



Visions

A HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA LIKE NO OTHER

The old Yiddish proverb, *"We plan, God laughs,"* expresses a truth everyone can relate to. At every stage of life we make plans, setting out where we want to go and imagining what we will be like when we have "arrived." But things have a way of turning out not quite as we hoped or expected.

After the lockdown during Holy Week and Easter 2020, all of us were looking forward to coming together as a parish family this year for Pascha. A COVID 19 surge in the USA and the state of Michigan touched Saints Constantine and Helen deeply, as Father Teodor and his family were all hit with the virus. Father's extended hospital stay and home rest and recuperation meant that we were without a parish priest for Holy Week. We are so grateful to His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, Fr. Vasilios Pliakas, Nick Lionas Assistant to the Metropolitan, and our Chanters for a week of beautiful, meaningful services. Thanks also to our Metropolis Co-Chancellor, Fr. Nicolaos Kotsis, who supported our parish through this difficult time, and offered a Paraklesis service for complete healing for Father and his family, when he was in the hospital.



Things weren't always perfect, but we are grateful that we, like God, are able to laugh and not take ourselves too seriously. The Anastasi service on Saturday night was held outside, to accommodate larger crowds than our pandemic-capacity limits would allow. It was so windy that evening that parishioners (and clergy!) had trouble keeping the flame going. But when it's windy outside, you get creative – even a parking cone can come in handy in keeping your candle lit!



SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
REV. TEODOR PETRUTIU

36375 JOY ROAD
WESTLAND, MICHIGAN 48185

TELEPHONE: 734.525.6789
FAX: 734.525.3989

NOTICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY - June 27, 2021

The Spring/Summer General Assembly of our Parish will take place on Sunday, June 27, 2021 immediately following the Divine Liturgy, approximately 11:30 am. Light lunch will be provided for those who stay for the meeting. We ask that you make every effort to attend. You are an important part of our parish family!

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- I. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Opening Prayer
 2. Confirmation of Duly called meeting and Quorum
 3. Approval of Chairman of Assembly and Appointment of Secretary
 4. Approval of Minutes of the Fall General Assembly Meeting
 5. President's Remarks
 6. Priest's Comments
 7. Treasurer's Report

- II. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Iconography Update
 2. Building/Facility Update
 3. Other New Business

- III. CLOSING PRAYER

In His service and yours,

Dino Lembesis
Parish Council President

Fr. Teodor Petrutiu
Parish Priest

A Message from Father Teodor



Some people will tell you that you are the result of your ancestry, that you cannot rise above what you inherited from your parents or grandparents. Your genetic 'luggage' will determine your character and you should be satisfied with whatever that is.

Other people will tell you that you are the result of your circumstances and your environment. The condition in which you find yourself will establish the way you are.

People may find excuses at times when they should act or assume responsibility. There are too many people who do not use the 'talents' they were given; they don't dare to make decisions, do not attempt to make the most of themselves; who choose to stay small, spiritually, intellectually or physically, when they could be great.

We can choose to be great!

In Chapter 24 of the book of Joshua in the Old Testament, upon entering Canaan, Joshua stood in front of the Israelites and asked them to choose to worship God instead of the idols worshipped by the people in that land. He did not tell them to do as the circumstances impose. He called them to choose the right thing! Hear what he said:

"... Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15.)

Joshua was in no doubt about his ability to choose. He made the choice with a certainty and determination we all admire.

As we come out of the COVID pandemic, we all have a choice to make: Am I going back to church, livestream the services at home or skip it altogether? Why should I be there?

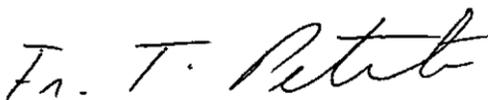
The answer for us as Orthodox Christians should be obvious: Communion. Holy Communion is a crucial aspect of gathering for Orthodox worship that no streaming service can replicate. It points also towards an even bigger issue: being part of the Body of Christ, which is the church. Something happens when we are physically present together that is simply not possible when we log in online.

