

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 23rd, 2026 ~12th Sunday of Matthew

TODAY AT ST. JOHN

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

Opportunities for the Week

Saturday, August 29

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

Goya Welcome Back Party 6 pm

Mark your Calendars

September 1~ Ecclesiastical New Year ~ Divine Liturgy 9:30AM

September 13~ Sunday School Begins (Registration coming soon)/ Goya Car Wash

September 14 ~ Philoptochos Meeting 6:30pm

September 15~ Greek School Begins (Registration coming soon)

September 21~ Welcome Reception for Presvytera Jenny

September 27~ Youth Sunday

September 27 Hope, Joy & Little Angels Carnival

October 10 Detroit Greek Comedy (tickets & questions contact Julia Alexopoulos)

November 6, 7, 8~ St. John Holiday Hoops

November 22 St. John Philoptochos Feather Party

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

❖ **Thank you to all those who supported our
Summer Survival & Golf Outing!**

❖ **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 15:1-11

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 St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 15:1-11

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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 24 ~ Kosmas of Aitolia

Seventeen centuries after the eminent St. Paul traveled across Greece, a solitary man of God traversed the same country from border to border, sea to sea, and island to island in a magnificent religious tour de force which stoked the fires of Christianity and the flickering hopes of a people straining under the yoke of oppression and despairing of a return to their ancient culture after nearly four centuries of brutality. This rare specimen of Hellenic Christianity was named Kosmas, a man whose devotion to God and country brought about a resurgence of the Christian spirit of Greece and anticipated the revolution which was to cleanse this proud country of the oppressors with which it had too long been infested.

At a time when the Christian Church had been splintered into innovating and renovating factions which eyed each other with suspicion, Kosmas was a welcome throwback to the days of the original apostles who conceived only one Church of Jesus Christ and were not so much concerned with the wording of a sentence as they were with kneeling in prayer. The likes of Kosmas may be another seventeen centuries in coming, because he was not only a priest but a prophet, scholar, patriot, and miracle-worker as well, and each of these to a degree that merited sainthood.

The beginnings of Kosmas were inauspicious enough; he hailed from a village called Mega Dendron, Aitolia, where he was born in 1714, the son of a simple weaver whose wife was extremely devout and who undoubtedly influenced her son in his selection of a religious career.

He was baptized Kotsas and attended public schools, thereafter, to be tutored by a family friend, Archdeacon Ananias. After spending some time as a teacher, Konstas decided to attend a school at the Monastery of Vatopedi on the Holy Mountain of Athos, after which he entered the Monastery of Philotheou where he was tonsured a monk and given the name Kosmas. In rapid succession he became a deacon and then priest.

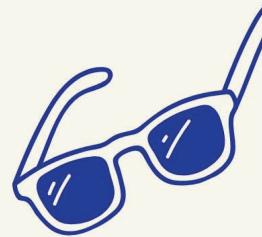


Kosmas had made up his mind to do missionary work, and he could think of no better place to do so than in his homeland, particularly in the remote corners of the rugged peninsula where the lack of churches and flight from persecution had dimmed the light of Christianity. He was determined to revitalize the Christian spirit of every isolated village of Greece and to bring back to the forlorn the age-old Hellenic pride which the Muslims had ground into the dust. He prevailed upon Patriarch Seraphim II to give him a *caret blanche* to travel wherever he may be needed for whatever period of time necessary for his mission, and as a preacher at large was given a patriarchal blessing to carry out his noble purpose without interference and with complete independence of action.

In some of the more remote villages, where no priest had been seen for years, Kosmas found adults who had not been baptized, a situation which he remedied, and which gave him added impetus in his crusade. When word of his valiant missionary zeal reached his old monastery, one of his fellow monks saw fit to make public Kosmas' prophetic powers. Some of his prophecies the people of the time could not comprehend, for Kosmas is not only on record as having predicted that people would be able to converse with each other even though they were miles apart (the telephone), but he also foresaw in the eighteenth century that man would devise a means of flying, and while in flight, unleashing a powerfully destructive force.

Over a period of twenty-five years of undiminished zeal, Kosmas traveled not only throughout Greece and its beautiful islands, but he even journeyed through neighboring Albania. His prodigious feats in the name of the Lord included the founding of over 200 schools, charitable institutions, and small churches in rural areas where itinerant priests could conduct the sacred liturgies as often as possible. Wherever he preached he had a habit of planting a cross, as a result of which his crosses dotted the countryside and served as reminders to passerby that somebody cared what happened to them and that God had not forsaken them.

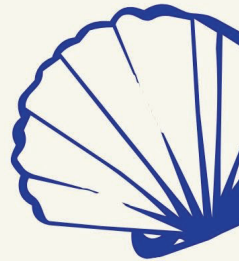
Kosmas had trod on some Muslim toes, and in the area of Ioannina he was arrested on spurious charges of conspiracy, found guilty, and hanged on August 24, 1779. On April 21, 1961, he was made a saint, although he had been revered as one since his death, in ceremonies presided over by the late Patriarch Athenagoras, who had always admired the gallant Kosmas.



ST JOHN'S
GOYA

WELCOME PARTY

@ SAMOHIN'S HOUSE



**SATURDAY
AUGUST 29, 2026
6 PM - 9 PM**

PARENT MEETING 8 PM

PICK UP AT 9 PM



**RSVP ON
SIGN UP GENIUS**

**QUESTIONS? TEXT POPI 5865306971
OR PEGGY 5867702989**



St. John Philoptochos invites all the ladies to a

*Welcome Reception for
Presvytera Jennifer Legakis*

**Come enjoy a strolling dinner and the opportunity
to get to know our newest Philoptochos member
Presvytera and sister in Christ.**

Monday, September 21, 2026 at 6:00pm
St. John Community Hall
11455 Metro Pkwy, Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Please RSVP by September 20 to
Paulette Szajna | 734.755.9275 | pdszajna@outlook.com



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 Burd alas	Eleni Burd alas					
Other Donations	Spiro & Sharon Sassalos Family*	Anonymous*	Dionisios & Evangelia Bekris*			
Other Donations						



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

**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
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Our readers trust
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member lives in
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Payment billed annually

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Adult Greek Dance Classes



An Introduction to Traditional Greek Dance

Instructed by Christiana Zingas

**Learn before your upcoming celebration
Engage with and learn Hellenic dance customs
Participate in open dancing at local Greek events**

Assumption Cultural Center

Mondays 7-8 PM

September 14 - November 2

\$10 per Class or \$65 for Full Course

To Register

Please Call 586-779-6111

Please Note: Payment is Due Prior to the Start of Class

ON NATIONAL PREGNANCY AND
INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY

Please join us for a Paraklesis Service



THURSDAY OCTOBER 15TH AT 7 PM

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

21800 MARTER ROAD

SAINT CLAIR SHORES MI 48080

LIGHT RECEPTION & FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW

SPONSORED BY PHILOPTOCHOS



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**

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 _____