



Teachers Perry Kallis and Frances Marinos with Vacation Church School students.

AUTUMN WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE AT SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN

We hope everybody had a fantastic summer! As the weather becomes chilly, we visit cider mills or the pumpkin patch, and enjoy many seasonal activities with our families and friends. Be sure to include Church in your plans! The Fall season is an exciting time of year at Saints Constantine and Helen Church – the Ecclesiastic Year has begun, and the Parish is bustling with many events and activities.

The fall season is full of fresh opportunities for worship, fellowship, service, learning, and fun. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 17TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL on Friday, October 24th, and our REVERSE RAFFLE event on Sunday, November 9th. Altar Boys, Choir, Greek Dance Group, GOYA, Men's Group, Moms' Club, Philoptochos, Sunday School, and our Senior's Group offer something for every age and interest. Contact information for each group is on the back page of this issue of the Visions. Our church also has many volunteer needs as we enter one of our busiest seasons, so if you have time or talent to share, please contact the church office.



While Fr. Teodor was away in Romania in August, we were blessed to have His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, and Fr. James Stathakios in our church to celebrate the Divine Liturgy; and it's always a blessing to have the voices of our Chanter, John Angelopoulos and Stratis Calagias during services.

A Message from Father Teodor



Dear Parish Family,

As we begin a new ecclesiastical year it is always appropriate to consider the role which our service or ministry plays in the church. Our Lord and Savior tells us that *"He came not to be served, but to serve"* and instructed His apostles to do likewise. The Book of Acts, which tells us about the young Christian church, is abounding with stories of the service that the apostles offered the early Christian community as they ministered to their physical and spiritual needs, ranging from the ordinary (serving tables at meal time) to the excellent (healing the infirmed and caring for the poor).

Service and ministry are central components of the Christian life. If we as Christians do not care for some part of the church then we are not caring for the entire Body of Christ. All of us need to find some corner of our parish community and make it our own. Members of the church, no matter how young or old, need to take it upon themselves to care for the Body of Christ. God has blessed us all with talents. These talents are meant not simply for our own benefit but also for the benefit of others. The church offers an opportunity to use our talents, to care, not only for each other, but also for Christ Himself.

In this new ecclesiastical year we should make a resolution to discover or rediscover the importance of service to others and to Christ. For those who have done so and continue to do so (and they are many) this new church year is an opportunity to recommit and refresh our dedication to ministry in the church.

To those that did not, maybe they should consider that it is time to jump in the waters of service with both feet. All, however, should know that all service is a demonstration of our love and commitment to the Body of Christ. Each act of service tells of our love for the Lord who has given us untold blessings and continues to do so.

Father Teodor



THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, SEPTEMBER 14TH

Saints Constantine and Helen and the Cross

In the 4th century, the Roman Empire was ruled by 4 different emperors: Maxentius, Maximinus, Licinius and Constantine. Each emperor was responsible for a specific geographic area in the Roman Empire. Since Christianity was illegal and punishable by death during this time Christians were forced to worship in secret. While Emperor Constantine was a pagan, he was opposed to the persecutions of Christians and believed they should be allowed to practice their faith freely without fear.



Fr. Teodor takes the Cross into procession for the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross.

Maxentius and Maximinus conspired to kill Constantine in order to rule his portion of the Roman Empire, and when Constantine learned of their plans, he led his troops to battle in Italy. As they approached, he saw in the sky a radiant pillar in the form of a cross, bearing the words: "En Touto Nika" (By this sign conquer). That night, Jesus appeared to him in a dream and explained the meaning of the Cross. When Constantine arose the next morning, he immediately ordered that the cross be put on the shield of all of his troops. They were triumphant over Maxentius and Maximinus, giving Constantine control over their legions. Late he was victorious over Licinius, making Constantine Emperor of the entire Roman Empire.

Once Constantine was the sole Emperor of the Roman Empire, he was able to put an end to Christian persecutions. He signed into effect the Edict of Milan, a document that made the persecution of Christians illegal and afforded them the freedom to practice their faith. In the year 357 AD, prior to his death, Constantine converted to Christianity and was baptized.