On the outside, the church may seem weaker during these times. But the church is a visible witness of the reality of God's Kingdom. The church will outlast all other human institutions. It will outlast the pandemic, the hurricanes, the fires, the floods, and the inequalities in our world. Our participation guarantees this!

I hope that as soon as you are able, you will choose to come worship with us. Our circumstances may still be less than ideal, but the long-term benefits of church worship for our families far outweigh the hassle of being there on Sunday morning.

Whether I feel excited about it or not (and usually I do!), the church is my family, and I cannot be who I am meant to be without it.

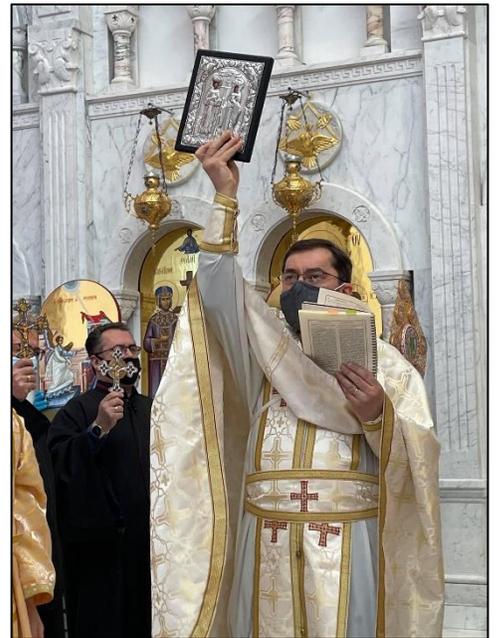
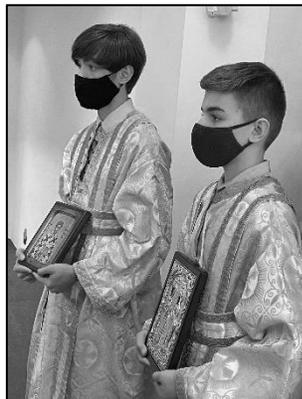
"... Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15.)



Fr. Teodor

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY!

Our traditional Sunday of Orthodoxy procession of the icons was held on March 21st. On this day we celebrate the victory over the Iconoclasts, and the restoration of icons into our churches and into our homes. While we were not all able to gather together on the solea, our parishioners, young and old, held their icons up with pride! Our parish council members followed Father and the Altar servers in the procession, carrying our first icons, newly arrived from Greece. After the procession, Father Teodor walked again through the church to raise and bless the icons of all the children.





ICONOGRAPHY PROGRESS REPORT: ICONOSTASIS INSTALLATION HAS BEGUN!

This has been an exciting couple of months for our parish, as installation of the new icons on the Iconostasis has begun! While shipping and travel complications due to COVID have caused some small delays, the 4 main large icons (Saints Constantine and Helen, Panagia, Jesus, and St. John the Baptist), and 8 of the Feast Day icons across the top have been installed. We have received delivery on the 4 remaining large Iconostasis icons (St. Nicholas, St. Anthony, and Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel), and are expecting delivery on the 4 remaining small Feast Day this month. In the coming weeks, those will also be installed. The mosaic icons that were removed from the Iconostasis are being stabilized to prevent any further decay and will be hung in the hallway across from the church bookstore.

The icons of the Evangelist St. Matthew, St. Gregory of Nyssa and St. Cyril of Alexandria are still available for sponsorship, and we are still in need of general donations of any amount to complete our Phase One fundraising. Those interested in sponsoring an icon, please talk to Father Teodor or contact the church office for more information.

