



HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA WELCOME SPRING!

"Behold I make all things new." Revelation 21:5

Spring is a glorious time at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church! And Holy Week is the highlight of this time as our Parish family, young and old, comes together in faith. The Church pews filled, the smell of incense burning, beautiful icons and the Epitaphio on display, and the sound of powerful hymns, prayers and lamentations that we only hear once a year, are some of Holy Week's special gifts. Rain prevented the outdoor procession on Good Friday, but didn't dampen anybody's spirits. At the beautiful Anastasi service we celebrate the light of Christ in our lives. And then of course, Pascha! As Orthodox Christians we celebrate this day more than any other. At the Agape Service, the Gospel is read in many languages: His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas read in French, Fr. Teodor in Latin, Deacon Alex Radulescu in Romanian, John Angelopoulos in Russian, Nicholas Kokas in English, Maria Demos in Spanish and Stratis Calagias in Greek.

In the weeks prior to Easter, Fr. Teodor visited over 30 of our parishioners who are homebound, or in hospitals or nursing homes and unable to attend Church, so they could receive communion. Many thanks to the St. Helen Philoptochos for putting together beautiful Easter gift bags with a tsoureki and other treats to make those visits extra special. Many thanks also to all the parishioners who worked gave of their time during Holy Week, and those who made generous donations.

If you've been noticing all the lovely flowers both inside and outside the church lately, you can thank Helene Petcou who decorated all the icons throughout Lent and Holy Week; Pat Gazepis and Lynne Vasiliades who plant and tend to our flower beds and planters outside the church; Domna Themelis, who provided all the beautiful lilies on the solea; and the ladies of the Philoptochos and Mom's Group who decorated the Epitaphio and provided flowers for Mother's Day.



Fr. Teodor, Nina and Athena Alexandris



Helene Petcou and Pat Gazepis

THE FEASTDAY OF SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN

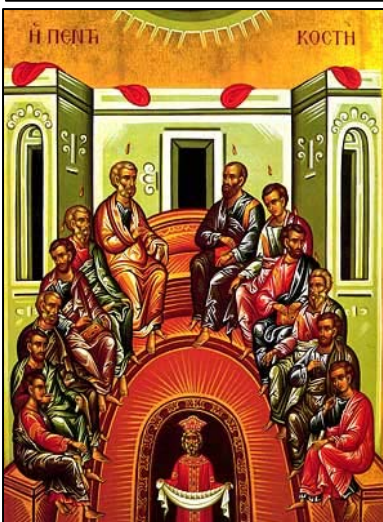
(CELEBRATED MAY 21)

Saint Constantine was the son of Constantius Chlorus and of the blessed Helen. He was born in 272, in Naissus of Dardania. In 306, when his father died, he was proclaimed successor to his throne. In 312, he marched into Italy, where, while at the head of his troops, he saw in the sky after midday, beneath the sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: "By this shalt thou conquer." The following night, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and declared to him the power of the Cross and its significance. When he arose in the morning, he immediately ordered that a labarum be made (which is a banner or standard of victory over the enemy) in the form of a cross, and he inscribed on it the Name of Jesus Christ. Constantine entered Rome and fought rulers who persecuted those against the church. Christianity triumphed and idolatry was overthrown.

As for his holy mother Helen, she was a native of Bithynia, and a daughter of an inn-keeper. In spite of her humble birth, she married a Roman soldier, the then Roman general Constantius I Chlorus about 270. Constantine, her son became Constantine the Great.

After her son had been victorious in battle and had made the Faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, she undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross. She was advanced in years by then. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. After this, Saint Helen, in her zeal to glorify Christ, erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Saviour was born, another on the Mount of Olives and many others throughout the Holy Land, Cyprus, and elsewhere.

The feast and commemoration of Saints Constantine and Helen is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the morning of the feast and preceded by an Orthros service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast.



FEAST OF HOLY PENTECOST (CELEBRATED MAY 30)

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

A Message from Father Teodor



Memorial Day

Our way of life has been purchased at a high price. We say "thank you" on Memorial Day to all the men and women who have placed their lives in jeopardy for us. We honor those who are now serving in the armed forces of our country and we remember gratefully the veterans of the wars of yesterday who responded to their country's call in the hour of danger.

Our fathers, grandfathers, immigrants or not, were tough people living through tough times. They loved this country and were proud to be Americans even though many of them could not speak English very well; many fought for this country and some died for it. They had work ethics and no sense of entitlement. That is the heritage we are called to remember and to perpetuate.