Flowers for the Elevation of the Cross, were donated and beautifully decorated by Helen Petcou.

After Constantine made the faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, his mother Helen traveled to Jerusalem to search for our Lord's Cross. She discovered that a temple to Aphrodite had been built over Golgotha to cover up the site of Christ's crucifixion. Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed and the area excavated. There she found the Tomb of our Lord as well as three crosses: the cross of Christ and the crosses of the two crucified thieves (though Saint Helen was unsure which was Christ's Holy Cross). Saint Macarius, the Archbishop of Jerusalem, brought a woman who was

dying of a disease to touch the crosses, and as she approached the Cross of our Lord, she was completely healed. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." We commemorate this event each year on September 14, as the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross!



Vacation Church School students participate in a music lesson.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL, “A Cosmic Adventure Praising God”!

Our annual Vacation Church School for children preschool (age 4) through 5th grade was held from June 23 – June 27, 2014. This year’s theme was *“Galactic Blast – A Cosmic Adventure Praising God.”* The children participated in a variety of games and craft activities to teach Bible lessons, music, and prayer services. A special highlight of the week was a visit to the Holy Trinity monastery near Port Huron, where we were treated to a petting zoo, and sharing lunch and conversation with the monks. Many thanks to Angie Colovas, Tracy Monolidis, and to all the teachers, parents, and volunteers who made this year’s Vacation Church School a huge success! We can’t wait until next summer to do it all again!



Angie Colovas



Helena Monolidis with Sophia, Irene, and Leftheri



Mikos enjoying a snack



Fr. Teodor teaches the biblical story of the miraculous healing of the Blind Man.

URBAN GARDEN PROGRAM GETS SUPPORT TO FEED THE NEEDY

We are so proud of our parishioner, Melina Frantzeskakis, who with her friend, Hannah Geyer, created an urban garden in downtown Detroit as a National Honor Society project!

These remarkable young women got the General Motors Corporation to donate 400 steel containers, and with additional support of the "Buckets of Rain" organization, planted a vegetable garden which will provide produce to feed the needy in the surrounding area. They also raised an additional \$500 through a bottle drive, and organized a volunteer day to work in the garden to help. Melina is the daughter of Petros and Francine Frantzeskakis. Our Moms' Group was happy to support this outstanding project with a donation. Good work, girls!



YOUTH PROGRAMS OFFER LEARNING AND FUN!



GREEK SCHOOL: We are pleased to announce the THREE HIERARCHS GREEK SCHOOL a joint ministry of the Sts. Constantine and Helen and the Nativity of the Virgin Mary churches, will be starting this month! Classes will be held on Thursdays from 6pm – 8pm, and tentatively on Tuesdays from 6pm – 8pm. For more information, contact Anna Liakou-Hentnik at 248.425.2321 or nativity_greek_school@yahoo.com. This is a great way for young people to learn Greek, and get to know youth from another parish. Adult Greek classes may also be held in the future, if there is interest.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School classes began on September 28th, meeting each Sunday after communion. This is an important part of bringing our young people into the Orthodox faith. We are grateful to our Sunday School Director, Andrea Uhlian, our Youth Programs Coordinator, Angie Colovas, and to all of our Sunday School teachers, for their service. For more information about registering your young person for Sunday school, contact Andrea Uhlian at 734.981.5586

GOYA: Our kick-off meeting and GOYS Elections was held on September 28th. It's going to be a fantastic year with fun social activities, opportunities to meet teens from other churches, and community service projects. For more information about getting involved with our GOYA, contact Jean Chuey 248.596.9572.

A Beautiful Day for the Men's Club Family Golf Outing!

On Sunday, September 14th, it was a bright sunny day at the Fellows Creek Golf Course in Canton, MI – made all the brighter by the men and women who came out to participate in our Men's Club annual Family Golf Outing and Dinner. After a 2:00 tee-off, and a spirited afternoon of play, golfers and their family members went back to the Hellenic Cultural Center for a delicious dinner and a lot of laughs. Congratulations to Pete Kalergis, the winner of the bike! Each year keeps getting better and better! Many thanks go out to Jim Peponis and Al Sudia, and special thanks to Marty and Karen Alexander who were observers on the hole-in-one prize holes, and spent the whole day on the course! Thanks also to His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas for joining in on the fun, and to Fr. Teodor on his golf cart helping to make this year's event such a big success.



