



# The Archangel Michael Trumpet

Nov.-Dec. 2011 • Issue 3 • Archangel Michael Church • Port Washington, NY

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## QUICK NEWS & EVENTS

- Friday, Nov. 4th:  
Nameday Dinner Dance
- Tuesday, Nov. 7th:  
Vespers, Synaxis of the Archangels
- Wednesday, Nov. 8th:  
Synaxis of the Archangels
- Wednesday, Nov. 28th:  
Parish Council Nominations Close
- Saturday, Dec. 10th:  
Challenge Liturgy & Christmas Party
- Sunday, Dec. 11  
Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon
- Sunday, Dec. 18th:  
Christmas Pageant  
Parish Council Elections
- Thursday, Dec. 22:  
Greek School Christmas Program
- Friday, Jan. 27th 2012:  
Greek School Glendi



*The iconography in the dome of our sanctuary is well under way! For an update on our construction, please turn to page 4.*

## Pastoral Message from Father Dennis

# The Archangel Michael Trumpet

### About the Trumpet

The Trumpet is the newsletter of  
Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church

Production: Susan Cavounis,  
Tom Dimopoulos, Peter Papagiannakis,  
Barbara Mavro, Eleni Sfiroudis

### About the Parish

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church  
100 Fairway Drive  
Port Washington, New York 11050  
Phone: 516-944-3180  
Fax: 516-944-3185  
Website: archangelmichaelchurch.org  
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Archangel Michael Church is a parish of  
the direct Archdiocesan District and Greek  
Orthodox Archdiocese of America ([www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)) under the spiritual jurisdiction  
of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of  
Constantinople.

Clergy:  
Father Dennis Strouzas, Protopresbyter

Office Staff: Dora Gouramanis,  
Anna Luparello, Catherine Papagianakis

Parish Council:  
President: Chris Neocleous  
1st Vice President: Nick Kokinakis  
2nd Vice President: Barbara Mavro  
Treasurer: Michael Cavounis  
1st Assistant Treasurer: Peter Stavrinou  
2nd Assistant Treasurer: Mark Pappas  
Recording Secretary: Tammy Ashley

Parish Council Members:  
Dean Chiros, Bill Conis, Dimitri Dellis,  
Tommy Dimopoulos, Dennis Dionisiou,  
Greg Giannakopoulos, Adam Karras, John  
Ketsoglou, Irene Moshouris, Peter Orthos,  
Anne Prokop, Michael Psyllos, Constantine  
Rogdakis, Michael Sakoulas

### November/December Worship Schedule

**Sunday services:**  
8:30 am Matins  
9:30 am Liturgy

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What never ceases to amaze me about our community is our penchant for taking on difficult projects and making them work. Our 1st Festival is yet another example of what can be done when our people gather with a common purpose, a common cause and a common will. My sincere appreciation and gratitude to Festival Chairman Peter Stavrinou, his co-chairs, and the hundreds of volunteers who turned out the weekend of September 30th through October 2nd to launch our "Greek Festival on the Harbor." The enthusiasm, camaraderie, and hard work of our volunteers were infectious and inspiring. By all accounts and comments it was a spectacular event and a tribute to the 'can do' response of our community to yet another challenge. The images and actions of so many during that weekend will remain an indelible memory in my mind and in the history of our Archangel Michael Church community. Peter and all who joined him in this endeavor...in this adventure... I THANK YOU! It was truly a WOW EXPERIENCE!

***"LORD, LORD look down from heaven and behold  
and visit this vineyard, which Your right hand has  
planted and You have established!"***

The completion of our church is another "WOW" experience. Work is progressing at a rapid rate and so is the installation of awe-inspiring and awesome iconography in the dome. The quotation that appears above this paragraph is an inscription that will appear around the icon of Christ the Pantocrator that is positioned in the center of the church's dome. The dome of an Orthodox church represents the heavens and Christ at its center is a constant reminder of the Lord overseeing us and what He has created.

With that in mind, I would like to share an interview that has been around for some time. I came across it again, and I thought, given the imagery and significance of God looking down upon us, that it would be an opportune time to share it:

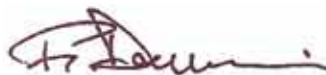
**"AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD"**

"I dreamed that I had an interview with God. 'Come in,' God said. 'So, you would like to interview Me?' 'If you have the time,' I said. God smiled and said: 'My time is eternity and is enough to do everything; what questions do you have in mind to ask me?'

'What surprises You most about humankind?'

God answered: 'That they get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow up and then long to be children again. They lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health. By thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live neither for the present nor the future. That they live as if they will never die and they die as if they had never lived!' We were silent for awhile and then I asked... 'As a parent, what are some of life's lessons that You want Your children to learn?'"

[TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE TRUMPET]



Fr. Dennis

### Worship Services for Nov & Dec

Monday, Nov 7th	7:30 pm, Vespers Feast of Synaxis of Archangels
Tuesday, Nov 8th	8:30 am, Matins 9:30 am, Liturgy Feast of Synaxis of Archangels
Saturday, Nov 19th	10:30 am, Challenge Liturgy
Monday, Nov 21st	9:30 am, Liturgy Presentation of the Theotokos
Wednesday, Nov 30th	9:30 am, Liturgy, St. Andrew
Tuesday, Dec 6th	9:30 am, Liturgy, St. Nicholas
Saturday, Dec 10th	10:30 am, Challenge Liturgy
Tuesday, Dec 12th	9:30 am, Liturgy, St. Spyridon
Saturday, Dec 24th	7:30 pm, Vespers The Nativity of our Lord
Sunday, Dec 25th	8:30 am, Matins 9:30 am, Holy Nativity

### Stewardship Update

Stewardship represents the largest component of the church’s revenue and is crucial in offsetting our overall expenses. A brief summary of our community’s progress to date is as follows:

Stewardship budget for 2011: \$475,000.00  
 Amount Pledged to date (507 families): \$469,325.00  
 Amount Collected to date (500 families): \$417,384.00

Our community needs your support to cover our operating expenses! We believe we will reach our goal if all stewards pledge and fulfill their pledges by December 31, 2011. We thank our community for contributing and sustaining our beautiful church.

### Memorials & Sacraments

#### Memorials

Nov 6th 14 Years - Robin Bencic  
 Nov 19th 6 Months - Dimitrios Paleotheodoros

Memorials are updated on the website every Friday. May their memory be eternal!

#### Sacraments

##### Baptisms:

Nov 19th Child of Maria & Ian O’Brien

##### Weddings:

Nov 5th Wedding of Dorothy Vlachos & Mariusz Kalinowski at St. Paul Cathedral

### Editor’s Note

A message from outgoing Philoptochos President, Lisa Glavas, was not included in the last issue of *The Trumpet*. We regret the error. The message is printed in its entirety on the Philoptochos News page.

### Vision Committee

Yes, the Archangel Michael Church is more than 30 years old. However, according to Church history, we are still in the formative years.

The results from our first Vision Committee group helped us ascertain what was needed to improve our “Church Health.” One good example of this is the very *Trumpet* you are reading now, along with other suggestions.

The new Vision Committee Group 2011 will continue on that path and measure how well the efforts of the first committee were received, as well as measure another sampling of our community. We hope to see how well the areas of needed improvement were met and ascertain what other areas might benefit from further “tweaking.”

You’ll hear terms like: “Natural Church Development, Vision Committee, Survey Group, Sampling of the Community, Spiritual Health, and Focus Groups.” Feel free to ask the members of the Vision Committee 2011 any questions.

Georganne Conis	Vicky Manthas
Nick Gabriel	Peter Sanoulis
Stella Tsimisiris	George Tsagaris

Please join the many people who already receive our Archangel Michael email bulletin (the “listserv”). You too can receive the latest community information and news in a brief, concise email!  
 Register at <http://www.archangelmichaelchurch.org/lists.htm>

### Construction Update

The construction of the sanctuary is progressing at a fast pace! Over the last several months our contractor has completed the interior of the dome, allowing the iconographer to begin his work.



All the interior framing and sheetrock is currently being completed together with the electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems. Ceilings and walls in both the altar and choir loft are getting their first coat of plaster and compound. The next phase of the construction will include the installation of the radiant heating, flooring, light fixtures, painting and audio system. Stay tuned for more updates!



### Gift of the Dome

As we progress with the completion of our church, we are most fortunate to have received a generous gift from the Zangas family in memory of their son Thomas Zangas. This gift will complete the iconography associated with

the dome of our church. It will consist of the following: At the top center of the dome will be an icon called the “Pantocrator” [icon of Christ who looks down upon His creation], surrounded by angels. Interspersed between the windows of the dome will appear a series of icons depicting the Patriarchs, Prophets, Judges and Kings of the Old Testament.



Below this area will be the Apostles and beneath them, in areas referred to as “pendentives”—an overhanging triangular section of vaulting between the rim of a dome and each adjacent pair of arches that support the dome, icons of the four Evangelists will appear...one for each pendentive. This generous gift allows us to take advantage of the erected scaffolding now, thus avoiding the need to re-erect scaffolding at a later date and possible inconvenience or disruptions as a consequence. The iconographer is Laurence Manos of Toms River, NJ.

### Sunday School

The Sunday School invites all parents to attend Open House, which will be held during class time on the dates listed below.

- |               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Sun, Nov 13th | 4th Grade and 5th Grade    |
| Sun, Dec 4th  | 2nd Grade and 3rd Grade    |
| Sun, Dec 18th | Kindergarten and 1st Grade |

We encourage parents to please attend and participate. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to learn what your child is doing in Sunday School and see what they are learning about our Orthodox Christian faith.

There has been a change in our annual Christmas Pageant. This year our Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 18th, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. If your child is interested in participating in the pageant, please contact the Sunday School office.

Finally, the Oratorical Festival topics are available for the upcoming 2012 year. All students interested in participating may pick them up at the Sunday School office. Our Parish Oratorical Festival will take place on Sunday, March 11th. Additional information will follow in the next issue of *The Trumpet*.

### Adult Choir

The Archangel Michael Choir has welcomed two new members this year and we continue to encourage those interested to join us—anytime!

