

Visions



SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

Beginning the Great Lent and Journey to Pascha

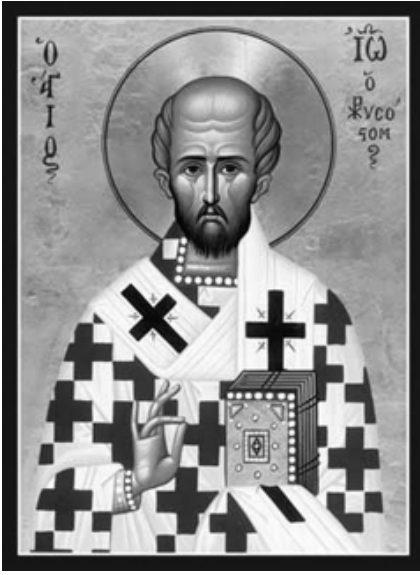
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY: The Sunday of Orthodoxy, the commemoration of the restoration of the Holy Icons, is celebrated the first Sunday of the Great Lent. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy service, Orthodox faithful carry icons in a procession around the church. Parishioners brought in icons to be blessed, and our Parish Council members and Sunday School students joined in this annual tradition. On that day Markus Monolidis also shared his Junior Division winning Oratorical presentation on the importance of icons in our daily lives.

KOULOUMA: On the first day of the Lenten Season, (Kathara Deftera) Monday March 14th, the St. Helen Philoptochos put together a delicious Koulouma luncheon following the Great Compline service. There was a large group in attendance, with clergy and parishioners from area churches. Many thanks to Fr. Nicolaos Kotsis, St. Nicholas Ann Arbor; Fr. Joseph Gingrich, St. George Bloomfield Hills; and Fr. Philemon Karamanos for joining us. Thanks also to those who volunteered their time and cooked traditional Lenten foods for the event. All proceeds from the Koulouma go toward our Philoptochos chapter which supports philanthropic efforts in the community, the needs of the church, and national initiatives of our Archdiocese.



THE PASCHAL SERMON OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

(Read during the Resurrection Service)



If any man be devout and loves God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast! If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in no wise be deprived therefore. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. And if any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness.

For the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first. He giveth rest unto him who cometh at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who hath wrought from the first hour. And He shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one He giveth, and upon the other He bestows gifts. And He both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the

intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering.

Wherefore, enter ye all into the joy of your Lord; receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival! You sober and you heedless, honor the day! Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away. Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness.

Let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal Kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered when it encountered You in the lower regions.

It was embittered, for it was abolished.

It was embittered, for it was mocked.

It was embittered, for it was slain.

It was embittered, for it was overthrown.

It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains.

It took a body, and met God face to face.

It took earth, and encountered Heaven.

It took that which was seen, and fell upon the Unseen.

O Death, where is thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is risen, and thou art overthrown!

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!

Christ is risen, and life reigns!

Christ is risen, and not one

dead remains in the grave.

For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages.

Amen.

A Message from Father Teodor



The Journey of Holy Week

The Services of Holy Week and Pascha in the Orthodox Church are at the core of our liturgical life. Most Greek Orthodox, even those who only come to church a few times a year, are familiar with the unique and moving services of the Good Friday and the Anastasi. But the Holy Week is so much more than that; the Church invites us to journey with our Lord from the triumph of the raising of Lazarus and the Palm Sunday, through Jesus' confrontations with the religious authorities, to the cross and, finally, to the victory of the Resurrection. The services of Holy Week tell one complete story; only by following each one can we truly understand what God has done for us.

In order to defeat death, which was not created by God, but was brought through disobedience and sin, God Himself not only entered our world, but confronted death face-to-face. The power of death which held us captive from the beginning was broken. We feel the power of this truth at midnight of Pascha as we wait in the dark, waiting for the one flame to come forth with the exclamation: *"Come receive the Light"*, and for this Light of Life to come to each of us, until the whole Church is aglow with the Light of the Resurrection. Then, seeing this light, we can say with Saint Paul, *"O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?"* (1 Corinthians 15:55)

But this light will be an empty experience if we have not walked the long and difficult path of the Cross. If the Resurrection is the victory of life, the Cross is the victory of love. The two form one eternal whole, which brings us back again to the services of Holy Week.

