



FALL EVENTS SUPPORT CHURCH MINISTRIES

REVERSE RAFFLE NIGHT

Our Reverse Raffle was held on Sunday November 9th, and once again this year proved to be our biggest annual Church fundraiser. Several cash prizes were given away to lucky winners. Congratulations to all of our prize winners! The Reverse Raffle featured a delicious gourmet dinner and open bar, classic cars, great giveaways and exciting live and silent auction items. Some of the fantastic items up for auction included: Disney Villa and Sanibel Island Vacations, Red Wings and Tigers memorabilia and ticket packages, electronics, and group experiences, like wine tasting, and golf outings. Some of the liveliest bidding was for Fr. Teodor's prime parking spot near the Church door for an entire year!

Many thanks to the Reverse Raffle committee, who put this event together, including: Lou Kircos, John Avdoulos, Mark Chuey, Pat Gazepis, Al Sudia, Bill Skotanis, and Lou Frango. Thanks to all who volunteered to help, to those who donated auction items, and to those who came to the event and placed bids – raising much needed funds for our church.



Connie Livanos, Bill Skotanis, Jim Livanos



Robert Herta, John Avdoulos



Cameron Elizabeth Pawlak

FALL FESTIVAL

Everyone had a fantastic time at our Annual Fall Festival, sponsored by our Moms' Group, held on October 24th at the Hellenic Cultural Center. Activities like the Fall Festival bring families together for fun and fellowship in our church, and help to create a Parish community and lifelong memories. On behalf of the Moms' Group we would like to thank all the volunteers, attendees, their families, friends and everyone's generous donations for helping make our Annual Fall Festival a huge success!!! Our community pulled together once again to make this event possible and we THANK YOU ALL for your support! Please Save the Date for Next Year's Fall Festival: FRIDAY OCTOBER 25th, 2015. More photos from the Fall Festival are inside this issue of the Visions, and photo booth pics are available for order online at <http://smu.gs/1DTIhOW>.

A Message from Father Teodor



An Attitude of Gratitude

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:4-7

If you look closely at this text from the New Testament and its larger context, you see a number of exhortations given by St. Paul. As he encourages the people in Philippi, you get the clear sense that there were many problems present there; things like depression, lack of seriousness about prayer, harshness between Christians, minds filled with the wrong kind of things. But in spite of these problems, St. Paul is confident that there are solutions and he encourages them to always have the right attitude. The definition of attitude is "an inner feeling expressed by outward behavior". Attitude grows within us, but displays itself outside of us through our actions.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we should examine and review our attitude of gratitude. This attitude determines our approach to life, our approach to others and our approach to God.

A little boy was asked by his father to say the prayer at the Thanksgiving table. While the rest of the family waited the little boy eyed every dish of food his mother had prepared. After the examination, he bowed his head and prayed sincerely: *"Lord, I don't like the looks of it, but I thank you for it, and I'll eat it anyway. Amen."*

Paul called the Philippians to an attitude of thanksgiving that is constant within their lives. Paul called those early believers (and now calls us) to a discipline of thanksgiving that goes beyond a day or an activity to become a mindset and a lifestyle.

I personally am grateful for the love and the blessings that our Lord has continuously poured upon our Sts. Constantine and Helen parish. I am grateful for the work of the Parish Council, Philoptochos, Choir, Chanters, Sunday School, Greek School, Men's Club, Mom's Group, GOYA, Altar Servers and of all organizations and volunteers of our parish! I ask that God will continue to give all of us abundance in spiritual goods and physical health.

As you gather on Thanksgiving Day in the warmth of your home or somewhere else, with family and with friends, I hope you have a great day! I hope you will enjoy the traditions of the day. But remember that Thanksgiving is more than enjoying great food and football. Thanksgiving is an attitude to be lived and displayed every day of the year.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Fr. Teodor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fr. T. Petuk".

Feast of the Entrance into The Temple of The Theotokos

November 21

The Feast of the Entrance into the Temple of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on November 21 each year. The Feast commemorates when as a young child, the Virgin Mary entered the Temple in Jerusalem.

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament; however, this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

When Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anna decided that the time had come to fulfill their promise and to offer her to the Lord. Joachim gathered the young girls of the neighborhood to form an escort, and he made them go in front of Mary, carrying torches. Captivated by the torches, the young child followed joyfully to the Temple, not once looking back at her parents nor weeping as she was parted from them.

The holy Virgin ran toward the Temple, overtaking her attendant maidens and threw herself into the arms of the High Priest Zacharias, who was waiting for her at the gate of the Temple with the elders. Zacharias blessed her saying, "It is in you that He has glorified your name in every generation. It is in you that He will reveal the Redemption that He has prepared for His people in the last days."

