

200th Anniversary of Greek Independence and Education in the 21st Century

After the Ottomans conquered Constantinople in 1453, ending the Byzantine Empire, Greece languished for nearly 400 years. During much of the four centuries of the "Tourkokratia," (the period of Ottoman rule in Greece), there was little hope for Greeks. Their once great cities became militarized and ruralized. Greek Christians were forcibly converted to Islam, enslaved into the janissary or harems, subjected to heavy burdens of taxation, and many were reduced to relying on subsistence farming. It was these Ottoman tyrannies that finally led to the Greek War of Independence in 1821, resulting, after nine years, in a hard-fought Greek victory.

Two constants -- the beautiful Greek language and culture and the unifying power of the Orthodox

Church -- kept Hellenism alive and helped shape its modern roots. However, were it not

However, were it not for the efforts of St. Kosmas and others like him, the outcome may have been very different. Kosmas Aitolos (1714-1779), also known as Father Kosmas, was a saint, priest, monk,

popular preacher, and educator. Kosmas was born in Aitolia, Greece, and after being educated in his home province, attended the theological academy on Mount Athos. Shortly afterward, Kosmas joined the monastery of Philotheou (one of the 20 monasteries of Mount Athos), where he was later ordained a priest. Within a year, Kosmas felt compelled to leave the monastery and become a "traveling preacher." With the permission of the Patriarch of Constantinople, Serapheim II, Kosmas began his ministry, which lasted until his death in 1779 when he was hanged by Ottoman authorities.

What alarmed the Ottoman authorities was Kosmas' great popularity. His honesty and direct manner of preaching in the language of the people, his reputation for sanctity, his frequent visits to remote villages, and his total disregard for material posses-

sions caused hundreds, sometimes thousands, of men and women to follow him while he traveled.

Kosmas emphasized education, with the founding of 10 secondary schools and more than 200 elementary schools. Often, he secured both teachers and funds to establish these schools. He believed that an educated laity would be able to rise to a higher standard of moral and ethical living and thus be better prepared to resist the temptation, due to discrimination as well as social and economic pressures, to give in and convert to Islam. Kosmas was credited with effecting enormous changes in education and in the moral behavior of Greeks. Honored as a saint in his lifetime, Kosmas remains one of the most popular saints of the Greek

Orthodox Church and has been nicknamed—the "teacher of the nation." Greeks that immigrated

to the United States, and their children, have achieved great success in all spheres of American life, including politics, business, science, education, medicine, law, real estate, and so much more.

tion, medicine, law, real estate, and so much more.

Moreover, they have built tremendous churches, cultural centers, sylloghoi, and gymnasiums. However, great success is typically accompanied by great sacrifice.

Some of these sacrifices have come with a price. Instead of attending the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, many feel compelled, or simply opt to attend sport practices, driver education, prep classes for entrance exams, weekend getaways, and many other secular activities. The amount of religious education that is taking place is greatly impaired by these "alternatives." U.S. church membership was 73% when Gallup first measured it in 1937 and remained near 70% for the next six decades, before beginning a steady decline around the turn of the 21st century. As of 2020, Gallup found that only 47% of U.S. adults are members of a church.



Many of the Greek-American immigrants, who received religious instruction as part of their elementary school education in Greece, followed their upbringing and attended church regularly in this country; but many of them are no longer with us. Meanwhile, many of today's younger generation of Greek-Americans are marrying in growing numbers outside the Orthodox faith. These circumstances create great challenges in being able to offer a quality education of the Orthodox Faith and for the Greek culture and language.

While we live in a free country, one can still draw analogies between the events of the 21st century and those which occurred in the 18th century during the time of St. Kosmas. Young women and men are now recruited into the janissary and harem of secularism and disbelief. With a secular education that has lost respect for God as Creator, humankind is reduced into a discussion of biology devoid of a soul. The great systems of science that have their very origin in God as Creator have lost the vision of God to hubris. The drive to excel and prosper has led to overlooking a key teaching of the Lord, Jesus Christ: "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

As a result, many of our youth do not know the basic tenets of the Orthodox Faith and of the incredible treasure of Hellenic $\pi\alpha i\delta\epsilon i\alpha$ (Paideia).

The solution back in 18th-century Greece was education and schools. The solution for the 21st century is the same. With the incredible vision of the leaders of the Archangel Michael Church community, a beautiful campus has been built and is still expanding. With our latest efforts and vision of "Spreading Our Wings and Expanding Our Ministries," the Archangel Michael Church has a unique opportunity to take thoughtful, fiscally responsible, and well-planned steps towards opening an elementary day school. With an incredibly talented school committee of professional educators, business leaders, and experienced legal counsel, preliminary steps, including studies, have been undertaken towards this goal. The church has also received a commitment of \$1 million from a great benefactor to see this dream come to fruition.

In Nassau County there are 141 private schools, many of which are affiliated with a religious organization, but there is not one Greek Orthodox school among them. If St. Kosmas, with his little stool and komboskini (prayer rope) in hand, was able to open over 200 schools in Greece, the talented Greek families of our community can surely have great success in an endeavor to build one distinguished school. Not everyone will agree with such a vision for the obvious reason that the public education offered in our communities is typically regarded as outstand-And yes, the schools are wonderful. ever, the vision of an Archangel Michael Church Day School (as I call it, "the Odyssey School") will be set apart and unique, offering an enriched curriculum (and possibly an International Baccalaureate accreditation), a strong Hellenic foundation, and

The hope of this article is to foster and encourage the discussion for the formation of the Odyssey School. However, we would only pursue this endeavor if there is a demand within our community and the surrounding neighborhoods for such an institution. The school must be self-sufficient and contribute to the well-being of the Archangel Michael community; and this program must be founded on Hellenic ideals and the Greek Orthodox Faith.

an atmosphere that promotes spiritual formation.

The community will be given the opportunity to understand the vision of this historic opportunity and discuss the best path forward. In assessing the vision of the Odyssey School, we should not debate about whether we agree with its formation, but deliberate how we can help bring it to fruition and secure its success so as to enhance the foundation and mission of the Archangel Michael parish and ensure our community is everlasting.

In Christ's Ministry, Fr. John K. Lardas The entire temple of the Orthodox Christian Church is built with a very intentional design. The ceiling and the walls, the structure and the materials, the lighting and the acoustics all have a practical and spiritual purpose. From the minute we step into the "holy ground" of an Orthodox Church, the purpose of everything is to orient us toward the one True God, mind, body and soul. We have the different architectural aspects of an Orthodox temple starting from the narthex, to the apse, to perhaps the most iconic feature to the Orthodox, the dome. Each of these aspects has corresponding purposes. In this short article, the purpose is not to comprehensively cover each feature,

but to peruse and understand a highlight of the schematics, especially the iconography.

The focal point when we first enter the Church is the apse on the Eastern wall of the Church, which traditionally, as we have here, will have the Theotokos depicted. It is a semidome or a quarter sphere hollowed out which adjoins the ceiling, the walls and the floor. The Panagia has her hands outstretched towards us, showing that the Church is our refuge

from the chaos of the world and that she is waiting as our mother to embrace us. In the Church iconography, where quite literally she becomes the bridge between the heavens and the earth, it shows that she was, and is that bridge for us, by whom the Lord became man. On her lap, sits Christ our God presented to us as our Savior. At this point, it is appropriate to recognize that all Orthodox Churches that are traditionally built will face the East. This is because the sun rises in the East, so the light comes from that direction. As Christians, we are seekers and lovers of the light, the good, the beautiful.

The most iconic feature of any Orthodox Church, and often the identifying characteristic, is the dome. The church domes stem back to the magnificent Hagia Sophia Church, one of the finest works of architecture in human history, which was built in the 500's in the late Roman, or Byzantine, Empire. With its curved feature, the dome represents the heavens and the One

enthroned upon the heavens - Jesus Christ Almighty. The icon of Jesus in the dome looks down on the whole Church and, due to the dome structure, grants two distinct sentiments at once. We have a sense of the proximity of Christ, as He is present above us, but also His transcendence and ever-incomprehensibility, which only a domed ceiling can provide. All who are present in the church can look up at any moment and see the watchful gaze of the Lord. Our heavenly Father watches us and longs for us to look to Him.