The special period that we call Holy Week is rapidly approaching as it does every year. Where will you be during this blessed time? We invite you to experience Holy Week, not just through Holy Friday and Anastasi, but through the entire journey with our Lord. This is the complete story and journey: from Saturday of Lazarus, through the Entrance in Jerusalem, through the Bridegroom Services, then experiencing the healing of soul and body that comes from the Holy Unction service, through the intense and Spirit-filled services of the 12 Gospels, Apokathelosis, Epitaphios and then the Resurrection service and the Agape.

By living each service, by contemplating the meaning of each day, we are drawn ever closer to the love of God who chose to empty Himself in every way in order to love us. What better way can there be of spending our time, making the smallest effort of love on our part in response to God's infinite love for us.

Kalo Pascha!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. T. Petre". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Fr. Teodor

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

On January 19, 2016, the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church was pleased to host a beautiful and meaningful service celebrating the National Week of Christian Unity, "Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord". Participating along with Fr. Teodor and our Choir, were Clergy and Choirs from the Catholic Community of Divine Savior, St. Theodore and St. Damian, Bishop Francis Reiss, Administrator; Timothy Lutheran Church, Pastor Eric Stenson; The Newburg United Methodist Church, Rev. Steven McCoy, Lead Pastor. After the service, our St. Helen Philoptochos hosted a reception in the Hellenic Cultural Center. What a joy it was to share worship and fellowship with fellow area Christians of many different faiths. We look forward to continued partnerships and events in the future.



OUR PARISH ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Our annual parish level Oratorical Festival was held on March 20th. The Oratorical Festival is a public speaking contest that gives our students a chance to write and talk about their faith, and gives adults a chance to understand how our children feel about the church and God. Our Parish finalists are JoAnna Colovas, Senior Division who spoke on the subject of *"How do you respond to people who question your belief in God and participation in the life of the Church?"* and Markus Monolidis, Junior Division, who spoke on the topic *"Discuss how icons play a helpful role in the prayer life of "Orthodox Christians."* Other young people making oratorical presentations were: Helenia Monolidis, Anastasia Stergiadis, Alexis Demos, Daniel Colovas, Elias Christodoulos, Nicole and Irene Petrutiu, and Marissa Frango.



MEN'S CLUB AND ALTAR BOYS AT DAVE AND BUSTERS!

What a terrific idea! On February 10th, our Men's Club hosted the Altar Boys for a banquet dinner and an evening of fun at Dave & Busters - and it was hard to tell which group was having the most fun!

Our Men's Club members are great role models for our young men, providing an excellent example of Orthodox leadership. Individually and as a group these men share their time and talent with the church. They also have many fundraising and philanthropic events throughout the year, including the upcoming Euchre Tournament, Golf Outing and the "John Koinis Feed the Needy Program" that provides Thanksgiving supper for over 100 families in our community.

Hole Sponsors are currently being sought for the 5th Annual St. Con's Men's Club Golf Outing to be held on Sunday, September 18, 2016 at Fellows Creek Golf Club. If you own a business, or know of somebody who would be interested in supporting this charitable event, please let us know. To get involved with the Men's Club or for more information about the Golf Outing, please contact President Danny Stergiadis at 734.624.1699.



ALTAR BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT UPDATE:

"Bless those who love the beauty of Your house"

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Through the generosity and dedication of our parishioners, we are more than halfway toward our goal to complete our Altar Beautification project! As of 4/4/16, we have received \$57,425 in donations toward our \$100,000 goal, and an additional \$5,200 in pledges of support.