Our choir enjoyed the Archangel Michael community's first festival as the sponsor of the 'Greek Thumb' booth. We were blessed with Cathy Tsea's vision for a plant and flower stand and Evangelia Cyprus' talent and artistry, which, combined with the energy, dedication and generosity of all our members, made the festival a wonderful experience for us all. Special thanks to Gianna Manikas, Eleni Makris, Maria Felix, Christina Lipinski, Dina Lipinski and Andy Cyprus for their tireless efforts.



Choir Director Zoe Zollo leads the 'Greek Thumb' volunteers in a sing-a-long of Greek folk songs and kantades.

### Byzantine Youth Choir

This year we welcome 8 new members:

Anastasia Cavounis	Victoria Gagliano
Aphrodite Dimopoulos	Erika Kitsantas
Liana Drenis	Efthemios Tzavelis
Annamaria Fazio	Spyrithoula Xenophontos



Congratulations to our psalti, Andreas Modenos. Andreas received the Award of Distinction from the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, and he received the Metropolis Service Award from the Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians for his 30 years of outstanding chanting for the Archangel Michael Church, and overall 50 years of service as a chanter! Thank you, Andreas!

Registration for the Byzantine Youth Choir is ongoing. Boys and girls aged 8–18 are invited to join. We sing the Divine Liturgy on the first and third Sunday of every month. Rehearsals are conducted every Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm at the church. Please call Miss Georgia or Miss Eleni for more information at (516) 626-9665. All are welcome! Wishing everyone a blessed Thanksgiving & joyous Christmas!

Please note the following special dates:

Sun, Nov 6th	Following liturgy Byzantine Youth Choir Fundraiser
Sun, Nov 20th	12:30pm Visit to Hellenos House
Sat, Dec 10th	Challenge Liturgy
Sun, Dec 11th	Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon
Sun, Dec 18th	Following liturgy Sunday School Christmas Pageant

## Greek School

The Greek school year got off to a wonderful start with an outstanding enrollment of 224 students—the greatest in our school’s 30 year history! Our students and teachers have settled in nicely and are busy studying and teaching language, culture, history, mythology, religion and dance as discussed at the October 11th curriculum open house meetings.

We are happy to report that the school board’s “Safety First” policy for pick up and drop off is well underway and receiving much positive feedback from the families and administration alike! We are utilizing both North and South parking lots which have greatly alleviated the flow of traffic. Students are now being dropped off for class by the rotunda and picked up by the doors adjacent to the church. This procedure has provided much more space, convenience and, above all, safety. The school board thanks everyone for their cooperation and welcomes their feedback!

*“Today we say the Greeks fight like heroes, from now on we will say that heroes fight like Greeks.”*

-British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, 1941

On October 28, 1940, the Italian Ambassador in Athens presented an insulting ultimatum to Greek Prime Minister Metaxas, demanding the unconditional surrender of Greece or Italy would declare war and invade Greece. Mussolini had given the Greek Prime Minister Metaxas three hours to reply. Prime Minister Metaxas responded with the now historic word “OXI!” His statement embodied the true spirit of the Greek people.

OXI day is now a national holiday celebrated throughout Greece, Cyprus and Greek communities around the world and was, without a doubt, celebrated here in Port Washington on October 27th. All our students proudly participated with their flags waving, through patriotic song and poetry. This year, the celebration was attended by family, friends, Father Dennis and members of the Parish Council. It was an afternoon to remember Hellenic values, passion, “filotimo,” and the courageous words and actions of our forefathers. Bravo to our students—we are so proud of you!

Kindly save the date:

Thurs, Dec 22nd

The Annual Christmas Program

Finally, The Greek School Board would like to congratulate Fr. Dennis, the chairpersons, the committee members and all the volunteers who included many of our parents, teachers and students for an Absolutely Spectacular 1st Greek Festival on the Harbor! <<Και του χρονου!>> ΚΑΛΕΣ ΓΙΟΡΤΕΣ! HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

### GREEK SCHOOL PTA

Our Annual “Welcome Back Picnic,” held on September 11, 2011 at Manorhaven Park, was a tremendous success with over 50 families joining together for great food, games, and a day of fun. As we anticipated, it was a great kick off to the new school year and we can proudly say that we have over 100 PTA members!

Our Greek School PTA is only as strong as our members, and without the work and dedication of our parents, committee chairs and volunteers, we would not be able to accomplish what we do for our Greek School students and community. The PTA thanks all for volunteering to work on our various committees this year.

We strongly encourage Greek School parents to get involved and join our GLENDI, PICTURE DAY, JOURNAL/ YEARBOOK, or other committees.



Save the date:

Fri, Jan 27th

Greek School PTA Glendi

The Inn at New Hyde Park

Please make every effort to join the Greek School PTA, not only as a paid member, but also as an active participant, attending meetings, and offering your assistance. Please contact Georgia Kaparos at [GSPTA@archangelmichaelchurch.org](mailto:GSPTA@archangelmichaelchurch.org) or 917-682-0412 with any questions.

