

St. John Greek Orthodox Church

Sterling Heights, Michigan

Phone: 586-977-6080/Emergency 502-619-0800

Web site: www.stjohngoc.net/ Email: parish@stjohngoc.net

Parish Priest: Father Larry Legakis

August 16th, 2026 ~11th Sunday of Matthew

TODAY AT ST. JOHN

9:00AM Orthros ~ 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

Opportunities for the Week

Monday, August 17

St. John Golf Outing

Baptism -Saturday, August 22: Demetrios son of Elias and Paraskevi Dotis

Mark your Calendars

August 21, 22, 23 Greek fest at Assumption

August 29 Beheading of John the Baptist- Orthros & Liturgy 8:30am

August 29 Goya Welcome Back Party 6 pm (more information to follow)

If you signed up to help with our **Summer Survival Program** and have not paid, please do so.

As you all know St. John has updated both our website and our online credit card processing system for stewardship and donations.

Please note that our current recurring online stewardship **service has been discontinued since July 20, 2026.**

We kindly ask you to set up your recurring donation on our new system.

To do so, please visit www.stjohngoc.net/give and click the "DONATE NOW" button. From there, you can create your account and set up your recurring stewardship donations in the new system.

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful support of our church!

If you have any questions or need assistance with the transition, please contact the church office at 586-799-6080.

❖ Dear Parish Family,

The Parish Council asks that we be careful during the demolition of the school.

Please watch your children closely to ensure that no one gets hurt.

Epistle Lesson

St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 9:2-12 Prokeimenon. Mode 2 Psalm 117.14,18 The Lord is my strength and my song. Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 9:2-12

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do we still not more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Lesson

The Gospel According to Matthew 18:23-35

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the torturers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

August 16 - Stamatios the Neomartyr



In his voluminous classic, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, the English historian, Edward Gibbon, observed that "All taxes must, at least, fall upon agriculture." More than a thousand years later, after the decline and fall of the mighty Byzantine Empire, that remark about taxes still held true in seventeenth century Greece, whose largely agrarian economy, never robust in its best days, suffered grievously from the burdensome taxes imposed upon it. A man named Stamatios had the courage to protest the heavy handedness of the Turkish tax collectors against the Greeks not only as citizens but as Christians as well. The courage of this patriot

of the late seventeenth century was exceeded only by his unshakable faith in Jesus Christ.

Born in the village of St. George in Volos in the province of Demetriados, Stamatios came from the hardy stock that had already endured more than two centuries of Turkish oppression with a resolve to retain its Christian spirit for as long as it could draw breath.

Although both the Roman and Byzantine empires were to dissolve, the latter lasted longer by far and today Greece is still Greece because of the character of its people and the strength of the Orthodox Faith.

Stamatios bristled at the sight of the tax collectors who exacted tribute for the faceless Turkish authorities now firmly entrenched in the ancient city of Byzantium, still referred to as Constantinople. The protest against the excessive taxes fell upon deaf ears and when he could bear it no more, Stamatios organized a dedicated group of villagers and led them in presenting their case to the Sultan himself in the distant capital city. Looked upon by the most optimistic as an exercise in futility and by others as a foolhardy venture whose end result would be debasement and even death, the small group marched undismayed toward the capital, led by the indomitable Stamatios.

SUPPORT SUMMER SURVIVAL 2026

Lawn Care \$800	Mary & Nick Souris	Steve & Angela Kotsonis	Ted & Mary Tangelos*	Katherine Kotsis*	
Building Maintenance \$750	Nicholas & Erin Papakonstantinou and Family		Daniel & Paulette Szajna*		John & Katina Papakonstantinou and Family*
Dear Friends Front Cover \$650	Betty Raphtis *		Mike Raphtis *		
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*	In memory of Elizabeth Karamihas*	In memory of Nicholas Karamihas*		
Electric \$450	George & Kathy Demetriou and Family*		Alex & Irene Kourtesis		Nick Prantzalos Family*
	Georg, Zoe, Alexander & Niko Wainz*		Arthur & Anastasia Hariskos*		
Consumers Energy \$350	Andreas & Marina Kyprianides*		Arthur & Anastasia Hariskos*		
	The Kosmas Family*		The Milonas Brothers*		
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* Katherine Kanon*
	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*
	Angie Lazaris*				
Cleaning Supplies \$125.00	Taylor & Kristina Sourvelis*		Gregory Sintakis*		Spiro Pliakos
	Demetrios & Elisa Sboukis*				
Insurance \$100	Bariatakis Family*		Kathy Stewart Family*	Paula Terenzi*	

\$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
Tomi Burdalas	Eleni Burdalas					
Other Donations	Spiro & Sharon Sassalos Family*	Anonymous*	Dionisios & Evangelia Bekris*			
Other Donations						

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 _____



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

GREEKFEST

AUGUST 21, 22, 23

FRIDAY 4:00 PM - 11:00 PM

GRAND OPENING AT 5:00 PM

SATURDAY 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM

SUNDAY 12 NOON - 7:00 PM



**GREEK FOOD
MUSIC
TAVERNA
KIDS ACTIVITIES**

GRAND RAFFLE!

1ST PRIZE \$10,000

**2ND PRIZE AHEE DIAMOND HOOP EARRINGS
DONATED BY AHEE JEWELERS - VALUED AT \$3,750**

3RD PRIZE \$500

4TH, 5TH & 6TH PRIZES \$200

Drawing, August 23, 6 PM Tickets \$10 each

DRIVE THROUGH CARRY OUT

CALL: 586-596-6326 OR 586-779-8071

assumptionfestival.com

21800 Marter Road St. Clair Shores/Grosse Pointe Woods
586-779-6111

Proceeds benefit Assumption community programs
Cops for Kids, Focus Detroit, Cass Community Social Services



DETROIT **GREEK COMEDY** **"STO RAFI"** **SATURDAY OCTOBER 10TH**



TICKETS CALL JULIA @ 248.884.2540
NIKOS @ 630.234.2183

Doors open @ 7PM
Show starts @ 8PM

St. John Greek Orthodox Church
11455 Metro Pkwy,
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

GREEKPROMOTIONS.LIVE.COM

*A PORTION OF ALL PROCEEDS GOES TO ST. JOHN CHURCH

Advertise your business through St. John Dear Friends

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advertising with St. John:**

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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

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



“Blessed are they
who hear the
Word of God
and keep it.”
(Luke 11:28)

Bearing the Word: Lessons from the Mother of God for Our Times

October 23-25, 2026

Fellowship of St. Moses the Black 33rd Annual Conference



Saints Peter & Paul Romanian Orthodox Church
750 N Beech Daly Rd,
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

**Attention Michigan Attendees: Use Coupon Code
LOCAL2026 for a great discount on the whole weekend**



Register!

To register, use the QR code or go this website:
<https://pci.jotform.com/form/261234441193148>



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 _____