



OUR YOUTH MINISTRIES GROW

Youth programming at St. Cons continues to grow! With more teachers and improved Sunday School curriculum, additional social and outreach activities for youth, the Lord has blessed our church's efforts in building our children's and youth programs. Planning is underway for our Fall programs, and we are looking for additional adult volunteers with an interest in working with children and teens. If you have interest and availability to help, please talk to Fr. Teodor or the church office.

With open arms, our church youth groups welcome any who are interested, and you'll quickly find your children are part of a loving community.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: Pre-K – 8th grade Through Bible lessons, activities, crafts, media, music and games, children receive hands-on, age appropriate instruction in the teachings and traditions of our Orthodox faith. Classes begin Sunday, September 8th.

SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP: 9th – 12th grade Discussion group for High School students, continuing our Orthodox learning, and applying Orthodox values in daily life.

COLLEGE CONNECTION/OCF Our Moms' Group keeps in touch with young people attending college through "care package" mailings, email newsletters, and direct mail communications, to keep them connected to St. Cons parish life. The Orthodox Christian Fellowship is the official collegiate campus ministry program charged with connecting Orthodox college students to Christ and His Church. (<http://www.ocf.net/>)

H.O.P.E & J.O.Y. Children, ages 4 – 12 and their families come together after church for lunch and activities. These programs encourage each child to interact in a safe, relaxed, casual setting and learn about our faith while having fun!

G.O.Y.A. GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) is the ministry to teenagers 7th through 12th grades. Throughout the program year, youth participate in social and community events, service projects, volunteerism, and outreach projects. While involved in GOYA, our young people make friendships that last a lifetime.

ALTAR BOYS/EPISTLE READERS Young men, grades three and up, assist the clergy as Altar boys during the Divine Liturgy and other services. Altar boys must make a commitment to arrive to church on time, and attend church regularly. Every other Sunday, one of our teen volunteers reads the Epistle in English during the service. Serving during Liturgy increases a young person's self-confidence and sense of responsibility, along with their knowledge of our faith.

Life can be hectic, and parents sometimes find it challenging just to make it to Sunday service. If you start consistently taking your children to church when they're young, they will forever learn the good habits of church attendance. Positive childhood experiences with parish activities give our young people the knowledge that church is a safe and welcoming place. For the rest of their lives, they'll benefit from their Orthodox faith, values and church community.



CHILDREN'S LETTERS "TO MY CHURCH FAMILY"

During our recent Vacation Bible School, the children learned about St. Paul and his message of God's love. Like the Apostle Paul, our campers were asked to write a letter offering advice to their church family.

Here are some excerpts from their letters, in their own words (and spelling!):

We should be nice to the earth. Try to be good in church. Try to pray. Try to be awsome. Try not to be bad. I will try to be a Good frind. Niko

You should try your best. You should be honest. We should care. We should love people. Stella

We should be caring and loveing to each other. We should never lie to you parent freind or brothers or god. Ari

I love you all. We should be nice. LOVE is nice I Love my cats I tak cair of my cats. Wow Love is so powerfull. Michael

Thank you for everything everyone has done for me. I hope to help out everyone else one day. I love you all very much. Kosta

Have you ever been fair? Well you should. If you have not this is a reminder Be fair. Xander

We should be kind, nice, happy, responsible, thankful, be happy. Niko

Do you try to live like Jesus? Well I can teach you how to. You always need to be honest and faithful. You try to do these things so you can grow closer to God and Jesus so you can be with them in heaven in the after life. Mixali/Mikos

Be nice to are preest. Be nice to your frend. Love one another. Mia

Try to come to church to learn about Jesus. Be nice to each other and Jesus. Alexandra

I Love churche. I Love you Be Nice to the world! You should be Nice to the universe! Izzy live like Jesus Christ. Be good later you will be awarded from being the best you can be. Aleko

Love is patient. Love never end. You should love god. Love is not jealous. Love is nice. Nina

I jost want to say that you should not litter and take great care of the people, plants, and animals. So don't chop down healthey trees and don't rip off the leves. Alexander

He gave us this world, so take care of the world. Be grateful for what you have, you don't know what you got until it's gone. Try to be thankful for having a home and a family. Eleni

You should always tell the truth and never lie to your parents or friends or God. Laila

Be nice be kind. We should not be a bolly. Love one onother. Help ech uther. Katherine

We should be honest. We should be truthful. Come to church take care of people you love. Juliana

A Message from Father Teodor



On August 15 we celebrate the great feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, preceded by 14 days of fasting. For each of us it is hard to get close to the holiness which the Theotokos achieved in her life. Such was her humility and devotion to the will of God that she earned the title of “All Holy” or “Panagia.”

