

St. John Greek Orthodox Church

Sterling Heights, Michigan

Phone: 586-977-6080/Emergency 513-508-0386

Web site: www.stjohngoc.net/ Email: parish@stjohngoc.net

Parish Priest: Father Nicolaos Tzetis

March 29, 2026 ~ Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

TODAY AT ST. JOHN

8:45AM Orthros ~ 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

Memorials:

George Zotos 5 years, John Shafkalis, Angeliki Tselepa 7 years, Kyriaki Poyiadgi 16 years,
Nick Stamadianos 12 years, John Sandas 7 years, Stavros Malliaras 40 Days,
Ekaterini Regopoulou, Athanasios Regopoulos, Antonios Krokos, Panagiota Krokou,
Nikolaos, Ekaterini, Erene, Haralambos, Angelos

Opportunities for the Week

Tuesday, March 30

Greek School 4:30pm & Adult Greek School 6:30pm
Great Compline 5:30pm

Thursday, March 31

Senior Citizens Lunch- Cancel- See you in May
Greek School 4:30pm & Adult Greek School 6:30pm

Saturday, April 4~ Saturday of Lazarus

Orthros 9:00am & Divine Liturgy 10:00am
Pancake Breakfast after Divine Liturgy
St. John Hope, Joy & Little Angels Easter Egg Hunt right after Breakfast

Mark your Calendars

Sunday, April 26 ~ St. John 50th Anniversary Family Reception@ our Hall

Saturday, May 2 ~ St. John 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance @ Penna's

May 3~ Greek Independence Day Parade

❖ Philoptochos Membership Drive Has Begun for 2026

Epistle Lesson

St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:11-14 Prokeimenon. Mode 1 Psalm 32.22,1

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:11-14

BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Gospel Lesson

The Gospel According to Mark 10:32-45

At that time, Jesus took his twelve disciples, and he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Saturday of Lazarus (whom Christ resurrected from the dead)

We are all familiar with the amazing story of Lazarus as written in the pages of Holy Scripture. Lazarus was a good friend of our Blessed Lord, as were his sisters, Mary and Martha. Jesus visited them on many occasions, and he loved them all very much. As we all have learned from our scriptural reading, Lazarus died at a very early age, and he was buried (accordance with Jewish custom). After four days, our Blessed Lord returned to Bethany, and it was there at the tomb of Lazarus that the miracle took place. Jesus ordered the tomb opened and commanded that Lazarus come out. Lazarus obeyed and the miracle of his resurrection has been recorded for future generations. It was this same Lazarus who, after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ, became a dedicated Apostle, preaching the message of Salvation on the Island of



Cyprus. It was on this famous island that Lazarus was ordained as the first Bishop of the area known as Kition. Tradition tells us that he was ordained by the Apostles themselves and that he served as Bishop for 30 years in Cyprus. Lazarus died at the age of 58 and was buried in Cyprus. According to tradition, Lazarus was buried in a casket on which was written the following: Lazarus, Tetraimeros, Friend of Jesus Christ." The word "Tetraimeros" pertains to the fourth day, and since it was on the fourth day after his death that Jesus brought him back from the grave, Lazarus is affectionately known as the Tetraimeros friend of Jesus Christ.

Lazarus remained entombed eight centuries in the little chapel of St. Lazarus in Cyprus. In the year 890 A.D., Emperor Leo of Constantinople, a most devoted and dedicated Christian built a beautiful monastery and Church in honor of St. Lazarus on the Island of Cyprus. Emperor Leo eventually decided to bring the remains of St. Lazarus to the beautiful city of Constantinople.

On October 17, 891 A.D., the remains of St. Lazarus were brought to Constantinople and enshrined in a magnificent Cathedral known at the Cathedral of St. Lazarus. The holy relics of St. Lazarus were entombed within a bronze casket. Emperor Leo also brought the holy relics of St. Mary Magdelene to Constantinople at the same time. The official dedication of the new Cathedral of St. Lazarus took place on May 4, 891 A.D.

FLOWERS NEEDED FOR THE LENTEN & EASTER SEASON 2026

Please return this form to the church office if you are interested in donating flowers.