Interestingly, even the schematics of the icons coming down from the dome all the way to the walls serve a deliberate purpose. We have Christ at the top; at the

> bottom of the dome, we have the prophets; on the rim before the pillars, we have the apostles; on the four pillars, we have the evangelists; and, on the walls at floor level, the general cloud of witnesses of saints. This is a realization of St. Paul's description of the temple of God in the Epistle to the Ephesians 2:19-22. "You are... fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles

and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone... a holy temple in the Lord... a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." The iconography is the witness of this Scriptural description of the Church. We have Christ as the cornerstone, the prophets and apostles as the foundation. The Word of God comes down by the four evangelists to all of us, who stand amidst the saints where we are meant to become more stones laid on the glorious temple of God.

Prince Vladimir, in the late first millennium, seeking the proper faith to confess, sent emissaries to multiple worldwide locations of faith. Upon their return, he heard each of their accounts of what they experienced. The two who were sent to the Orthodox Church reported back after seeing a Divine Liturgy in Hagia Sophia: "We knew not whether we were in Heaven or on Earth... We only know that God dwells there among the people, and their service is fairer than the ceremonies of other nations."



WORSHIP SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS

Worship Services

Orthros 8:30am & Divine Liturgy 9:30am unless otherwise indicated

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Wed., 1st	SEPTEMBER The New Ecclesiastical Year	Fri., 1st	OCTOBER Feast of The Protection of the Theotokos					
Mon., 6th	The Remembrance of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael	Sat., 16th	Challenge Divine Liturgy 10:30am (Orthros 9:30)					
Wed., 8th	The Birth of the Theotokos	Mon., 18th	Feast of St. Luke					
Mon., 13th	Great Vespers of the Precious Cross	Wed., 20th	Feast of St. Gerasimos					
	(Holy Cross Whitestone or Bay Ridge) 7pm	Sat., 23rd	Divine Liturgy of St. James					
Tue.,14th	Feast of the Holy Cross	Mon., 25th	Great Vespers of St. Demetrios (Merrick					
Fri., 17th	Feast of St. Sophia and Her Three Daughters		Long Island, Jamaica or Astoria, Queens) 7pm					
Sat., 18th	Challenge Divine Liturgy 10:30am (Orthros 9:30)	Tue., 26th Sun., 31st	Feast of St. Demetrios Great Vespers of Cosmas and Damianos					
Thur., 23rd	Conception of St. John the Baptist		(Washington Heights or Chapel of St. Nicholas Flushing) 7pm					
SEPTEMBER SEPTEMBER OCTOBER								
Fri., Sept. 3rd	12:30pm, Wedding of Joseph		OCTOBER					
111., Sept. 31d	Sbarro & Valerie Michaelides	Sat., Oct 2nd	11:00am, Baptism: Child of					
Sat., Sept. 4th	11:00am, Baptism: Child of		Richard & Nicole Cea					
	Ellie & Jordan Iordanou		1:30pm, Wedding of John					
	1:00pm, Double Baptism: Child of Irene Bouloubasis & Dimitrios Karagiannis		Raptis & Jennifer Morrison					
		Sun., Oct. 3rd	1:00pm, Baptism: Child of					
	and Child of Vasiliki Bouloubasis & Ioannis Giannakou		Foti & Evangelia Papoutsakis					
Sun., Sept. 5th	2:00pm, Wedding of George		3:00pm, Baptism: Child of					
Jam, Japa, Jan	Mirisis & Nicole Maniscalco		Eleni & Konstantinos Kapatos					
Sat., Sept. 11th		Sat., Oct. 9th	11:00am, Baptism: Child of					
	George & Paulina Diamantakis	Jac., Oct. 701	Peter & Elizabeth Strouzas					
Sun., Sept. 12tl	h 1:00pm, Baptism: Child of Lucia & Evangelos Karaminas		1,00pm Pantism, Child of					
	•		1:00pm, Baptism: Child of Stavroula & Salvatore Messina					
	3:00pm, Baptism: Child of Christopher & Aicha Jannes							
Sat., Sept. 18th	•		3:00pm, Baptism: Child of Ariana & Philip Blaney					
Sat., Sept. Toti	Caterina & Nick Athanasopoulos		Ariana a Finisp Blancy					
Sun., Sept. 19tl	h 3:00pm, Baptism: Child of	Sun., Oct. 10t	• • •					
Sun., Sept. 17th	George & Anastasia Argyros		Angelo & Elizabeth Koskinas					
Fri., Sept. 24th		Sat., Oct. 16tl						
-	Ciulla & Marianna Thermos		& Ashly Germanakos					
Sat, Sept. 25th	3:30pm, Wedding of Theodore	Sun., Oct 17th						
	Gailan & Stephanie Lagoudis		Catherine & Nicolas Ochoa					

Sat., Oct. 23rd

11:30am, Wedding of Felix Perez & Antonia Zaferiou

2:00pm, Wedding of Niko Tsirakis & Maura Lewis

4:30pm, Wedding of Terry (Sotirios) Porfyris & Brianna Germain

Sun., Oct. 24th

1:00 pm, Baptism: Child of Tony & Isabella Matsias

Sat., Oct. 30th

11:00 am, Baptism: Child of Anna & Athanasios Psyllakis

1:00 pm, Wedding of Leonard Coppola & Nicole Michos

3:00 pm, Baptism: Child of Antonia & Ioannis Laskaris

THE MAN BEHIND THE ICON

By Aphrodite Dimopoulos

God graced us with five wonderful senses - the ability to taste, smell, hear, touch, and see - all with the intention of understanding and appreciating His gifts to us. When we enter the church, we use these senses to experience the Liturgy and the grace of God. Whether it is the taste of Holy Communion, the smell of the incense, the sound of the choir and chanters, or the feeling of a candle in between our fingers, our senses allow us a heightened experience in the House of God. Possibly the most utilized sense, however, is our sight. From our first encounters in the church, each and every one of us, regardless of age, background, race, gender, or language, beholds the beauty of the iconography, which gives us the ability to connect with the life of Jesus Christ and the Glory of God. All who enter the church have an icon that they love, or at the very least recognize. At our beautiful church, we are lucky enough to have more than just the Pantokrator and the iconostasis painted. The entirety of the altar and most of the surrounding walls are covered floor to ceiling in fantastic works, depicting the likenesses of many saints and the many stories of the Bible. Although we love and know these icons as our own, the person behind much of the art, that of iconographer Tom Clark, itself remains a mystery to many of us.

The Man



When looking around Archangel Michael Church, you might think that the works on the walls are of someone that has been trained in Byzantine iconography from a very early age. Clark's story is quite the contrary. Iconography was never an obvious path for him. He didn't pick up a paintbrush until he was 20. Clark details his early years as being "a part of a generation where all of the parents in my neighborhood were immigrants (his mother was Greek; his father, Irish). American kids with immigrant parents. We wanted to be American and sort of wanted to disassociate ourselves with the cultural side of things." Although he was raised Greek Orthodox at the church of St. Andrew in Chicago, surrounded mostly by his mom and "Pappou" (his mother's uncle) and very active in the church, when it came to the art of iconography, his church didn't have Byzantine iconography to inspire him. Also, he adds, "Although my dad and brother were artists and genetically I had a talent for art and I always doodled, I never really had any direction about 'I love that language of art and how do I pursue it'."

NEWS AND EVENTS

It wasn't until in his late 20's that Clark was introduced to the world of iconography. He met his wife at Ionian Village and, after marrying, the two moved to Greece. All it took was walking down the road one morning and witnessing a man painting icons in a small shop. "This was the first time I saw the Byzantine art style," Clark remarks. "I instantly fell in love with it; and I said, 'I think I can and would like to try to do that'." That same man he saw writing (the term used when describing the work of iconography) icons in Greece went on to be his teacher and guided him to his current profession.

Although a gift for art is critical in the work of iconography, it takes pure and unconditional love for God and the teachings of the Church, that is, being a devout Orthodox Christian to create the works we look at every Sunday.

