

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 19, 2026 ~ Thomas Sunday

TODAY AT ST. JOHN

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

Baptism: Liana daughter of Michael and Adriana Cusumano

Opportunities for the Week

Monday, April 20

Philoptochos Meeting 6:30pm

Tuesday, April 21

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

Thursday, April 23

Greek School 4:30pm-6:30pm/ Adult Greek School 6:30pm-7:30pm
Conversation on Resurrection 5pm

Saturday, April 25- Baptism: Elizabeth Hope daughter of Ernest Katsias and Donna Licavoli

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

Don't forget to reserve your tickets for the 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on May 2nd at Penna's of Sterling Heights!

Please join us for:

Appetizers

Open Bar

Penna's Signature Family Style Dinner

Live Greek Music

American DJ, and

Beautiful memories shared

For ticket information, please visit the church website or call the office.

We look forward to seeing you there



Epistle Lesson

Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20 Prokeimenon. Mode 4 Psalm 146.5;134.3 Great is our Lord, and great is his power.

Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

Gospel Lesson

The Gospel According to John 20:19-31

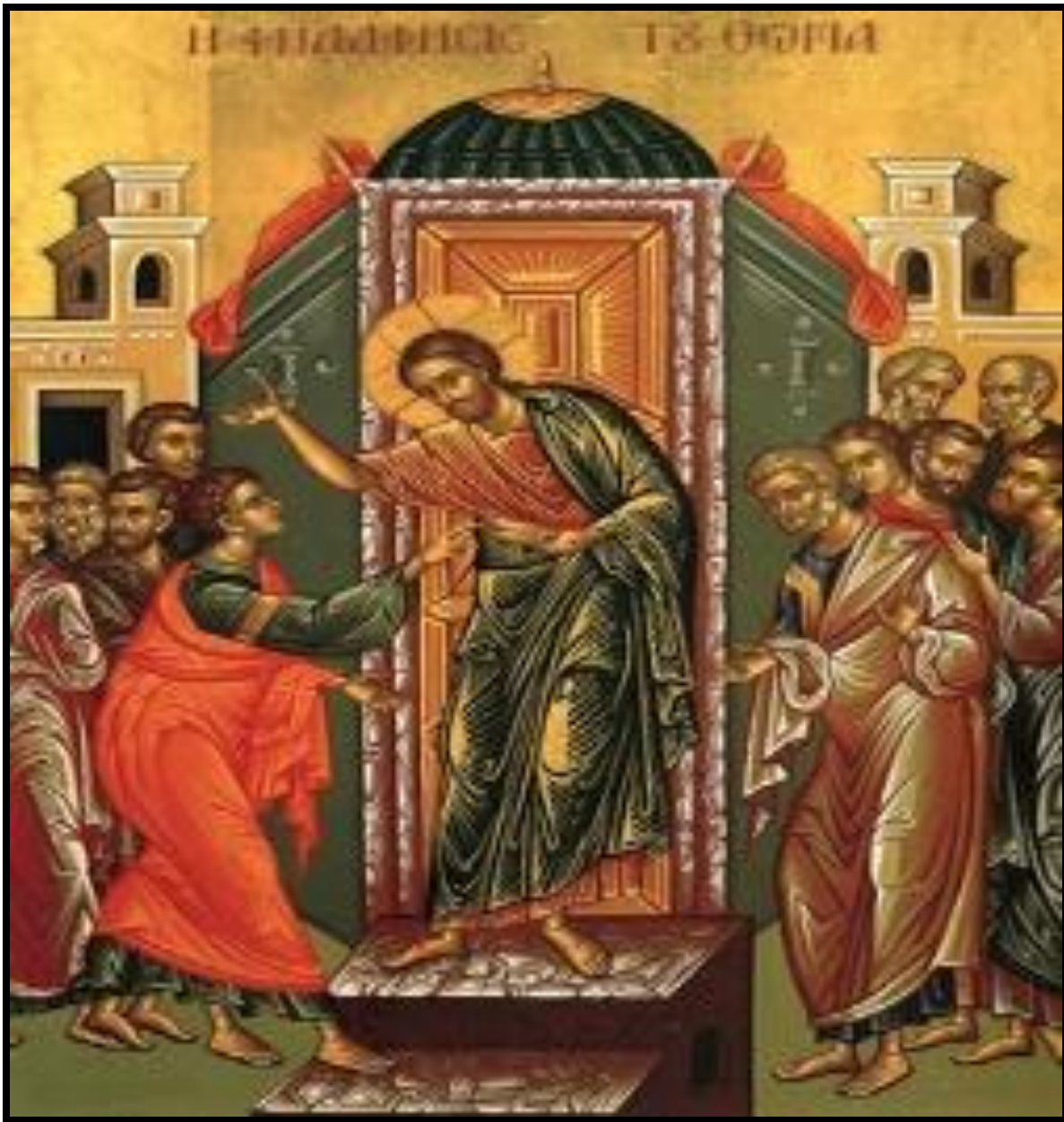
On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and My God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.