Then, Zacharias brought the child into the Holy of Holies—a place where only the High Priest was permitted to enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. He placed her on the steps of the altar, and the grace of the Lord descended upon her. She arose and expressed her joy in a dance as wonder seized all who saw this happen.

The Virgin Mary dwelt in the Temple for nine years until, reaching an age for marriage, she was taken from the Temple by the priests and elders and entrusted to Joseph as the guardian of her virginity. The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple signifies her total dedication to God and her readiness for her future vocation as the Mother of the Incarnate Lord. This is a feast of anticipation. As honor is shown to Mary, the faithful are called to look forward to the Incarnation of Christ, celebrated in a little more than a month by the Feast of the Nativity on December 25.

The Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which will be conducted on the morning of November 21st at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church at 10:00 am preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service at 9:00 am.



OUR 2014 – 2015 GOYA OFFICERS

Congratulations to our new 2014-15 GOYA Officers, sworn in following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 12th! New Officers are: Joanna Colovas, President; Helena Monolidis, Vice-President; Steven Brylinski, Secretary; and Alexis Furkioti, Treasurer; Jean Chuey, Advisor.

GOYA members participate in a number of service activities for our church, most recently acting as volunteers for our Fall Festival. Throughout the year, they are involved with events that bring together youth from the churches of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit.



NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd

On Sunday, November 2nd, our church honored the members of the St. Helen's Philoptochos Society, who do so much in support of our church, our community, and our faith. A special tray was passed by the ladies of our Philoptochos to benefit the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and an Artoklasia was offered. A special memorial was offered for the departed members of the Philoptochos. The Philoptochos is the separately incorporated Philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The Society was founded in 1931 by Archbishop Athenagoras, who had a vision of the role women could play in the life of the Orthodox Church. Today, Philoptochos chapters are located in every Greek Orthodox parish in the United States.

In the 2013 - 2014 fiscal year, the Philoptochos contributed nearly \$13,000 to a variety of charitable causes. Some of the philanthropic efforts supported include: Autism Assistance Fund, Saint Photios Shrine, Orthodox Christian Mission Center, Sisterhood of Saint Basil Academy, International Orthodox Christian Charities, Hellenic College Holy Cross Scholarship Fund, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, World Medical Relief Fund, St. Michael's Senior Home, and Children's Hospital of Michigan.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

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. Our Men's Club FEED THE NEEDY event is happening on Saturday, November 22nd. DRIVERS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help with this fantastic event, providing a delicious Thanksgiving supper and more to 105 families in our community. Bagging begins at 9:00 am at the Hellenic Cultural Center. Delivery begins at 10:30 am. (Times may vary due to amount of volunteers.) For more information, contact Daniel Stergiadis, 734.624.1699.

LANGSFORD MEN'S CHORUS:

Celebrate Christmas with a special concert at our church presented by the acclaimed Langsford Men's Chorus, on Sunday, December 14th at 4:00 pm. The concert will feature sacred and secular Christmas music and lots of fun for the whole family. You can purchase discount tickets in advance from Strat Calagias, Tony Thrubis, or on their website, at www.langsfordmenschorus.org; or regular price tickets the day of the event.

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE AND RAFFLE

The annual Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale and Raffle will be held on December 21, 2014. Both Greek and American pastries, cookies, and pitas will be sold. Each year, our St. Helen Philoptochos Society supports many community philanthropic efforts through fundraising events such as the annual Holiday Bake Sale, Cookie Walk, the Lenten Koulouma, and other events.

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our Adult and Children's Choirs are preparing to perform at the annual Christmas Concert to be held on December 21st. Adult Choir rehearsals are held each Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm. Children's Choir rehearsal dates are: 11/16, 12/7 and 12/14, immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the multipurpose room. For more information, contact Maritsa Kalasz., 734.522.9334.

CHRISTMAS TREE OF LIGHTS CEREMONY

A special tree-lighting ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 21, 2014, immediately following the Divine liturgy. During the prayer service, each name on the tree will be read by Father Teodor. The tree will remain on the solea until after the New Year. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

CHRISTMAS MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM

Through the grace of God, generous donors have come forward to offer up to \$20,000 in matching gift funds for all contributions that the Church receives through your Christmas Offering envelope. That means that each donation that you make will be doubled to serve the ministries of our parish.

METROPOLIS SERVICES AND EVENTS

- FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS Ecumenical Vespers Service, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Ann Arbor; Friday, December 5, 2014 at 7:00 pm. Reception to follow.
- SAINT NICHOLAS FEAST DAY: Metropolis Offices Open House and Reception Sunday, December 7, 2014 from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm.
- ST. SPYRIDON FEAST DAY Services – Saint Spyridon Chapel – Metropolis Offices December 11 and December 12, 2014



MORE FALL FESTIVAL PHOTOS!



