



Χριστός Ανέστη! CHRIST IS RISEN!

Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

What a beautiful Great Lent and Pascha season we have shared at the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church! Easter is the most important holiday in the Orthodox Church calendar. Orthodox Easter is not commercialized by chocolate, Easter bunnies or bonnets in pastel colors. Rather, it is deeply rooted in worship, tradition, and the work of the church. This is a time of year when parishioners and clergy come together to honor the passion of Christ, and celebrate His resurrection, and victory over death.

Many thanks are due to the parishioners who volunteered their time to help: participating in services; cooking and baking – from Lenten pot-luck suppers to dying red eggs and making Magiritsa soup; working in the Narthex and selling candles; and decorating the icons of the church and the Epitaphio with beautiful flowers. We are grateful to Fr. Teodor, Altar Boys and Altar servers for their tireless service, and to our Choir and Chanters for sharing their gift of music. We would also like to thank His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas for joining us on Holy Wednesday, and to celebrate the Easter Agape service; and to Fr. Mark Siestema, Fr. Anthony Cook, and Fr. Dean Hountalas for sharing their insight and knowledge with a Wednesday night lecture/presentation. During this time of fasting and worship, many parishioners also took time to volunteer their services in the community, and to share our many blessings with neighbors who are less fortunate. Thank You!





SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
REV. TEODOR PETRUTIU

36375 JOY ROAD
WESTLAND, MICHIGAN 48185

TELEPHONE: 734.525.6789
FAX: 734.525.3989

May 18, 2017

Dear Parishioners,

We pray this letter finds you and your family well.

Our General Assembly will be held on Sunday, June 11th, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, approximately at 12:00 p.m. ***We ask that you make every effort to attend. Your presence is very important!***

The Agenda is as follows:

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Opening Prayer
2. Roll Call
3. Election of Officers for the Assembly
4. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the previous General Assembly meeting
5. President's Report
6. Pastor's Report
7. Report of Treasurer- review of 2016 & year to date 2017 statements

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Facilities Report
2. Other New Business
3. Closing Prayer

In order to vote at the General Assembly, you must be current in your pledge for the year 2017.
Please attend this meeting!

In His service and yours,

Rev. Teodor Petrutiu
Parish Priest

A Message from Father Teodor



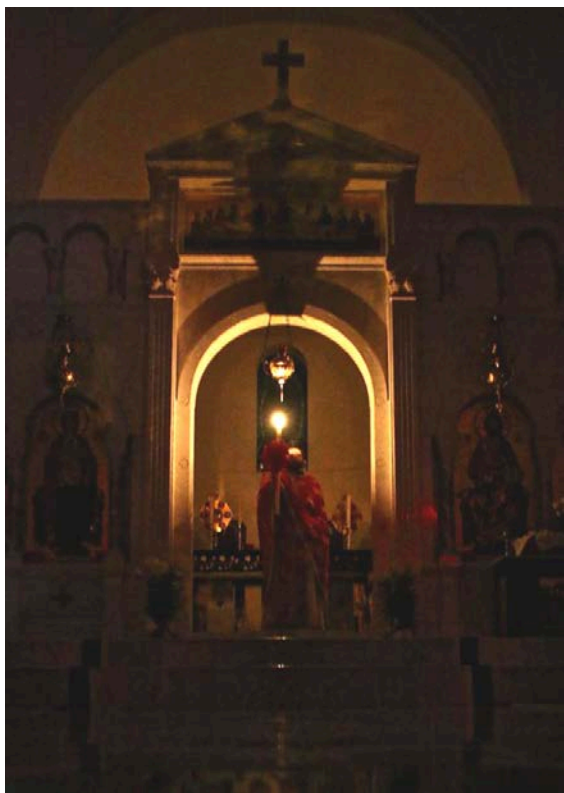
“Come, Receive the Light!”

On the night of the Resurrection there is a most special hymn that is chanted by the priest, then the choir. It is the hymn that the priest chants when he holds the paschal candle before the faithful and declares, “Come receive the light from the unwaning light, and glorify Christ who has risen from the dead.” In the darkness, we wait to hear this hymn. We anticipate the chanting of this hymn and we grow impatient at the pause and the darkness that precedes the first words of this hymn. For the hundreds that gather within the walls of the church when we hear it, it is indeed a joyous event because it is a signal of the joy brought by the beginning of the feast.

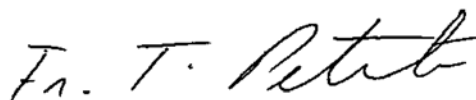
The paschal light that appears from the altar is indeed a signal—a beginning of a Great and Holy Pascha and a beautiful Bright Week. Many do indeed “come” to the light. The question, however, before all of us this Paschal season is whether or not we simply see the light or whether we actually receive it.

