



## OBSERVING THE GREAT LENT

During the Great Lent, as we are placing extra emphasis on prayer, fasting, and the reading of scripture, the Orthodox Church is alive with many meaningful services and special activities. As we do each year at Saints Constantine and Helen, on March 11<sup>th</sup>, the season of Lent began with the Great Compline service. The service, presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, featured many readings by participating Clergy from our sister parishes, including: Fr. John Artemas, Fr. Anthony Cook, Fr. Philemon Karamanos, Fr. Nicolaos Kotsis, Fr. Nicholas Marcus, Fr. Alex Radulescu, and Deacon Bryce Buffenbarger. Following the service, our St. Helen Philoptochos hosted the 82nd annual "Koulouma" Luncheon, featuring delicious Lenten dishes. This event brings parishioners from many area churches together in fellowship to begin this Lenten period. Many thanks to His Eminence, visiting Clergy, and to all our Philoptochos volunteers!



Each Wednesday during Lent, our church offers a Presanctified Liturgy, followed by a Lenten Pot Luck supper hosted by one of our parish organizations. On these evenings, there is also a presentation in the Hellenic Cultural Center where we



have an opportunity to learn more about our faith. Guest presenters included area Clergy, Presbytera Julie Honeycutt and David Conrad, Coordinator of Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue for the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit.



Our younger parishioners are also actively involved in Lenten activities! GOYA members participated in the regional GOYA Lenten Retreat, held at Holy Trinity Church in Toledo; and our H.O.P.E. and J.O.Y. groups are learning about "Sharing Our Blessings" by collecting money (wearing bunny ears!) and putting together Easter baskets to be given to 45 Westland area children in need.

Our Lenten journey to Holy Week is a challenging and satisfying one!



**Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church**

36375 Joy Rd., Westland -- 734.525.6789

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



<b>SATURDAY OF LAZARUS - April 20</b>	<b>MORNING</b>	<b><u>Matins 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.</u></b> <i>Holy Communion is available at this service.</i> Pancake Breakfast and Making of Palm Crosses
<b>PALM SUNDAY- April 21</b>	<b>MORNING</b>	<b><u>Matins 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.</u></b> <i>Holy Communion is available at this service.</i> Fish Luncheon following in the Hellenic Cultural Center
	<b>EVENING</b>	<b><u>1st Bridegroom (Nymphios) Service 6:30 p.m.</u></b>
<b>HOLY MONDAY- April 22</b>	<b>EVENING</b>	<b><u>2nd Bridegroom (Nymphios) Service 6:30 p.m.</u></b>
<b>HOLY TUESDAY- April 23</b>	<b>EVENING</b>	<b><u>3rd Bridegroom (Nymphios) Service 6:30 p.m.</u></b> Hymn of Kassiane
<b>HOLY WEDNESDAY- APRIL 24</b>	<b>AFTERNOON</b>	<b><u>First Holy Unction 4:00 p.m.</u></b> With His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas
	<b>EVENING</b>	<b><u>2nd Holy Unction 7:00 pm</u></b>
<b>HOLY THURSDAY- APRIL 25</b>	<b>MORNING</b>	<b><u>St. Basil's Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.</u></b> <i>Holy Communion is available at this service.</i>
	<b>EVENING</b>	<b><u>The Reading of the 12 Gospels and the Procession of our Crucified Lord 6:30 p.m.</u></b>
<b>GOOD FRIDAY- APRIL 26</b>	<b>MORNING</b>	<b><u>Royal Hours 9:30 a.m.</u></b> <b>Decorating the Epitaphios</b> (Immediately following service)
	<b>AFTERNOON</b>	<b><u>Apokathelosis 3:30 p.m.</u></b> (Descent of Christ's Body fr. Cross) Memorial Service after Apokathelosis
	<b>EVENING</b>	<b><u>Epitaphios Service 6:30 p.m.</u></b>
<b>HOLY SATURDAY- APRIL 27</b>	<b>MORNING</b>	<b><u>St. Basil's Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</u></b> <i>Holy Communion is available at this service.</i>
	<b>EVENING</b>	<b><u>Resurrection Service 11 p.m.,</u></b> followed by the Divine Liturgy and Anastasi Supper. <i>Holy Communion is available at this service.</i>
<b>EASTER SUNDAY- APRIL 28</b>	<b>MORNING</b>	<b><u>Agape Service 11:00 a.m.</u></b> "Second Anastasi" for children with His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b> (Immediately following service)

**CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!**

**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!**

## A Message from Father Teodor

We are once again approaching the moving and spiritually filled services of the Holy Week. Most Greek Orthodox Christians, even those who don't attend the church regularly, are familiar with these unique services that take us from the Resurrection of Lazarus and Palm Sunday to the glorious Resurrection of our Lord.



