

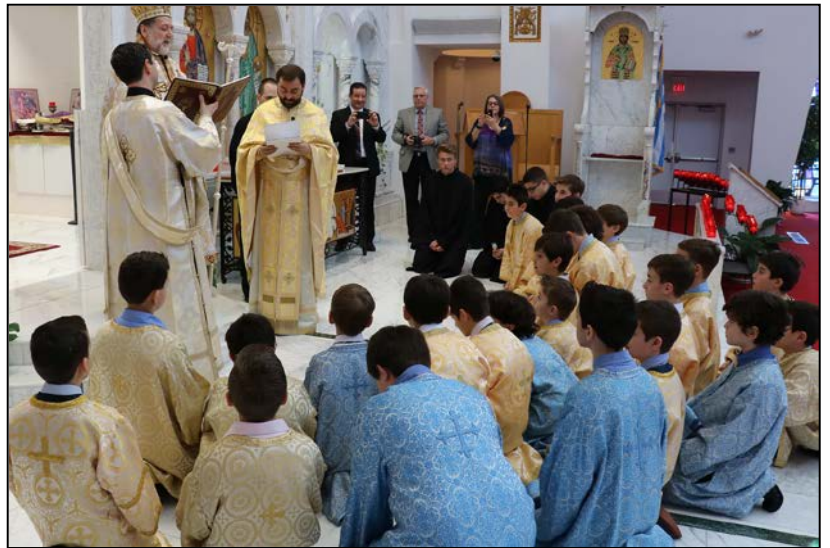
Visions



SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY A SPECIAL DAY TO REMEMBER!

March 5, 2017, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, was a very special day at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church! His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas celebrated the Divine Liturgy along with Fr. Teodor, and assisted by Deacon Alex Radulescu. The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The theme of this Sunday is the victory of the icons and the "Triumph of Orthodoxy." Each Sunday of Orthodoxy, Parish Council members and Sunday School students and teachers join the Clergy and Altar Boys in a procession around the church, carrying icons. Parishioners also bring their icons to church to be blessed.

After the procession of icons around the church, our congregation was filled with emotion and pride as 27 of our Altar Boys (including two sets of twins!) were tonsured by His Eminence as "Acolyte and Reader." Tonsure is a special blessing and honor. The Metropolitan read the prayer invoking upon them the Holy Spirit. After the prayer, he cut a little of each Altar Boys' hair as a symbol of their gift of sacrifice to God, and placed the Orarion (sash) over their neck as a symbol of their dedication to serving God. While doing this, the Metropolitan proclaims "Axios" which means "Worthy" and all the people in church respond by saying "Axios" as an expression of their agreement and joy.



Each young man received a certificate from the Metropolis of Detroit recognizing their outstanding accomplishment. It may not be a world record, but we think 27 Altar Boys in one day is pretty impressive! Congratulations to all of the young men who were tonsured- their names, and more photos appear within the Visions.



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

36375 Joy Rd., Westland -- 734.525.6789

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



SATURDAY OF LAZARUS - April 8	<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 9	<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 10	<u>EVENING</u>	2nd Bridegroom (Nymphios) Service 6:30 p.m.
HOLY TUESDAY - April 11	<u>EVENING</u>	3rd Bridegroom (Nymphios) Service 6:30 p.m. (Hymn of Kassiane)
HOLY WEDNESDAY – APRIL 12	<u>AFTERNOON</u>	First Holy Unction 4:00 p.m.
	<u>EVENING</u>	2nd Holy Unction 7:00 pm
HOLY THURSDAY – APRIL 13	<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 14	<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 15	<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 – APRIL 16	<u>MORNING</u>	Agape Service 11:00 a.m.

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

A Message from Father Teodor



Resurrection Power

On *"the first day of the week, early in the morning,"* the Scripture says, some women made their way along the path that led to His tomb, wondering who would roll away the stone for them.

But when they arrived, they found that the stone had already been rolled away. And an angel there told them, *"You're looking in the wrong place. You're looking for Jesus among the dead. He is not dead. He is alive. He is risen, like He foretold."*

"He is Risen!" That is what we celebrate Easter morning, this is for what we are preparing for seven weeks, fasting, praying and repenting. He is Risen, and what a difference His Resurrection has made! Saint Paul wrote, *"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through Jesus Christ, our Lord."* 1 Corinthians 15:55;57

What a difference the Resurrection makes! Because Christ is Risen we, you and I can know Him and identify with Him, and be like Him! He is Risen and we can know Him, can touch Him and can unite with Him in Holy Communion.

But there's a very important question that we should ask ourselves. Do we really know Jesus Christ? I don't mean; "do we know about him?" Do we truly know Jesus Christ?