Golfers enjoying the good weather and good company!



DEMETRIOS LIVANOS, MAN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to our 2014 "Man of the Year", Demetrios (Jim) Livanos, who has spent a lifetime out front and behind the scenes doing work for our Church! Each year, on Father's Day, our church honors a man who has made a significant contribution to our Parish. There could be no better person to honor than Jim, who has served on our Parish Council, acted as Coach for our basketball teams, played a major role on the Catering Committee and establishing the Hellenic Cultural Center, and has answered the call every time our church needs help with all types of building construction or repair issues. Thank you, Jim!



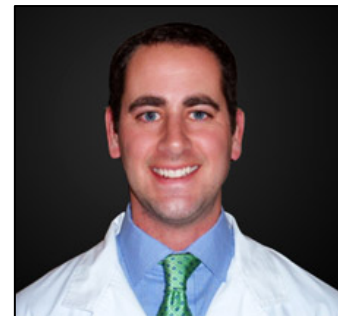
Connie, Jim and Melissa Livanos with Fr. Teodor

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS:

ARTHRITIS AND PAIN MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

The St. Helen's Philoptochos will be sponsoring a seminar on ARTHRITIS AND PAIN MANAGEMENT on October 15th, at 7:00 pm. The presenter is Dr. Ryan Mollie, of the St. John's Health System and the Orthopedic Institute – Michigan. Dr. Mollie is an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in adult reconstruction/total joint replacement surgery. This free seminar is useful for men and women who are having issues with pain management. Refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome!



FRANKENMUTH TRIP, OCTOBER 18TH

From fantastic food, eclectic shopping and entertainment, to rich historical beauty and Bavarian culture, Frankenmuth, MI is the ideal departure from the ordinary every day. A group from our ladies Philoptochos will be going by bus to Frankenmuth for a day trip on October 18th. For more information, contact Georgene Ochadleus at 248.685.8375.

BAKERS NEEDED! Do you have fantastic skills in the kitchen? Plans are underway for the Philoptochos Annual Christmas Bazaar and other events, and we are looking for volunteers to help with baking both Greek and American pastries, cookies, and pitas.

HERE COME THE BRIDES!

Join us for the Bridal Show!

On November 2nd, there will be a fantastic Bridal Show at our Hellenic Cultural Center. It will be a fun afternoon with wedding vendors of all types, lots of giveaways, and a chance to win a romantic weekend getaway! If you're planning a wedding in the next year, be sure to call Liza at the Hellenic Cultural Center at 734.525.3550, and let her know that you are a member of our church for 2 free tickets to the event!



HONORING OUR CHURCH MUSICIANS



Please join us for the Divine Liturgy on Sunday October 5th, when our church will honor our Choir and Chanters in celebration of the National Church Music Sunday. On this day, traditionally commemorated each year on the Sunday closest to the feast of Saint Romanos, the Melodist, church musicians across our Archdiocese are recognized for their dedication to the church music ministry of our faith. Their commitment to learning the hymns of our Orthodox faith, understanding the sequence of our liturgical worship, and actively offering their prayers in song, is done to enhance the beauty of our worship – in glory to God.

MEN'S CLUB FEED THE NEEDY PROGRAM

Each year, our Men's Club raises funds and gathers donations to deliver Thanksgiving baskets full of healthy, delicious food to members of our community who are in need of a little extra help during the holiday season. If you are able to make a donation, or to volunteer to shop, sort, pack, or deliver meals, please contact Pete Kalergis at 734.6673172 or Daniel Stergiadis at 734.624.1699.