We all come forth and light our candles; sometimes, according to the old tradition we keep it lit all the way home. However, we are called to receive it and keep it into our hearts as well. The paschal flame is more than just an annual tradition passed down from one generation to another. The paschal flame is a living symbol of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ who is the light that shines forth in the darkness. This is the light that shined in the darkness at the creation of the world, the light that came from a cave in Bethlehem, the light that shows us the path to salvation, the light that is Jesus Christ our God.

To receive the light means to grip it with our minds and our hearts. To receive the light is to be illumined and to illumine others. To receive the light is to understand that the Paschal event is an everyday and yearlong activity not simply an annual celebration. We are to receive the light and that means everything that comes along with that light. When we receive the light we are called to become light ourselves, a beacon pointing others toward the light that is Christ’s One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.



As we conclude this Paschal season, we will be well served to pray on the meaning of those first words that began this glorious period, to not only see the light from the paschal candle but to receive it into our hearts, this paschal season, this year, and forever more.



Fr. Teodor



GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE FUN!

We love a parade! The rain had been coming down all day, but stopped just in time for the Greek Independence Day Parade in Detroit's Greektown! We had a nice size group representing St. Cons walking down Monroe Street on Sunday, March 26th. Greek and American flags were waved as groups from all the area Greek Orthodox churches, social and fraternal organizations walked the route. The parade, commemorating the start of the Greek War of Independence in 1821, is a way to get together with other Metropolitan Detroit area Greeks for a day of fun. The parade weekend includes several events that raise funds for the Hellenic Museum of Michigan, and furthers our very proud Hellenic heritage.



WISHING LIZA LUCK & WELCOMING JESSICA to the HCC!



As many of our parishioners are aware, Liza Randazzo, who has been the Catering Manager at the Hellenic Cultural Center for more than 5 years, has recently left the catering business to take on a new job. Liza was instrumental in helping to develop the HCC, and over the years, we have all gotten to know and love her. On April 26th, the church and HCC got together a small surprise party to thank Liza for her dedicated service and to wish her the best of luck, but not goodbye - Liza and her family are still members of our parish community, and we will continue to see her at services and events.

Liza's party was also an opportunity for several parishioners to meet Jessica Willis, the new Manager at the Hellenic Cultural Center. Jessica has recently moved to Michigan from La Jolla/San Diego, where she was in hotel management, to live near her fiancée, Daniel. Raised in Northern California, she Jessica has worked in the food and beverage industry since she was a teenager. She loves biking, hiking, camping, and all outdoor activities. Welcome to our parish family, Jessica!



2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

LEAH KOUKIOS CALAGIAS

Congratulations to our 2017 Woman of the Year, Leah Koukios Calagias! It's hard to say what Leah does for our church, because the short answer is "nearly everything!" If she sees something that needs to be done, Leah will take the initiative to do it - which means you are just as likely to see her helping somebody out of their car or putting down salt on an icy Sunday morning as counting money in the church office; taking photographs at a church service or event as baking something delicious to serve with coffee. Leah was a member of our Parish Council and the St. Helen Philoptochos Society, and volunteers with the "Feed the Needy" program, and other church philanthropic efforts.

If you've ever attended services at Sts. Constantine and Helen, you've surely run into Leah in the church Bookstore or the Narthex, keeping things running smoothly. Outside of church, Leah works as a special education para resource, and was recently named a "Diversity Champion" by the Farmington Public Schools. This is an honor well deserved!



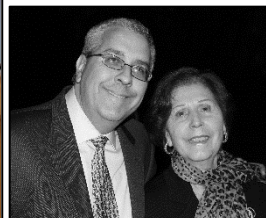
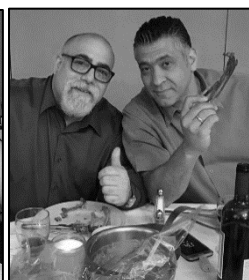
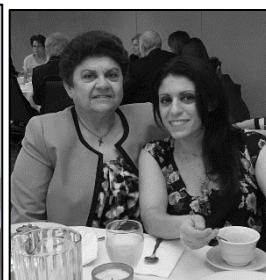
CELEBRATING MOM!

Mothers' Day is a very special day at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, as we honor our Mothers and Godmothers! As each woman entered the church, they were met by a member of the St. Helen Philoptochos Society and given a carnation. Our Church Greeters on that day were Tracy Monolidis and her two daughters, Helenia and Sophia, and the 2017 "Woman of the Year" was announced to the congregation. After the service, most of those in attendance went to the Hellenic Cultural Center for the special Mothers' Day Brunch. This brunch is an annual tradition at the HCC, bringing in nearly 400 people from the parish and the community to enjoy the enormous buffet, the company of family and friends, and to celebrate Mom.