We come, some of us a few times a year to hear ABOUT Jesus, and we think that is enough to call ourselves Christians. But do we really know Him, not OF Him?

It has been nearly 2000 years since Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected. We who call ourselves Christians have a choice to make: Believe in Jesus, try and really know Him, or dismiss Him! Accept His claims, or reject Him!

There is no middle ground! Either we open the door to Christ, and meet Him... really know Him, or deny Him, and live only for ourselves, come to church once or twice a year to hear OF Him, but never get to actually know Christ.

If you have made the choice to follow Christ, then I want you to consider living your life in light of Jesus' Resurrection! What does that mean? What can you do?

Get to know Him and communicate with Him in Prayer, get involved in worship and fellowship regularly and share God's love and what difference He makes in your life with those around you. Bring your children and grandchildren to meet Jesus, like He himself said: *"Let the children come to me and do not stop them!"*

As all nature is awakening, in the beautiful days of spring, so should we individually, as a family and as a congregation arise from our lethargy to live our lives as true Orthodox Christians.

He is Risen!

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

Fr. Teodor

OUR 2017 PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS



Congratulations to our new Parish Council Officers: Dino Lembesis, President; John Avdouos, Vice President; Bill Skotanis, Vice President; Peter Kalergis, Treasurer; Lou Frango, Assistant Treasurer; Maria Psilis, Recording Secretary; and Alexander Sudia, Corresponding Secretary. Congratulations also to our new Council member, Athansios Alexandris. Other Council members are: Jim Bigas, Efstratios Calagias, Mark Chuey, Peter Colovas, Robert Herta, Lou Kircos, Evangelos Skoures, Paul Stavropoulos, and Antonios Stergiadis. Thank you for your service to our Parish!

GREAT COMPLINE SERVICE AND KOULOUMA LUNCHEON



The first day of Lent is the beginning of the Sarakosti (Σαρακοστή) the 40-day fasting period in our Church. On February 27th, our morning began in Church with the Great Compline Service, celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas. We were also joined by other area clergy, including Fr. Dean Hountalas (Holy Cross), Fr. Nicolaos Kotsis (St. Nick's Ann Arbor), and Fr. Nicholas Marcus (Nativity Church.)

Following the service, the St. Helen Philoptochos held their 80th annual Lenten Koulouma luncheon. Traditional Lenten foods were prepared and served by our Philoptochos ladies, including taramosalata, yiaprakia, fasolatha and halvas, along with fresh fruits, salads, and bread. Gourmet and other gift baskets were also raffled off at the event. Many thanks to all who volunteered to make this event a big success!



CHURCHES CELEBRATE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

On Tuesday, January 24, 2017 Sts. Constantine and Helen joined the Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia; St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy Catholic Church, Westland; and Timothy Lutheran Church, Livonia for an Ecumenical Prayer Service. The theme: *"Reconciliation – the Love of Christ Compels Us."* Our Fr. Teodor served, and our church choir sang for the service, joined by Clergy and Choirs from the other participating churches. Traditionally observed the week of January 18 – 25, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity belongs to all Christians who are sincerely interested in the fulfillment of Christ's prayer "that all may be one."



GOYA ACTIVITIES

The Sts. Constantine and Helen GOYA has been very active this winter. Several GOYA members along with parishioners volunteered at Orthodox Detroit Outreach located at Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Cathedral in Detroit. Our volunteers helped prepare food, served food to the homeless, assembled hygiene kits for the homeless, and helped clean up at the soup kitchen at Sts. Peter and Paul hall. GOYA members also volunteered to help at the HOPE and JOY meetings.



Our GOYA attended the Michigan Area GOYA Lenten Retreat at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in St. Clair Shores. The retreat topic was "Why Orthodoxy." It was a very interesting and informative day! We were scheduled to have a fun evening at Sky Zone in Canton, followed by dinner, but the severe thunderstorm weather in February caused us to cancel. We will be rescheduling this fun night out soon.

We would love to have more young people join GOYA. Anyone age 12 – 18 is welcome anytime.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

On Sunday, March 12th, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival was held for our parish. Congratulations to all the young people who participated! Senior Division Winner, JoAnna Colovas, spoke about Psalm 23 and its influence on her life. Junior Division Winner, Alexis Demos, spoke about the impact of even small acts of kindness and generosity. They presented their talks to the entire congregation during the March 19th Divine Liturgy service.