Thus, Memorial Day has become a day when we remember not only our soldiers but also all our loved ones who are no longer with us. To many it is also a 'Memorial Service Day' when pilgrimages are made to cemeteries to place flowers on the graves of the departed and pray for the repose of their souls. Thus it leads us to think about death and about our relation to the dead.

Ordinarily we are reluctant to face the fact of death. These days, the subject is either carefully avoided or cleverly disguised. Through a conspiracy of silence, imminent death is concealed as long as possible from the one whom it most directly concerns. And when the inevitable event takes place, the evasion continues. The Christian view of death has none of this evasion. In every case of death, life, as we now know it, comes to an end. If this were not so, resurrection, the creation of new life by the power of God, would have no meaning, for only the dead can be resurrected. The foundation of the Christian hope is the resurrection of Christ. It is the risen Lord who assures us, **"Because I live, you will live also."**

As we remember our dead we wonder: where are they now and what is their condition? The answer must be: the blessed and faithful dead are with God and they are closer to him than before. Heaven means nearness to God, and it starts here, in church. That is what it means to a Christian. **"To depart and be with Christ,"** says Paul, is **"far better" than life on earth.** He says also: **"For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"**. Death is real, but we, who believe rely on the word of his Lord, **"He who believes in me, even though he dies, he shall live"** (John 11:25). The life to which he comes is to be with Christ and to be **"changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another"** (2 Corinthians 3:18).

As we remember our country's heroes, our founders and our own loved ones we offer our thanks to God and say with St. Apostle Paul in his Epistle to the Galatians: ***You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.***

Happy Memorial Day to all of you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fr. T. Petrutiu". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Fr. Teodor Petrutiu



2015 ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Our annual Oratorical Festival was held immediately following church services on Sunday, March 22. Seven young people took part, 4 in the Junior Division, (Front row center, Daniel Colovas, Anastasia Stergiadis, Elias Christodoulos, Sophia Brylinski) and 3 in the Senior Division (Back row center, Joanna Colovas, Dave Zylka, Maria Demos). Congratulations to our Oratorical Competition finalists, Anastasia Stergiadis (Juniors), and Maria Demos (Seniors.)

REDISCOVERING HAGIA SOFIA

Each Wednesday during Lent following the Presanctified Liturgy, a Pot-Luck Supper and Presentation was held. On March 11th, Eve Avdoulos, who is a PhD Candidate at Cambridge University, UK gave a dynamic presentation on Hagia Sofia, "the Church of the Holy Wisdom", and often called the eighth wonder of the ancient world. It is one of the world's greatest architectural and spiritual masterpieces and was the Cathedral of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople for more than one thousand years. Other guest presenters included Fr. Nicolaos Kotsis of St. Nicholas GOC, Ann Arbor; and Fr. Anthony Cook, of St. George GOC in Southgate. Many thanks to our presenters and to the Church groups who hosted each Lenten supper.



Eve Avdoulos

HONORING MOTHER ON HER DAY

JEAN CHUEY – 2015 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Each year on Mothers' Day, our Church selects a "Woman of the Year" to be honored. This year, Fr. Teodor presented Jean Chuey with the award, and the Moms' group presented her with a beautiful plant. Jean is the Sponsor of our GOYA, a member of our Choir, and a tireless volunteer for many parish events and activities. Congratulations, Jean, and thank you for all that you do for our Church!



Georgene Ochdeleus, Ann Pappas, Zoe Kokenakis

The ladies of the St. Helen Philoptochos continued the lovely tradition of giving each mother who came to church on Mother's Day a red or white carnation to wear in honor of their special day. After the church service there was a delicious Mother's Day brunch in the Hellenic Cultural Center.



2015 "Woman of the Year" Jean Chuey and family

WE LOVE A PARADE! Celebrating Greek Independence Day!



ΖΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΔΑ!!

Our church was well represented as several members of the Saints Constantine and Helen parish family walked down Monroe Street in the heart of Greektown on Sunday, April 19th to participate in the 14th Annual Detroit Greek Independence Day Parade. Some of our Church members had a VIP seat, as they rode the parade route in a classic car owned by Louis Maludy!

All of the Metropolis of Detroit Greek Orthodox Churches, various Hellenic organizations, and Greek folk dance troupes from Michigan, Ohio, and Windsor, Canada participated in this year's parade.