## Youth Ministries

### HOPE/JOY & ATHLETICS

As we end this year with Thanksgiving and the Birth of our Lord, we are pleased to have the following activities lined up for both our HOPE and JOY Groups. Our HOPE & JOY organizations provide a safe, fun and spiritual atmosphere where our children can gather and enjoy their friends each month. To this end, we hope to have been successful in 2011 and look forward to presenting the new 2012 Calendar which will include our very first ski trip for all ages!

If you have time and can volunteer, we would be thrilled to have you. Our Sports program is in full swing and we thank all the coaches for dedicating their time, energy and expertise to train our kids! We also thank you, the parents for getting your kids involved in our community! We hope in our next issue we will be singing praises to all for the completion of our MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE, so if you haven't already done so, please contribute to the gym fund so we can reach our goal. We need your help!

#### Upcoming Events all held in the Fellowship Room:

Sat, Nov 19th	Thanks & Giving Retreat (JOY) 1pm–3pm
Fri, Dec 2nd	Celebrating the Birth of Christ (JOY) 6pm–8pm
Sun, Dec 4th	Gingerbread House Making (HOPE) 4:30pm–6:30pm
Fri, Dec 16th	Christmas Party (HOPE & JOY) 6:30pm–8:30pm

All children are welcome to attend these events, please RSVP so we can plan accordingly. To connect with us and provide your ideas and time, please email [hopejoy@archangelmichaelchurch.org](mailto:hopejoy@archangelmichaelchurch.org)

### JOY SPORTS

Soccer season is well underway, and our three teams will play until Thanksgiving and resume again after Easter. We have over 100 children registered to play basketball! Basketball practices have begun in preparation for the upcoming season. The schedule should be released by the League shortly. We are excited by our tremendous participation. We have three teams in the Boys 1 Division (ages 7-9) and the Boys 2 Division (ages 10-12), two teams in the Girls 1 Division (ages 7-9) and 1 team in the Girls 2 Division (ages 10-12).

#### Archangel Michael GOYA Basketball: Ages 13–17

If you are interested in playing this season please contact:

Junior & Senior Girls: Bill Haralampoudis 917-589-0325

Junior Boys: John Papaporfiriou, Fewy@aol.com, 516-317-6378

Senior Boys: Nick Tzoumas, Ntzoumas@hotmail.com

Practices: every Thursday night at Holy Child beginning Oct 13th.

Junior & Senior Girls from 7:00–8:30 pm, Junior Boys from 8:00–

9:30 pm, Senior boys practice will be Wednesday nights at Denton

Avenue 7:30 pm start beginning Oct 12th.

Season starts in November.

### GOYA

On Friday, September 9th, we kicked off the new GOYA year with our traditional Ice Cream Social. Over 30 teens attended and it was a fantastic start to our year! We finalized our calendar and talked about the Inter-GOYA calendar, both filled with many exciting events!

On Saturday, September 24th a group of 15 of our GOY-ANs traveled to Holiday Hill Camp in Prospect, Connecticut, and participated in a full day of activities with other teens from many parishes from the Metro New York and Connecticut area. A great time was had by all!

This year we are trying something different:

- *Officer Elections will take place at the end of October.*
- *Meetings will take place on Sundays following church services.*
- *Each month there will be an event that will take place on a Friday.*
- *Each month we will have an opportunity to give back something to help others.*
- *Each month we will participate in an Inter-GOYA event.*

Our next meeting for November will be Sunday, November 20th and our December meeting will be on Sunday, December 18th, both immediately following Liturgy in the Board Room/Library. Please see the enclosed calendar of events.

It is not too late to join GOYA! We encourage ALL GOYA-aged youth in our Archangel Michael community to join us! Please call the church office 516-944-3180 for more information.

#### We're calling in the troops!

The Archangel Michael Church is sponsoring a new Cub Scout Pack this fall. All boys Grades 1-5 are welcomed and encouraged to join! Adult volunteers needed! Outdoor activities & camping, Camping at St. Basil's academy, Field trips & museum Sleepovers, Earn badges, Volunteerism, Arts & crafts, Derby car race. Lots of super cool activities with your friends!

To learn more please contact us at [scoutsamc@gmail.com](mailto:scoutsamc@gmail.com)

### Preschool

The Preschool Halloween Fundraiser was a great success! A special thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Mamais once again, for their generous donation of cupcakes and to Mrs. Barberis for the donation of baked goods. Also, we would like to recognize the families that continue to support our preschool.

In October, we went on our first trip to the “pumpkin patch.” The children enjoyed the hayride, feeding the animals, and picking their pumpkins!

In November, we will be learning about Archangel Michael and St. Catherine. Our rooms are decorated with Thanksgiving crafts and everyone is waiting for our “Thanksgiving Feast.” Each child will bring in their special fruit to add to our fruit salad. We will all bake corn bread and churn our own butter. Everyone is excited about the story of the “First Thanksgiving” and using the props. Fr. Dennis will join us for our celebration.



*Assemblywoman Michelle Schimmel visiting our school*

The Pre-K class is continuing with letter recognition F,G,H. The children are busy working on their Thanksgiving books, which they will be reading to Fr. Dennis and the Nursery class.