Friday – February 27th - 1st Salutation – Carnations

_____ **Mary K Tangalos Family** _____

Friday – March 6th - 2nd Salutation – Carnations

_____ **Evan and Robin Stavropoulos** _____

Friday – March 13th - 3rd Salutation – Carnations

_____ **Sophia Borgaonkar** _____

Sunday – March 15th - Veneration of the Holy Cross – Daffodils

_____ **Kalliantasis Family** _____

Friday – March 20th – 4th Salutation – Carnations

_____ **Diamanto Gargasoulas and Dimetra Mansoor** _____

Friday – March 27th - Akathist Hymn – Carnations

_____ **Collins Family** _____

Sunday – April 5th - Palm Sunday – Palm Trees – Crosses

Sunday – April 5th - Palm Sunday - Bay Leaves

Sunday – April 5th - Bridegroom Icon

_____ **Athanasia Mantas** _____

Monday – April 6th - Bridegroom Icon

_____ **Dan and Paulette Szajna** _____

Tuesday – April 7th - Bridegroom Icon

_____ **Faye Zoulas Family** _____

Wednesday – April 8th - Holy Wednesday Icon

_____ **Kathy Konon** _____

Thursday – April 9th - Holy Thursday – Wreath for the Crucifix

_____ **Lembesis Family** _____

Thursday – April 9th - Holy Thursday Icon

_____ **Ipsilantis Family** _____

Friday – April 10th - Holy Friday – Epitaphios – Flowers

_____ **DONATED** _____

Crucifix Icon: _____ **Amalia Grapsidis** _____

Resurrection Icon: _____ **Collins Family** _____

Sunday – April 12th - Holy Easter – Resurrection Wreath

_____ **Zingas Family** _____

Eggs: _____ **Nicholas Cortis** _____

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ST. JOHN GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

HOLY WEEK & PASCHA SCHEDULE

Saturday of Lazarus (April 4)

9:00am Orthros | 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Palm Sunday (April 5)

8:45am Orthros | 10:00am Divine Liturgy

6:00pm Bridegroom Matins*

*this service is scheduled earlier on a non-work day so our families with younger children can attend

Holy Monday (April 6)

7:00pm Bridegroom Matins

Holy Tuesday (April 7)

9:00am Presanctified Liturgy

7:00pm Bridegroom Matins

Holy Wednesday (April 8)

6:00pm Holy Unction

Holy Thursday (April 9)

7:30am Vespertal Divine Liturgy

6:00pm Holy Passion Matins (12 Gospels)

Holy Friday (April 10)

10:00am Royal Hours*

*Decorating the Kouvkouklion (Epitafion) will begin at 9:30am

1:00pm Apokathelosis Vespers

7:00pm Lamentations Orthros

Holy Saturday (April 11)

10:00am Vespertal Liturgy

11:00pm Vigil

12:00am Paschal Orthros
& Divine Liturgy

Pascha Sunday (April 12)

11:00am Agape Vespers

Holy Week and Pascha services are the cornerstone of the Orthodox Christian year, and each service has its purpose in preparing us for the celebration of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. Please make every effort to come to as many of these services as you can.

St. John Greek Orthodox Church
11455 Metropolitan Parkway
Sterling Heights, MI 48312
@stjohnhoc





Saturday of Lazarus Celebration

April 4 · 2026
9am Orthos/10am Liturgy

Directly after Divine Liturgy, enjoy breakfast and
crafts with egg hunt to follow!

Candy donations WELCOME before stuffing day (3/29)

Please choose items that can fit inside eggs (lollipops
won't fit) & free from peanuts, tree nuts, and egg to keep
our kids safe! ☆ We know it's tricky - if label says that it's
made in a facility with these allergen or on shared
equipment, it still won't be safe for them. ☆ THANK YOU!

50th Anniversary

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

Dinner Dance
Penna's of Sterling Heights
Saturday, May 2, 2026

Join us for our 50th!

We hope you will spread the word and share this event with your friends and family near and far. We are hard at work planning a beautifully catered event and historical slideshow intended to honor those who have worked so hard to serve this community for the last 50 years.

This event will also serve as a fantastic opportunity to invite visitors from other parishes and even from our local communities to come and see what our community is all about.

\$150



stjohngoc.net/50th-anniversary

Dearest Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 2025, our membership grew to an impressive 141 members strong. Whether you are a current or past member, we thank you! We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support which makes the wonderful works of Philoptochos possible. Your continued generosity allows Philoptochos to serve our church and community in so many meaningful ways.

Our annual membership enrollment period is underway and if you have not already done so, we invite you to renew your 2026 membership by fulfilling your stewardship today. There is no better time to renew your commitment, and we encourage you to inspire others by sharing the mission and fellowship that Philoptochos offers.

For those who are not yet members or have not renewed in recent years, please consider offering your support by joining or rejoining in 2026. Philoptochos is the heart of our church, and in essence, each parish member plays a role in this beautiful ministry. Members love the work they do and the friendships they build along the way. There is a place for all parishioners over the age of 18, and everyone is welcome. Any time, talent, or treasure is invaluable and deeply appreciated. All contribution directly benefits philanthropic projects that support our church and community.

