



OUR NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR: WE'RE HAPPY TO SEE YOU!

The Fall season brings with it the excitement of starting new projects and reuniting with old friends. And as soon as the colors change outside, we feel the Thanksgiving and Christmas Nativity holidays fast approaching with all their events and activities. In all that blur of excitement and activities, sports events, and holiday preparations, we encourage you to save a space for Christ in your life - bring your family and join us in church - get involved with church and community service activities. Each day presents you with an opportunity to use your talents, to care, not only for each other, but also for the Body of Christ Himself, our Church.

In this issue of the Visions we will look back at some recent Saints Constantine and Helen Church services and events; and a look ahead at the many upcoming happenings and ways for you and your family to get involved in our parish community. Our church is a welcoming place, and our St. Cons' parish family always makes you feel right at home in our Lord's house!



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Westland, MI

All the Blitz. Save the Glitz.

Hey Guys and Gals!

No need to get dolled up, our 10th Annual "Putting on the Glitz" Reverse Raffle will be a virtual event this year. Buy your tickets and join us online for the prize drawing! There are still plenty of chances to **WIN MONEY AND PRIZES** and to support the ministries of our Church!

REVERSE RAFFLE!

Maximum 500 tickets will be sold!

DRAWING WILL BE HELD
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7th
At 6:00 pm

\$125 per ticket



**LAST ticket drawn
wins \$4,000 Grand Prize!**

With Additional Prizes for every 10th draw!

You can watch the drawing of the numbers on the St Cons website
live video feed beginning at 6:00 pm on November 7th!

**BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKET TODAY FROM ANY PARISH
COUNCIL MEMBER, OR ONLINE AT: www.stcons.org !**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Pam Avdoulos - 248.568.5060 (avdoulospam@yahoo.com)

Lou Kircos - 313.885.1399; Father Teodor Petrutiu – 248.330.3177
or the Church office - 734.525.6789 (stcons2@gmail.com)

A Message from Father Teodor



BUILDING RESILIENCE: BOUNCING BACK

The definition of resilience reads: *“the ability to recover readily from illness, depression, adversity.”* In other words, it is the ability to bounce back.

Before COVID-19, the word “resilience” was probably only randomly part of our vocabulary, but now that we are well into a second year of a global health pandemic, many of us are asking ourselves how we can stay resilient, develop resiliency, or strengthen our resilience. How can we bounce back?

We're bouncing back from the pandemic with vaccinations and loosening COVID restrictions. Some of us have bounced back from having COVID. Our churches are working hard to bounce back from having to shut down for a period of time. or from losing people or from financial problems.

In 2 Corinthians 6, St. Paul is beseeching the citizens of Corinth to bounce back from their spiritual crisis. He is telling them how they should do it: ***“as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ...tumults, labors, ...; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God;***

He is also telling them when they should do it: ***“Brethren, working together with him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation.” Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.***

St. Paul is telling the Corinthians and us that now is the time to bounce back as individual Christians, as families and as the community of Saints Constantine and Helen.

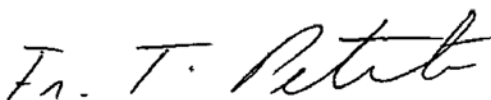
Now it is the time for all of us to consider ‘bouncing’ back to church. We should dare not neglect our spiritual life. Community prayer, Holy Communion, Bible study, Sunday School classes all play a part in strengthening our faith and our fellowship.

As individuals, we should look within ourselves. What can we do to restore our relationship with God? How can we make time for the health of our soul? It requires intention on our part

As families, we should try to rearrange our priorities. As parents we know that the spiritual growth of our children depends on us. They are looking at us, not just to drive them to church, but also to show in our lives that Christ makes a difference.

As a community, we turn to God in one voice, in prayer. All of us have been disoriented by the environment in which we currently find ourselves. What future we will find ourselves in depends not on the behavior of the virus, but on the actions of people – as individuals, families, communities. But resilience is possible.

May we all “bounce back” strongly.



Fr. Teodor



WELCOMING BACK OUR CHOIR! WE'VE MISSED YOU!