2017 HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA IN PICTURES

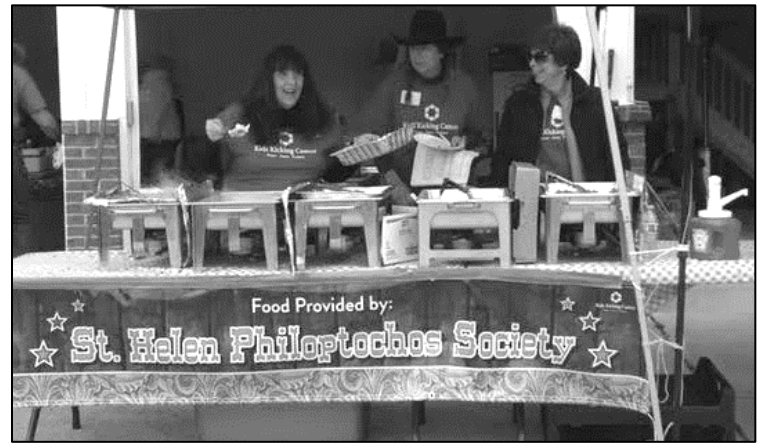




ST CONS IN THE COMMUNITY

PHILOPTOCHOS HELPS “KIDS KICKING CANCER”

The St. Helen Philoptochos Society was pleased to support the Kids Kicking Cancer event in Milford this month! More than 150 young people with cancer and their families participated in the day-long event, featuring horseback riding, entertainment, dancing, and all kinds of fun! Local TV personality Lila Lazarus hosted the event benefitting Kids Kicking Cancer, a national organization whose mission is to *“teach the mind-body techniques of Martial arts instruction, breath work and meditation to empower children beyond the pain and discomfort of disease.”* Our Philoptochos provided food for the event, and members volunteered to work, serving food and helping in any way they could. Thank you ladies for all your great work in the community – we hope to work with Kids Kicking Cancer again in the future!



OUR H.O.P.E. and J.O.Y. CHILDREN'S GROUPS GIVE THE EASTER BUNNY A HELPING HAND!



Our H.O.P.E. and J.O.Y. kids, ages 4 – 12, put together a special Lenten “Good Deeds” project this year. They collected money, and on the Saturday of Lazarus, assembled Easter baskets for two groups of children in need. The two groups worked with the City of Westland Housing Department, to reach low-income children living in Westland; and with the volunteer community of Angela Hospice to give baskets to children from infants to teenagers, who are in hospice care. Each basket contained books, toys, candy and other fun surprises!

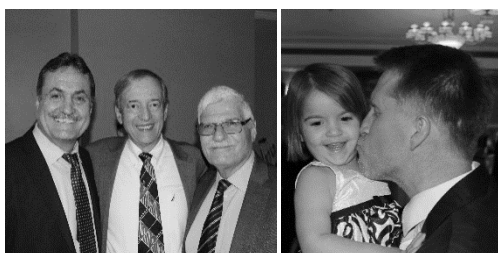
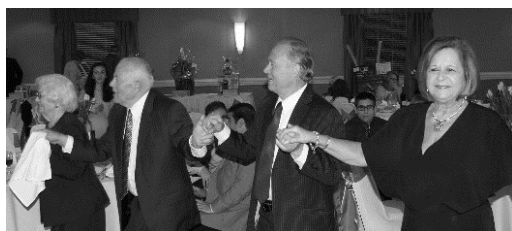


Under the direction of Frances Marinos and Theodora Grias, the newly formed H.O.P.E. and J.O.Y. groups have gotten off to a great start! We are so proud of our young people and can't wait to see all the amazing things they will do as they grow up!

STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN NAME DAY DINNER DANCE

Our Moms' Group has done it again! The Sts. Constantine and Helen 8th annual Name Day Dinner Dance, held on Saturday May 13th, was bigger and better than ever! This family-friendly event is a real crowd pleaser, with delicious food prepared by the Hellenic Cultural Center, fantastic dance music by DJ's Chilly n' Dio, and family photographs by Intel Bill Photography. A highlight of the evening was the performance by our young Greek Dance Group – the children were darling, and had some real skills on the dance floor! Many thanks to Tom and Athena Alexandris for working with the group, and helping to pass on our Greek cultural traditions to our children. The Name Day Dinner Dance raises funds for the ministries of our church. Thanks to the Parish Council, Philoptochos, Choir, Men's Club, Sunday School, GOYA and Moms' Group, who donated gift baskets that were raffled off that night. Congratulations to the raffle winners!

Special thanks to Kali Michalopoulos, and all the members of our Moms' Group, who worked so hard to put together this terrific event. Kai Tou Xpouvu!





