

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

July 12th ~ 6th Sunday of Matthew

TODAY AT ST. JOHN

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

40 Day Blessing: Athena and Niko Staza

Baptism: Niko son of Blake McGinty and Nikolana Zimmerman

Mark your Calendars

July 26~ Festival of St. Panteleimon @Lexington

Orthros 9:30 am ~ Divine Liturgy 10:30am Followed by their annual Festival

July 27 ~ Feast Day of St. Panteleimon @ Lexington

Orthros 9:30 am ~ Divine Liturgy 10:30am

August 17 ~ St. John Golf Outing

Please support St. John Summer Survival!

[give.tithe.ly Summer Survival](http://give.tithe.ly/SummerSurvival)

NEWS

We have exciting news!

St. John has updated both our website and our credit card processing system for online stewardship and donations. If you currently make contributions online, please visit our giving page at:

www.stjohngoc.net/give and click the "DONATE NOW" button to set up your account in the new system. For those who are making recurring donations, when you set up your giving on the new platform, we will cancel your recurring payments on the previous platform.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Chris Shafkalis of our IT Committee at 586-292-6657

Epistle Lesson St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 12:6-14 Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 1 Psalm 11.7,1

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us. Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 12:6-14

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Gospel Lesson The Gospel According to Matthew 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming."

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

July 17 ~ St. Marina

Even though they refused to accept the Messiah, pagans of the third century realized that Christianity added certain wholesomeness to its adherents, particularly to Christian girls whose purity gave added dimension to their beauty and stirred passions within the hearts of pagans who saw no such chastity in their own women. While all accounts in church biographies follow a similar pattern, the ones who gave their lives to Christ should be honored not just with a feast day but with a biographical sketch as well, for the simple reason that they were true heroines, small in number when compared to the unnamed and unnumbered Christian girls who submitted, rather than face agony and horror. This is not to demean the latter for having human frailty, for it is doubtful that any girl so coerced really denied Christ in her heart once he was there. Numbered among the lovelies who made the supreme sacrifice was a girl named Marina who was born in Antioch during the reign of Emperor Claudius II (A.D. 270), an era in which Christianity was gaining, but nevertheless faced a relentless enemy in the polytheists, who still abounded after centuries of idolatry. When her mother died giving birth to her, her pagan priest father, Edesios, had no choice but to entrust the newborn child to another woman and to go about his affairs, unaware of the fact that the foster mother was a Christian. When Marina reached maturity, she had learned to love Jesus Christ with all her heart and had no feat when at last she told Edesios, who had never been much of a father to her anyway and whose resentment she could endure. Knowing the depth of the Christian faith, the father made no effort to dissuade her but simply took the news with contempt and walked away talking to one of his gods.

Let to her own devices, Marina carried on her affairs with her devout mother, affairs with regular church attendance included. It was while walking to church that the eighteen-year-old girl was spotted by no less a personage than the perfect province, Olymbrios. Unfortunately for Marina, it was a case of love at first sight. He made himself known to her and thereafter called on her with a view to making her his wife, even though he knew that she had no love for him. Out of respect for his office as well as out of common courtesy, Marina entertained the suitor in a pleasant manner, taking care not to offend him with an abrupt rejection, but this discretion only served to delay the inevitable, and the days grew more and more ominous with the realization that he would soon enough propose and she would have to deny him.

When at last he asked for her hand, she declined as politely as possible, explaining that she had pledged her life to Jesus Christ and was waiting for the moment when she could enter his service in some manner. The explanation was in no way discouraging and Marina was asked to reconsider his proposal, for which he was willing to give her a little more time. He held out the promise of a life of ease as the bride of the perfect, which he hoped would sway her after some deliberation. When the prefect returned after a couple of days, Marina's answer was the same. When it was evident to him that she was not about to alter her thinking, the love that the prefect had professed was transformed into hate. He shouted that if he could not have her, he would see to it that no one else would, and furthermore, that she would pay for having insulted him with a rejection. Marina wished it could have been otherwise, but there was nothing she could do but wait and hope that the prefect would somehow find it in his heart to forgive her and leave her alone. She realized that this was wishful thinking, and the hours wore painfully on as she waited for the dreaded rap on the door.

The rap on the door came at last and Marina was led away to be tried on charges of treason, among other things, for which she was found guilty and sentenced in methodical fashion after having heard herself branded a traitor by sycophants of the prefect. What took place thereafter is said to have been as vicious an assault on the human body as a fiendish mind could devise. Marina was stripped naked, whipped, and burned with candles, allowed to heal, and then tortured again in the same fashion over an agonizing period until she was finally beheaded. Death came to this devout girl on July 17, 289.