The beauty of the iconography lies in its shapes and colors, but the true mysteries behind the brush strokes are due to the dedication and the humble nature of the iconographer. God has given each and every one of us gifts, and Clark has used his in such a holy way, aiding in the continuation of a language. It may have been worlds easier for Clark to use his artistic gift in many other capacities and professions, but he chose to take his Godgiven skill and repurpose it within the church. When asked about this, Clark provided the following wisdom:

"You develop a language because you want to say something. If you don't really have an interest in speaking about a particular topic, why learn the language? So, I never developed my language of art skill to speak about painting a bowl of fruit or landscape - that just wasn't something I was very interested in saying. Although my wife was encouraging me to pursue art, there was never an outlet until I met my mentor in Greece. Even then I didn't say this is my goal or career, I simply recognized my gift. And I began to pick up iconography very quickly. Yes, art is my skill, but my passion lies in returning that skill to Christ."

Tom Clark is not simply a man with an affinity for art; he is a man that has chosen to live his life honoring God

with the skill He has granted to him. And he has continued his dedication to the church outside of his art. He and his wife have raised their five sons, four of them monks and one a professional tennis player, close to the church but with the freedom to develop their own relationship with God. Ranging in age from 22 to 33, Clark's sons followed in their father's footsteps, finding their own talents and cultivating them. They are talented artists in mosaics and collaborate with their father on some works.

The Art

Clark describes the art of the church as a language. "I believe," he states, "that it is the way that God expresses himself. It is not simply a great artist himself making an expression - the art has to be inspired by the Holy Spirit to truly be the language. When we are in the liturgy, we are literally in the environment of heaven. The language of the art, the language of the music, and the language of the hymns and so forth have to be a true reflection of God's kingdom."

When trying to understand the works on the wall of our church, most people would go to the artist behind them. Clark assures us that the stories and images we see are not of his hand, but that of the Holy Spirit. This, therefore, sheds some light on the way icons are able to transcend many cultural and language barriers.



"If you put all the icons from all the centuries and all the places where iconography has been produced over the years, God allows every time and culture to, yes, incorporate their own personal flavor, but never enough to take away from the core aspects of the work. Color and form may differ, but there is a commonality. For example, in the icon of the Resurrection where Jesus is in the middle and is pulling Adam and Eve out of the tombs, He is holding the two by their wrists. Normally, one would think you would pull someone up hand to hand; but in the case of Jesus pulling Adam and Eve out of Hades, grabbing them by their wrists demonstrates Jesus as the power and Him doing the work. That little detail is not up to me, the artist, to disagree with." As Clark says, "If you look at the icons together, whether it be Ethiopian, Russian, Byzantine, Syrian, or Serbian, throughout all of the centuries, Jesus is always holding them by the wrist. Although I'm allowed to make the body more elongated, I can never change that. I have a duty to perform and write these icons so as to portray the teachings of the Bible." Clark puts it best when he says, "I am just a hand. I see something, and I say this is what the church wants us to do. I don't understand the mysteries behind it at all. But I know I must stay true to the language and express it the right way. If I do that then the icons will do their mystical work. So my responsibility as an artist is to stay true to His teachings. That is all."

Although we as Orthodox Christians enjoy the beauty of iconography in everyday life, it may come as a shock to some that many religions, some even Christian, do not believe in imagery. This view comes from a line in the Bible stating, "Thou shall not worship graven images." It seems odd for most Orthodox Christians to imagine a life in the church without imagery, and Clark feels the same. "I believe the whole Bible is important. There are so many things in the Bible that seem to contradict one another but, in fact, they are helping us find a focal point. In the Old Testament we hear not to worship graven images; but when God was talking to Moses about how to create the tabernacle, he instructed Moses to images of angels in gold and to use art and detail when constructing it. See, God told Moses to make images of these beings. To me, I see it as a fine line. We should make these images and have them to help

understand this invisible reality but proceed with care in how you work with them. I know this story of a child that lost a parent. After that he carried around a picture of him and would kiss it and hold on to it. Would you say to that kid, 'Why are you wasting your time little guy? That's just a piece of paper.' No! When he sees that little piece of paper with that image on there, everything inside of him that connected with his dad is brought there to that moment. How could you deny those mysteries of what is going on through the eyes of a child?"

Iconography is infinitely more than paint on wood. It is an in-depth understanding of our faith and the pure dedication to see it flourish. The next time we step foot in our beautiful church and our eyes contemplate the iconography around us, let's allow each brush stroke to take on a new meaning and follow the teachings of God that can be found within each image.

HERITAGE LIBRARY AND BOOKSTORE

The Archangel Michael Church Heritage Library and Bookstore Committee continues to stay busy organizing the Library and categorizing the current and new books that are donated. The Bookstore bookcases located in the hallway outside the Angeliades Fellowship Hall are being relocated and will contain new items for purchase in the Fall.



Please Save the Date of **November 21, 2021**, after the Fellowship coffee hour, for a lecture by Thea Halo, author of the book, **Not Even My Name**. This book gives a moving first-hand account of the little-known and often-denied genocide of Pontic Greeks in the period during and after World War I. We hope you can join us for this unforgettable event.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS: A GIFT TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

(Below is the second in a series of articles on charitable giving.)

Imagine if you will, the ability to satisfy your inclination for charitable giving, eliminating estate taxes, and deferring or eliminating capital gains taxes while providing yourself with a steady income stream and an immediate charitable income tax deduction. This arrangement seemingly falls into the "too good to be true" category, but for more than 50 years, countless families have used Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs) to increase their income, save taxes, and benefit charities, while receiving an immediate charitable deduction.

A CRT lets you convert highly appreciated assets into lifetime income. It reduces your income taxes now and estate taxes when you die. You pay no capital gains tax when the asset is sold, while you assist one or more charities that have special meaning to you.

First, you transfer an appreciated asset, such as real estate or stock, into an irrevocable trust where you can retain an income stream for your lifetime, with the property in the trust being distributed to your designated charity upon death. This removes the asset from your estate, so no estate taxes will be due on it when you die. You also receive an immediate charitable income tax deduction based on the fair market value of the contributed property, less the value of the retained income stream. The trustee then sells the asset at full market value, paying no capital gains

tax, and reinvests the proceeds in liquid, incomeproducing assets. For the rest of your life, the trust's assets pay you an income stream. Depending on the amount of gain recognized and the mix and type of income-producing assets, this income stream can be taxed at a significantly lower rate than regular interest or dividends. When you die, the remaining trust assets go to the charities you have chosen. Hence, the name charitable "remainder" trust.

The benefits are significant, but the laws surrounding CRT gifts are complex and anyone contemplating such a gift or donation needs to consult with their tax attorney, accountant or other tax advisor.

ANNUAL WATSONIAN GOLF OUTING

On June 10, 2021 the Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church held its 28th Annual Golf Outing, "The Watsonian," at the Plandome Country Club.

This year, a record number of 155 golfers enjoyed a great day of golf and fellowship on a beautiful, sunny day. The day was capped off with an awards dinner where 35 additional attendees joined in for an evening of fellowship, laughs, and our annual raffle. It was great to see so many enjoying the day and evening together!

The 2021 "In Memoriam Spirit Awards" were presented to Dora Gouramanis and Eleni Germanakos in recognition of their many years of dedicated service to the Archangel Michael Church and their participation in the annual golf outing event.





The "In Memoriam Spirit Award," initiated 10 years ago, honors the memories of Carl Watson, Gus Keen, Perry Alexiou, Steve Drametenos, Andy Cyprus, Stanley Neamonitis, Stelios Gerazounis, and Harry Lascarides. These stalwart members were very loyal participants and supporters of the golf outing from its inception and were part of the foundation of the Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church community.

Each year we also honor our very generous and loyal sponsors, who annually support this worthy cause. Congratulations to Perry Notias, our 2021 honoree.



The net proceeds for this year's event, estimated to exceed \$80,000, is a record profit for this fundraiser and will be used for the continued operations of the church and its ministries.

Thank you to all of our loyal sponsors, supporters, participants, friends, and members of the Archangel Michael Church family who were so generous in supporting our raffle as well.

A very special thank you to Dora Gouramanis and Catherine Papagianakis for working tirelessly both during the planning stage and at the event! Finally, we are grateful to our Golf Committee: Chris Neocleous, Gus Lucas, Drew Keen, Michael Bapis, Peter Takvorian, and Chairman Mario Harris for their incredible work in putting this event together in just six weeks.



