

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 12, 2026 ~ Great and Holy Pascha

TODAY AT ST. JOHN

Agape Service 11:00AM

We need readers to read the Gospel in different languages



Opportunities for the Week

Tuesday, April 14

Greek School 4:30PM-6:30PM/ Adult Greek School 6:30PM-7:30PM
Parish Council Meeting 7pm

Thursday, April 16

Greek School 4:30PM-6:30PM/ Adult Greek School 6:30PM-7:30PM

Friday, April 17

Orthros & Divine Liturgy Ζωοδόχος Πηγή 8:30 AM

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

May 7 Senior Citizens Meeting and Luncheon at our Hall 12 Noon

May 21 Greek School Graduation

June 7 Sunday School Graduation/ Picnic

**Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας,
καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζωὴν χαρισάμενος!**

**Christós anésti ek nekrón, thanáto thánaton patísis,
ké tíς en tíς mnímasi, zoín charisámenos!**

**Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death,
And to those in the tombs He has granted life!**

Epistle Lesson

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4 Psalm 117.24,29

This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Verse: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

In the first book, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So, when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?"

He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Gospel Lesson

The Gospel According to John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Christ Is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς Ανέστη!

St. John Chrysostom on the Feast of Feasts, which, according to the Ancient Traditions of the Holy Orthodox Catholic Church, is read on this Feast Day. If any man is devout, and loves God, let him enjoy this far and radiant triumphal Feast. If any man is a wise servant, let him with rejoicing enter into the Joy of His Lord. If any man has labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have worked from the first hour, let them today receive their just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let them with thankfulness keep the Feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let them have no misgivings, because they shall not be deprived for that reason. If anyone had delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near fearing nothing. If anyone has waited until the eleventh hour, let him also be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord is jealous of His Honor and will accept the last even as the first. God gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has labored from the first hour.

He shows His Mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; to one He gives, and to the other He bestows gifts. He both accepts the deeds and welcomes the intention. He honors the acts and praises the offering.

Wherefore, enter all into the Joy of our Lord; and receive your reward, both first and also the second.

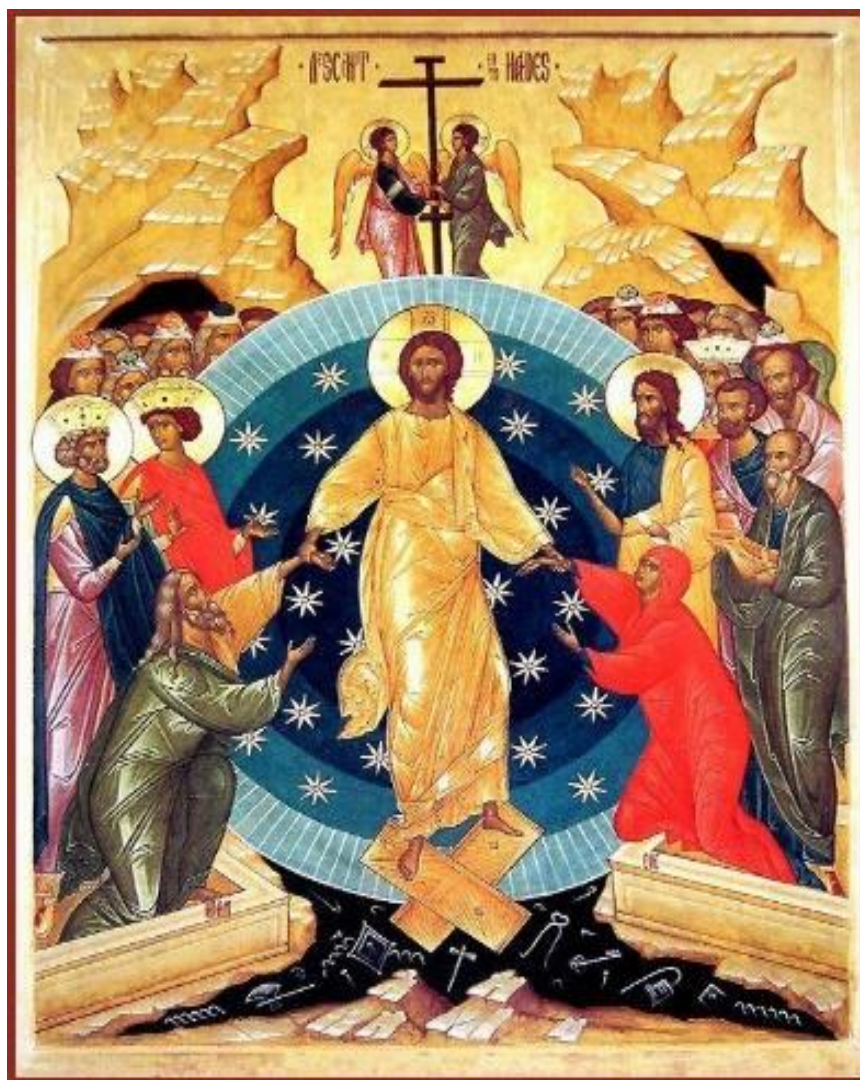
The rich and poor together, hold high festival! Ye sober and ye heedless, honor together Third Day! Rejoice today, both ye who have fasted, and ye who disregarded the fast! The table is full laden; feast ye all sumptuously! The calf is fatted; let no one go away hungry!