Each year, on the first Sunday in October, parishes across the Archdiocese of America celebrate NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY. This commemoration was inaugurated by His Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America in 1982. On October 3rd, we honored the contributions of our choir members, cantors, and music educators who serve our parish through the hymnology of our Orthodox Church.

That evening, pizza, salad, and a lot of fun were served up as "Choir Sunday" came to a joyful close with a Family Talent Show at the Hellenic Cultural Center. After 18 months of no choir due to the pandemic, our services and parish community is more rich with the return of our Choir! If you would like to join the choir, no experience is needed, contact our Choir Director, Maritsa Madias Kalasz for more information at madiaskalasz@gmail.com. Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings.



PONSETTIA SALE!

You can support our Choir by purchasing a beautiful poinsettia plant! Choir members are selling red, white, and tri-color plants for \$25 each. Deadline to order is November 17th, delivery date is December 6th. Please consider buying a plant for your home, or paying for a poinsettia to decorate the church Altar.

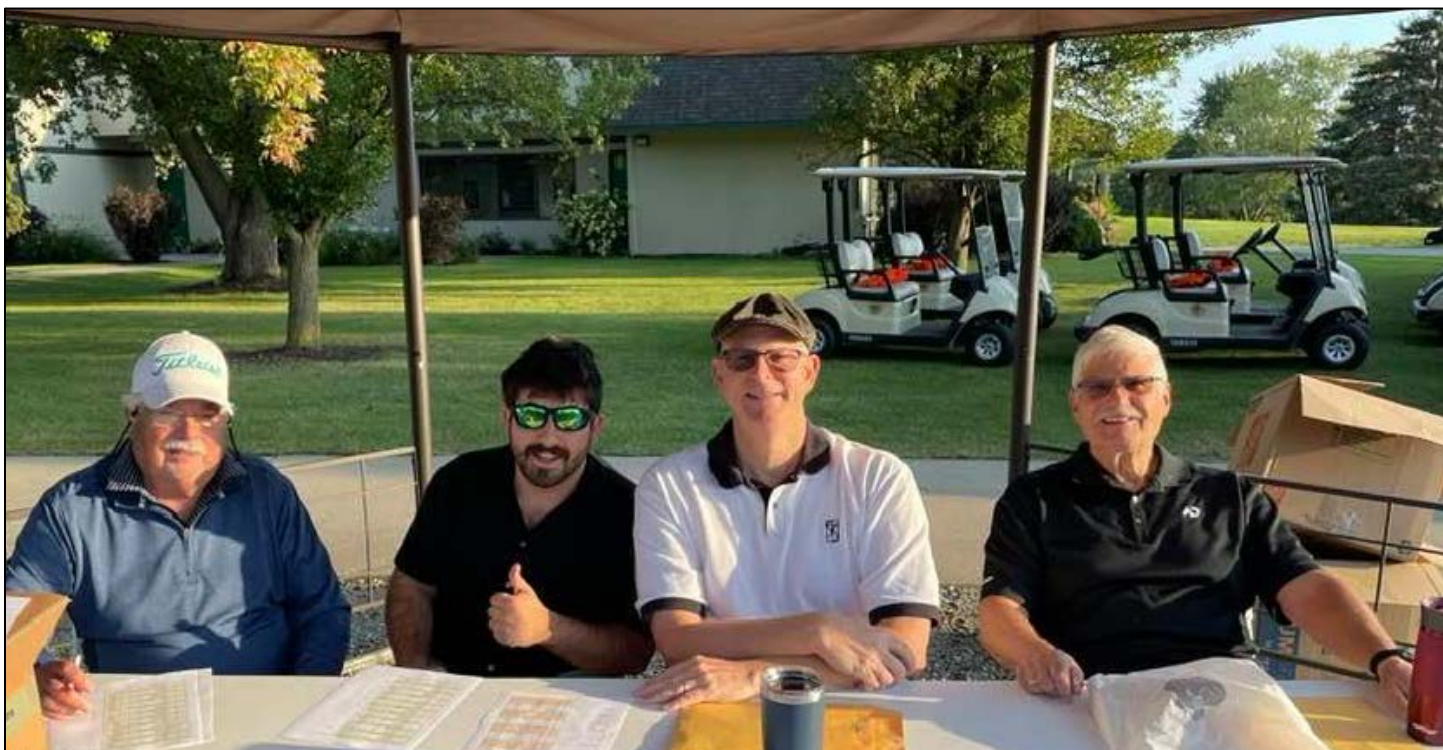


MEN'S CLUB GOLF OUTING FEEDS THE NEEDY

The St. Cons. Men's Club held their 9th Annual John Koinis Feed the Needy Golf Outing at Fellows Creek Golf Club on Saturday, September 11. Forty golfers enjoyed wonderful weather and a great day of golf to help support the Men's Club Program. Thanks to our 45 sponsors and golfers, the event raised more than \$9,000.