Mark your calendars for June 9, 2022, when we will celebrate 29 years of success in bringing together our parishioners, families, and friends at The Watsonian Golf Outing at Plandome Country Club.

We look forward to a bigger and more successful 2022 event. See you next year!

FESTIVAL RIDES

We are again pre-selling ½ price ticket sheets for the rides at the Festival.

Each sheet has 44 tickets and will be sold for \$25.

Ticket sheets will be sold:

Sundays, September 12th & 19th following the Divine Liturgy

JOY Registration Night: Thursday, September 9th

GOYA Registration Night: Friday, September 10th

Beginning Sept.15th during Preschool hours (9-2 at the Preschool office)



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28th Annual Carl Watson Memorial Golf Outing - The Watsonian

June 10, 2021

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An Interview With the Honorable Madeline Singas

By Anastasia Cavounis



Madeline Singas, an active member of our very own Archangel Michael community, recently was appointed associate judge on the state's highest court, the New York State Court of Appeals. The Honorable Judge Singas graduated from Barnard College and obtained a law degree from Fordham University School of Law in 1991. She has held many different positions in law enforcement, from serving as an assistant district attorney in Queens to becoming chief of the newly created Special Victims Bureau in Nassau County and then serving as acting Nassau County District Attorney. She won election in 2015 and

again in 2019 and served as Nassau County's District Attorney until her appointment and confirmation to New York's highest court, the Court of Appeals, on June 8, 2021. Judge Singas was the first Greek-American female District Attorney in New York and the first Greek-American woman to be appointed to the state's Court of Appeals.

Her dedication and drive are inspiring. Judge Singas recently sat down with a student from the community, Anastasia Cavounis, to discuss her journey to success and offer advice to all the young Greek-Americans who may want to follow in her achievements.

AC: So I understand you went to Barnard College?

MS: Yes, I attended Barnard College which is a women's college and is part of Columbia University. I went there with my two best friends from high school and one of my cousins, and my sister is also a Barnard graduate. Clearly it's a big part of our family tradition. Barnard is a great intellectual institution, a premier college, and a place where women are valued and empowered.

AC: Do you think that going to an institution like Barnard that is women-centered helped you enter the field and/ or helped you overcome obstacles that you faced going into your field as a woman?

MS: It was probably part of it, but I think it began earlier with my parents. I often say that my parents were the first feminists I ever met. They instilled in me the idea that I could pursue whatever career I wanted to regardless of my gender. So, it started there. That confidence begins at home, and it extends into all other areas of your life. Barnard certainly helped me feel confident and provided me with a terrific education. What I liked about Barnard was that it was a small college in a bigger university. I took advantage of everything that the larger university had to offer and also felt nurtured in this small and personal college. The fact that I was surrounded by women who were strong, ambitious, and had very specific goals definitely helped propel me forward.

AC: What inspired you to go into law enforcement? When you went to college was one of your goals to end up going into law enforcement?

MS: When I entered college I knew I wanted to pursue law. I loved reading, analyzing, writing, and debating. I always knew that I would get a law degree. I wasn't sure what I would do with that degree, but I thought that going to law school was where my strengths were best suited. I also knew I wanted to be in the courtroom, and being a prosecutor is a way to get into a courtroom early in your career. Once I was in law enforcement and knew that I was helping people, then it just became somewhere that I wanted to stay, a place where I wanted to continue to serve the public.

NEWS & EVENTS

AC: Have you always wanted to become a judge? Did you ever think you were going to end up becoming a judge?

MS: I have appeared before many, many judges, and I have friends who are judges, and I have always admired what judges do. This year there were an unprecedented number of openings on the Court, and I began thinking very seriously about it. Part of my success can be attributed to taking advantage of opportunities that present themselves. And so I applied, and I am so happy that I did because sitting on this Court really is the culmination of my legal career. I'm very excited about interpreting the law for the State of New York. It is an incredible responsibility, and I am very humbled by that responsibility.

AC: What are your current responsibilities as a judge on the New York State Court of Appeals?

MS: Basically, it's the last stop for the appellate process in the State of New York. It's the highest court in New York, and the cases that are decided there are the cases that will shape how the law is interpreted and practiced in the State of New York. Questions of law that have not been definitively settled by the courts below go to the Court of Appeals, and we decide those cases. In terms of the law, it really is the most exciting job to have.

AC: Would you say that your current job is a lot different than the job you used to have as a DA?

MS: Yes, absolutely. When I was DA, I was an advocate. Now as a judge, I adjudicate, and I'm a neutral arbiter. So, from that perspective, it's very different. I wear a different hat now. Also as DA I received cases at the beginning, either from the police, or through an investigation that the office initiated. As a Court of Appeals judge, I see the cases at the very end; and every case that comes before the Court represents a difficult issue of law and one that is not clear or easily decided. The decisions have significant impact throughout the State, and significant impact on the individuals involved. Sometimes, there are differences in the appellate courts in what a certain law means or how it should be applied, and that's where the Court of Appeals steps in to clarify the law.

Additionally, the Court hears both civil and criminal cases, whereas as the DA I was primarily involved in criminal cases.

What is the same, however, is the awesome responsibility entrusted in me, and the incredible impact my decisions have on people.

AC: How do you balance a challenging career and your family life?

MS: Every working woman and working man has to deal with the balance between their work life and their family life; and it's not always easy, but it's important to have a support system that helps you. I'm fortunate to have my husband who was very hands-on with my kids [Billy and Deme] and picked up the slack when I wasn't able to do that; and I did the same for him when he couldn't do it. Having a strong support network was vital to my success because I couldn't have done it if I didn't have so many people helping me out along the way. If you take your job seriously, no matter what you do, it impacts you. There were some nights when I'd pick up my kids, or go see a play they were in, or watch them play basketball, or go to a regatta, let them know I was there for them, and then I'd often return to the office to finish up my work, have a meeting, or deal with some urgent situation. You learn to be flexible, to be present, and somehow it works.

AC: Would you say that being raised as a Greek-American has affected your career or helped you in any sense to manage your career?

MS: The incredible support of the Greek-American community helped me get elected DA, and I'm so appreciative of that support. My success validated the American dream of the Greek-Americans and other immigrant groups, and demonstrated that we could succeed despite our humble beginnings.

AC: What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about going into law school and going into criminal law?

MS: First, I would say that anyone thinking about going to law school should go to law school because you will learn how to think critically, analyze problems, structure your arguments, and logically look at issues. A law degree is also very versatile, and the legal field is so broad that you will find something that suits you and that you enjoy. Some people get their degrees and never practice law, but use their degree to open doors in other fields they find interesting. Criminal law is very exciting, and it really captures humanity at its best and at its worst. Books and movies are made about criminal law because it is the essence of the human experience.

AC: Was it difficult going into your field as the child of immigrants? Who inspired you?

MS: Growing up the child of immigrants, I didn't have a lot of exposure to the law because my family members were not formally educated and were not professionals. I did not have access to lawyers, so I had to seek out mentors and people who could help advise me. From that experience though, I learned the value of hard work and humility; and I developed a resilience and independence that served me well.

My parents inspired me because they had boundless love for their family, tremendous optimism, an incredible work ethic, generosity, and faith. And they offered me unrelenting support and love. They immigrated from the mountains of Greece with no formal education and without means or support, but they had faith that they could provide a better life for their children. They worked incredibly hard and sacrificed so much for me to receive an education. So, in one generation, for me to be sitting on the Court of Appeals is remarkable, and represents the promise and dreams of so many people. I owe everything I am to my parents.

AC: We are very lucky with the AMC community that there are a lot of professionals basically in every field that someone could possibly want to go into that we can talk to and intern with. A lot of opportunities are available to us in our community, and I am very grateful for that.

MS: Absolutely and young adults should take advantage of that because it's a great gift in our community. Everyone worked really hard to get to the positions that they're in, to have the success in their careers that they have, and I'm very proud of them. So many people who can offer advice and guidance are available to you-- that's what we offer to the next generation. So don't be shy!

AC: What advice do you have for young Greek-Americans?

MS: I think that it's important to do really well in school, to study hard, and to take advantage of internships and opportunities. You need to step outside your comfort zone and try new things- that's really the only way to grow and be successful. And whatever you do -- a summer job, an internship, a job -- do it with your whole heart, and immerse yourself fully. That's how you will stand out and be noticed.