The Altar is the most important part of the sanctuary; it is the place where the Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of our Lord is being consecrated and kept on the Holy Table. It is for this reason that we decided to start the beautification of the interior of our church with the Altar.

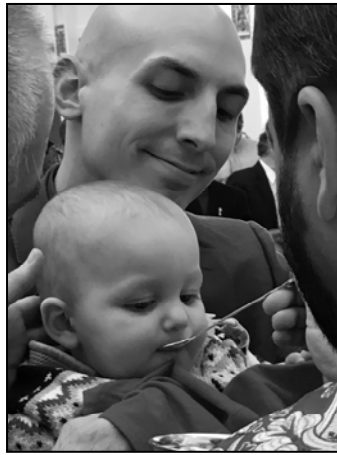
We thank the many families who have already made generous donations. If it is in your heart to support this beautification effort, donations are still needed. Giving envelopes are available in the church narthex and the office.



FEELING THE LOVE ON VALENTINE'S DAY!

GODPARENTS' SUNDAY

Valentine's Day was also godparents' Sunday this year at Sts. Constantine and Helen! And it was a truly loving celebration! The godparent is responsible for the spiritual upbringing of your child. A Godparent should set a good religious example and take an interest in the religious upbringing of the godchild. Since being a godparent entails religious, emotional, and financial commitments, it is both a favor and a great honor. On that day, Godparents and their godchildren came to church together, took communion together, and then had a special luncheon at the Hellenic Cultural Center. Our Mom's Group helped to make the day special with a bake sale of delicious Valentine's Day treats!



TLC "LOVE IS IN THE AIR" LUNCHEON

Love was definitely in the air when the Thursday Lunch Club met on February 18th for a Valentines Day celebration; chocolates, crepes, roses and love songs were all part of the fun.

TLC luncheons are presented at the Hellenic Cultural Center once a month (no April luncheon, due to Lent), providing fun, food and fellowship for all ages. Thanks go out to Al and Arlene Sudia and Zoe Jaimee who come together each month to make the TLC lunch something special.

Invite a friend and join us on May 19, 2016 for the next Thursday Lunch Club event!



PARISH COUNCIL PROFILES:

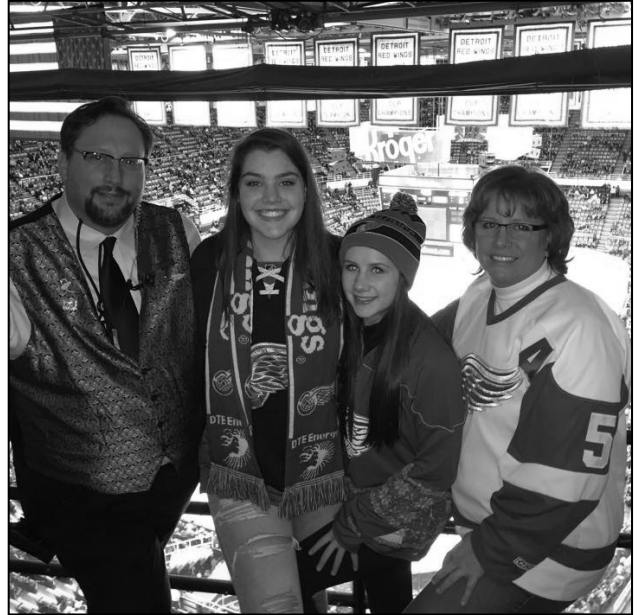
In each issue of the Visions, we try to share some information about one or two of our Parish Council members and their families. In this issue, we profile Pete Kalergis and Danny Stergiadis, both life-long members of our church. If you don't already know these hard-working men, what are you waiting for? Introduce yourself!

PETER KALERGIS, ASSISTANT TREASURER

Peter, son of Nicholas and Amalia Kalergis, has been a life-long member of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church. Peter pledged his services as an altar boy for over 20 years and currently serves as Assistant Treasurer and Parish Council member. Additionally, he is an active member of the Men's Club.