It is indeed a difficult thing to follow the path of God. The reason for this is quite simple—we love ourselves more than we love God. All too often our desires stand opposed to the will of God. The freedom that God gives us allows us to go away from the path which we were intended to take. God forces no one to follow Him. Deep down inside we are aware of our own wrongdoings but nevertheless we make excuses which permit us to oppose God. We get into the habit of absolving ourselves of our sins. When our hypocrisy becomes self-evident, we leave the church, finding excuses for that decision as well.

There are too many examples of such vanity. We are called to love our enemies, but we may even have difficulty loving our family and friends. We are called to love God with all our heart, mind, and soul but struggle to fit church into our busy schedules. We are called to follow Him and yet the ways of the world are far more attractive.

This August, however, Panagia stands before us as proof that it can be done—that we can follow God with grace and humility. The feast day of her Dormition shows that as difficult as it is to follow God in this world the challenge is even greater when we are faced with the prospect of leaving it. At life’s end our fears and our doubts come to the surface. The dignity and calm of the Virgin Mary at the moment of her Dormition were no different from the same qualities she showed on Annunciation.

She simply accepted the will of God, whatever that might be.

Some might call such dedication to God “blind obedience” but the Christian calls it “unconditional love.” Too often we demand unconditional love from our parents, our brothers and sisters, our friends and ultimately from our God but we are unwilling to give it. The faith, the dignity, the resolve, the humility, and the grace of the Theotokos were all born out of her great capacity to love.

Panagia obeyed God because she loved Him and she endured all because she loved us.

We are called this August, in this season of the Dormition of the Theotokos, to reflect upon the true love for God and humanity which the Mother of God possessed. Only love of God allowed her to follow His will. Only love of God allowed her to endure seeing her Son and God hang upon the Cross. Only love of God allowed her to face her own earthly mortality with a dignity that encouraged the Apostles in their ministry. It is this same love to which we appeal at every Paraklesis when we ask Panagia to intercede on our behalf before her Son.

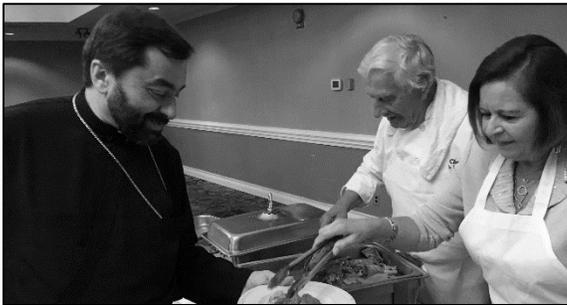
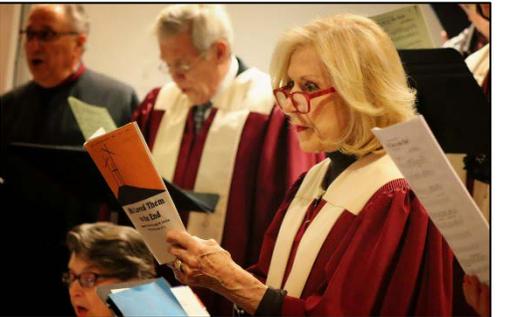
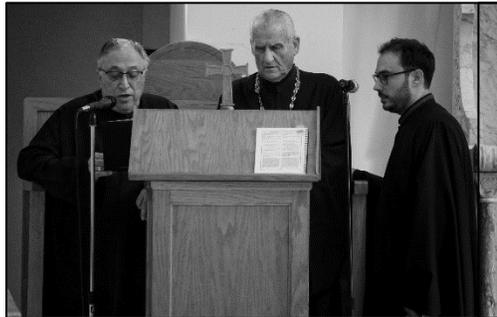
This is the way we should be. We are all called to follow that example, for in doing so to love God with all our mind and soul we ultimately learn how to love others and how to love ourselves.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. T. Petuk".

Fr. Teodor

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER





SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN FEAST DAY CELEBRATION HONORING OLD TRADITIONS, MAKING NEW MEMORIES

Our thanks go out to all who helped us to commemorate our Church's Feast Day! Our Moms' Group did a fantastic job presenting the annual Saints Constantine and Helen Name Day Dinner Dance on Saturday May 18th! This "old school" event featured the live band, ENIGMA; and a delicious Greek Feast including Saganaki and other Mezze, Souvlaki, Pastitsio, Greek Salad, Greek bread and Tzatziki, Greek pastries and Loukoumades! From children to Yiayia and Papou – the dance floor was filled with family fun.