All receive the riches of loving kindness! Let no one bewail his poverty, for the Universal Kingdom has been revealed! Let no one weep for his sins and iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave! Let no one

fear Death, for the Savior's Death has set us free! He that was held prisoner of death has annihilated Death. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He angered Hell when it tasted of His Flesh. Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: "Hell was angered when it encountered Thee in the lower regions."

*Hell was angered; for it was abolished.
Hell was angered, for it was mocked.
Hell was angered, for it was slain.
Hell was angered, for it was overthrown.
Hell was angered, for it was fettered in chains.
Hell took a body, and met God face to face.
It took earth and encountered Heaven.
It took that which was seen and fell upon the unseen.
O Death, where is thy sting?
O Hell, where is thy victory?
Christ is Risen, and Death has been overthrown.
Christ is Risen, and Hell has been restrained.
Christ is Risen, and the demons have fallen.
Christ is Risen, and the Angels rejoice.
Christ is Risen, and Life rules.
Christ is Risen, and not one of the dead remains in the grave.*

For Christ, being raised from the dead has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
To Him be glory and dominion unto the ages of ages!





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
@stjohnhoc



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

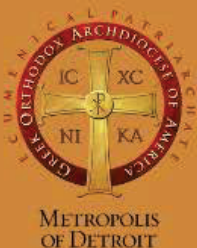
THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE WITH:

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!

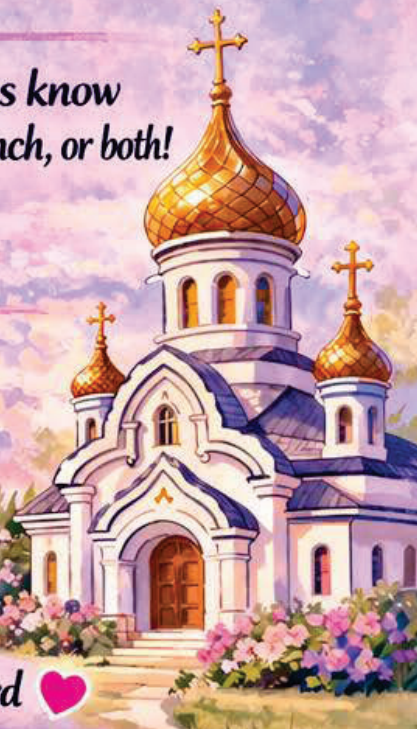
♥ Emily Shoukis 586-321-7647

♥ 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 ♥



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

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

Please email us if you are interested!

Payment billed annually

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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 _____