AC: Thank you so much for speaking with me and congratulations again on your appointment.

MS: Of course, it was my pleasure.

BIBLE STUDY AND BOOK CLUB

Scripture and Spiritual Readings Illumine Bible Study and Book Club Participants

Over the course of the 2020-2021 church year, members of the Archangel Michael Bible Study and Book Club groups, under the extraordinary guidance and instruction provided by Fr. John and Fr. Michael, became more intimately familiar with the letters of St. Paul to the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians and increased their understanding of Epistle and Gospel readings during key Sunday and feast day Divine Liturgies by reading and discussing *The Year of Grace of the Lord*, which was authored by a man who served in the French army during WWI and who converted to Orthodoxy and became a monk afterward.



Sessions were held in the newly renovated library/conference room, which now includes a wide screen that, when connected to a laptop, allowed those who wanted to continue Bible Study in their own homes to participate via Zoom. Once COVID-19 restrictions were lifted sufficiently, some group members attended in person.

Both Bible Study and Book Club readings are inspiring and helpful to all who participate and want a deeper understanding of how a relationship with the Lord greatly impacts our daily lives. One group member found the experience "thoroughly rewarding"; another, who attended both Wednesday morning and Thursday evening discussions, noted, "Every session brought us 'Ah-Ha!' moments of understanding."

A highlight of our (mostly) Wednesday morning Bible Study classes was Fr. John Lardas' use of commentary by St. John Chrysostom to expand our understanding of St. Paul's letters. He also asked engaging questions that caused us to apply Scripture to our own lives and, despite our varying personal and professional experiences, that led to our getting to know each other more personally as many of us didn't know each other before joining either of the groups. Our discussions were further enhanced by participants' observations and questions as well as by sharing personal experiences through which we gained a greater understanding of how the lessons of the Scriptures apply to each of us.

Fr. Michael, in addition to discussing the application of Scriptures to our daily lives, also connected the Scriptures to the history of the Orthodox faith.

Last year, the Book Club group read the enlightening *The Year of the Grace of the Lord*, which examined the Gospel and Epistle readings of key Sundays and feast days of the ecclesiastical year and helped us see how participating in Divine Liturgies year-round can help us find meaning in our personal lives and grow in a relationship with the Lord. It is a wonderful reference book to be continually referred to throughout the Ecclesiastical Year.

We ended the year with a potluck dinner in the Angeliades Fellowship Hall featuring an abundant spread of a wide variety of appetizers, main dishes, desserts, and even music!

In the Fall, our Bible Study readings will be the **Epistle of St. Peter**, the **Epistle of St. James**, and the **1st Epistle of St. John**; and Book Club participants will read and discuss *The Way of the Pilgrim*.

Sessions will be held in the Archangel Michael Heritage Library at 11 a.m. on Wednesday mornings (after Paraklesis which begins at 10 a.m. or after Divine Liturgies when they are held), and on Thursday nights following small vespers, which begins at 7 p.m. Zoom attendance will also be an option. You are welcome to join us!

GREEK LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

As we begin a new Ecclesiastical Year, we reflect upon the close of the 2020-21 Archangel Michael Greek Language Institute school year. It certainly was a year like no other! We were thankful that our Class of 2021 was able to partake in a traditional graduation ceremony, albeit while wearing masks. Our school even had the honor of having Archbishop Elpidophoros preside over the event. He gave a heartwarming speech and inspired our students to continue to be curious as they pursue their academic endeavors. He also encouraged them to be proud of their culture and reminded them that the Greek language is truly the foundation for all others.

While our underclassmen did not have the opportunity to engage in traditional moving-up ceremonies, they did celebrate the culmination of the school year through poems and songs, all of which were presented in a beautiful video made by our Archangel Michael GLI teacher, Mr. Vangelis Chaziroglou. To view the video, please visit:

https://m.facebook.com/AMCGreekSchool/videos/2878662339114661/

The School Board extends its sincere gratitude to Father John and Father Michael; Principal Ms. Gregoria Giannou; the teachers, parents, and PTA; and, of course, our wonderful students for their diligence and enthusiasm throughout the year. Archangel Michael GLI would like to extend its sincerest thanks to Mrs. Marietta Frangiskatos for her past service as PTA president. We would also like to welcome Mr. Stelios Diakoumakis as our new PTA president. We have all felt his enthusiasm for serving in this role and are looking forward to seeing all the great events he and his board have planned for our Archangel Michael GLI!



In an effort to keep our students connected throughout the summer, the Archangel Michael GLI hosted a "Rising 8th Grade Luau." Several of our Class of 2022 students attended this event and had the opportunity to socialize and test out their Greek speaking skills. We look forward to hosting many more events throughout the school year that will afford the students the opportunity to engage both intellectually and socially.

News & Events



With the new school year upon us, we extend a warm welcome to our returning GLI families and to our new GLI Families! The Greek Language Institute continues to be a thriving component of the Archangel Michael community. Attending our school provides a special opportunity for our youth to study the Greek language and experience all that is unique to our Hellenic heritage and our Orthodox faith. The Agiasmo service along with "Meet the Teachers" will take place on September 14 at 4:30pm. Students will officially begin their classes on September 15. Soon thereafter, the hallways and classrooms will be filled with back-to-school projects.

In October, the students will be busy preparing for OXI day, a national holiday commemorating Greece's entry into World War II, which is celebrated on October 28 throughout the Hellenic world. It is a day when we all remember Prime Minister Metaxas' courageous one-word response of "OXI" to Mussolini's demand for the unconditional surrender of Greece in 1940.

The Archangel Michael GLI is also offering online Modern Greek for Adults and Teen Conversation & Culture classes with Dr. Maria Athanasopoulos, Professor of Modern Greek at Queens College and Stony Brook University. These classes are differentiated and offer opportunities both for those new to the Greek language and those looking to expand their fluency.

Registration is ongoing for child, teen, and adult classes. Please visit https://archangelmichaelchurch.org/greek-school/ for more information and to register today!

If you have any questions, please contact Dina Petrakis at: gli@archangelmichaelchurch.org

Good luck to all our students this year!

PRESCHOOL



The Archangel Michael Preschool had a great 2020-2021 school year, despite uncertainties due to the pandemic. We had a wonderful end-of-year program and Pre-K graduation! Good luck to all our graduates in Kindergarten!

Our first Archangel Michael Preschool Summer Camp was well attended. It ran for five weeks and was a great success. The program included soccer, art, music, religion, arts and crafts, gym, as well as indoor and outdoor play. The children attended church every Friday, and Fr. John and Fr. Michael used the theme of the week to teach important religious lessons.



We are looking forward to another safe and fun-filled school year! Our preschool is a New York Statelicensed school and has been following strict health and safety guidelines set forth by the state. According to state guidelines, each classroom will be sanitized daily to ensure a nurturing, safe, and healthy environment.

Registration is ongoing for the following classes:

Toddler Class (2-year-olds) featuring our NEW three-day-a-week program

Nursery Class (3-year-olds)

Pre-K Class (4-year-olds)

Our curriculum will continue to include academic, social, and physical components. Music and Body Movement, Color Theory Art Program, our science program, and Greek language will be incorporated into

News & Events

the schedule weekly. Fr. John and Fr. Michael will also visit with the classes each week to read books, share Bible stories, and sing hymns with the students. As always, there will be indoor and outdoor play.

Our afterschool programs will also continue this year. Soccer Shots is offered twice a week to the Nursery and Pre-K classes, with a focus on character-building and development of soccer skills. Also continuing this year is the Greek Enrichment program, offered to the Pre-K class, which introduces students to the Greek language.

For further details and school registration forms, or if you have any questions, please contact us at: preschool@archangelmichaelchurch.org

September and October Activities

Our students will be busy making new friends and getting reacquainted with old friends. We will celebrate the autumn season featuring the beautiful colored leaves and learn about OXI Day as well as the feast day of St. Demetrios. All will participate in the annual Halloween Party & Parade. The Music & Body Movement classes will begin in October.

The Pre-K students will be concentrating on letter and number recognition, reading readiness, and strengthening fine motor skills. Those children registered in the Greek After-School Enrichment Program will be learning the alphabet, writing the letters, associating letters with pictures, writing their numbers, and learning to write their names in Greek.