The Dinner Dance kicked off our church Feast Day celebration, which continued with Vespers services followed by a reception with handmade loukoumades; and the Divine Liturgy service followed by a luncheon for parishioners and guests. Thanks to His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas and all the visiting Clergy; Parish Council members, Choir members and Chanters; to Corrin Stamatakos and all the members of our Moms' Group for the fantastic Name Day Dinner Dance; to Olga Drummond and the ladies of Philoptochos for the loukoumades reception; to our Hellenic Cultural Center staff; and to all those parishioners who offered their time and talents for services and events.



ST. HELEN PHILOPTOCHOS HELP "COWBOYS" KICKING CANCER



They may look like kids, but for one day, these children, living with cancer, were Cowboys! Sponsored by the organization "Kids Kicking Cancer" our Philoptochos was proud to once again be a part of this annual event bringing more than 300 children and their family members out to enjoy horseback riding and fantastic cowboy adventures (and tasty food!)

Congratulations to our newly elected Philoptochos Board, including: Carol Bozadzis, President; Georgene Ochadleus and Marcia Mandell, Vice Presidents; Karen Alexander, Corresponding Secretary; Elaine Charalambopoulos, Secretary; Chrys Schwartz and Steffi Lemons, Treasurers; Connie Bogdanos, and Olga Drummond. Many thanks to our outgoing officers,



Arlene Sudia, Pam Avdoulos, and Diana Voutsinas.

We thank you all for your outstanding work on behalf of our Church and our community.



HONORING WOMAN, MAN OF THE YEAR

We are blessed with many dedicated volunteers within our Sts. Constantine and Helen Church family. Every year it is our pleasure to honor a “Woman of the Year” on Mother’s Day and “Man of the Year” on Father’s Day, in recognition of their service to the church. The efforts of some volunteers are public and well known, but this year’s honorees have put in countless hours of work behind the scenes to insure the success of our parish ministries.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019 WOMAN OF THE YEAR!

Congrats to Andrea Uhlian, our very well deserving 2019 honoree! Andrea has been the St Cons' Sunday School Director for the past 9 years, and prior to that was a Sunday School teacher, for a total of 25 years of commitment to teaching children about our Orthodox faith. There is truly no more important ministry to insure our children’s future, the future life of our parish and our greater Orthodox Church.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019 MAN OF THE YEAR!

If you only know Lazaros (Lou) Kircos as our energetic Reverse Raffle emcee and host, you should also know that Lou serves on our Parish Council and has been instrumental in the “business” of running our church, working closely with the Board financial officers, the Hellenic Cultural Center management, and our community partners to secure the future of our parish. Thanks and Happy Birthday, Lou – this award is long overdue, and well deserved!

... AND OUR GRADUATES!

Congratulations to our 2019 College and HS Graduates! Pictured, L-R: Konstandina Stavropoulos, Mikayla Kour, Alexa Kalasz, Maria Cholack, Stephanie Christy, Yanni Stavropoulos, Jack Rudolf, Hannah Koester, John William Farres. Not pictured: Christopher Furkioti, Alexis Boyer, Markus Monolidis. We are proud of all your accomplishments!





LIFE-LONG LESSONS/LIFE-LONG FRIENDS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL “AGAPE ADVENTURE”

Love was in the air during this year’s Vacation Bible School program!! During the week of June 17th through June 21st, our VBS campers, ages 4 – 12, learned about St. Paul and his message of God’s love. Following Paul’s missionary travels gave us the perfect opportunity to take a week-long adventure to early Greece, and teach our young people about Greek culture, including music, dance, crafts, and language.

Along with a morning prayer and daily Bible lessons, each day of our adventure included art projects, music and dance lessons, “Olympic” games (recess), and one or two new Greek words to add to our Greek Lexicon. The group made a special trip to downtown Plymouth to share their lessons and an outdoor concert in the park, and enjoyed an ice-cream stop at Dairy Queen before returning home!

Big thanks to Athena Alexandris, Anastasia Sakkakini, and Frances Marinos, our Vacation Bible School lead staff; along with our fantastic teachers: Georgia Kapsalis, Angela Evans, Irene Melabiotis, Theodora Grias, Maritsa Kalasz, and Jaime Mesner; and teen helpers: Ashlyn, Athena, Irene, Leftheri, and Nicole. Thanks also to Elaine Charalambopoulos, Arlene Sudia, the Hellenic Cultural Center staff and our dedicated parent volunteers for their help. We had an amazing “AGAPE Adventure” in Vacation Bible School, learned about our Orthodox faith, and made friends that will last a lifetime!