The Nursery class has completed their family books and this month they will be working on their “Alphabet Dot Art.” Story time will continue the Fall Season theme. The children are excited to be learning about fall colors and using them in their art work. This month the children will be making Thanksgiving placemats, turkeys, and learning about giving thanks for the things they have.

Music classes and Greek classes have begun. Everyone is enjoying all the festivities and getting ready for the upcoming holidays!

**The Preschool will be closed on the following days:**

Tues, Nov 8th	Archangel Michael Nameday
Fri, Nov 11th	Veteran’s Day
Thurs-Fri, Nov 24-25th	Thanksgiving

### Challenge Liturgy

The Challenge Liturgy Program operates twelve months a year and is very proud that enthusiasm and interest for the program does not diminish during the summer months, during which time church attendance remains rather high. Nevertheless, we, like other organizations that take a summer break, begin each September with a sense of excitement, anticipation and renewed vigor.

This September we were honored by a visit from Ms. Eleni Patos, a parishioner of St. John the Baptist Church in Des Plaines, Illinois. Eleni, a fan of our program, made a special trip to New York to see us and to visit Hellenos House and its residents.



For the past few years, in the month of October, the Saint John parish has sponsored a special program called “Inclusion Awareness Sunday,” which has now been incorporated throughout the Chicago Metropolis. On that particular Sunday, Orthodox Christians with and without disability are invited to a full life of faith and ministry, including worship at the Divine Liturgy.

Upon her return to Chicago, Eleni wrote: “I cannot begin to express my gratitude for this weekend . . . I am grateful for having had the experience of seeing for myself

the program and residents . . . You have inspired me to move forward and try to replicate your program and one day, with God’s grace, we too will have a Hellenos house for our children.”

In September, the program celebrated a very important milestone: the third anniversary of the opening of Hellenos House. This year, the residents of Hellenos House celebrated this anniversary with an elegant dinner at Piccolo’s Restaurant in Bellmore.



**Upcoming Challenge Liturgies:**

- Sat, Nov 19th                    10:30 am
- Sat, Dec 10th                    10:30 am

Plans for our annual Christmas party, to be held on Saturday, December 10th, are underway. Volunteers and food donations are welcome! If interested, please contact Mary Rontiris at 516-352-2136 or Alex Homayuni at 516-365-3104.

**Philoptochos**

I would like to thank all of the “Loukoumama Mamas” for a job well done! The cashiers, the dough makers, the fryers, the many, many, many servers—ladies and gentlemen, a job well done! We are ready for next year!

Philoptochos will be sponsoring a fellowship hour immediately following both the Synaxis of the Archangels Feast Day Vesper service on Monday, November 7th, and the Liturgy on Tuesday, November 8th.

The National Philoptochos is sponsoring a luncheon to benefit the Children’s Medical Fund on Saturday, December 3rd at 11:30 am in Greenwich, CT. For further information contact Presbytera Paula Strouzas at 516-671-

6649 or to make bus reservations please contact Eleni Raptis: 516-775-4238 or mamarap16@yahoo.com.



*The Pastry Committee of our Festival run by Argy Chafouleas, Despina Stavrinou, Eleni Koutsoftas, Andrea Delgado, and Georgia Kaparos, gets a lending hand by the Greek School PTA and Ladies Philoptochos to package all the yummy koulourakia and kourambietes baked by the ladies of our community! Thank you to all who volunteered!*

Our annual Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 11th at 12 noon at the North Hills Country Club. For reservations please contact Penny Zangas at 516-869-1071 or Chris Arlis at 516-767-2836. We would like to add a personal note from our outgoing Philoptochos President, Lisa Glavas:

*“Thank you to my board for the commitment and support you exhibited these past two years with your enthusiasm, willingness and loyalty to the Ladies Philoptochos which made my tenure as President a privilege and an honor. Our commitment to philanthropy and support of community is an integral part of the Ladies Philoptochos Society mission. Ladies, Thank You again for all your support throughout the years.” - Lisa Glavas*

**Bible Study**

We are planning to do something different: the “Bible Study” will be just that...not one book or letter at a time but both Old and New Testaments using a book by Eugene H. Peterson titled: *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places...A Conversation in Spiritual Theology*. It will prove to be challenging, inspiring and joyful for all. Come and see!

**Schedule for 2011, Wednesdays at 7:30pm**

### *The Spiritual Side by Fr. Dennis Strouzas*

The following is the first in a regular series about our Orthodox Christian faith. We will explore the book, *Orthodox Christian Beliefs About the Bible: Real Answers and Real Questions from Real People*, by Fr. Stanley Harakas, Professor of Orthodox Theology (Emeritus) at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

Our faith is dynamic and alive, part of our psyche as Orthodox Christians and meant to be lived, not merely observed. In this first part of our series, it is my hope that exploring some questions about the description of and interpretation of our faith by exploring the Bible will help do so. -Fr. Dennis

*How literally are we to take the Old Testament? For example, do we as Orthodox Christians believe the Red Sea actually parted?*

One of the first approaches of the Church in understanding the Old Testament, which is the word of the revelation of God to the Hebrew people, is to see it as a preparation for the New Testament, which is primarily the record of the revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ, His Disciples and His Church. The Church understands the deepest meanings of the Old Testament in terms of their fulfillment in the New Testament. What was unclear and difficult to understand in the Old Testament may often be explained by the events and teaching of the New.