Although it was a little chilly, nobody seemed to mind - the streets were filled with joyful faces and the sound of Greek music was in the air. Many people took advantage of being in Greektown, and enjoyed a delicious lunch at one of the restaurants in the neighborhood. It was a tremendous opportunity to greet old friends and koumbari, and share our pride in both our Greek heritage, and our Metropolis of Detroit community!



HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS, Making of Palm Crosses, Pancake Breakfast



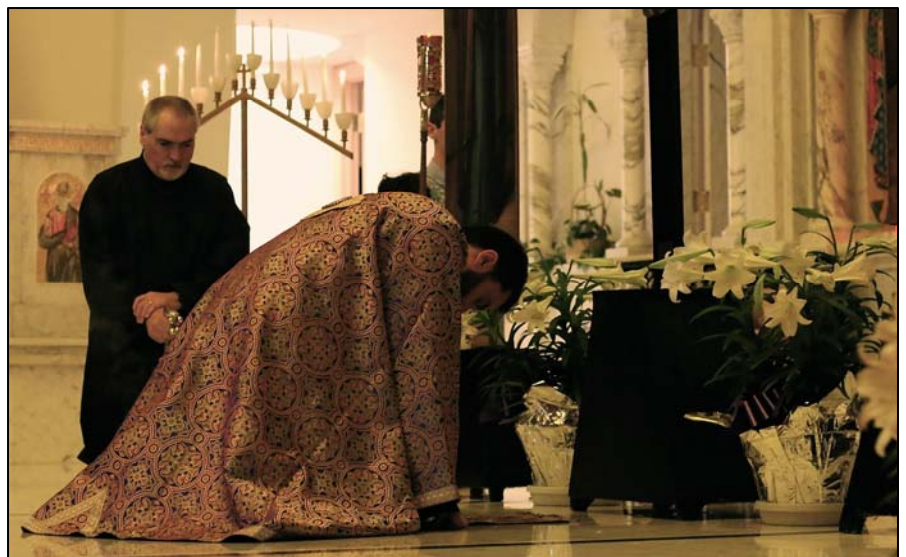
PALM SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY



HOLY WEDNESDAY, Holy Unction



HOLY THURSDAY, Reading of the 12 Gospels



HOLY FRIDAY, Decorating the Epitaphio



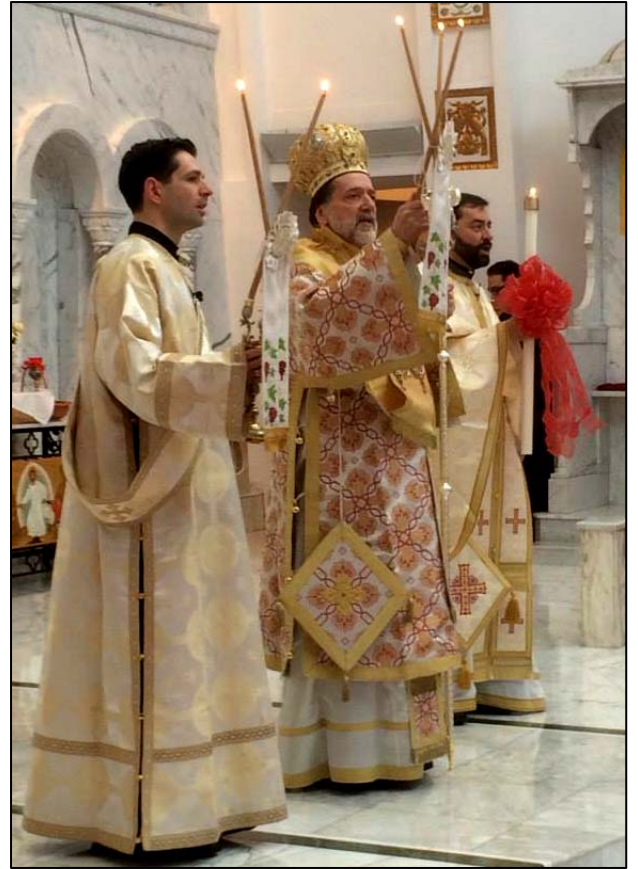
Apokathelosis Service, Lamentations and Epitaphio Service



HOLY SATURDAY – Anastasi Service



EASTER SUNDAY – Agape Service





UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- 6/7/15—PARISH PICNIC AND SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION
- 6/21/15—HONORING OUR HS/COLLEGE GRADUATES and FATHER'S DAY
- 7/16-19/15—MEFGOX CHOIR CONVENTION
- 9/12/15—PHILOPTOCHOS LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW
- 9/20/15—4th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, at Fellows Creek Golf Course
- 10/4—10/13/15—PILGRIMAGE TO CONSTANTINOPLE AND ROME
- 11/8/15—REVERSE RAFFLE

PLACE YOUR AD HERE!