Sunday of St. Thomas

"Christos Anesti!" For forty days following the Resurrection of our Blessed Lord which we celebrate at Eastertime, Orthodox Christians throughout the world greet one another with this beautiful and traditional phrase **"Christos Anesti"** – Christ has Risen – and invariably the reply is **"Alithos Anesti"** – He has truly Risen. This wonderful custom in our religion, and these inspiring words are repeated during our daily conversation with others for forty days until Ascension Thursday. These words were first spoken over 1900 years ago after the faithful had heard the wonderful news of the Resurrection of Christ from the dead.

Today we honor one of the youngest of the Apostles of Christ, St. Thomas. Although he first doubted that Christ was truly Resurrected from the dead, he did believe and became one of our Lord's most devoted Apostles. Have you ever wondered what ever happened to Thomas and the other Apostles after Jesus bid them farewell and ascended to His Father in Heaven? Let us look into history and see what became of the famous Twelve. They were amazing men who gave their lives for Christ and the Christian Faith. James and John, the sons of Zebedee were killed by mobs in Jerusalem after preaching faithfully the message of Christ. Matthew was killed by the sword in Ethiopia. Philip was hanged in Phrygia. Bartholomew was flayed alive in Armenia. Andrew was crucified in Achaia (Greece). St. Thomas, whom we honor today, was run through with a lance in East India. (Many Christian Churches in India still bear his name to this date.) Thaddeus was shot to death with arrows; and Simon (the zealot) was crucified in Persia, St. Peter likewise in Rome. Matthias (he took the place of Judas Iscariot) was beheaded and only St. John escaped a martyr's grave. These gallant soldiers of the Christian Church gave their lives for Christ. This is the greatest of all sacrifices.

Today, however, we are not called upon to make such a great sacrifice for Christ. We are urged to pay heed to the words of the Resurrected Christ who beckons us to live a Christian life according to the divine commandments of the New Testament. We should live our Orthodox Christian Faith. We should uphold the customs and traditions of our wonderful Church, which has so much to offer us during these trying times. Let Christ be a part of your life and live your Orthodox Faith.



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

**Christós anésti ek nekron, thanáto thánaton patísis,
ké tis en tis 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!**

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



TANWEER AND ALEXANDROS FILM
PRESENT

KAPODISTRIAS

- THE GOVERNOR -

A YANNIS SMARAGDIS FILM

IN THEATRES APRIL 22 ONLY

ALEXANDROS
FLM

TANWEER

FATHOM
ENTERTAINMENT

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

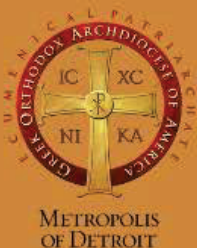
THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE WITH:

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!

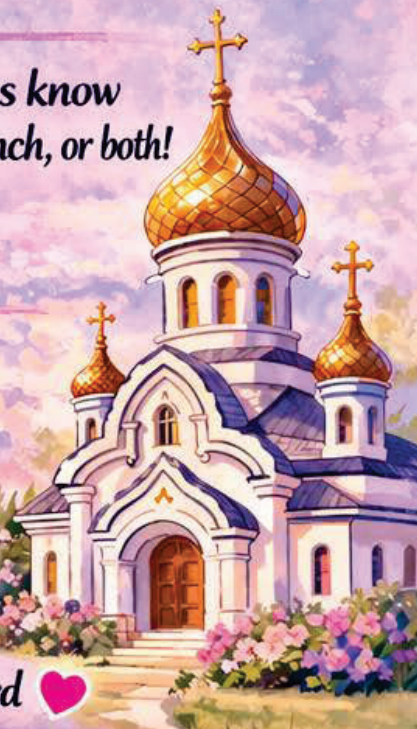
♥ Emily Shoukis 586-321-7647

♥ 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

 dearfriends@stjohngoc.net

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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 _____