The Men's Club kicked off its Fall fundraising drive for Feed the Needy. Donation envelopes will be available in the Pangari and someone will be collecting contributions at the Coffee Hour after Church on Sundays.

Last year our Men's Club provided Thanksgiving dinners to 118 needy families and 314 individuals in the cities of Westland and Livonia. Because of COVID they mailed food gift cards instead of delivering food directly to individual homes. We hope to resume the delivery of food this year if we get enough volunteer drivers. If you are interested in volunteering to deliver food on Saturday, November 20 please contact Mark Chuey at markchuey@aol.com.



"OUR DAILY BREAD" VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

What fun we had the first week of August with VCS! Our children learned about Church breads, how they are made, and how they are used in church. Special thanks to our volunteer staff: Frances Marinos, Maria Haviland, Tracy Monolidis, Alexis Marinos, Jaime Mesner, Kelly Georvassilis, Anastasia Sakakini; to our "Star" bakers, Effie Lembesis (*Prosforo*), Donna Linaras, Mary Frango (*Vasilopita*), Leah Calagias and Irene Psilis (*Arto and Koliva*); and to all of our teen volunteers! The kids had so much fun learning to bake our traditional church breads that many adults have been asking about workshops for themselves! (The Moms' group will sponsor the first workshop on November 14th, where we will learn how to make Vasilopita just in time for the holidays.)





ST. HELEN PHILOPTOCHOS HAPPENINGS

Wine and cheese, rolled grape leaves, and excellent fellowship – a lovely afternoon was had by all who attended the Philoptochos “Dolmathes, Drinks, and Discovery” in September. This casual event was intended to bring together current and potential members of our parish philanthropic group, and as a result, several new Philoptochos members will join in upcoming fundraising and social activities, including:

- SPINACH PIES: In early November, Philoptochos ladies will prepare frozen spinach pies to be purchased by our congregation (and friends) to take home and bake for their own Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday meals and festivities.
- CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: The Saint Helen Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at the Marriott Hotel in Laurel Park. Reservations are required.
- CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE: The Philoptochos annual Christmas Bake Sale, offering a variety of Greek sweets, will be held following church services on Sunday, December 19, 2021.

For information about any of these upcoming events or activities, contact Carol Bozadzis at 248-471-4369.



GOYA YEAR OPENS WITH A BANG!

Our GOYA group meetings aren't your typical boring affairs - they go all out to add a bit of fun! This group of teens held their first meeting around the Fourth of July, so of course, fireworks were required! The group met outside near the gazebo, and after business was completed (and pizza enjoyed) the evening was spent playing games and shooting off some small fireworks. The group planned 2 upcoming service activities, putting together hygiene packages for the homeless through Orthodox Detroit Outreach, and putting together science and art activity kits made out of recycled materials for low-income Detroit school children.



GOYA volunteers are also needed for upcoming youth activities, including the Fall Festival on Friday October 29th, and the H.O.P.E. and J.O.Y. event on November 7th. We encourage all teens age 12 – 18 to get involved. When you join GOYA activities, you meet other people at our church who are your own age and earn service points for school. Win, Win!

OUR MAGNIFICENT MOMS' GROUP!*

COLLEGE CONNECTION OUTREACH: This month, our Moms' group put together and mailed out 45 "care packages" filled with supplies, treats, gift cards, etc. to the young members of our parish who are attending college or graduate school. The College Connection is an ongoing outreach program, intended to provide support from their parish family to our young adults through their college years.

FALL FESTIVAL - 10/29/21!