Even as we are recalling these historical events, we have to remember that the Orthodox Holy Week services are not theatrical plays. That is not something that happens in the Orthodox Church. We might say that we "commemorate the events" but even that word is inadequate to fully describe the services of this Great and Holy Week. We don't simply commemorate the events of Holy Week, we live them. We are not a passive audience, we are active participants.

We must remind ourselves of this truth each and every year in order to appreciate the greatness of Holy Week. The Great Lent and the Great and Holy Week are not set by the church simply as an opportunity to deprive ourselves of meat and dairy and to reward ourselves with an extravagant family meal on Easter day. Holy Week is our opportunity to remind ourselves that we have a choice: either to stand with Christ or scatter like many of Jesus' followers did after he was arrested.

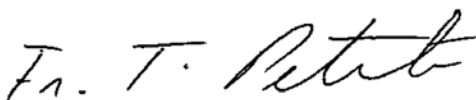
We must ask ourselves, "Who will I be this Holy Week?" Will I be Peter, rejecting Him and then repent? Will I be Pontius Pilate, washing my hands after condemning Him? Will I be Judas, choosing money over Him? These are important questions for us to ask in the most personal and thoughtful way. Jesus helped and healed so many in His ministry and yet the vast majority abandoned Him in His time of need. He comes this year again to offer us an opportunity: to be with Him, who also has so blessed our families, and offered His healing and comfort to all who ask.

Where will we be this Holy Week?

Will it be our face that Christ sees as He looks down from the Cross this year in the darkness of our church on Holy Thursday evening? And if we are not with Christ throughout this Great and Holy Week, where will we be? Shopping and getting ready for meals and celebrations, or making a priority to be with the Lord through His passion?

All of us can remember the inspiring Holy Weeks when we were children—the Bridegroom icon processing out of the altar, the Holy Oil upon our face and hands, the Cross illuminated by candle light in the darkness of the church, the Body being lowered into a shroud, the outdoor procession around the Church, the bay leaves and roses floating in the air, and a sea of candles raised into the air in joy as we proclaimed: "Christos Anesti!". How many memories do we have from the years when we missed these sacred services? On the Holy Weeks that we were not in church, who among us can name one thing they did on that week?

This year, as in every year, the questions are always the same. Who will we be this Holy Week and Easter? Where will we be?



Fr. Teodor



# FEEDING THE NEEDY INITIATIVES CONTINUE

Most of our parishioners are well aware of the Men's Club efforts to feed those in need at Thanksgiving, providing holiday dinners to families in the cities of Westland and Livonia through the *John Koinis Feed the Needy Program*. What you may not be aware of is their continuing efforts to provide food for low-income families throughout the year.

The need is great. In Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties, one in four children (24.8%) lives in poverty. In the City of Detroit, over 57% of children under age 18 live in poverty. Using poverty rates as a proxy for hunger, over 1 in 2 children in the City of Detroit are at risk of hunger. Nearly four million (3.9) households in Michigan live at risk of hunger.

Working with Orthodox Detroit Outreach at the Saints Peter and Paul Community Center in Detroit, our Men's Club sponsors periodic Sunday suppers for the needy throughout the year. Meals are prepared by our Hellenic Cultural Center staff, and are served by St. Con's parishioners – Men's Club members and GOYA members have acted as volunteer servers. We are proud of the efforts of our parishioners to serve our neighbors in need!





# H.O.P.E. & J.O.Y. 'ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE IF YOU BELIEVE!'

Our H.O.P.E. & J.O.Y. kids, ages 4 – 12, and their families have had a busy few months! In February, they celebrated Godparents Sunday with their *'We Believe in Love'* event, and made pillows together. March brought us the *'We Believe in Family'* Mardi Gras event and making Lenten Prayer Jars; and then *'We Believe in Sharing our Blessings'* in April, filling 45 Spring Baskets for needy children in our area! The final get together for this season, *'We Believe in Miracles'* is on Saturday of Lazarus where the children and families will attend church, hear Father explain the miracle Jesus performed, have pancake breakfast and then make hundreds of Palm Sunday crosses for our parish.