SUPPORT SUMMER SURVIVAL 2026

Lawn Care \$800	Mary & Nick Souris	Steve & Angela Kotsonis	Ted & Mary Tangalos*	Katherine Kotsis*	
Building Maintenance \$750	Nicholas & Erin Papakonstantinou and Family		Daniel & Paulette Szajna*		John & Katina Papakonstantinou and Family*
Dear Friends Front Cover \$650					
Dear Friends Back Cover \$600					
Youth \$550	Yanni & Becky Patouhas and Family*	George & Ellene Balalas*	In memory of John & Suzanne Aretakis		
	Sotiri & Shanelle Kalliantasis and Family*				
Electric \$450	George & Kathy Demetriou and Family*		Alex & Irene Kourtesis		Nick Prantzalos Family*
Consumers Energy \$350	Andreas & Marina Kyprianides*				
Water \$250	John & Kiki Hanjiantoniou*		Sophia Bargaonkar*		George & Jennifer (Glacken) Singos*
	Demetrios & Afroula Dionisopoulos*		Demetrios & Afroula Dionisopoulos*		
	Senior Citizens*		Senior Citizens*		
Office Supplies \$200	Alex, Linda, Felicia Boosalis		Koutelas Family*		Joanne Paul*
	Ed & Georgia Mansell		Ipsilantis Moschos Family	Mike Syropoulos	Katherine Kotsis*
Phone \$150	Andreas Demetriou*		Alexander Demetriou*		Tasso & Terry Ayan*
	Jeff Bontsas*		Jeff Bontsas*		Pete & Josie Lazaris
Cleaning Supplies \$125.00	Taylor & Kristina Sourvelis*		Angie Lazaris		Gregory Sintakis
Insurance \$100	Bariatakis Family*	Kathy Stewart Family*			

\$25.00 donation for 18 yrs. and under

Kosta Patouhas*	Niko Patouhas*	Thanasi Patouhas*	Dimitri Patouhas*	Kosta Kourtesis	Anna Kourtesis	Liana Cusumano
Thomas Tzetzis	Elpida Tzetzis	Felicia Boosalis	Charlie Stewart*	Eva Stewart*	Jimmy Stewart*	
Anastasia Stavropoulos*	Evangelos Stavropoulos*	Evangelia Harder*	Paraskevi Harder*	Alek Polyzois*	Scotty Lionas	Eleni Lionas
Other Donations	Spiro & Sharon Sassalos Family*	Anonymous*	Dionisios & Evangelia Bekris*			
Other Donations						

ΑΓΙΟΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ
ST JOHN
GOLF OUTING

21ST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026
12:30 PM SHOTGUN START

\$250 PER PLAYER ENTRY FEE

INCLUDED IN THE PLAYER ENTRY FEE

Driving range, valet, and locker room

18 Holes – Scramble format

Coney Cart at the Turn

Beer and soft drinks on the course

Greyson Apparel (\$130 value)

Dinner Buffet and
Awards Ceremony

GOLF OUTING CONTESTS

“Vegas Hole”: Double your
50/50 tickets

Putting Contest

Longest Drive Contest

Closest to the Pin

Raffle to win a brand new set of
irons, golf bag, and range finder

Many more prizes!

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR FOURSOME @ STJOHNGOC.NET/2026-GOLF-OUTING



**GREAT OAKS
COUNTRY CLUB**

777 Great Oaks Blvd.
Rochester, MI 48307

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:

Spiro Pliakos

248-872-4382

pliakos.spiro7@gmail.com



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



An open call from the Byzantine Chant Ministry

Cantors Wanted

Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν

“COME, LET US WORSHIP”

This art is not a relic, and it is not fading.

It is a living tradition, two thousand years unbroken, and it endures only through hands willing to take it up.

◆ **No Experience Required** ◆
Beginners are welcome.

I

THE CALLING

We are seeking stewards of an art form. Those who hear in Byzantine chant a tradition worth a lifetime, and who will treat it as such. Reverence outweighs talent; resolve outweighs all.

II

THE TRADITION

You will be trained in the Patriarchal method of Byzantine chant: the Eight Modes, the neumatic notation handed down from the Fathers, and the hymnography of the Orthros and Divine Liturgy in both Greek and English.

III

THE DEMAND

Weekly group Psaltic Sessions. Faithful attendance at Sunday services and the major feasts of the liturgical year. Personal practice between sessions. This is the work of a lifetime.



IF YOU ARE CALLED

Speak with one of the cantors after Divine Liturgy, or write to parish@stjohngoc.net.
Include your name, age, and phone number.

"Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises unto our King, sing praises." (Psalm 47:6)

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST · STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

ST. JOHN GREEK SCHOOL

SUMMER CLASSES

Dear Parents,

Our school is willing to form summer classes if we have enough students. If you are interested, please return this form to the church or call the office (586) 977-6080.

Summer classes: for July and/or August. The classes will be 1 hour on

Tuesdays – Conversational Classes for children, grades 1st – 6th, starting

July 7 – July 28, and August 4 – August 25, from 5-6 pm

Also,

Tuesdays – Conversational Classes for adults, starting

July 7 – July 28, and August 4 – August 25, from 6:30-7:30 pm

Tuition is \$40 per class per month, prepaid when you sign up.