If you would like to advertise in the Visions, please contact Annette Madias at the church office at 734.525.6789, or send an email to stcons2@gmail.com.

- Business Card \$25.00 per issue/\$125 year
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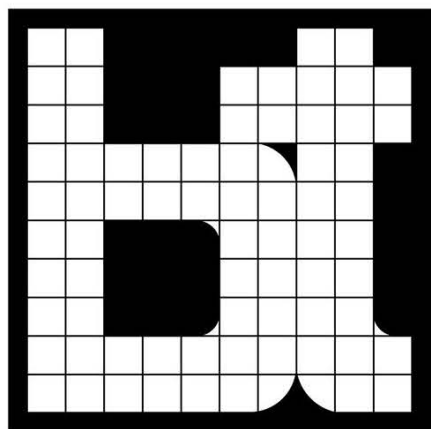
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Each office is independently owned and operated.



**BOLOVEN
TIANO**

Do You Have A Foreign Bank Account?

If you have a foreign bank account (or have signature authority over someone else's account) that at any point during 2014 had a total value exceeding \$10,000, then you are required by the Department of Treasury to electronically file FIN CEN form 114 by June 30th 2015. Failure to file may result in substantial penalties.

For more information call S. Ted Boloven at Boloven, Tiano & Associates, P.C. 734-453-9985. Ted is a Greek-speaking Certified Public Accountant



Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2015

THEME: G-FORCE GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION

**GAMES
MUSIC**

At Sts. Constantine & Helen Church

Monday, June 22nd to Friday, June 26th

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. daily

Ages: preschool (age 4) – 5th grade

INCLUDES T-SHIRT FOR EACH STUDENT!!

Please register by June 15th!

**ARTS
CRAFTS**

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

SCHEDULE:

Monday: Prayer service; Lesson 1 God Calls Moses (Exodus 3)

Tuesday: Prayer service; Lesson 2 Solomon Builds the Temple (Chronicles 1&2)

Wednesday: ½ day Field trip to local monastery (parent drivers needed)

Thursday: Prayer service; Lesson 3 Four Friends Help (Mark 2)

Friday: Prayer service; Lesson 4 Women Find the Empty Tomb (Luke 24)

Registration Form 2015

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: Angie Colovas

36375 Joy Road, Westland, MI 48185

**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.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

40-DAY BLESSINGS:

4/12/15 **NICHOLAS JAMES McCLAIN**, Parents Christopher & Maggie McClain

4/22/15 **CONSTANTINOS TSAKAS**, Parents: Paschalis & Anna Tsakas

5/3/15 **DOMONIK MASSENGILL**, Parents: Timothy & Heather Massengill

BAPTISMS:

4/2/15 **STACI RAE BOOS** (Adult)

Sponsors: Maria Kokalis & Jessica Kokalis

4/18/15 **VIVIAN KATHRINE TYRANSKI**, Parents: Matt & Kathy Tyranski

Godparents: Fr. Teodor & Presbytera Roxana Petrutiu

4/25/15 **JACE CHARLES BEISWANGER**, Parents: Lucas & Tracy Beiswanger

Godparents: Melissa & Brian Bondy

5/3/15 **DIMITRIOS GOSTIAS**, Parents: Tom & Shannon Gostias

Godparent: George Gostias

5/17/15 **ALEXANDROS BOGDANOS**, Parents: Paul & Emmanuela Bogdanos

Sponsor: Ervin Konstantinos Zejnati

5/17/15 **ARIANNA ROSE KOSMIDES**, Parents: Paul & Alicia Kosmides

Sponsor: George Kosmides

WEDDINGS:

5/16/15

CHRIS BARBAS to **COURTNEY THARP**

Sponsor: Nicholas Barbas

GIACOMO ROMOLI JR. to **EUGENIA ZAVRADINOS**

Sponsor: Angela Zavradinos

FUNERALS:

ANGELINE MAROS - 3/18/15

ANTHOULA PAPPAS - 3/24/15

TULA HLOS—3/25/15

JIM A. PLAKAS - 4/3/15

OLGA MAZARIS - 4/14/15

IRENE TSAKOS - 5/9/15