Peter and Annemarie have been married for 17 years and reside in Canton. Annemarie works at Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) as an event coordinator. Their daughters Amalia (16) and Madalyn (13) help when needed in the candle stand (pangari), attend Sunday school, and enjoy helping with church events such as the Feed the Needy program.

Peter has been with Ford Motor Company for 17 years, and he is currently a Mechanical Engineer. He also works at Olympia Entertainment (Joe Louis Arena), going on 29 years, taking care of suiteholders. In his free time, he enjoys attending his daughters' and nieces' sporting events, Detroit Sport team's events, and Concerts.



DANNY (ANTONIOS) STERGIADIS

Danny is a lifelong member of Sts. Constantine and Helen church, and has served on the Parish Council for 5 years. He has served as the President of the Men's Club for the past two years.

The youngest son of Pavlos and Anastasia Stergiadis, Danny has been married to Kimberly for 15 years. He is employed by Mans Lumber - since 2002; Kimberly is employed by PwC.

They have two daughters: Anastasia (age 14) is active in school sports (basketball and track); Olivia (nearly 12 years) is active in basketball and both girls enjoy travel soccer through GISA. Both girls participate in Sunday School and have participated in the church's youth

basketball program.

Danny's free time hobbies include working out, golfing, watching sports (basketball, football, hockey, baseball and soccer). He also enjoys hunting outdoors and going up north. He also serves on the Grosse Ile Soccer Association board. He enjoys youth sports and has participated in coaching high school football in recent years.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Sunday April 17, 2015 is the 15th Annual Detroit Greek Independence Day Parade, which will once again be held on Monroe Street in Historic Greektown! The parade is a way to join with all the other Greek Orthodox Churches in the area to have fun and honor our Greek heritage. Come on out, and help to represent St. Constantine and Helen Church in the parade!

PALM SUNDAY FISH LUNCHEON

After you attend Palm Sunday services on April 24th, plan to stay with your family for a delicious Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon at the Hellenic Cultural Center. The menu features whitefish, shrimp and rice and calamari, along with pasta and other sides. Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for children ages 5 -10 years. Children 4 and under are free. They can be purchased at the coffee hour each Sunday from Louise Holt or at the church office.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER: April 24th – May 1

(See complete Holy Week Schedule, next page)

NAME DAY DINNER DANCE

On Saturday, May 21, 2016 our Moms' Group will host the annual Sts. Constantine and Helen Name Day Dinner Dance at the Hellenic Cultural Center. This fantastic event has fun for all members of the family, young and old – Greek and American dancing, delicious buffet dinner, cash bar, elegant desserts and a candy stand for the children! For tickets or information, contact Jean Chuey at 248.596.9572, or Kali Michalopoulos at 734.331.9515.

HONORING MOM ON HER DAY

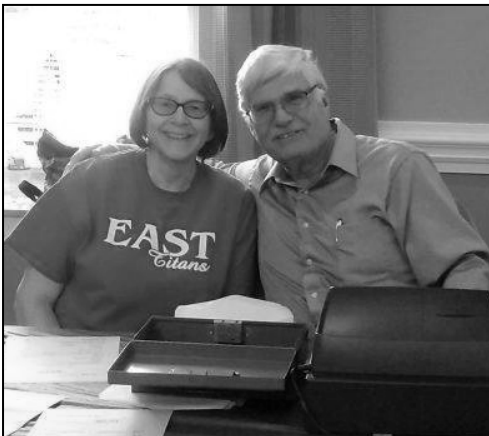
Treat Mom to something special on Mother's Day this year! On May 8th, come with the family to church (nothing would please Mom more than that!) where our mothers will be honored and celebrated. Our St. Helen Philoptochos members will greet Mom with a fresh flower as she enters church for the Divine Liturgy, and the Church honors one special person as "Woman of the Year." After services, bring the family over to the Hellenic Cultural Center for a gorgeous brunch featuring a complete buffet of breakfast and lunch entrees, including carved roast beef, roast turkey, pork cutlet, sausage with peppers and onions, and an amazing sweets table! Reservations are required, and large groups are welcome. Contact the HCC at 734.525.3550 to hold your table.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION/PARISH PICNIC

Wear your casual clothes to church on Sunday, June 5th! Immediately following the Divine Liturgy, we will be having our Sunday School graduation ceremony and our Parish Picnic! Right here on the church grounds, there will plenty of great food, a large tent, bounce house and other big games and activities for the whole family. Plan to stay for the fun!