Deadline is Friday, June 26, 2026.

Yes, I am interested in _____ class.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

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

**SAINT
PANTELEIMON
GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH**

FESTIVAL AND FEAST DAY

**SUNDAY,
JULY 26, 2026**

9:30am
Orthros

10:30am
Divine Liturgy

**Festival Following
Divine Liturgy**

**MONDAY,
JULY 27, 2026**

Feast of St. Panteleimon

9:30am
Orthros

10:30am
Divine Liturgy
Refreshments available

**FESTIVAL
INFORMATION**

SUNDAY after Divine Liturgy

**FREE PARKING AND
PICNIC AREA**

LAMBS ON THE SOUVLA

SOUVLAKIA AND RICE

**PASTRIES AND
BEVERAGES**

**GREEK MUSIC AND
DANCING**

SAINT PANTELEIMON CHAPEL
7143 Cedar Road - Lexington, Michigan



*The 75th
Anniversary of*
**METROPOLIS OF DETROIT
SUMMER CAMP**

**SATURDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER 2026
AT ST. NICHOLAS IN TROY, MI**

**COME JOIN US FOR A STROLLING
DINNER, OPEN BAR, DANCING, CAMP
AUCTION, A WALK THROUGH CAMP
HISTORY, AND MUCH MORE!**

AGES 21+



**GET TICKETS AT
[GOMDSC.ORG/75-YEARS](https://gomdsc.org/75-years)**

GALA ADMISSION \$125

EARLY BIRD \$100

COOKING WITH CHEF LOU



Learn to Make Pastitsio, the Taste of Greece Way!

Come and enjoy a free cooking class taught
by the Taste of Greece head chef, Lou, and
learn the very best secrets of Greek cooking.

Everyone is welcome!

Pizza dinner included.

6:30 PM

July 22

**39851 Five Mile Rd,
Plymouth, MI 48170**



RSVP Here!

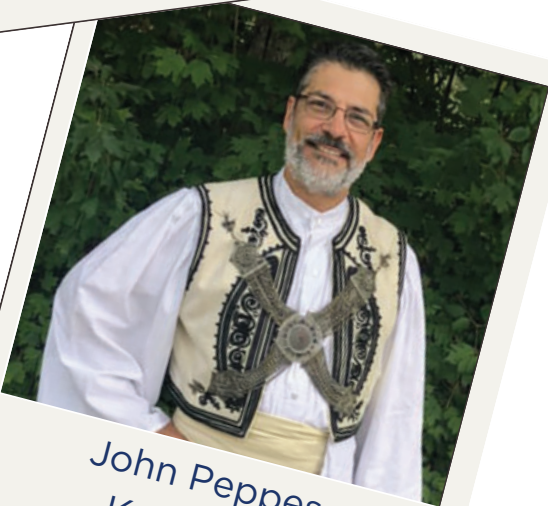
REGISTER TODAY FOR THE INAUGURAL



Aris Yortzidis
Pontos



Aristoula Toli
Epiros



John Peppes
Kalymnos



ENDASI

XOROS HELLENIC DANCE CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 9-11 2026
DAYTON, OHIO

Guest Instructor Discussion Panel
& Service Project
Workshops & Dinner-Glendi with Endasi
Divine Liturgy & Workshop Exhibition



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT



www.detroit.goarch.org/xoros

Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan (OCW) presents
ANNUAL OCW RETREAT

Saturday, July 25, 2026, 8:45 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
(Divine Liturgy, Memorial, Lunch, and Presentation)

Why It's Important to be an Unmercenary



Special Guest Speaker

Dr. Carla Thomas

ER doctor, author, board member of the Fellowship
of St. Moses the Black, Axia (Orthodox Women),
St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary,
and Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry

Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Monastery
3389 Rives Eaton Road, Rives Junction, MI 49277-9739
www.dormitionmonastery.org
Mother Gabriella, Abbess

Driving Directions from the east: Take I 94 West to Exit 138-Rte. 127 North. Go approximately 7.5 miles and exit at Berry Road/Rives Junction. Turn left. Go to the end of Berry Rd. and turn right at the stop sign.

Go approximately 0.3 mile. The monastery is on the left side of the road.

Appropriate attire must be worn at all times: no shorts, revealing tops, or miniskirts.

Head covering is recommended for Church. Smoking is strictly prohibited on the monastery grounds.

Pets are not permitted

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

2026 Retreat Cost: OCW Members: \$30; Non-members: \$35

Please contact us at
ocwmichigan@gmail.com
for more information

SAVE THE DATE

Oct. 23-25, 2026

**Fellowship of St.
Moses The Black 33rd
Annual Conference**



Saints Peter & Paul
Romanian Orthodox Church
Dearborn Heights, MI



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: _____ Baptized Orthodox? ☐ Y ☐ N

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 _____