Family is the theme for the Fall in the **Nursery Class**. Students will be learning colors, shapes, and songs. In their Greek class, songs and stories will be learned using finger play and props.

The children in the **Toddler Class** will be easing into meeting new friends, getting acquainted with their classroom surroundings, and becoming independent. They will also be learning Greek songs through puppet play!

We are all looking forward to a fun-filled academic school year!

Upcoming Events:

September 15 - First Day of School

October 11 - Columbus Day - School Closed

October 21 - Parent-Teacher Orientation

October 28 - OXI Day - School Closed

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Archangel Michael Church parishioners very much enjoyed the end-of-the-year program presented by the Sunday School students in June.

We would like to welcome everyone back to Sunday School on September 12, as we look forward to a wonderful and successful school year for which we have many things planned.

Children are to attend the Divine Liturgy with their parents until Holy Communion is concluded. They will then proceed to their Sunday School classes which will end at approximately 11:15 a.m. Teachers will bring the children to the Angeliades Fellowship Hall for dismissal.



To register your child/children for Sunday School, Pre-Kindergarten through Young Adults, visit the church website, https://archangelmichaelchurch.org/sunday-school. Please complete the registration as soon as possible so that we can schedule the appropriate number of classes.

If you are interested in becoming a teacher, teacher assistant, or helping in any other way, please visit the Sunday School office any Sunday morning beginning September 12.

Byzantine Youth Choir



Love, Love, Love, Love Is All You Need



A new ecclesiastical year is here and the Byzantine Youth Choir is eagerly waiting to once again begin the Archangel Michael Church Youth Music Ministry. Our program is filled with wonderful activities. In addition to learning our beloved hymns, plans are being made for the Archdiocesan Federation of Church Musicians Annual Conference Music Workshops and Hierarchical Liturgy in Bridgeport, Connecticut; a Broadway Theatre Trip; a luncheon honoring Church Musicians on Sunday, October 10; visits to St. Michael's Home and Hellenos House; and much more. Come join our Youth Choir and share in many valuable experiences. Boys and girls are welcome to join; Youth Group, ages 7 to 12; Teen Group, ages 13 to 18.



The 2021-2022 Youth Choir Social and Registration and Rehearsal is scheduled for Friday, September 10, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the choir loft of our church. (Please note: Due to the collection of items for the Festival's Fabulous Finds, we will not be meeting in the usual choir rehearsal room on the first floor opposite the church Heritage Library.)

The Divine Liturgy is enriched by the beautiful voices of the Youth Choir on the second and fourth Sundays of every month. The youth choir will commence celebrating the Divine Liturgy together in the choir loft on Sunday, September 12. Rehearsals will be conducted once a week on Fridays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The future of the hymns of our faith is in the hands of our youth. For more information, please contact Choir Directors Ms. Georgia at kriseleni@icloud.com or Ms. Eleni at emusical33@gmail.com or at youthchoir@archan gelmichaelchurch.org

The Plant Fundraiser, held in the spring, was the most successful one we have ever had. The proceeds will be used for the upcoming Youth Choir endeavors. At this time, we would like to express our gratitude to our community for their support, as well as to our Youth Choir members and their parents and grandparents. Special appreciation to parents Nicoletta Gargas, Filanthe Efstathiadis, and Chris-Marie Tzavelis for all their help with the fundraiser. Thank you also to Voula Blaslov and Cally Barberis for their delicious baked goods, which were a big hit!

> WISHING EVERYONE A BLESSED YEAR FILLED WITH HEALTH, HAPPINESS, AND HYMNS!

Greek Dance Troupe

The Archangel Michael Dance Troupe's 2020-2021 season was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as several events at which the group performed in the 2019-2020 season were not held; namely, the Greek Festival on the Harbor, the Challenge Liturgy Christmas Luncheon, the Archdiocesan Parathosi 2020: A Celebration of Hellenic Heritage & Dance, and the FDF Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival in Anaheim, California.

However, we consider ourselves fortunate to have been able to hold a Christmas performance and close out the year at the Archangel Michael Church End-of-Year BBQ in June.



We are looking forward to our 2021-2022 season.

The Greek Dance Troupe was established in 1999 under the direction of Roula Zogopoulos. From community performances to local and travel competitions, the Dance Troupe offers children the opportunity to explore their heritage with their peers and meet other Hellenic dancers from around the state and country. Our Troupe's intention is to offer children of all ages an opportunity to come together and continue our Hellenic traditions. Mrs. Zogopoulos creates a safe atmosphere in which our young people are inspired by and are exploring and learning about their Hellenic heritage through our rich dancing and musical traditions. Children who join our Dance Troupe possess a high level of commitment and drive.

The Dance Troupe meets on Saturday mornings throughout the school year and welcomes participants from kindergarten through adult. Children are welcomed and encouraged to try out for competition groups. Class times and group ages are as follows and are subject to change based on enrollment:

Elpida 2 (Grades K-3) 9:30-10:30

Hara 1 (Grades 4-6) 10:30-11:30

Hara 2 (Grades 7-9) 10:30-11:30

Neolea (Grades 10 & Up) 11:30-12:30

*Please note, competition groups require audition and additional practices per week. Additional fees also apply.

We proudly perform at various church functions as well as at other performance venues throughout the year. For more information, please contact: greekdance@archangelmichaelchurch.org

GOYA

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer!

Looking back at Spring, the GOYANs were very active. We had our usual GOYA Friday nights as well as a very special night under the stars on Friday, May 21, celebrating our GOYA high school graduating class of 2021. The GOYANs, together with their parents, enjoyed a wonderful dinner provided by Dinerbar and Taverna Kyclades. Our graduates walked the red carpet, and both parents and graduates continued the celebration by dancing the night away.



A highlight of the season was a memorable Memorial Day weekend trip when 30 GOYANs traveled to Virginia Beach. We were happy that Fr. John and Presvytera Eleni were able to join us for half the trip. We had a fun time at Busch Gardens going on all the rides; a day at the beach where we played sports and took a dip; and we worshiped together at Divine Liturgy at St. Demetrios church in Williamsburg. Later that day, we took a dinner cruise in Norfolk which included a tour of the Norfolk Naval Base. It was a great weekend!!



In June, we wrapped up the year with our "Connecting Graduates to the Church" graduation ceremony and dinner celebrating our 2021 GOYA high school and college graduates. The beautiful event was organized by Presvytera Eleni and Gus Rogdakis. Thank you to Fr. John, Fr. Michael, and our guest speakers Dr. Sotirios and Dr. Matina Stergiopoulos for their inspirational words. GOYA advisor Demetra Maheras provided additional remarks as she presented the graduates with gift bags provided by Presvytera Eleni, GOYA, and our church. The dinner, donated by North Shore Farms, was enjoyed by all. GOYANs and their advisors, Niki Lolis and Demetra Maheras, will miss all the graduates and wish them great success in their journey.

News & Events



This year we created our first Archangel Michael Church-GOYA Yearbook highlighting our graduating GOYANs and putting all the memories they created in the last five years in a book for them to treasure for years to come.

We also had our board elections and are pleased to announce our GOYA board for 2021-2022:

Co-Presidents: Paul Cavounis, Niko Gargas, and Kodi Triantafillou

Co-Vice-Presidents: Costa Koutsoftas, Alexandra Lolis, and Antonia Tsismenakis

Co-Treasurers: Stamati Gargas and Veronica Tsalikis Co-Secretaries: Maria Bapis and Efthymia Kaparos

Board Members: Evalia Koumpourlis, Spyro Matarangas, Kathryn Papagianopoulos, Logan Triantafillou, Paris Triantafillou, and Peter Tsekouras

The 2021-2022 GOYA year will begin on Friday, September 10, at 7:00 p.m. with our Welcome Back Registration, Fellowship, & Ice Cream Social in the Angeliades Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in joining GOYA this year, please make every effort to attend. That evening, a calendar of events will be distributed, and we will take our annual GOYA photo!