These events, that draw 60-90 people, are successful with the help of many: Program Coordinators Frances Marinos and Theodora Grias, Father Teodor, the HCC staff, our GOYA young adult assistants, and especially the parents that make time to spend two extra hours on busy Sundays for FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND FAITH for our young people...the FUTURE of Saints Constantine & Helen!

We look forward to the 2019 – 2020 season!





# MOMS SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH AND FAMILIES



Our Moms' Group is in motion! Planning is underway for the Saints Constantine and Helen Name Day Dinner Dance, Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Hellenic Cultural Center. A chance to celebrate old traditions and make new memories, the dance will feature live music from the Greek band, Enigma, along with a DJ and a traditional Greek feast featuring souvlaki, pastitsio, tzadziki, loukoumades, and of course Ouzo and wine!

Speaking of wine, the Moms' dance planning committee enjoyed a wine tasting and lesson from PRP Wine (an auction item purchased from our "Putting on the Glitz" event!) and began reminiscing about the church dances they

attended "back in the day" where the live band had everybody from the kids to Yiayia and Papou out on the dance floor; and where you could see old friends and meet new ones from other area churches. Recreating those Greek dances we used to love is their goal. So grab your white handkerchief, and bring your friends and family out to this fun event. Purchase tickets or tables during coffee hour, online at <https://namedaydinnerdance.ticketleap.com/2019/> or by contacting Corrin Stamatakos, (312) 961-8615.



Share the Light this Easter! Our Moms will also be selling beautiful hand-made lambathes for children during Holy Week for \$15 at the Pangari candle stand. Proceeds from the sale go to College Connection, Fall Festival, and other Moms' Group events and initiatives.

## G.O.Y.A. GROUP ACTIVITIES

2019 has been active so far for our GOYA youth. Each month, GOYA teens are active parish volunteers, providing much-needed assistance with the HOPE and JOY events for children ages 4-12, and acting as Epistle Readers for our Sunday Divine Liturgy services. And their volunteer service extends beyond our parish. The teens also served a Sunday meal for the needy through Orthodox Detroit Outreach at the Saints Peter and Paul Community Center. There was also time for social activities like a GOYA Movie night; and for learning about our faith at the annual GOYA Lenten Retreat, bringing together teens from across our Metropolis at the Holy Trinity Church in Toledo, OH.

As our teens graduate from high school and go on to attend college, it is our hope to stay in contact with them. If you have a graduating senior in your family this year, please contact the church office with their graduation information and a copy of their graduation photo, so we can honor them in church. Each term, our Moms' Group also sends care packages to our college students away or at home, containing snack and office items, a religious token, and a letter from our parish to remind them of the love and warm wishes we have for them in their college successes.







## OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS SHINE

*"...and a little child shall lead them."*

We are inspired every time we see our Sunday School children in church. We smile as they stand in front of the solea for Father's short sermon for children, or when the process around the church proudly carrying their icons on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. The very youngest children have an innocent curiosity and search for knowledge, and our older youth are analyzing and interpreting biblical text and finding their own path to a spiritual life. We are



grateful to our excellent Sunday School teachers and Director Andrea Uhlian, for their dedication to the spiritual education of our youth.



Our 2019 parish St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival was a great success, and we are so proud of all our young people who participated. Congratulations to our Finalists and Semi-finalists, Anastasia Stergiadis and Elias Christodoulos, Senior Division; and Irene Petrutiu and

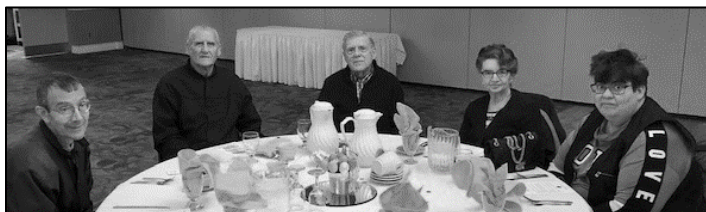
Nicole Petrutiu, Junior Division.

## THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

If you aren't joining the TLC, you're missing out! Once a month, this loyal group meets in the Hellenic Cultural Center for a tasty lunch and excellent conversation.