Lazaros Vlahadamis



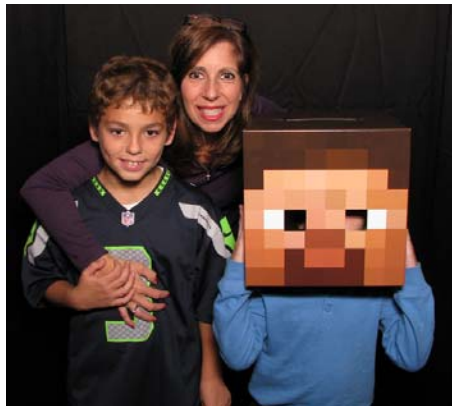
Alexis Boyer and friend



Christos Andreou, Stephen Cavins



Lou Abraham



Gregory, Kali, and Michael Michalopoulos



Eleni Andreou



Matthew Sardelli



Sophia Kaplantzes, Eleni Bourkoulas, Zoe Vlahadamis



Mariam, Elaine Charalambopoulos, Louise Holt



Antonis Stergiadis and Father Teodor

PARISH COUNCIL PROFILES

In each issue of the Visions, we will profile members of our Parish Council, so you can learn a little bit about their background and the things they enjoy doing when they are not in church! Last month, we featured our Parish Council President, John Avdoulos and Treasurer, Lou Frango.

Bill Skotanis, Parish Council Vice President

You'll find no harder worker than our Parish Council Vice President, Bill Skotanis, who has been in the restaurant business for over 25 years. He came to this country from Florina, Greece when he was 25 years old, and made an excellent business for his family. Bill and Fay currently own two Olympic Coney Island restaurants: one in Westland (Wayne/Warren) and the other downriver (Brownstown.) Married to Fay for 36 years, they have two children: son, Nick and his wife, Stephanie, and daughter, Kathy and her husband, Matt Tyranski; and 5 grandchildren – 2 boys and 3 girls (Congratulate Bill when you see him – his newest granddaughter was born this month!) A member of the Parish Council for many years, Bill and his family are actively involved in many parish events and fundraising activities.



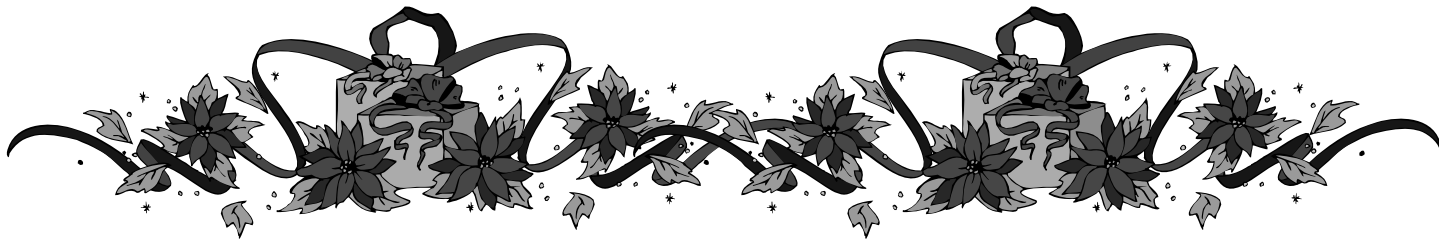
A resident of Northville, Bill and Fay love to travel and have been all around the world. They just returned from a trip to London, Paris, and Greece. While in England, they had a great time attending a soccer game – a favorite pastime of Bill's. He used to play on a soccer team when he was younger. Bill is also a big Detroit Red Wings fan.

Peter Colovas, Parish Council Secretary

Peter was born and raised in Dearborn, and he now lives in Northville with his beautiful wife of nearly 20 years, Angie, and children Joanna, 15, and Daniel, 12. Peter is the son of Dan and JoAnne Colovas and has an older Brother, Chris. Pete grew up in Sts. Constantine and Helen Church.

Peter attended Michigan State University, graduating in 1987 and 1989. While attending MSU he was a member of the fencing team. Peter also attended Ohio State University, graduating in 1996. He currently works for General Dynamics Land Systems in Sterling Heights. Peter has been on the parish council since 2008 and currently serves as the council secretary.





CHRISTMAS TREE OF LIGHTS

Please illuminate a light of love

The Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church is sponsoring its 20th Annual Christmas Tree of Lights project. The tree will be illuminated with lights in memory or in honor of people you love. Each name will be printed on a card and displayed on the tree. Minimum donation is \$10.00 per name. All proceeds will benefit our church.

A special tree-lighting ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 21, 2014, immediately following the Divine liturgy. During the prayer service, each name on the tree will be read by Father Teodor. The tree will remain on the solea until after the New Year. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony. You and your guests are cordially invited to share in this spiritual tradition. This annual event is a cherished time for parishioners, family, and friends to gather and celebrate this Christmas season and the traditional symbol of peace.

