

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 Tzetzis

April 5, 2026 ~ Palm Sunday

TODAY AT ST. JOHN

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

- ❖ GOYA is selling tsourekia Saturday of Lazarus & Palm Sunday
- ❖ Philoptochos will be selling Loukoumades
- ❖ Bridegroom Matins 6pm

Epistle Lesson

St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9 Prokeimenon. Mode 4 Psalm 117.26,1 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Lesson

The Gospel According to John 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Holy Week

Saturday of Lazarus On this day, the Church celebrates and commemorates the miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead. By resurrecting Lazarus from the dead, Christ proves again that He is truly the Son of God, the Lord of Life. On the Saturday of Lazarus, we find that death is the enemy that Christ came to conquer. The miracle caused many to believe in Him as the long-awaited Messiah. The negative result, however, is found in those religious leaders who feared a loss of power and therefore plotted to find a way to do away with Him.

Palm Sunday On this Sunday we celebrate the triumphal entry of Christ into the city of Jerusalem. This is the beginning of the last week Christ spent on earth. Christ came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish feast of Passover. News of the great miracle Christ performed in bringing Lazarus back to life had reached Jerusalem before Him, and a great crowd of people prepared to receive Him, waving palms and branches of trees, and spreading their robes on the road. As He appeared riding on a donkey, the crowd shouted, **"Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!"** On this day we are given palm crosses as a reminder of Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The palm crosses are placed in our homes, cars or workplace as a constant reminder of Christ's entry into Jerusalem and His entry in our lives.

Holy Sunday Evening In the evening, the Bridegroom Service is held with a procession of the icon of the Suffering Christ. Our Lord called Himself the Bridegroom (Nymphios or groom; His bride of course is the Church). The significance of the service is that Christ, the Bridegroom of the Church, is to be taken away from us, that days of sorrow lie ahead. On this evening, we also commemorate the noble Joseph of the Old Testament and the fig tree, which was cursed by the Lord for not bearing fruit. The noble Joseph's exemplary behavior in avoiding an occasion of sin is brought before us as a reminder that we too should avoid all sin. The unproductive fig tree is symbolic of the unproductive Pharisees, Scribes, and Elders of that period whose moral consequences shall be the same as the cursed fig tree. These moral consequences apply to us today if we do not bear fruit in Christ.

Holy Monday Evening During this Bridegroom Service, the Church commemorates the parable of the Ten Virgins whose theme is watchfulness and readiness required of all Christians in anticipation of our death and final Judgment.

Holy Tuesday Evening This Evening the Church commemorates the sinful woman who anointed Jesus with precious oil. This act was in preparation of His death and burial. The central theme of the event being the forgiveness of the sins of the woman who anointed Him. It also tells us that no matter how great or many are our sins, Christ, out of His immense love, forgives us.

Holy Wednesday Evening This evening the continuity of Christ's passion is interrupted with the service of Holy Unction (Holy Oil). Just as the sinful woman anointed Jesus and He forgave her sins the night before; likewise, we are anointed with oil for the forgiveness of sins and also for the healing of all sicknesses of soul and body.

Holy Thursday In the morning of this day, the Church commemorates the Last Supper, the washing of the disciple's feet, Christ praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, and His betrayal by Judas. In the evening, the Church remembers the Passion and suffering of our Lord through the reading of the 12 Gospel selections.

Holy Friday At the noon service - called the Royal Hours - we read of the grim reality of Christ's Crucifixion and the fulfillment of the Old Testament Messianic prophecies. During the afternoon service, called the Apocathelosis, the removal of Christ's body from the Cross, wrapping His body in a burial shroud and placing it in the tomb is re-enacted. On Friday evening we gather like the myrrh-bearers around the tomb singing hymns of lamentation, remembering our Lord's descent to the place of the dead.

Holy Saturday On Holy Saturday morning, the Church commemorates the Lord's continuous preaching in Hades in the spirit of anticipation of the Lord's Resurrection. The readings of the day incorporated into the Divine Liturgy talks about our Lord's descent into Hades where He conquered death and resurrected all those held there unjustly.

Easter Sunday On the evening of Holy Saturday, the Faithful gather in the church to celebrate the Feast of Feasts, the Resurrection of our Lord. The church is pitched in darkness, reflecting the darkness of the world without Christ. At midnight, the priest offers the Easter light of Christ to the world, symbolical of the victory of light over darkness and of life over death. On the morning of Easter, the Agape Service, the Gospel reading of the first appearance of the Risen Lord is read in many languages. This act denoted the universal character of the Gospel of Christ. Thus, Holy Week services are brought to a joyous end.



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 Vespers 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 Vespers 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
@stjohngoc





Loukoumades
\$10 per Box

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

_____ **Donated** _____

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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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

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

THE JOURNEY OF MARRIAGE: AN ORTHODOX GUIDE TWO-DAY RETREAT

FROM SINGLES TO EMPTY NESTERS - ALL ARE WELCOME



LOCATION:

ST. GEORGE CHURCH
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH
6:30PM - 8PM

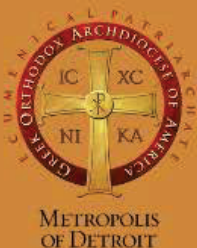
THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE WITH:

DR. PHILIP MAMALAKIS
PROF. OF PASTORAL CARE

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH
10AM - 4PM

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE
FIRST 5 YEARS & KIDS
EMPTY NEST

DR. MAMALAKIS
JOSH ENSLEY, LMFT



REGISTRATION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!

[TINYURL.COM/DETROITMARRIAGE](https://tinyurl.com/detroitmarriage)

[NKOKKALES@DETROIT.GOARCH.ORG](mailto:nkokkales@detroit.goarch.org)



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!

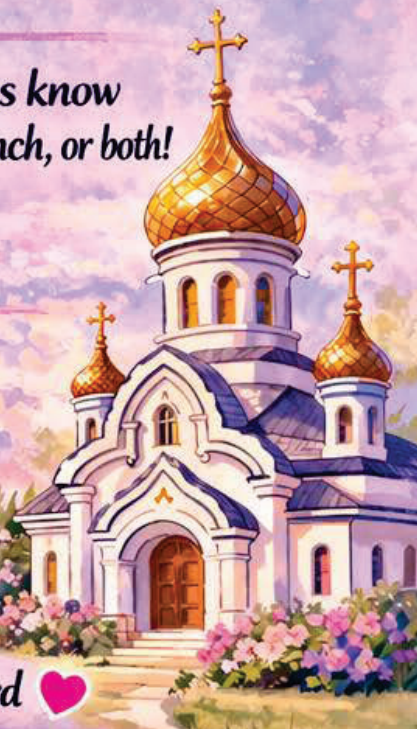
♥ Emily Shoukis 586-321-7647

♥ 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 pinkish 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 white stripes and brown twigs, and one orange with purple flowers. There are also green grass blades and a small butterfly at the bottom.

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**

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 _____