

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

May 3, 2026 ~ Sunday of the Paralytic



TODAY AT ST. JOHN

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

Greek Independence Day Parade in Greektown at 3:00pm

Opportunities for the Week

Tuesday, May 5

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

Wednesday, May 6

Mid- Pentecost Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:30am

Thursday, May 7

Senior Citizens Meeting and Luncheon at our Hall 12 Noon

Greek School 4:30pm -6:30pm

Conversation on Women in the Church 5pm

Saturday, May 9

Pilates with a Purpose hosted by St. John Philoptochos 10am

Friday, May 8 & Saturday, May 9

The Journey of Marriage Two-day retreat @ St. George Bloomfield Hills

Mark your Calendars

May 10 Goya Bake Sale

May 11 Philoptochos Meeting 6:30 pm

May 21 Greek School Graduation

May 31 Sunday School Graduation

Epistle Lesson

Acts of the Apostles 9:32-42 Prokeimenon. Mode 3 Psalm 46.6,1

Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Verse: Clap your hands, all you nations.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 9:32-42

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So, Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.



Gospel Lesson

The Gospel According to John 5:1-15

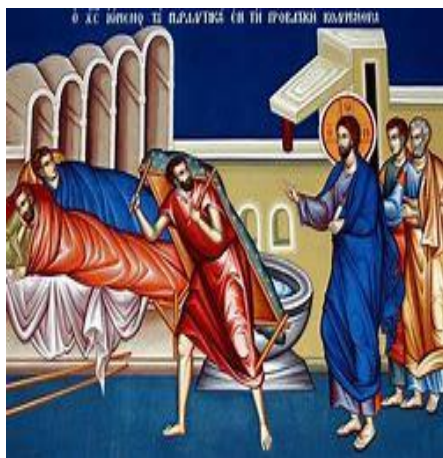


At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he

had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.' "They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

Sunday of the Paralytic

The fourth Sunday of the Easter is called the "Sunday of the Paralytic" and it is dedicated to commemorating a miracle which, historically, belongs to the early days of Jesus Christ's ministry.



The Church meditates on it today because it is one of the "very great" miracles (if we are allowed to distinguish between major and minor miracles). We call it a great miracle because of the seriousness of the illness, of the length of time it had lasted, of the circumstances of the healing and because this miracle bears witness to the Savior's authority over the human body in a particularly impressive way.

On the Saturday Vespers we sing: "*O Christ, compassionate God, You did come and heal the afflicted man*". He who overcomes death in His own body has power over all human flesh. That is why the commemoration of the healing of paralytic can, if not chronologically, at least spiritually, find a place at Easter time.

The account of the healing of the paralytic is read at the Divine Liturgy from St. John's Gospel (5:1-15). In Jerusalem, near the pool of Bethesda, Jesus sees a crowd of the ill and infirm who are waiting for the water to be moved by an angel of the Lord. This phenomenon happened at certain intervals, and after its occurrence, the first sick person who stepped into the water was healed. Amongst these sick people is a man who has suffered from paralysis for thirty-eight years. Jesus Christ asks him if he wants to be healed. The paralytic answers that he has no one to help him down to the pool and that he is always overtaken by others. Jesus says to him: "rise, take up your bed and walk". The man is healed immediately. The Jews protest because the healing has taken place on the Sabbath. Jesus finds the man in the Temple and says to him: "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto you" (John 5:15).

We can see here Jesus Christ's power over illness, and also the connection between physical illness and sin. We are not told clearly that this man was ill because he had sinned, but Christ said to the man: "sin no more." The reading from the Acts of the Apostles (9:32-42) is related to the Gospel's subject. It is about the two miracles worked by St. Peter: the healing of Aeneas in Lydda and the bringing back to life of a woman named Tabitha. This passage from the book of Acts harmonizes deeply with the Gospel for this Sunday. The healing of Aeneas forms a parallel to that of the paralytic in the Gospel. The resurrection of Tabitha fits well into the context of the Easter season: every human resurrection is an effect of Christ's resurrection.

The Church, this day, concentrates on the healing of the sick bodily or spiritually. We will enter into the spirit of the Church by praying, especially this Sunday, that our Lord would help the sick and the infirm.



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



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!

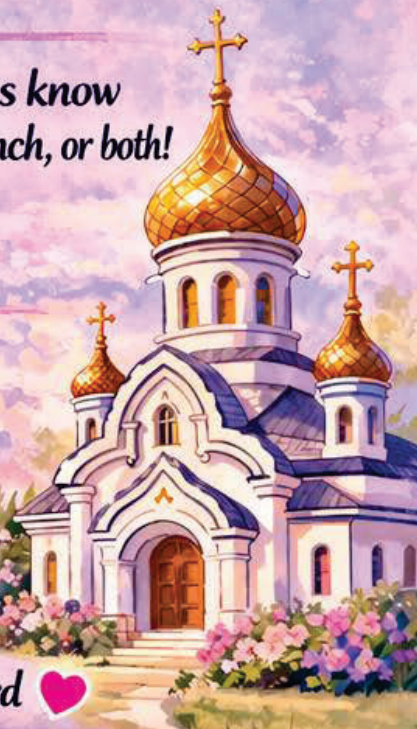
♥ Emily Shoukis 586-321-7647

♥ 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 ♥



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

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

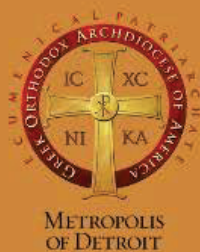
THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE WITH:

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)



Advertise your business through St. John Dear Friends

Reasons you should consider
advertising with St. John:

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Full Page	\$600

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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 _____