On Friday, October 29th from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm our Moms are hosting this annual event filled with seasonal activities that are safe and fun for "children" from 2 to 92! This indoor event is We'll have Pizza, Hot dogs, Kona Ice, Popcorn; Music, Bounce House and other large games; Crafts, Balloon creations and hand-painted tattoos. Plan ahead - there will also be prizes for the best costumes! Tickets are \$10/person,

or \$35 for a family of 4 or more; children 2 and under are free. Tickets are on sale after church and at the door. Adult and GOYA volunteers are needed for the event. For more information, or to volunteer to help, contact Maria at mariahaviland@gmail.com; Tracy at TracyM522@gmail.com; or Anastasis at greekstacey@gmail.com



***IF YOU ARE A MOM, AND YOU ATTEND CHURCH AT ST. CONS, YOU ARE AUTOMATICALLY A MEMBER OF OUR "MOMS' GROUP"! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



BACK TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM!

We're so glad to be able to hold Sunday School classes in person again this year! On September 12th, classes began for the Sunday School. Following the service and our first day of classes, families gathered in the Hellenic Cultural Center for a "Happy to See You" brunch. Our children were able to reunite with their Orthodox church friends and meet new ones, while learning about our faith. Sunday School is such a critical ministry, providing a foundation for our children to develop Christian values and build a life-long relationship with our Lord. When a child attends Sunday School, they understand that other families share your Christian mindset and practices.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD, PRE-K – 8TH GRADE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND YOUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IN OUR SENIOR DISCUSSION GROUP. REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE, OR ON SUNDAYS IN EACH CLASSROOM. MAKE IT A POINT TO BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO CHURCH!

NOTE: Please bring a school (or other) photo of child with their name and age on the back and leave it in the basket outside the church office. Those photos will be placed on ornaments for the Christmas tree in the Narthex from Thanksgiving through New Years Day.



H.O.P.E. & J.O.Y.

THANKING OUR U.S. VETERANS!



**GATHERING CHILDREN AGE 4 thru 6TH GRADE AND
THEIR FAMILIES FOR FAITH, FRIENDSHIP *AND FUN!***

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

AFTER CHURCH UNTIL 2:00PM

Lunch will be served for children and their families

PLEASE R.S.V.P. no later than 10/31/21 to:

Frances Marinos fmarinos@comcast.net

**ON THAT SUNDAY, OUR H.O.P.E. & J.O.Y.
CHILDREN WILL BE SELLING SMALL
AMERICAN FLAGS BEFORE AND AFTER THE
DIVINE LITURGY TO RAISE MONEY TO
PURCHASE GIFT CARDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED
BY THE V.A. MEDICAL CENTER TO AREA
VETERANS IN NEED.**



**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

G.O.Y.A.

Cathy Brylinski, 734.432.0834

GREEK SCHOOL

Anna Liakou-Hentnik 248.425.2321

H.O.P.E. and J.O.Y.

Frances Marinos, 734.459.7606

MEN'S GROUP

Peter Souchock, 734.558.7843

MOMS GROUP

Corrin Stamatakis, 312.961.8615

PARISH COUNCIL

Dino Lembesis, 586.484.1517

PHILOTOCHOS

Carol Bozadzis, 248.921.5421

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Church Office, 734.525.6789

TLC- THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

Caryl Lowes, 734.751.3683

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendar today with these upcoming services, events, and activities!

October 29

FALL FESTIVAL, 6:00 pm

November 7

H.O.P.E. & J.O.Y. VA EVENT, 12:00 noon

REVERSE RAFFLE, 6:00 pm

November 9

TLC THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON, 12:00 noon

November 14

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING, 12:00 noon

MOMS' EVENING OF GRATITUDE, 4:00 pm

FEED THE NEEDY, 9:00 am

November 20

PHILOTOCHOS LUNCHEON, 12:00 noon

December 4

SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT REHEARSAL

December 12

H.O.P.E & J.O.Y. HOSTS COFFEE HOUR

December 14

TLC CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON, 12:00 noon

December 19

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT/PHILO BAKESALE

December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 5:30 pm

December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, 10:00 am

January 1

ST BASIL/NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE, 10:00 am

January 9

PARISH VASILOPITA CUTTING