From the earliest period of the Church, there has been a way of approaching the words and events in the Bible which seeks to understand them historically, that is, *in terms of what is actually being described and what actually happened*. The Church was never “literalist”—it understood that it was dealing with different kinds of writings. What was said poetically should not be interpreted literally. For example, while the Church saw much deeper significance in the parting of the waters of the Red Sea than just a remarkable historical event, it

believes that this event did happen historically and in all probability was itself interpreted in the Jewish tradition before it was written into the book of Exodus. So in the New Testament, it is referenced as an historical event (Acts 7:36).

*The Church also sees the Old Testament events and words as examples for Christians.* For example, in the New Testament book of Hebrews, the Red Sea crossing is presented among many other Old Testament events as a model and example of faith. Specific individuals, such as David, Samuel and Sampson, were presented as examples of witness and martyrdom as well as of faith. (Hebrews 11:29, 32-38).

*We can also see an event in the Old Testament as pre-figuring and modeling an event which was to take place much later in the salvation story of the New Testament.* New Testament events are seen as “types” (Greek, “typos”) of the Kingdom of God. For example, the first Passover was a “type” of the “Passover” from death to life of Christ in His Resurrection, which then

becomes a means for our “passover” from the life of this world to the eternal Kingdom of God. It has also been described that Biblical events and scriptural history have a meaning that “transcends their concrete meaning in a particular historical context...and so also to the final realities of the Kingdom of God.” [1]

So the Church’s approach to its Bible is rich and varied, yet always taking place within the central revelation to which it witnesses: *the work of love by the Father, in the Son, through the Holy Spirit for the salvation of humanity*.

If you wish to read more about this topic, I recommend the book *Reading the Scriptures with the Church Fathers*, by Christopher A. Hall (Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1998).

[1] Hopko, Fr. Thomas.

**“The Church was never ‘literalist’—it understood that it was dealing with different kinds of writings. What was said poetically should not be interpreted literally.”**

## Hoop It Up Parent-Child Basketball Tournament

The Tournament was a great success!  
FOR THE COMPLETE STORY, PLEASE SEE PAGE 19.



Nick Katopodis, Father Dennis, Peter Papagiannakis, and Tommy Dimopoulos.



Our youth working their concession stand!



Dennis Matarangas, John Petras, Unlimited Sports Action owner Frank Furina, tournament sponsor.

## 2011 Greek Festival on the Harbor



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

It's been a month since our festival and I'm trying to find the words that would best describe our first festival. I can't seem to find them. Let's give these a try: WOW, Fantastic, Unbelievable, Cool or how about Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! These, and many more would work!

From the time we started the planning, the Festival Committee had a vision. As we were planning and adjusting our plans to get the best use of the site, we all had the confidence that we would be successful. By that I mean that we knew we would get support, both from within our community and also from outside of our community. We were also confident that we would be able to make a profit even though the expenses were going to be high. We were also confident that when the time came, we would have all the volunteers we would need. All this proved to be true.



We reached out to our neighboring communities and received a great deal of assistance. The festival chairpersons from St. Paul of Hempstead, St. Nicholas of Flushing and Resurrection of Old Brookville met with the committee and gave us information and recommendations that proved to be very valuable to us. The festival grounds layout and the traffic flow that it created worked unbelievably well for us. The fact that Friday night it rained all around us, even across the street at our Church, but didn't rain on our festival until after 11 PM when we were closed, convinced us all that our Archangel Michael was looking out for us and blessed our event. There were volunteers that showed up Friday morning and didn't stop working until we closed Sunday night. This community always brings out the best in everyone when there is a job to do. That is what I got the most out of this festival—the enthusiasm and camaraderie of our parishioners working towards a common goal.



The police department estimated that we had 12 to 15 thousand people attend the festival on Saturday. This is truly unbelievable. As prepared as I think we were,

we couldn't have been prepared for that kind of attendance. We know we need to make adjustments for next year—YES. We will do it again next year, and we feel we will be ready for an even bigger festival.

I want to thank the Damascus Family, who even though they moved to Arizona, sponsored the Fireworks show on Saturday night. This proved to be a reason for our high attendance. I also want to thank our Major Sponsors:

- Marathon Bank*
- North Shore Farms*
- The Janice Michelle Foundation*
- Mr. & Mrs. George Browne and*
- Limani Restaurant*



Thanks also goes out to our tent sponsors:

- Vision Properties*
- Peter Mesologites & Leonard Zangas*
- Jim & Margaret Damascus*
- Archangel Michael Ladies Philoptochos*
- Tom & Diana Gardianos*
- Peter & Irene Kusulas*
- Archangel Michael Mens Soccer Team*
- Jack & Ethel Soterakis*

- Christopher & Peggy Milonas*
- The Kangadis Family*
- Helen Astin*
- AHEPA Gold Coast Chapter # 456*
- Irene Vassilaros*
- Chris & Vasiliki Neocleous*
- Demetrios & Bessie Ziozis*

Other sponsors included:

- Archangel Michael HOPE/JOY*
- Dean & Mary Chiros*
- Perry & Georgia Alexiou*
- Dr. & Mrs. Costas Bizekis*
- James & Georgia Karmas*
- Archangel Michael Greek Language Institute*
- The Colombos Family*
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- In Memory of Larry Dionysiou*
- The Sanoulis Family*
- The Giannakopoulos Family*
- Katie Nickolaus*
- Dennis Demetropoulos*
- George & Christine Korakis*
- Andy and Evangelia Cyprus*



## 2011 Greek Festival on the Harbor



We also received many donations to offset our food purchases and want to thank every one of you as well as the many bakers that baked the cookies that helped to make the Bakery Tent a huge success.