We are grateful to the following people and families who have already sponsored icons:

His Eminence Met. Nicholas
AHEPA Omega Chapter 371
John and Yiota Avdoulos
Theodora Bageris
George and Helen Blond
Dr. Nicholas Bournias
Brad and Stella Boyer
John and Cathy Brylinski
Dr. William and Patricia Cardasis
The Mark Chuey Family
Sam and Dee Cosma
Dr and Mrs. Peter Colovas
Pat and Cindy Crosson

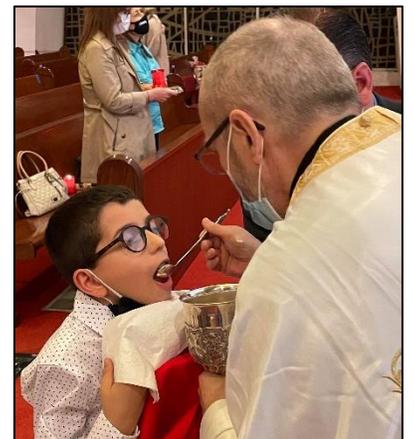
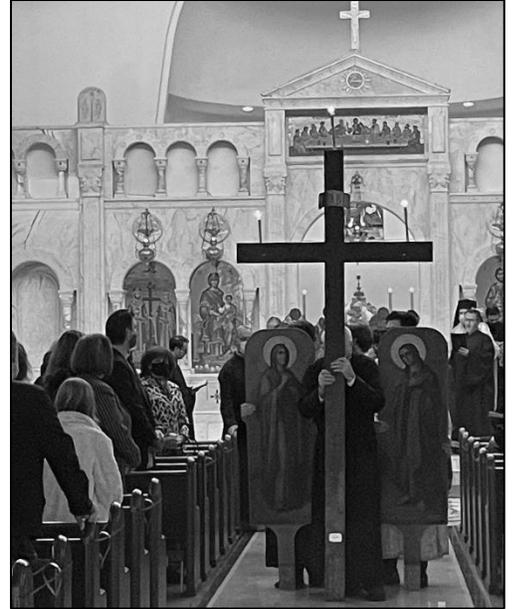
Jacob and Theodora Espinosa
Peter and Mary Frango
Panagiota Freidman
Gus and Pat Gazepis
John and Corinne Kaounas
Joan Keker
John and Violet Kircos
Lazaros and Paula Kircos
Peter and Sophie Kour
Estate, John and Alice Koinis
Mary Lamach
Dino and Donna Linaras
Tasia and Harry Life

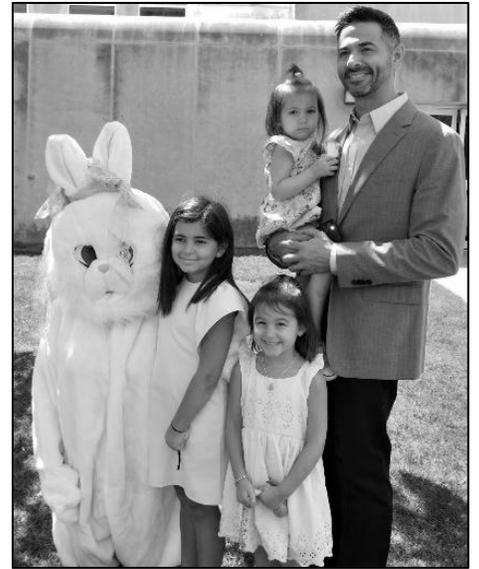
The David Lowes Family
Annette Madias
Chris and Frances Marinos
Sophia Marinkoski
Connie Nicholas
Thomas and Sophia Pascaris
Fr Teodor Petrutiu and family
Toni Psaila
Irene Psilis
Dr. Nicholas and Tina Sellas
Alex and Angela Skylakos
Peter and Marie Stavropoulos
Gus and Maria Stavropoulos

Larry Stassinis
Michael and Anastasia Stavropoulos
Theodore and Mary Tangalos
George and Fani Taskas
Kosta and Christy Theodorou
The Theophelis Family
Micheal and Elizabeth Tsavalias
Matthew and Kathy Tyranski
Kostas and Diana Voutsinas
Katherine and Paul Wainio