There's one more chance to join the gang before the summer break – our JUNE 6<sup>th</sup> BINGO PARTY! (We're taking the month of May off!) All ages are welcome. In addition to lunch and a glass of wine, your \$10 donation will provide some lively BINGO action with cool prizes. You may be the lucky winner!

Mark your calendar and RSVP to the church office no later than Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup>.





# OUR BUSY PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERS!

We can't decide if our St. Helen Philoptochos members are camera-shy, or just too busy to stand still for a photo!

This philanthropic group is always working behind the scenes, and giving in ways large and small to help our community, from sending a get-well card to collecting items for veterans, or making a major donation for disaster relief. Two current Philoptochos projects that we love are the purchase of new books to be given to Westland area needy children as part of the H.O.P.E. and J.O.Y. Easter basket project; and the gorgeous Easter gift bags created for our shut-ins. Father Teodor visits parishioners who are unable to make it to church to give them communion before Easter, along with other times during the year. The special Easter gift bag contains a taste of Greek Easter traditions – a tsoureki, koulourakia, and even a chocolate cross! Thanks especially to Irene White for putting those beautiful bags together.



Upcoming Philoptochos activities this month as we prepare for Pascha:

- Sunday, April 21: Palm Sunday basket collection for flowers for the Epitaphio
- Wednesday, April 24: Dying red eggs for church distribution, starting at 10:00 am
- Friday, April 26: Decorating the Epitaphio after Royal Hours morning service
- Saturday, May 4: Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Spring Luncheon at the Henry Ford

The Philoptochos also sponsor events and activities that are central to our parish life, such as the annual Koulouma luncheon, held on the first day of Lent each year.

Many thanks to all who cooked, volunteered and attended, who helped to make this year's event a success.

## A FEW FRIENDLY REMINDERS

### **2019 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE:**

If you have not already done so, please complete and return your 2019 Stewardship Pledge card. Stewardship cards must be completed with current information and submitted each year to be considered a member in good standing of our parish.

### **VIDEO STREAMING**

Not able to make it to church? Now all of our church services and Sacraments are available on live video feed! As part of our parish outreach ministry, the video stream is made available to those individuals unable to attend Church services and also to those family members and friends outside of our community. All you have to do is go onto our Church website, [www.stcons.org](http://www.stcons.org) and go to the tab marked "Video Streaming".

### **PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE WEEKLY BULLETIN**

We are now placing some small business ads in the Weekly Messenger bulletin each Sunday to generate revenue to cover publication printing expenses. If you are interested in running an ad, please contact Annette at the church office for size and cost information.

## Happy Birthday, Father Teodor!

We had some fun celebrating Fr. Teodor's big birthday in church on March 7<sup>th</sup>!

Congratulations, Father - Να τα εκατοστήσεις!





CELEBRATE OLD TRADITIONS – MAKE NEW MEMORIES

Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church

# NAME DAY DINNER DANCE

Saturday, May 18, 2019

Doors Open at 6:00 pm – Dinner Served at 6:30 pm



Featuring the music of **ENIGMA**

The evening's "Greek Feast" includes:

- Greek Mezze, Fresh Bread, & wine at each table
- Dinner selections of Chicken and Pork Souvlaki, Pastitsio, Rice Pilaf, Greek Salad, Greek-Style Green Peas, Tzatziki
- Loukoumades and Koulourakia

CASH BAR & OUZO ~ GREEK DANCING PERFORMANCES  
BASKET RAFFLE ~ FAMILY PHOTO BOOTH

Adults: \$35.00  
Students (12- 24): \$20.00  
Children (5-11) \$10.00  
Children (0-4) Free

**Hellenic Cultural Center**

at Sts. Constantine and Helen  
36375 Joy Road, Westland, MI

Tickets or tables on sale during coffee hour, online at [namedaydinnerdance.ticketleap.com/2019/](http://namedaydinnerdance.ticketleap.com/2019/)  
or by contacting Corrin Stamatakos, (312)961-8615

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



### FISH LUNCHEON

**Sunday, April 21, 2019**

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, Rainbow Sherbet, Rolls, Beverages*

**Tickets: Adults: \$20**  
**Children, ages 5 – 12, \$10**  
**4 and under free**

Luncheon tickets can be purchased from Louise Holt during coffee hour.  
OPEN SEATING – NO RESERVED SEATS.