NEWS AND NOTICES

DURING FATHER'S VACATION:

While Father Teodor is out of the country, he will be replaced by Fr. Vasilios Pliakas, a member of the St. Nicholas Ann Arbor community. If there is an urgent need before Father returns, please contact the church office at 734.525.6789 or stcons2@gmail.com and we can make arrangements for a priest to be available for a home or hospital visit, if needed, or to handle the situation. Father Teodor will return on August 10th.

ICONOGRAPHY UPDATE

Our Iconographer, Maria Sigala, was in town the first week of July to meet with the members of our Iconography Committee and take measurements of the church. Final drawings will be completed in Fall 2019 for the Saints Constantine and Helen Iconography Phase One: Iconostasis and Altar; and Phase Two: Dome and adjacent areas. Exciting Progress!

SUMMER SURVIVAL: The Summer Survival board is back! Unfortunately, summer attendance in church and weekly offerings are traditionally low, and this helps the church to pay our ongoing bills. If you would like to help, it's simple: make a commitment to help pay one of our summer expenses by signing up in one of the empty boxes on the board in the narthex. Drop off, or mail in your commitment/donation to the church office.

PHILOPTOCHOS FASHION SHOW

Save the date! Saturday October 12th, our St. Helen Philoptochos will be presenting a Fall Fashion Show, a long-time favorite event raising funds for the organization's philanthropic work. Fashions and accessories will be provided by The Clothing Cove, of Milford, who will also set up a complete boutique within the Hellenic Cultural Center for the shopaholics among us.

"GLITZ" DINNER AND AUCTION

Preparations are under way for our annual "Putting on the Glitz" Dinner and Auction, to be held Sunday, November 10th- our church's largest annual fundraising event. We are in need of donations for our live and silent auctions: Vacation timeshares, Hotel rooms, other Travel or Golf packages; Sports tickets, gear, or memorabilia; Concert/Theatre tickets and other Entertainment packages; Services – Photography, Salon, Accounting, Legal; Electronics, Gourmet Food Items, Wine, and Liquor; and any other new and exciting items, experiences, or services. Please contact the church office to let us know if you need a request letter, tax info, etc. to make a donation request. Let's work together to make this event a huge success!

MINI GREEK FESTIVAL

Sts. Constantine and Helen is planning a one day, indoor, mini Greek Festival on Sunday, February 9, 2020. Good food, Greek dancing, Church tours and a Taverna are planned. The event will be open to the public and will run from after Service until early evening. Please save the date.

VIDEO STREAMING

Not able to make it to church? Remember: all of our church Services and Sacraments (Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, etc.) are available on live video feed! As part of our parish outreach ministry, the video stream is made available to those individuals unable to attend Church services. All you have to do is go onto our Church website, www.stcons.org and go to the tab marked "Video Streaming".

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE WEEKLY BULLETIN

We are now placing some small business ads in the Weekly Messenger bulletin each Sunday to generate revenue to cover publication printing expenses. If you are interested in running an ad, please contact Annette at the church office for size and cost information.



**SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
WESTLAND, MICHIGAN**



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



ALEXIS BOYER

Graduate: Plymouth High School
Attending: University of Toledo
Parents: Stella and Brad Boyer
Grandparents: Peter and Sophie Kour



JOHN WILLIAM FARRES

Graduate: Plymouth High School
Attending: Schoolcraft College
Parents: Dr. Evans and Mary Farres



HANNAH MARIE KOESTER

Graduate: Salem High School
Attending: Western MI University
Parent: Evelyn Koester
Grandparents: Amalia Kalergis, Elsie Koester



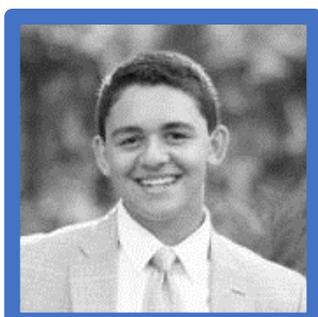
MARKUS MONOLIDIS

Graduate: Crestwood High School
Attending: MI State University
Parents: Tracy and George Monolidis



JACK RUDORF

Graduate: Crestwood High School
Attending: Kettering University
Parents: Marc and Laurie Rudorf



YANNI STAVROPOULOS

Graduate: Bloomfield Hills HS
Attending: University of Pittsburgh
Parents: Mark & Helen Stavropoulos
Grandparents: Nick and Athena Pascaris
Gus and Maria Stavropoulos