Every member's annual stewardship also helps sustain the operations of Philoptochos National and Metropolis projects and offices (\$15 and \$6, respectively). Any stewardship amounts over \$21 remain with our local chapter and are used to fund the charitable projects we choose together. Every stewardship, every donation, makes a difference.

Please complete the membership form attached and return it with your payment, made payable to **St. John GOC Philoptochos Society**. Forms and payments can be dropped off or mailed to the church. You can also visit our membership table during coffee hour through the month of April.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Philoptochos. If you have any questions or ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out to any member or to us. We look forward to seeing you this year and to celebrating all the wonderful we will accomplish together.

With love and gratitude,

Paulette Szajna
President

Cathy Kondoleon
Membership

Pilates With A Purpose

May 9

Hosted by St. John Philoptochos
in our Social Hall

- Start and sign in at 10
- Pilates at 10:30

• Please bring your mat,
if you don't have one we will provide!

If you're not up for Pilates, please still join us at 11:30
for brunch and fellowship!

➔ Please RSVP by May 3rd, call or text and let us know
how many will be attending to either the Pilates, brunch, or both!

- ♥ Emily Shoukis 586-321-7647
- ♥ Vicky Samohin 586-996-0148

We are collecting \$25 per family to
MCREST women's and kids shelter.
Let's help make a difference this Mother's Day
weekend to the mothers and children that
need our support to help them thrive
and succeed in life! Be the Change!

♥ Pay at the door: Cash, Check or Credit Card ♥



The background is a light yellow color with various decorative elements. At the top, there are several colorful Easter eggs in shades of blue, pink, and green. To the left, there is a large, detailed illustration of a white flower with a pink center and green leaves. To the right, there is a branch with green leaves and small pink and blue flowers, with the Arabic word 'الله' (Allah) written in gold calligraphy above it. At the bottom, there are three decorated Easter eggs: one green with blue flowers, one yellow with brown branches and white buds, and one orange with purple flowers. There are also yellow daffodils and a small butterfly on the bottom left.

St. John GOYA

Tsoureki Sale

Cost: \$15

**GOYA will be selling Tsourekia on
Saturday of Lazarus &
Palm Sunday.**

**To pre-order, please call/text
Popi Stavrou
@ 586.530.6971**

SAVE THE DATE

50th Anniversary



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

Family Reception Following Divine Liturgy
St. John The Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Dinner Dance
Penna's of Sterling Heights

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Advertise your business through St. John Dear Friends

Reasons you should consider
advertising with St. John:

¼ page	\$200
½ page	\$300
Full Page	\$600

*4 issues per year

Dear Friends is revamped with fresh quarterly publications that are growing in readership

Members and staff want to support businesses that support our church

Our readers trust that our church advertisers are honest, reliable businesses

You are reaching a family oriented market comprised predominantly of homeowners

Every church member lives in your community and is a potential customer

Please email us if you are interested!

Payment billed annually

 dearfriends@stjohngoc.net

 stjohngoc.net/advertising



DETROIT

24TH ANNUAL GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

DETROIT'S HISTORIC GREEKTOWN

SUNDAY | MAY 3, 2026 | 3PM

HONORARY GUESTS

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS OF AMERICA
HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN NICHOLAS OF DETROIT
AND HIS GRACE METROPOLITAN EFSEVIOS OF SAMOS AND IKARIA

WWW.GREEKPARADES.COM





Greek Heritage Night at Comerica Park

May 5th | Red Sox vs Tigers | 6:40 P.M.



Opa! Celebrate Greek Heritage Night at Comerica Park when the Detroit Tigers battle the Boston Red Sox! Special Ticket Package includes an exclusive Tigers Greek Heritage Jersey.



For purchases of 10 or more tickets, please reach out to Nicholas.Muscarella@olyent.com to unlock additional savings. Go Tigers!

Annual Stewardship Pledge

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Sterling Heights, MI



**Stewardship is how we manage the gifts God gives us:
time, talent, and treasure.**

We share our time by **volunteering** where help is needed.

We share our talent by using **our special skills** to help the Church.

We share our treasure by sharing our **resources**.

This stewardship pledge form is for committing to share our **resources**. It helps the parish to be able to plan our budget ahead of time, when we know what we are able to give. It also asks for some info like ages and religion for planning what ministries may need extra focus.

It costs roughly \$450,000 per year to run our parish.

My Information

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Are you an Orthodox Christian? _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

My Spouse's Information

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Are you an Orthodox Christian? _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

My Children's Information

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Y N Baptized Orthodox?

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Y N

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Y N

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Y N

My household wants to commit to donating...

\$_____ per month

\$_____ per year

Credit Card _____ Exp: _____ CSV: _____

Signature _____ Date _____