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2021





MOTHERS DAY RECOGNITION FOR PRESBYTERA ROXANA

Mother's Day is always special at Sts. Constantine and Helen! This year, keeping with the annual tradition, our St. Helen Philoptochos provided colorful flowers for all the Moms and Yiayias as they entered church; and as a special surprise, our Moms' Group used the occasion to honor Presbytera Roxana! At the end of the service, Corrin Stamatakos, our Moms' president, gave her a small gift and spoke beautifully of the love, support, and leadership Presbytera quietly exudes... and the positive role model she represents. Here is a small excerpt from Corrin's words to Presbytera:



"We belong to a very traditional and special church... led by an amazing priest... that is supported by a wife... who also is a mother! We are able to witness, on a daily, weekly, and annual basis, what a mother's touch like hers can do to strengthen a community.

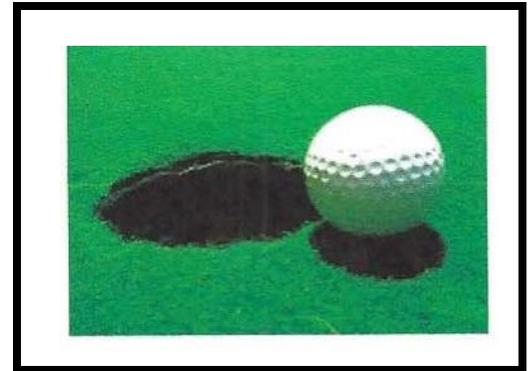
Presbytera's role as a mother brings a "real world normalcy" and a motherly perspective that many churches don't have. Think about it! In addition to holding a job, Presbytera has two teenagers in the house and a husband with a very stressful job who is not around much of the time. She's hip and funny, is a great cook, and she has a love for fashion. And for us here at church, Presbytera often leads quietly, without recognition, and certainly without any expectation. She supports Father, Nicole, and Irene, and ultimately our congregation, with steadfast love, a commitment to being present, and a constant smile on her face. Her modest presence, sincere concern for all of us, and relentless support of Father Teodor and the girls serve as one of the best examples of the kind of mother I would like to be."





SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN FEAST DAY THANK YOUS!

Many thanks to the visiting clergy who joined us for Sts. Constantine and Helen Feast Day services this week: His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, Fr. Nicolaos Kotsis, Fr. Paul Patitsas, Fr. Nicholas Marcus, and Fr. Anthony Cook. We were most of all thankful that we have Fr. Teodor back serving with his brother priests, to celebrate the feast day of our parish! Thanks also to Olga Drummond and the ladies of the Philoptochos for preparing and serving loukoumades after the vespers service on Thursday evening. We all enjoyed our “carry out” treat!



MEN’S CLUB FEED THE NEEDY GOLF OUTING

The Men’s Club of Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church will be holding its 9th Annual Charity Golf Outing on September 11, 2021 at Fellows Creek Golf Course to provide funds to support our Feed the Needy Program which provided Thanksgiving dinners to 118 needy families and 314 individuals in the cities of Westland and Livonia last year. Funds are also used to help pay for several St. Cons church-related events. If you are in a position to assist, they would welcome your contribution. Checks should be made payable to “St. Cons Men’s Club” and mailed to the church office at 36375 Joy Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

- **Banquet Sponsor** \$1,200 (Includes foursome for golf & Banquet)
- **Souvenir Sponsor:** \$ 500 (Includes twosome for golf & Banquet)
- **Open Bar Sponsor:** \$ 500 (Includes twosome for golf & Banquet)
- **Hole In One Sponsor** \$ 500 (Includes twosome for golf & Banquet)
- **Beer Cart Sponsor** \$500 (Includes twosome for golf & Banquet)
- **Hole Sponsor:** \$ 200
- **I would like to make a monetary contribution of \$_____**

“OUR DAILY BREAD” VCS PROGRAM, AUGUST 2 – 6

We are SO EXCITED about this year’s Vacation Church School program, running August 2 – 6, 2021! This year, our children will learn about church breads, and will get to make the bread, take it home, and learn how it is used in our services. This program is for children entering kindergarten through those completing grade 6 in 2021. Every day will include cooking, crafts, music and outside play, along with lessons and prayer.