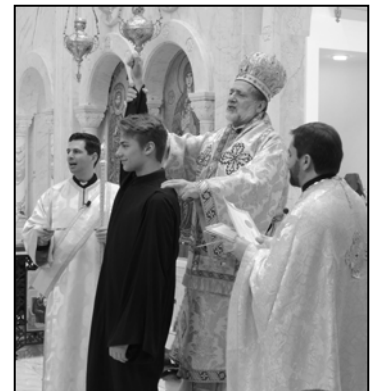
Both young women will advance to participate at the District level, which will be hosted by our parish, on April 22nd. Two finalists will then be selected to represent their district at their Metropolis Oratorical Festival. The top speaker in each division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals. Also participating in the Oratorical Festival were Markus Monolidis (Senior Division) and Daniel Colovas (Junior Division). We are so proud of our young competitors who did a truly outstanding job!

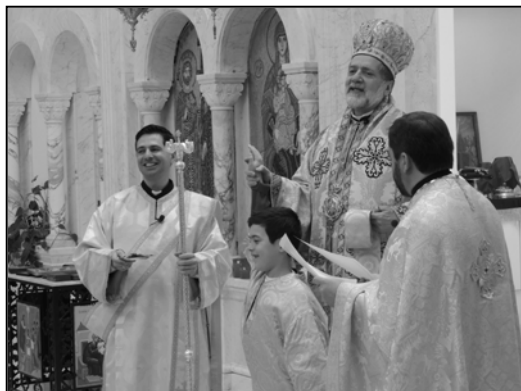


AXIOS !!

Congratulations to our newly tonsured Altar Boys,

March 5, 2017: Steven Brylinski, Peter Stavropoulos, Markus Monolidis, Peter Boyer, Anastasios Katros, Evan Barbas, Gregory Michalopoulos, Michael Cavins, Zephaniah Christodoulos, Luke Lembesis, Nico Vlahadamis, Eleftherios Theodorou, Michael Michalopoulos, Markos Cavins, Stephen Cavins, Panagiotis Christodoulos, Dimetrios Katros, Nicholas Katros, Nicholas Tyranski, Dimitri Barbas, Andrew Stamatakos, Ari Tsikaris, Christos Andreou, George theophelis, Christian Tyranski, Ryan Stamatakos, Konstantinos Theodorou





QUICK TAKES: NEWS AND NOTES

MOMS' GROUP NEWS: Once again this year, our Moms' Group will be selling beautiful Easter Lambathes for children after church each Sunday during Lent. Price is \$15, and all proceeds benefit the ministries of the parish. Our Moms have also been busy sending "College Connection" care packages to our young people currently attending college, and preparing for the Sts. Constantine and Helen Name Day Dinner Dance! The Dinner Dance will be held on May 13th, the Saturday before Mother's Day. Bring Mom for a beautiful family evening. For more information about the dance or other Moms' Group activities, contact Kali Michalopoulos at 734.331.9515.



LANGSFORD MEN'S CHORUS: The Langsford Men's Chorus will hold their annual Spring Concert at our church this year, on May 21st, at 4:00 pm. Those of you who attended their concert in 2015 will remember that this group of nearly 60 men has a powerful sound. Their concerts offer a wide range of musical selections and styles, including contemporary secular, sacred and folk. The group has performed around the country, and in Europe. Parishioners Strat Calagias, Tony Thrubis, and Leo Moschouris are members of the Chorus. For tickets or information, contact Strat Calagias at 313.550.5011.

"VAULT DISCOVERIES": Our Choir has discovered hidden treasure - two cases of the album (vinyl record), ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!, still in their shrink-wrap! This album of the beautiful music featured during Holy Week and Easter was recorded by our Choir in 1985, under the direction of George Raptis. If you would like a copy of the album, they can be purchased by any member of the choir for \$5 until Easter.

H.O.P.E. and J.O.Y. "GOOD DEEDS": The children of our H.O.P.E. and J.O.Y. groups have raised money and are putting together Easter baskets to be distributed through the City of Westland Housing and Community Development Department to needy children, and through the Angela Hospice to pediatric hospice patients. Many thanks to all who donated, to the Men's Club for their assistance. Donations are still needed, and volunteers are welcome to come and help assemble baskets. We will be meeting on the Saturday of Lazarus, after the pancake breakfast and making of palm crosses. Our children are learning about giving to others. They also made beautiful heart-character centerpieces for the Valentines Day TLC lunch!

THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB: Our TLC Thursday Lunch Club is in full swing, meeting for lunch one Thursday of each month at the Hellenic Cultural Center. Our next TLC luncheon will be held on April 27th. All ages are welcome to join us for some delicious food, a glass of wine, and good conversation. A \$10 donation is requested for lunch – please reserve your spot by calling the church office.

GETTING A FACE LIFT: You may have noticed that progress is being made on our St. Con's library in the multi-purpose room. We expect to announce an official opening and dedication soon! We have also started some much needed renovations to the Hellenic Cultural Center offices and halls. We're brushing up for the Spring season! Our church and Cultural Center grounds will soon be needing work – planting and maintaining flower beds and pots. If you are interested in helping out with the landscaping needs, or indoor renovations, contact the church office. (Thanks to Angela Skylakos who has been taking great care of our indoor plants!)