Upcoming events and activities

Please save the dates and plan to attend these upcoming Sts. Constantine and Helen parish events and activities.

- 6/4/17 – SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION AND CHURCH PICNIC
- 6/8/17 – GREEK SCHOOL GRADUATION AND YEAR-END CELEBRATION
- 6/11/17 – ST. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
- 6/18/17 – FATHERS' DAY, AND HONORING OUR GRADUATES
- 6/19/17 – 6/23/17 – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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Marco Bisbikis, Esq.
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

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COME AND VISIT THE STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN CHURCH BOOKSTORE!

We have many beautiful icons and religious items, jewelry, and books for adults and children about our Orthodox faith. We also sell communion wine. The bookstore is open every Sunday after church services. For more information or special orders, contact Maria Stavropoulos viaviatanni@gmail.com or Leah Calagias. bouboulina52@yahoo.com



Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2017

Day camp for kids!

At Sts. Constantine & Helen
Monday, June 19th through June 23rd
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. daily

Ages: preschool (age 4) – 6th grade
INCLUDES T-SHIRT FOR EACH STUDENT!!

Please register by June 12th!

GAMES ~ ARTS~ CRAFTS ~ MUSIC TIME ~ RECESS ~ MONASTERY VISIT

For more information, contact:

Athena Alexandris 248.349.5950 or alexandris33@gmail.com
Or Anastasia Sakakini 248.227.1594 or anastasia011@hotmail.com

CURRICULUM: “The Twelve Great Feasts: The Triumph of Christ and his Church”

- Four Lessons: Palm Sunday; Ascension; Pentecost; Exaltation of the Cross
- ½ day Field trip to a local monastery
- Daily Prayer service; Daily snack and juice box

REGISTRATION FORM 2017

Parent's Name _____ Phone # _____

Street Address _____ Cell/Emergency # _____

City, State, Zip _____

Child's Name _____ Current Grade _____ Age _____

Parent's email _____

Food allergies or other medical conditions we should be aware of _____

Teachers and helpers are needed! Please volunteer your time!

Yes, I would like to help with _____

Please enclose \$20 per child. Cash _____ Check # _____ Pay later _____

Please return to church office or mail to:

Sts. Constantine & Helen/ATTN: Vacation Bible School
36375 Joy Road, Westland, MI 48185
LATE FEE AFTER JUNE 12TH - \$5/CHILD

**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

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U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
Westland, MI
PERMIT NO. 113

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

PARISH MINISTRIES

ALTAR BOYS

Pete Simakas, 313-350-1111

CHOIR/YOUTH CHOIR

Maritsa Kalasz, 734-516-8548

DANCE GROUP

Tom Alexandris, 734.453.1234

G.O.Y.A.

Cathy Brylinski, 734.432.0834

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

Frances Marinos, 734.459.7606

MEN'S GROUP

Paul Stavropoulos, 248.709.9876

MOMS GROUP

Kali Michalopoulos, 734-331-9515

PARISH COUNCIL

Dino Lembesis, 586.484.1517

PHILOTOCHOS

Georgene Ochadleus,
248-685-8375

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Andrea Uhlian, 313-720-9465

TLC- THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

Al Sudia, 734.455.2337.

SACRAMENTS AND SERVICES

40-Day Blessings:

3/19/17

LAUREN CHARLIE McCLAIN, Parents: Chris and Maggie McClain

3/26/17

EMERY ANN SOUCHOCK, Parents: Trey and Erica Souchock

Baptisms:

3/19/17

BRYNN VICTORIA BONDY, Parents: Brian & Melissa Bondy

Godparents: Lucas & Tracy Beiswanger

4/23/17

KATERINA TSOUKALAS, Parents George and Mariana Tsoukalas

Godparent: Christina Stergiou

4/23/17

VICTOR PAZACHEV, Parents: Adam Satterlee and Iliyana Pazacheva

Godparents: Christopher and Sarah Gadjev

4/26/17

DANIEL DUNI, Parents: Christian and Julinda Duni

Godparent: Besjana Troka

4/29/17

BROOKLYN ELISE VITANIS, Parents: Nicholas and Kimberly Vitanis

Godparents: Greg and Katina Light

4/29/17

GIANA STELLA BISBIKIS, Parents: Marco and Ana Bisbikis

Godparents: Paul Ioannou and Margie Vardouniotis

5/6/17

HARPER MICHELLE KALLAS, Parents: Jason and Leslie Kallas

Godparents: Nicolas Kallas, Amy Holzer

5/7/17

THEODORE MICHAEL BURNS, Parents: Jordan and Stephanie Burns

Godparents: John Themelis, Jillian and Taylor Burns

Chrismation:

5/7/17

ALISON ROSE VOGLESONG, Sponsor: Emmanuela Bogdanos

CONGRATULATIONS!