- **MONDAY:** **PROSFORO/Preparing the Gifts for Holy Communion**
- **TUESDAY:** **VASILOPITA/The Story of St. Basil**
- **WEDNESDAY:** **ARTO/The 5 Loaves and 2 Fishes**
- **THURSDAY:** **KOLIVA/Remembering our loved ones**
- **FRIDAY:** **DIVINE LITURGY (Mostly English will be used.)/ Pizza Wrap up Party!**

We are looking for teen and adult volunteers! Let us know if you can help!

VCS 2021 Registration Form (August 2 – 6, 2021)

Note: Please submit completed form via email to: stcons2@gmail.com, drop off at the church office, or by mail to: Saints Constantine and Helen, 37385 Joy Rd. Westland, MI 48185

PARENT NAMES: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip Code: _____

Mom’s Email address: _____ Mom’s Phone: _____

Dad’s Email address: _____ Dad’s Phone: _____

_____ **Yes, I would be willing to help with our Vacation Church School Program!**

#1 – STUDENT PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

NAME: _____ Baptismal Name: _____

Birth Date: _____ Grade in school (Fall 2021): _____

Month/Date/Year

Allergies or other medical conditions or concerns: _____

Learning/Behavior conditions or concerns: _____

\$35/CHILD STUDENT REGISTRATION FEE MAY BE PAID ON AUGUST 2ND.

#2 – TEEN VOLUNTEER INFORMATION *(All volunteers 18 or under must complete registration information):*

NAME: _____ Baptismal Name: _____

Birth Date: _____ Grade in school (Fall 2021): _____

Month/Date/Year

Allergies or other medical conditions or concerns: _____

Saints Constantine and Helen Church/Holy Cross Church
VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL!

“Give us this Day Our Daily Bread”

August 2 – 6, 2021

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**FOR ALL KIDS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN TO
THOSE COMPLETING GRADE 6 THIS YEAR!**

*Let's have fun together as we learn
about church breads, how and when
they are used. We'll learn how to make
Prosforo, Vasilopita, Arto, & Koliva together!*



EACH DAY WILL INCLUDE:

- OUTDOOR AND INDOOR LEARNING
- CHURCH BREAD BAKING*
- MUSIC LESSONS
- CRAFTS
- PRAYER SERVICE

\$35/CHILD (includes all materials, and VCS apron!)

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

No later than July 15th

Registration forms available at church, or
on the parish website at www.stcons.org

Teen Volunteers are needed!

Please contact the church office if you can help, 734.525.6789.

COVID SAFETY POLICY:

- VCS Program will follow CDC recommendations and Metropolis of Detroit guidelines for wearing masks, capacity limits, and social distance.
- Snacks will be prepackaged. Children's cooking samples will be packaged and sent home with them each day.

****Children will be working with and will be served products containing wheat.
There will be no nut products served or used in program activities.***

**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 Stamatakos, 312.961.8615

PARISH COUNCIL

Dino Lembesis, 586.484.1517

PHILOPTOCHOS

Carol Bozadzis, 248.921.5421

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Church Office, 734.525.6789

TLC- THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

Al Sudia, 734.455.2337

SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS

40 Day Blessing:

4/4/21

JULIANA GRACE TRIPP

Parents: Steven and Denise Tripp

Baptism:

4/11/21

MARIA TSOUKALAS

Parents: George and Mariana Tsoukalas

Godparent: Kailey Tsoukalas

CONGRATULATIONS!

Funerals:

4/8/21

ARETA LEON

5/14/21

MIKE FERAROLIS

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

MEMORIAL SERVICES: *Koliva that has been prepared for memorial services can now be distributed to parishioners at the end of service. We are also again able to accept Coffee Hour Sponsors, for those having a memorial or other special day in church. Requested sponsorship donation is \$150. If you would like to schedule a memorial service or coffee hour sponsorship, please call the church office in a timely manner so we can include the information in the bulletin.*