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Westland



PALM SUNDAY FISH LUNCHEON

Sunday, April 9, 2017

**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.

NAME DAY DINNER DANCE

Hosted by the Moms' Group

SATURDAY MAY 13, 2017

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

Please bring your Mom as we celebrate Mother's Day!

**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



Upcoming events and activities

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

- 4/9/17 – PALM SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY AND LUNCHEON
- 4/16/17 – GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA
- 5/13/17 – STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN NAME DAY DINNER DANCE
- 5/14/17 – MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON – HELLENIC CULTURAL CENTER
- 5/20, 5/21/17 – VESPERS AND DIVINE LITURGY, STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN FEAST DAY
- 5/21/17 – LANGSFORD CHORUS SPRING CONCERT
- 6/4/17 – SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION AND CHURCH PICNIC

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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

KIDS' HOLY WEEK CALENDAR

CHILDREN ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND ALL HOLY WEEK SERVICES WITH THEIR FAMILY.

LISTED BELOW IS A GUIDE TO THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT AND "KID FRIENDLY."

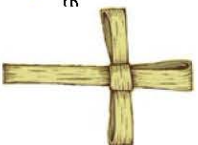
SATURDAY OF LAZARUS
APRIL 8TH

10:00am - DIVINE LITURGY
Holy Communion is available at this service.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST
and

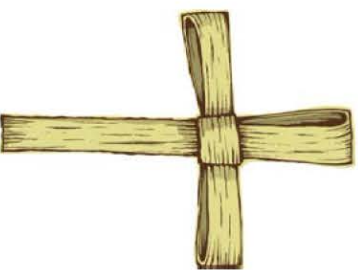
MAKING PALM CROSSES
following service



H.O.P.E. & J.O.Y. GROUP
(ages 4 – 12)

"Good Deed Saturday"
Easter Basket Project
Children will assemble Easter baskets for needy children in the City of Westland, and for Angela Hospice pediatric hospice patients.

PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 9TH



10:00am - DIVINE LITURGY
Holy Communion is available at this service.



FAMILY FISH DINNER at the Hellenic Cultural Center
following service

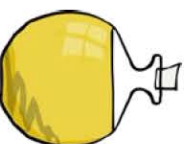


HOLY WEDNESDAY
APRIL 12TH

4:00pm – FIRST HOLY UNCTION SERVICE
7:00pm – SECOND HOLY UNCTION SERVICE



On Holy Wednesday, all children and adults are anointed with holy oil in preparation for Pascha.



The prayers in the service speak of forgiveness of sins as well as physical healing.

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 14TH

11:30 am – 3:00 pm
NATIVITY GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S RETREAT
A retreat will be held at Nativity Church, Plymouth



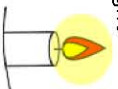
3:30 pm - APOKATHELOSIS
All children participate in this service, with Fr. Teodor acting out the descent of Christ's body from the cross.



6:30 pm
EPITAPHIOS SERVICE
Young girls, wearing white, participate in the procession around the church, acting as "myrrhophores" (myrr-bearing women), carrying baskets of rose petals.

HOLY SATURDAY
APRIL 15TH

11:00 pm - ANASTASI
The beautiful Anastasi service celebrates the resurrection of Christ, and invites us all to "Come and receive the light" Followed by the Divine Liturgy service, and Anastasi Supper.



EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 16TH

11:00 am AGAPE SERVICE



Children participate in lighting of the Anastasi candles and the singing of "Christos Anesti." Then the resurrection story is told in many different languages. Children are given a red egg and chocolate cross.
EASTER EGG HUNT
following service



PUT THIS CALENDAR ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR!

**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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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:

1/15/17

LEO EVAN GEORVASSILIS

Parents: Tim & Kelly Georvassilis

1/15/17

CAMILLA MARIA ROMOLI

Parents: Eugenia & Giacomo Romoli

1/29/17

VICTORIA ALEXANDRA WEBB

Parents: Elliott and Dimitra (Karadimos) Webb

2/12/17

DEMETRIOS BOLOVEN

Parents: Stephen and Elizabeth Boloven

2/26/17

NICHOLAS GEORGE MADIAS

Parents: George N. & Lisa Madias

3/4/17

GEORGIA RENEE KARPATIOS

Parents: Nick & Michelle Karpathios

CONGRATULATIONS!

Funerals:

1/13/17

KELLY ELAINE STERGIADIS

1/23/17

ALEX ALEXANDER

1/30/17

NICK IAKOVIDIS

2/4/17

HELEN KOULOURAS

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!