THANKS TO OUR HCC EVENT VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks so much to the parishioners who volunteered to work at the door to sell tickets for our Friday Fish Fry Buffet nights and for the Irish Fest at the Hellenic Cultural Center: Jim Bigas, Jeff Zeh, Kostas Voutsinas, Strat and Leah Calagias, John and Yiota Avdoulos, and to Bill Skotanis, who puts in many volunteer hours each month helping to manage our facilities. Thanks also to Steffi Lemons, who pitched in while our Catering Manager, Liza Randazzo took a 2-month leave of absence, (Welcome back, Liza!) and to all the fantastic HCC staff members. The Hellenic Cultural Center produces much needed revenue for our parish and its ministries, and is a source of pride for our church, and our community! The City of Westland recently selected the HCC as the location for Mayor William Wild's "State of the City" address!



36375 Joy Rd., Westland -- 734.525.6789

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



SATURDAY OF LAZARUS - April 23	<u>MORNING</u>	Matins 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m. <i>Holy Communion is available at this service.</i> Pancake Breakfast and Making of Palm Crosses after
PALM SUNDAY - April 24	<u>MORNING</u>	Matins 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m. <i>Holy Communion is available at this service.</i> Fish Dinner following in the Hellenic Cultural Center
	<u>EVENING</u>	1st Bridegroom (Nymphios) Service 6:30 p.m.
HOLY MONDAY - April 25	<u>EVENING</u>	2nd Bridegroom (Nymphios) Service 6:30 p.m.
HOLY TUESDAY - April 26	<u>EVENING</u>	3rd Bridegroom (Nymphios) Service 6:30 p.m. (Hymn of Kassiane)
HOLY WEDNESDAY – APRIL 27	<u>AFTERNOON</u>	First Holy Unction 4:00 p.m.
	<u>EVENING</u>	2nd Holy Unction 7:00 pm
HOLY THURSDAY – APRIL 28	<u>MORNING</u>	St. Basil's Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. <i>Holy Communion is available at this service.</i>
	<u>EVENING</u>	The Reading of the 12 Gospels and the Procession of our Crucified Lord 6:30 p.m.
GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 29	<u>MORNING</u>	Royal Hours 9:30 a.m. Decorating the Epitaphios 11:30 am
	<u>AFTERNOON</u>	Apokathelosis 3:30 p.m. (Descent of Christ's Body from the Cross) Memorial Service after Apokathelosis
	<u>EVENING</u>	Epitaphios Service 6:30 p.m.
HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 30	<u>MORNING</u>	St. Basil's Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. <i>Holy Communion is available at this service.</i>
	<u>EVENING</u>	Resurrection Service 11 p.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy and Anastasi Supper. <i>Holy Communion is available at this service.</i>
EASTER SUNDAY – MAY 1	<u>MORNING</u>	Agape Service 11:00 a.m.

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church



PALM SUNDAY FISH LUNCHEON

Sunday, April 24, 2016

At the Hellenic Cultural Center
Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

MENU: *Baked White Fish, Calamari, Shrimp and Rice, Roasted Potatoes, Dilled Peas, Pasta with Marinara Sauce, Salad, French Fries, Raspberry Sorbet, Rolls, Beverages*

**Tickets: Adults: \$20
Children, ages 5 – 10, \$10
4 and under free**

Luncheon tickets can be purchased from Louise Holt during coffee hour.