Participation in GOYA ministry provides our young people with opportunities to grow with their peers and church family through worship, community service projects, and learning about living their Holy Orthodox faith for their salvation. If you have any questions, please contact us at goya@archangelmichaelchurch.org

Save the Dates:

Saturday, October 23- Harry Lascarides Volleyball Tournament Sunday, October 24- Pancake Breakfast

REGISTRATION SUNDAY- SEPTEMBER 12th

Please join our organization leaders
immediately following the Divine Liturgy
to learn more about and register for
activities, ministries, and groups within our community.
Come and get involved! Be sure to attend!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The next General Assembly will take place on Sunday, October 17th.

All stewards are encouraged to attend!

The Saints of Our Iconography

(This is the first in a series of articles written by GOYANs.)

The great **St. Paul** was not always a moral and kind saint. In contrast, before he converted he was a Jew named Saul from Tarsus. He was a zealot of the Jews, and he hated Christians. In fact, he hated them so much that he brutally persecuted them. Saul's whole life changed while he was traveling to Damascus. A light shone upon him from the heavens and Saul was blinded. Christ asked him, "Saul, why do you persecute me!" Saul, now named Paul, was dumbfounded by the encounter and went blind for a period of time, amazed by the divine power he witnessed. When he arrived at Damascus he saw Ananias, who baptized him and showed him, quite literally, the Light of Christ. After these encounters, Paul went on to preach the word of God, proclaiming, "Christ is the Son of God!" He journeyed from Europe to Asia spreading the Gospel, and his actions are all recorded in the book of Acts. Saint Paul wrote many letters, and told stories through these epistles (there are 14 of them). In church, you might hear, "the reading is from Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians." Saint Paul was one of the most influential and important people in spreading the Greek Orthodox faith, and he was considered to be another apostle. His feast day is June 29.

-Paul Cavounis

Sts. Constantine and Helen are important saints in the Orthodox Church because of their contributions. St. Constantine legalized Christianity, and St. Helen found the cross on which Christ was crucified and had churches built in the Holy Land.

One day six years after becoming successor to his father's throne when facing a battle waged by two armies and while at the head of his troops, St. Constantine saw in the sky after midday, beneath the sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: "By this shalt thou conquer." The following night, he had a dream in which Christ appeared and told him about the power of the cross and its significance. St. Constantine prevailed over the enemies after having a banner of victory over the enemy made in the form of a cross on which was inscribed the name of Jesus Christ.

Later, St. Constantine funded an expedition to the Holy Land led by his mother St. Helen in search of the cross. They came across some basil growing, it has been said, in the middle of a dump; and so they decided to dig there. They put gold coins in the garbage so that the people would dig out the garbage; and, eventually, they uncovered three crosses, Christ's and those of the two who were crucified with him. They didn't know which cross was Christ's but had an idea to help them figure that out. They went and found a person who had died and, along with a family member, placed him on each of the crosses. When he was placed on Christ's cross, he came back to life. Sts. Constantine and Helen are usually portrayed together in icons and are commemorated on their feast day, May 21.

-Kodi Triantafillou

St. Nicholas is known for his generosity and kindness toward the poor and those who were unhappy. He was born into a very wealthy family, circa 280, in Patara, Lycia, an area that is part of present-day Turkey. He lost both of his parents as a young man and used his inheritance to help the poor and the sick. He would go around at night and slip coins into their shoes. St. Nicholas is an important saint of the Church because of his generosity towards the people. He didn't judge people on how poor or rich they were. After his death, his story turned into the legend we all know today, Santa Claus. St. Nicholas' feast day is December 6.

-Niko Gargas

CONGRATULATIONS 2021 GRADUATES!



Maria Arniotis Alex Blaslov Dean Caldwell Anastasia Cavounis Nikki Colaitis

Aphrodite Dimopoulos

Maria Doulis Ellen Efkarpidis Christina Efstathiadis George Efstathopoulos Gia Efstathopoulos Stelios Frankis **Evangelina Gatanas** Alexander Gianoukakis

Eva Kandilas Stefano Kapetanos Demetrios G. Kaparos Christina Kokis

Isabella Koumpourlis George Lagamjis Anastasi Malliaris **Theodore Mouhlas** Isidora Notias

Ariana Matarangas Daphne Michalos Maria Mouzakitis Thanasi Pappas Penelope Pavlounis

Maria Poulos Victoria Sideris Gia Skenderi **Jason Tagios**

Paige Theodosopoulos

Haroula Tsiamis

Marina Tsimisiris Mirianthi Tsismenakis **Efthimios Tzavelis** William Vasilakos Eleni Vasiliades Spyrithoula Xenophontos World Journalism Preparatory School, Farmingdale State College

Paul D. Schreiber High School, Fordham University North Shore High School, Penn State University Paul D. Schreiber High School, University of Miami

Manhasset High School, Adelphi University

Paul D.Schreiber HS, Villanova University- School of Business

Herricks High School, Quinnipiac University

Paul D. Schreiber High School, Northeastern University

North Shore High School, St. John's University Manhasset High School, Adelphi University Manhasset High School, Adelphi University

Manhasset High, Fairfield University

Manhasset High School, College of Charleston

Locust Valley HS, Fordham - Gabelli School of Business

Herricks High School, Fordham University Manhasset High School, SUNY Binghamton

The Wheatley HS, Fordham - Gabelli School of Business

Herricks High School, Wake Forest University Roslyn High School, Northeastern University Herricks High School, University of Buffalo

Benjamin Cardozo High School, Pursuing Culinary Arts

Manhasset High School, New York University

Marist University

Roslyn High School, Duke University Roslyn High School, John Jay College Roslyn High School, St. John's University Friends Academy, Bentley University

Roslyn High School, George Washington University

St. Francis Prep HS, U. of So. Florida - Genshaft Honors College

Roslyn High School, Binghamton State University

Mary Louis Academy, Iona College The Wheatley School, SUNY Delhi

Manhasset High School, Middlebury College Manhasset HS, Northeastern University-D'Amore-McKim School of Business

Archbishop Molloy High School, Binghamton University

Paul D.Schreiber High School, University of Southern California

Manhasset HS, University of Maryland School of Business

Herricks High School, University of Tampa

Loyola High School, Bucknell University Manhasset High School, Lehigh University



COLLEGE GRADUATES 📏

Nicholas Gounaris Maria Lardas **Peter Psyllos**

George Theodosopoulos Markella Tsalikis Steven Gerazounis Lazarus Ziozis

University of Miami, Business Law: NY Law School in August Stevens Institute of Technology, BS Elec. Engineering: L3Harris

Villanova University, BS Computer Engineering, Northeastern University: Masters in Cybersecurity,

Columbia University, Bachelor of Science

Cornell University, Environment and Sustainability: Deloitte Lehigh University, BS Mechanical Engineering and Finance

Cornell University, BS Economics: BDO

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY





National Ladies Philoptochos Society

The Greek Orthodox National Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc. is proud to have become an **Institutional Founding Member of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation**. The decision was made by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board at its meeting on Tuesday, June 22, 2021.

For decades, Philoptochos has continually supported the Ecumenical Patriarchate through its annual commitment program supported by its chapters across the United States. As a result, Philoptochos has contributed in excess of \$2.6 million to the philanthropies of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, such as Baloukli Hospital and Nursing Home, schools, shrines, and parishes.

National Philoptochos President Arlene Siavelis Kehl commented: "For 90 years, the National Philoptochos Society has supplied resources, support, and agape to all those who are suffering and in need for the benefit of the Greek Orthodox community and others in the United States and throughout the world. It is our immense honor and great joy to further extend our financial support to the Mother Church in Constantinople and to help ensure its financial independence through the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation."

Archangel Michael Ladies Philoptochos Society

In 2021, the Archangel Michael Ladies Philoptochos established its first Scholarship, whereby it grants a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who is of Greek Orthodox faith, has achieved excellence in academic and extracurricular activities, and has demonstrated a strong commitment to philanthropic endeavors throughout high school. It is our belief that a scholarship will serve to boost the morale and confidence in the student's ability to work toward future endeavors. By supporting our youth in this manner, we hope to help them build a strong foundation towards achieving their full potential.

Our committee was challenged to select just one student to receive this scholarship, as we are blessed to have many bright and talented young people in our community. This year's recipient of the Archangel Michael Ladies Philoptochos Scholarship Award was Alexander Gianoukakis. He achieved high scholastic grades, received excellent letters of recommendation, and performed outstanding community service projects. Additionally, he has shown compassion and has impacted the lives of others with his philanthropic activities. The Philoptochos Board and members congratulate Alexander and wish him continued success in his studies and future endeavors.