PARISH COUNCIL PROFILES

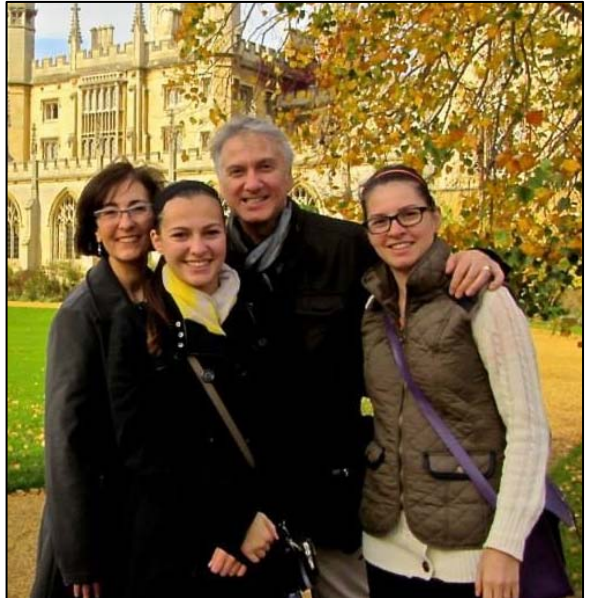
John Avdoulos , Parish Council President

John grew up in Windsor, Ontario, where he attended Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, and served on the altar, was a member of GOYA, attended Greek School and Sunday school, and was a member of the Church's dance group. He has been a member of the Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church for 30 years, where he has been on the Parish Council for 14 years and served as Parish Council President for 10 years. John was humbled to be elected as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 2013.

He has been married for 30 wonderful years to his wife, Panayiota and they are the proud parents of daughters Eve and Hannah. They have lived in Novi for the last 22 years.

John is an Architect, VP and Director of Architecture with HKS, one of the top five architectural firms in the US. He attended Lawrence Technological University, where he received a Masters of Architecture, and served on the City of Novi Planning Commission for 6 years.

Some of John's favorite things are spending time with his family, dancing, traveling, and he's a definite "foodie." His favorite quote is *"Accept people as they are, not how you think they should be."*



Lou Frango, Parish Council Treasurer

Lou grew up in Dearborn Heights, and now lives in Northville with his beautiful wife, Cindy and daughter Marissa, age 8. Lou is the son of Mary and the late Peter F. Frango, and brother of Liz Alexander and Cathy Keros.

Lou attended the University of Michigan, graduating in 1984 and 1986, where he played the trumpet in the Michigan Marching Band. He's still a big fan of all U of M sports. He grew up in our Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, having been a member since 1968. He has served on our Parish Council since 1994. Lou and Cindy were

married in 1998, she also serves our church as a Sunday School teacher, and during the week teaches 1st and 2nd grade at St. Paul's Lutheran in Northville.

Lou has been involved in commercial real estate since 1986, and is currently a broker with Colliers in Southfield.

**17TH ANNUAL
SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN CHURCH**

**FALL
FESTIVAL**



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 2014
6 – 9 PM**

**Hellenic Cultural Center
36375 Joy Rd., Westland, MI 48185**

**Includes a Hot dog or Pizza slice, Chips, Dessert, Pop,
Games, Prizes, Crafts, Bingo, Bounce House, Pebbles the Clown,
Hayride (weather permitting), and DJ.
*NEW THIS YEAR - Photo Booth!***

**Tickets: \$7.00 per person - Adults & Children
(Children 2 and Under Free)**

**For ticket information contact:
Tracy @ (313) 278-1541 or Kali @ (734) 331-9515**

APPROPRIATE COSTUMES ARE WELCOME!

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
Westland, MI

REVERSE RAFFLE!

LAST ticket drawn wins Grand Prize!

GRAND PRIZE \$3,000

**With Additional Cash Prizes,
Great Giveaways, and
Silent & Live Auction!**



**Max 500 tickets
will be sold!**

Sunday, November 9, 2014

\$125 per person includes raffle and Gourmet Dinner

(Raffle only - \$100; Dinner only - \$35; For Dinner only, No tickets given – Prepaid Reservations Only.)