Mother's Day BRUNCH



Sunday, May 8, 2014

12:00 until 4:00 pm

Hellenic Cultural Center

Breakfast served 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Main Course Entrees, served 12:00pm – 4:00pm

**Advance reservations required.
Large Groups Welcome**

Please call 734-525-3550

**ADULTS \$19 KIDS 3-10 \$10 KIDS (under 3) FREE
Cash Bar available, gratuity not included**



NAME DAY DINNER DANCE

Hosted by the MOMS' Group
SATURDAY MAY 21, 2016

Doors open at 6:00pm & Dinner at 6:30pm

BUFFET DINNER includes:

*Carved Roast Beef, Chicken Picatta, Mixed Vegetables, Roasted Potatoes,
Pasta, Salad, Dessert & Candy Stand*

**Cash Bar
Featuring Djs Chilly n' Dio
Raffle**

**Adults: \$25.00
Children (5-12) \$10.00
Children (4 & under) Free**

Family Photos: Provided by Bill Bertakis of Intel Bill

To purchase tickets, contact:
Jean Chuey (248) 596-9572 or Kali Michalopoulos (734) 331-9515

PLAN NOW!

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL
At Sts. Constantine and Helen Church!



Dates: June 27 - 30

Ages: Preschool (age 4) - 5th grade

**For more information, call Angie Colovas
(734)207-3980 or angiecolovas@yahoo.com**

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SAVE THE DATE!

Putting on the Glitz 2016

Reverse Raffle, Live and Silent Auction!

NOVEMBER 6, 2016

\$125 per person (includes Raffle and Gourmet Dinner)

Tickets will be available for sale beginning May, 2016.

WE NEED LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION ITEMS!

*Sports memorabilia, Travel tickets or packages, Vacation time shares,
Electronics, Children's items, Wine or liquor bundles, Fine Jewelry, Collectables*

We are seeking a few items with a retail value of over \$2,500.

All items should be in excellent and salable condition.

Contact Lou Kircos ([313-885-1399](tel:313-885-1399)) or Fr Teodor for information.

**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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CHOIR

Maritsa Kalasz, 734-522-9334

DANCE GROUP

Tom Alexandris, 734-453-1234

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

TLC- THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

Al Sudia, 734.455.2337.

SACRAMENTS AND SERVICES

40-Day Blessing: 2/21/16 - **CHRISTIAN RICHARD DAVIS**

Parents: David & Nikolitsa Davis

3/27/16 – **LENA CHRISTINA KISABETH**. Parents: Dan & Joy Kisabeth

Baptisms:

2/20/16 - **DOMONIK MASSENGILL**, Parents Tim and Heather Massengill
Sponsor Maxine Andrews

2/20/16 - **CALVIN PACE**, Parents Maxine Andrews and Tommy Pace II
Sponsors Tim and Heather Massengill

2/20/16 - **CONSTANTINA VALKANOS**, Parents: Sotiri Valkanos
and Alyvia Larrai, Sponsor: Joy Stassinopoulos

3/5/16 - **SARA BRICOLAS** (adult), Sponsor: Alexandra Sarellaris

3/5/16 - **GEORGE BRICOLAS** (adult), Sponsor: Zina Karadimas

3/19/16 - **ALEXANDER NASH** (adult) Sponsors: Steve and Cindy Lagas

Chrismations: 2/20/16 - **ALYVIA LARRAIR**, Sponsors: Sam Buchin & Alec Larrai

2/20/16 - **SHAIYENA WHEBLE**, Parents Tim & Heather Massengill
Sponsor Marie Douglas

Funerals:

1/23/16

2/13/16

2/15/16

2/18/16

2/19/16

4/2/16

4/6/16

MARY RUSSELL

PATRICIA TRAITSES (Griffin Chapel)

ATHENA VERGOS

HELEN (DRALLOS) McWILLIAMS

BESSIE DIAMOND

KENNETH JOHNSON

GEORGIA KILAVOS

May their memory be eternal!