**St Con's Men's Club**



**Supporting Feed the Needy & Church Related Programs  
(Open to Everyone)**

**Friday, May 10**

**WHEN:** 6:00 P.M. – Party Starts (7:00 – Cards are thrown)  
**WHERE:** Hellenic Cultural Center

**COST:** \$40 per person (Includes cash prizes, keg beer, wine, pizza, hot dogs, sliders snacks and contribution toward Feed the Needy and Church Related Programs)  
\$18.00 per person (Food and beverages only)

Call Dino Lembesis (cell) 586-484-1517 or [lembesis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lembesis@sbcglobal.net)



### MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

AT THE HELLENIC CULTURAL CENTER

**SUNDAY MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**10:30 am – 2:00 pm**

- Full Breakfast Bar
- Entrees, including Prime Rib, Ham, Chicken, Pork, Pasta
- Salad Bar
- Amazing Sweets

Advance Reservations Required - Large Groups Welcome

**Please call 734.525.3550**



### SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN FEAST DAY

**Monday May 20, 2019**

Saints Constantine and Helen Great Vespers  
6:30 pm (Reception following)

**Tuesday May 21, 2019**

Saints Constantine and Helen Feast Day  
Orthros 9:00, Divine Liturgy 10:00 (Luncheon Following)



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019

## June 17 - 21

Day Camp for Kids!  
9:30 am - 12:30 pm daily

ME and  
ST. PAUL



A HELLENIC Adventure

Ages: preschool (age 4) – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Children will learn about the life and teachings of the Apostle Paul as he travels through Greece; and about our Greek heritage – music, dance, food, crafts, and the Olympics.

Four lessons:

GOD LOVES US ALL (The Road to Damascus)

GOD TAKES CARE OF US (Paul is saved from prison)

GOD SENT HIS SON, JESUS (Paul preaches about Jesus)

GOD WANTS US TO SHARE HIS LOVE

½ day Field trip to a local Monastery

Daily Prayer service, Daily snack & Juice box

INCLUDES T-SHIRT FOR EACH STUDENT!!

**Please register by June 10<sup>th</sup>!**

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

## REGISTRATION FORM 2019

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Food allergies or other medical conditions we should be aware of \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose \$25 per child. Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Pay later \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to church office at: Saints Constantine & Helen/ATTN: Vacation Church School

36375 Joy Road, Westland, MI 48185

LATE FEE AFTER JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> - \$5/CHILD

**For more information, contact:** Athena Alexandris 248.349.5950 or [alexandris33@gmail.com](mailto:alexandris33@gmail.com)

Or Anastasia Sakakini 248.227.1594 or [anastasia011@hotmail.com](mailto:anastasia011@hotmail.com)

**Teachers and helpers are needed! Please volunteer your time!**

**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*

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.

U.S.POSTAGE

**PAID**

Westland, MI  
PERMIT NO. 113

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

## PARISH MINISTRIES

### ALTAR BOYS

Pete Simakas, 313-350-1111

### 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

Peter Souchock, 734.558.7843

### MOMS GROUP

Corrin Stamatakos, 312.961.8615

### PARISH COUNCIL

Dino Lembesis, 586.484.1517

### PHILOPTOCHOS

Arlene Sudia, 734.455.2337

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Andrea Uhlian, 313-720-9465

### TLC- THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

Al Sudia, 734.455.2337

## SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS

### 40 Day Blessings:

2/25/19

**JONATHON MANUSHI**, Parents: Roberta & Pirro Manushi

3/17/19

**NAHLA BREWSTER**, Parents: Ricardo & Emily (Bigas) Brewster

3/29/9

**POLYKARPOS TSOUKALAS**, Parents: Tom & Anna Tsoukalas

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

### Baptisms:

1/27/19

**EVANGJELIA THIMIO**, Parents: Xhensila and Marel Timio

Godparent: Stefania Mece

3/10/19

**KATHERINE RENEE KITHAS**, Parents: George & Lisa Kithas

Godparent: Danielle Kleczewski

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

### Chrismation:

2/2/19

**DAVID LOWES**, Sponsor: Geoffrey Lowes

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

### Funerals:

2/7/19

**DEMETRIA "DIANE" APOSTOL**

3/12/19

**ZACHARY APOSTOL**

3/22/19

**ELEFThERIA HATZIS**

3/28/19

**DANIELA DAN**

**MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**