5:30 pm Cocktails and Appetizers

6:00 pm Gourmet Dinner and Open Bar

7:00 pm Raffle Begins

For reservations, contact the Church office at 734.525.6789, Pat Gazepis at 734.895.9237,
Yiota (Pam) Avdoulos at 248.348.6236 (avdoulospam@yahoo.com) or Lou Kircos at 313.885.1399

Fill out and return with payment to: Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, 36375 Joy Road, Westland, MI 48185

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Amount of check enclosed \$ _____

CC# _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MC Exp. Date: _____

Need not be present to win - Proceeds to benefit the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church

Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church

36375 Joy, Rd Westland, MI 48185

Auction Donation Form November 9, 2014

We need your help!

We need your donations by Wednesday November 5th!

Our 3rd annual Reverse Raffle and Auction will be held in November 9, 2014. **We need your help in getting Auction items.** Please consider donating and asking your friends and businesses you know to donate.

Suggested items to donate include:

Sports tickets or memorabilia

Theater tickets

Travel tickets or packages

Restaurant or store gift cards

Vacation time shares

Salon services

Hotel rooms

Electronics

Children's items

Christmas items

Wine or liquor bundles

Jewelry

Golf packages

Kitchen specialties

Collectables

Sporting goods

Limo Services

Accounting/tax/legal services

All items should be in excellent salable condition.

Hoping to see you there and thanking you for your generosity!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Name as you want it to appear in auction listing - if different than above (you may also specify "Anonymous") _____

Description of Item you are donating _____

_____ Item Fair Market Value \$ _____

Name of solicitor _____ Solicitor Phone Number _____

Received by _____

Thank You for Your Contribution!

Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will help the Sts. Constantine and Helen Parish maintain its many ministries to our community and to others. **We appreciate your help!** This donation form will serve as your receipt. We are a 501(c) 3 organization and all donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our Tax ID is available upon request by calling the Church office 734-525-6789.

**Sts. Constantine and Helen
Greek Orthodox Church**
36375 Joy Rd.
Westland, MI 48185

Rev. Fr. Teodor Petrutiu,
Parish Priest



Phone: 734-525-6789
E-mail: admin@stcons.org
Website: www.stcons.org

*"Where there is no vision,
the people perish"*
Proverbs 29:18

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Our Church Organizations

ALTAR BOYS

Pete Simakas, 313-350-1111

CHOIR

Maritsa Kalasz, 734-522-9334

DANCE GROUP

Stella Boyer, 734-981-2446

G.O.Y.A.

Jean Chuey, 248-596-9572

MEN'S GROUP

Antonios Stergiadis, 734-624-1699

MOMS GROUP

Kali Michalopoulos, 734-331-9515

PARISH COUNCIL

John Avdoulos, 248-568-4945

PHILOPTOCHOS

Georgene Ochadleus, 248-685-8375

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Andrea Uhlian, 313-720-9465

SENIOR GROUP

Lou Abraham, 248-349-1987

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

BAPTISMS

6/29/14

ATLAS, son of Scott and Elefheria Biers

Godparents: Christina and Ioannis Hatzis

6/29/14

HENRY, son of George and Erika Eloff

Godparent: Jeanne Eloff

9/20/14

CASSIUS, son of Cornel and Valentina Conea Moisin

Godmother: Anita Kouzikas

WEDDINGS

6/28/14

KATERINA PASKARIS to MICHAEL FIGURSKI

8/30/14

MALISSA SHAPAS to KENNETH HANOVICH

8/31/14

TANYA MILLER to CONSTANTINE MALEKAS

9/6/14

ELIZABETH GEWIRTZ to DEMETRIOS KYPRIANOS

9/13/14

LESLIE DRIELTS to JASON KALLAS

9/21/14

ALDI MECO TO IRIDA KAURI

FUNERALS:

6/20/14

ARISTIDIS CORDEN

8/4/14

BESSIE MANIKAS

8/14/14

PETER A. DRAKOS

8/25/14

THEODORE SIMON

40 DAY BLESSINGS:

6/22/14

JACE CHARLES, son of Luke and Tracy Beiswanger

8/17/14

LUKE, son of John Madias and Alicia Jaros

ELISE, daughter of George and Lisa Kithas