Looking forward to your presence.

Diane Drakos Plungis, Chairperson (734) 462-1179

DONATED BY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Please print clearly below the names(s) you want to appear on the TREE OF LIGHTS. MINIMUM DONATION \$10 per name. Make checks payable to Saints Constantine and Helen Church, 36375 Joy Road, Westland, MI 48185.

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

Date of check _____ Check # _____ Cash _____ Total \$ _____

Taken by: _____ Date: _____



Saints Constantine and Helen Church



CHRISTMAS CARD

SUGGESTED MINIMUM DONATION - \$20

Please complete the form below and return it, along with payment, by December 14th to:
Sophie Katsarelas or Melinda Lazaros after Sunday services,
or by mail to:

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

Please make check payable to: Saints Constantine & Helen Church

Donation amount: _____

Donated by: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

PLEASE PRINT NAME(S) CLEARLY AS YOU WANT THEM
TO APPEAR ON THE CARD.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION!



OPEN HOUSE & RECEPTION FOR THE

Feast of Saint Nicholas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014

1:00—5:00PM

METROPOLIS CENTER

2560 Crooks Road—Troy, MI

www.detroit.goarch.org

*Celebrate
Christmas*
with the

**LANGSFORD
MEN'S CHORUS**

Sunday, Dec 14, 2014

4:00 PM

**Sts. Constantine & Helen
Greek Orthodox Church**

36375 Joy

Westland, MI

Last Call for 2014 Friends of the Metropolis:
BE Among the Giving!

Have you been to the Metropolis of Detroit lately? It continues to be a busy and wonderful place. By gifting to Friends of the Metropolis you are supporting one of our successful programs: Because of **YOUR** monetary donation we are able to:

- **General:** Fully fund the expenses of the Metropolis offices, programs and travels.
- **Education:** Enhance scholarships and adult education programs, as well as support the Metropolis students at Hellenic College and Holy Cross.
- **Support:** Develop and provide educational and instructional seminars and services to clergy and parishes.
- **Youth:** Maintain and support the youth office and activities of a full-time Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director
- **Outreach and Missions:** Create opportunities to introduce our faith to society, participate in inter-Christian and inter-faith activities as well as provide quick responses to national disasters.
- **Hellenism:** Develop programs for Hellenic Cultural Outreach, including language, history and arts.
- **Leadership:** Organize Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conferences, Oratorical Festivals, Christmas Pageants and Adult Education Programs.
- **Special Programs:** Website development, hospitality to visiting dignitaries and guests, Charity and Philanthropy

Thank you for your support.....we could not do it without YOU!

If **YOU** are not a Friend.....please consider supporting **YOUR** Metropolis by December 15th and be among the giving! Names gifting to Friends of the Metropolis are listed in *The Shepherd's Staff* and on the Friends of the Metropolis web page. Become a Friend by doing the following:

1. Make checks payable to: Friends of the Metropolis
2. Write name of church - (*city of parish*) in the Memo section of the check
3. Mail to: Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit
2560 Crooks Road
Troy, MI 48084
4. Target deadline date for 2014 Friends: December 15th

In His Service,
Chrisi Hopper and Donna Mousourakis,
Friends of the Metropolis Chairs and Metropolis Council Members

Merry Christmas!
Our Savior is born. Let us praise, honor and give thanks to Him with sincerity and gratitude.
Have a joyous Christmas celebration!

**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

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

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

**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: 10/1/14 ELENA PANAGIOTIDES

Sponsor: Lyndsey Ryan

10/25/14 DIEM CHRISTINA, Daughter of Derek and Alexis Thompson

Godparent: Jaime Marinos Mesner

11/2/14 NICHOLAS ALEXANDER son of PETE and JENNIFER PELURAS

Godparent: LILLIAN PELURAS

CHRISMATION: 10/17/14 ELIZABETH SCHLINK

Sponsor: Louis Tsitsos

WEDDINGS: 10/18/14 CONSTANTINE DEMETROPOULOS to JENNIFER PACURARI

10/26/14 WILLIAM SPYROS DAGIANTIS to LINDSEY HARRISON

40 DAY BLESSINGS:

10/26/14 MARIA SOFIA, Daughter of Richard and Kathleen Phillips
CALVIN LUTHER, Son of Tommy and Maxine Pace

FUNERALS:

10/6/14 KARL J. LIAKOS

10/7/14 CHLOE KOLOKITHAS-PERKINS

10/11/14 MELBA BERRIS

10/24/14 CATHERINE HATZILIAS

11/1/14 NICKOLETA PITSILLOS

11/10/14 KATHERINE SOCALL

May their memory be eternal!