A very special thanks goes to the following for their donation of food and services that proved to be invaluable to the success of the festival:

*Landmark Diner*  
*Glen Cove Diner*  
*Williston Towne House*  
*Greenvale Diner*  
*Port Washington Diner*  
*Omega Diner*  
*Artamus Restaurant Supplies*  
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*Louie's of Manhasset*  
*7 Seas Diner*  
*Perry Mallas*  
*John & Alex Kapetanos*  
*The Kalogeras Family*  
*Mike & Emily Kavourias*  
*Gus Panopoulos*  
*Norman Glavas*

At the time of this printing we were still reconciling the accounting and expecting checks and also some bills, however, I wanted to give you an unofficial accounting. These numbers are estimates and will be finalized by the next issue:

**Receipts: \$252,600 (includes ride sales of \$66,000)**  
**Vendors fees collected: \$6,000**

**Sponsors: \$51,200**  
**Donations: 12,200**  
**Gross Receipts: \$322,000**  
**Expenses: \$151,310 (includes \$45,000 to Ride company)**  
**Net to the Church Capital Campaign: \$170,700**

For our first festival, I believe we and I really mean WE did a fantastic job. I'm sure I forgot to thank someone in the lists above, and I apologize in advance. I will try to get a complete list and send it to the community in the future. In the meantime, I want to especially thank my co-chairs for all of the time and effort they put into making this a success:

<i>Michael Psyllos</i>	<i>Oscar Michelen</i>
<i>Dennis Dionisiou</i>	<i>Michael Kavourias</i>
<i>Bessie Ziozis</i>	<i>Barbara Thermos</i>
<i>Dimitri Dellis</i>	<i>Tammy Ashley</i>
<i>Adam Karras</i>	

We also want to take this opportunity to thank all of the committee chairpersons, who along with their respective committees, worked diligently for weeks to make sure that we had a successful festival. And, of course, special thanks to Chris Neocleous for his tireless efforts and support.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Stavrinos





ARCHANGEL MICHAEL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
**November Calendar 2011**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Greek School 1 <sup>st</sup> Session 4:00p 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session 5:45p Regents Class 5:45p Philoptochos Board Mtg. 7:30p	Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	Greek School 1 <sup>st</sup> Session 4:00p 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session 5:45p	Nameday Dinner Dance 7:30p	Dance Troupe 9:30a
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy & Youth Choir 9:30a Youth Choir Fundraiser 11:30a	Vespers 7:30p Synaxis of Archangel	Orthros 8:30a Liturgy 9:30a Synaxis of Archangel Preschool & Greek School Closed	Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	Greek School 1 <sup>st</sup> Session 4:00p 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session 5:45p	Preschool Closed GOYA Harvest Dance 7:30p	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a		Greek School 1 <sup>st</sup> Session 4:00p 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session 5:45p Regents Class 5:45p	Bible Study 7:30p Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	Greek School 1 <sup>st</sup> Session 4:00p 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session 5:45p		Challenge Liturgy 10:30a JOY Thanksgiving Retreat 1:00p
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy & Youth Choir 9:30a Youth Choir Visits Hellenos House & GOYA Mtg 11:30a	Liturgy 9:30a Presentation of the Theotokos	Greek School 1 <sup>st</sup> Session 4:00p 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session 5:45p Regents Class 5:45p	Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	Happy Thanksgiving Preschool & Greek School Closed	Preschool & Greek School Closed Office Closed	
27	28	29	30			
No Sunday School Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a	Parish Council Nominations Close	Greek School 1 <sup>st</sup> Session 4:00p 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session 5:45p Regents Class 5:45p	Liturgy, St. Andrew 9:30a Bible Study 7:30p Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30p			