COLLEGE GRADUATES



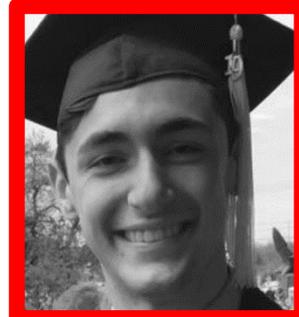
STEPHANIE ANN CHRISTY

Graduate: University of Southern CA
Ph.D. Social Work
Parents: Perry and Patricia Christy



MARIA CHOLACK

Graduate: University of MI, Ann Arbor
BA, Psychology & Organizational Studies
Parents: Eric and Anastasia Cholack



CHRISTOPHER FURKIOTI

Graduate: University of MI, Ann Arbor
BA, Economics
Parents: John and Christine Furkioti
Grandparent: Frances Furkioti



ALEXA KALASZ

Graduate: Wayne State University
BA, Social Work
Schoolcraft College – AA, Music
Parents: Michael and Maritsa Kalasz
Grandparent: Mary Madias



MIKAYLA SOPHIA KOUR

Graduate: Madonna University
BS, Business Administration
Parents: Leon and Cyndi Kour
Grandparents: Peter and Sophie Kour,
Evelyn Larson



KONSTANDINA STAVROPOULOS

Graduate: University of Michigan
BS, Neuroscience, Minor - Spanish
Parents: Mark and Helen Stavropoulos
Grandparents: Nick and Athena Pascaris
Gus and Maria Stavropoulos

**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: stcons2@gmail.com
Website: www.stcons.org

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

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
Westland, MI
PERMIT NO. 113

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

PARISH MINISTRIES

ALTAR BOYS

Pete Simakas, 313-350-1111

CHOIR

Maritsa Kalasz, 734-516-8548

G.O.Y.A.

Cathy Brylinski, 734.432.0834

GREEK SCHOOL

Anna Liakou-Hentnik 248.425.2321

H.O.P.E. and J.O.Y.

Frances Marinos, 734.459.7606

MEN'S GROUP

Peter Souchock, 734.558.7843

MOMS GROUP

Corrin Stamatakos, 312.961.8615

PARISH COUNCIL

Dino Lembesis, 586.484.1517

PHILOPTOCHOS

Carol Bozadzis, 248.921.5421

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Church Office, 734.525.6789

TLC- THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

Al Sudia, 734.455.2337

SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS

40-DAY BLESSING:

5/19/19

ISABELLA KULESH, Parents: Paul and Liz Kulesh

BAPTISMS:

5/4/19

VIVIANA DROUIN, Parents: Derek and Katerina Gajev-Drouin

5/4/19

KATHERINE GRACE LEFERE, Parents: Evagelia & Ryan Lefere

5/5/19

IOANNIS STAMATOULAKIS, Parents: Nick & Erica Stamatoulakis

5/5/19

FILIPPOS SHKODRANI, Parents: Stefan & Maria Shodrani

5/18/19

JACK HATHAWAY, Parents: Greg and Elaine (Tsoukalas) Hathaway

5/25/19

JACOB WALKER SMITH, Parents: Derek & Christine (Skouberdis) Smith

6/1/19

ANASTASIA FOTINI BISBIKIS, Parents: Marco and Ana Bisbikis

6/8/19

ADRIANA IOANNA MEIDANIS, Parents: Harry and Rachelle Meidanis

6/22/19

SOPHIA TSOUKALAS, Parents: Mariana and George Tsoukalas

6/23/19

LEO DAVID BRADLEY, Parents: Clement and Lanie (Kokas) Bradley

CHRISMATION:

5/7/19

DAVID BYRWA, Sponsor: Denise Byrwa

WEDDINGS:

5/11/19

ELENI KANAVOS to **GEORGE BISBIKIS**

5/18/19

BRITTANI TYRRELL to **MARC TARDIF**

6/22/19

AMANDA KOKAS to **CHRIS MUELLER**

6/29/19

CHRISTOPHER CHRISTOFF to **RACHEL BAZZY**

CONGRATULATIONS!

FUNERALS:

4/15/19

SOTIRIOS (SAM) ANTONOPOULOS 5/8/19

PETER ZACHARY

6/3/19

CATHERINE (NINA) CHRISTY 6/25/19

GEORGIA PREVEZIANOS

7/8/19

GEORGE GALATIS 7/11/19

GEORGE BALOS

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!