NEWS AND EVENTS

The Archangel Michael Ladies Philoptochos was not hampered by the pandemic in their commitment to assist those in need. Throughout the year we were able to accomplish many projects. We held two Literacy Drives, supporting children in disadvantaged communities as well as our veterans; we held ongoing Food Pantry drives for many months; we provided lunch meals for the staff at St. Francis Hospital; we continued our support of the Blessings in a Backpack program; we held a Thank You Note drive for our hospital heroes; we held a Diaper Drive and a Personal Care Items Drive; we supported the Challenge Liturgy and Hellenos House; we held our first curbside pick-up for Godparents Sunday and for Veterans Thanksgiving meals; we established our Facebook page, our first Philoptochos Scholarship, and the Archangel Michael Ladies Philoptochos Newsletter which is emailed to our members four times a year.

The Archangel Michael Ladies Philoptochos celebrated our end-of-the-year dinner on June 22nd at Kyma Restaurant. This joyous gathering was our first get-together since the onset of the pandemic. We thank all who were able to join us that evening as we congratulated our incoming new board and thanked the outgoing board that worked so diligently during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please congratulate the Archangel Michael Ladies Philoptochos Board for 2021-2023:

Debbie Dakis, Maria Dedousis, Fiffy Eliades, Diana Gardianos, Eleni Germanakis, Lisa Glavas, Chris Ioannou, Christine Korakis, Michele Lascarides, Helen Maropakis, Barbara Mavro, Georgia Mouzakitis, Eleni Raptis, Pam Sommo, Mary Sole, Presbytera Paula Strouzas, Fran Sotiriou, Chris Marie Tzavelis, Marina Vlahos, Penny Zangas, and Bessie Ziozis.





As we prepare for the New Ecclesiatical Year and the Fall season, we encourage all the women in our community to become Philoptochos members to support and join us in our endeavors and programs...alone we can do so little but together we can do so much more!

Archangel Michael Ladies Philoptochos Supports St. Nicholas Shrine

The Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine exterior will be completed by September 11, 2021 in time to commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9-11. The National Shrine will not only honor 9-11 victims including 40 Greek Orthodox Christians, but will also highlight the philanthropic work of Philoptochos; and it will be a sacred place for people from all over the world to pray and to heal. The Direct Archdiocesan District of Long Island pledged \$322,560 towards the construction of the St. Nicholas Church and Shrine. With a balance of \$37,540 still needed to fulfill this pledge, we were asked to donate \$20 for each of our Philoptochos chapter members. In the spring of 2021, the Archangel Michael Ladies Philoptochos had 114 members and thus we have donated \$2,280 to the St. Nicholas Church and Shrine on behalf of our members. Our Philoptochos chapter has supported St. Nicholas Church and Shrine in previous years and will continue to support this beautiful symbol of love and reconciliation.

SAVE THE DATE

The 40th Anniversary Nameday Gala of The Archangel Michael Church will take place on Friday, November 12th at Leonard's Palazzo of Great Neck.

THIS WEEK AT AMC

Be sure to check your inbox at the beginning of each week for the email update

THIS WEEK AT AMC

for a schedule of services, meetings, & events.



FESTIVAL FABULOUS FINDS

Donations (CLEAN & in working order) can be left in the Youth Choir room, until September 18th on weekdays from 10am - 3pm and on Sundays after Liturgy.

NO books, electronics, CD's, cassette tapes, etc., stuffed animals, or broken items.

Tissue/packing paper and bubble wrap are also needed.

Fabulous Finds will be open Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:30am to 1:30pm and Sundays after Liturgy.







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COMMUNITY PHOTOS





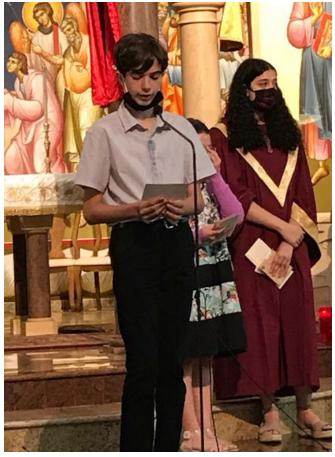












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ARCHANGEL MICHAEL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

September Calendar 2021

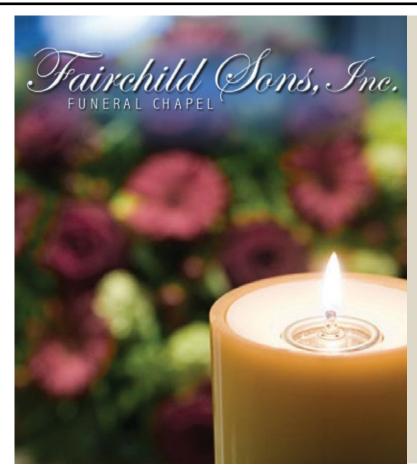
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			The New Ecclesiastical Year Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Orthros 8:00a Divine Liturgy 9:30a	Labor Day - Office Closed Remembrance of the Miracle of Archangel Michael Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a		The Birth of the Theotokos Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a Parish Council Mtg 8p (Exec. Bd. 7p)	Registration: HOPE/JOY, Athletics, Dance Troupe, & Sunday School 5:30-8:30p	GOYA Ice Cream Social & Athletics Registration 7p Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30p	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School Begins Orthros 8:00a Divine Liturgy 9:30a Registration Sunday	Great Vespers of the Precious Cross Holy Cross Whitestone or Bay Ridge 7p Philoptochos Mtg. 7:30p	Exaltation of the Cross Orthos 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a Greek School Agiasmo 4:30p & "Meet the Teachers"	Preschool Begins Greek School Begins		Feast of St. Sophia & her Daughters Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30p	Challenge Liturgy Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 10:30a
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Orthros 8:00a Divine Liturgy 9:30a				Conception of St. John the Baptist Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a	Festival on the Harbor 4p-11p Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30p	Festival on the Harbor Noon-11p
26	27	28	29	30		
Translation of St. John the Theologian Orthros 8:00a Divine Liturgy 9:30a Festival on the Harbor Noon-8p						



ARCHANGEL MICHAEL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

October Calendar 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					The Protection of the Theotokos Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a	2
Orthros 8:00a Divine Liturgy 9:30a	Philoptochos Mtg. 7:30p	5	6	7	Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30p	9
Orthros 8:00a Divine Liturgy 9:30a	Columbus Day (Office & Preschool Closed)	12	Parish Council Mtg 8p (Exec. Bd. 7p)	14	Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30p	16 Challenge Liturgy Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 10:30a
Orthros 8:00a Divine Liturgy 9:30a General Assembly	18 St. Luke Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a	19	St. Gerasimos Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a	Preschool Parent-Teacher Orientation Philoptochos: "Shop for a Cause" at Tory Burch, Americana Centre	Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30p	Harry Lascarides Volleyball Tournament, Gym & Fellowship Hall
Orthros 8:00a Divine Liturgy 9:30a GOYA Pancake Breakfast Orthros 8:00a Divine Liturgy 9:30a Great Vespers Sts, Cosmas & Damianos Wash. Hts or St. Nicholas Chapel 7p		26 St. Demetrios Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a Dr. George Raptis: Lecture on Breast Cancer Awareness 7:30p	27	28 Oxi Day- Preschool Closed	29	30



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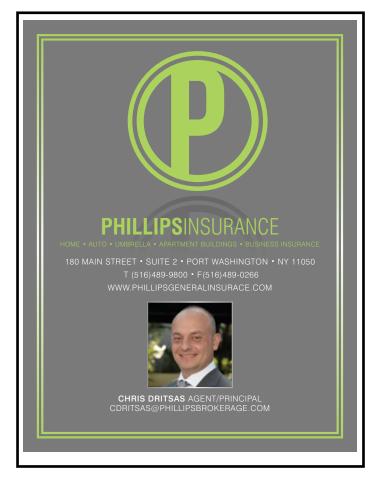
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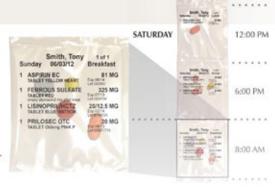
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