ARCHANGEL MICHAEL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

# December Calendar 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				Greek School 1st Session 4:00p 2nd Session 5:45p	JOY Celebrating the Birth of Christ 6:00p  GOYA Tree Decorating 7:30p	GOYA Advent Retreat 6:00p  Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon 11:30a
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Orthros 8:30a Liturgy & Youth Choir 9:30a  HOPE Gingerbread House Making 4:30p	Philoptochos Bd Mtg 7:30p	Liturgy, St. Nicholas 9:30a  Greek School 1st Session 4:00p 2nd Session 5:45p  Regents Class 5:45p	Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30p  Bible Study 7:30p	Greek School 1st Session 4:00p 2nd Session 5:45p		Challenge Liturgy & Christmas Party 10:30a
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a  Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon 12p	Liturgy, St. Spyridon 9:30a	Greek School 1st Session 4:00p 2nd Session 5:45p Regents Class 5:45p	Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	Greek School 1st Session 4:00p 2nd Session 5:45p	HOPE/JOY Christmas Party 6:30p	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Orthros 8:30a Liturgy, Christmas Pageant & Youth Choir 9:30a  GOYA Meeting 11:30a PC Elections		Greek School 1st Session 4:00p 2nd Session 5:45p Regents Class 5:45p	Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30p  Bible Study 7:30p	Greek School 1st Session 4:00p 2nd Session 5:45p  Greek School Christmas Program		Vespers, Nativity of Our Lord 7:30p
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Nativity of Our Lord Orthros 8:30a Divine Liturgy 9:30a  No Sunday School			GOYA Holiday Trip to New York City			



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*The Trumpet* reaches over 500 families who support the Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church in Port Washington, New York, a majority of whom live in the North Shore communities surrounding the church. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please email [trumpet@archangelmichaelchurch.org](mailto:trumpet@archangelmichaelchurch.org).

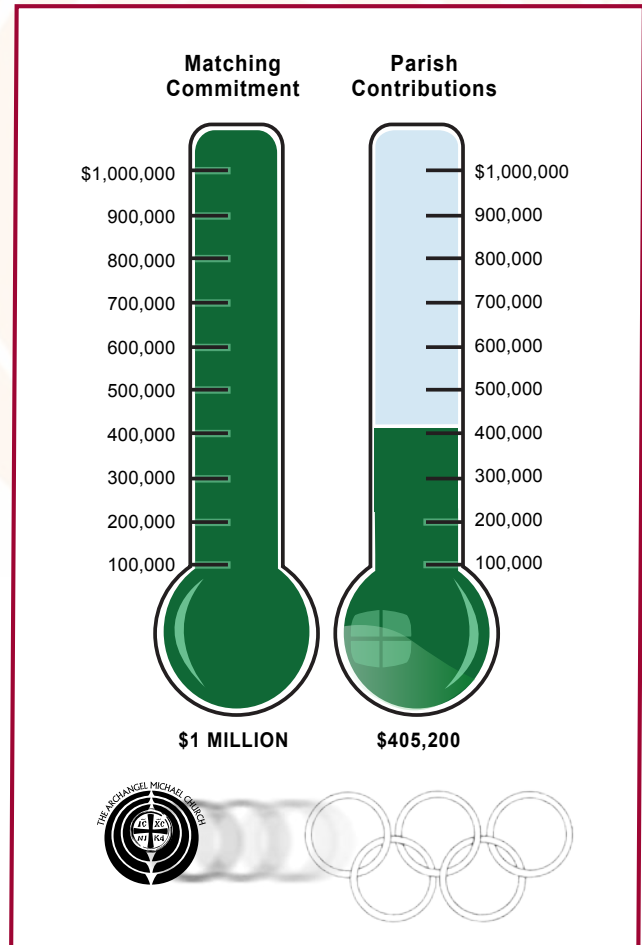
# Hoop it Up for the Million Dollar Sprint!

On Saturday, October 22, 2011, over 45 of our youth participated in our first-ever parent-child basketball tournament to benefit the Gym Building Fund.

The double-elimination tournament held at Weber Middle School raised over \$3,000 towards constructing our gym. The tournament was sponsored by Unlimited Sports Action, located at 30 Beechwood Avenue in Port Washington. North Shore Farms also very generously contributed to the success of this event.

Thanks to Peter Papagiannakis, who organized this event, to John Petras and Nick Katopodis for their leadership of the Gym Committee, and to all of the coaches and players who participated to make it such a success!

As you know, an anonymous donor has offered our community ONE MILLION DOLLARS towards the construction of a gymnasium, as long as our community also raises \$1,000,000 by December 31, 2011. As of October 29, 2011, we have \$405,200 in cash, and pledges of over \$600,000. With your continued support we will reach our goal!



To make a gift, or to find out more about the Gymnasium Project please contact:

John Petras at:  
1.718.229.4488  
jpetras@douglastonmgmt.com

Nick Katopodis at:  
1.917.282.6524  
nikkato@yahoo.com



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All proceeds go to the Archangel Michael Church's Million Dollar Sprint.

We have until December 31, 2011 to raise One Million Dollars to match an anonymous donor's pledge. If we do, the combined Two Million Dollars will allow us to build the Gymnasium for all of our teams and give our children a place to gather, compete and collaborate. Your purchase of a raffle ticket helps us reach this goal. Thank You!

*Purchase your raffle tickets online at [www.archangelmichaelchurch.org/sprint](http://www.archangelmichaelchurch.org/sprint) or contact any of our coaches, basketball teams or any Member of the Gym Committee!*

\* Estimated Fair Market Value in excess of \$20,000. Lucky winner can instead opt for a \$15,000 cash prize. Passport and Visas are responsibility of traveler(s). Please visit [www.archangelmichaelchurch.org/sprint](http://www.archangelmichaelchurch.org/sprint) for complete terms.