



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX

An Orthodox Christian community striving to glorify God in all things, to embody the True Faith in our lives, to grow together as a parish family, and to serve our neighbor in love.

SUNDAY BULLETIN

APRIL 5, 2026

Today we commemorate:

- ◆ *Palm Sunday*
- ◆ *Martyrs Claudius, Diodore, Victor and Victorinus*
- ◆ *Theodora of Thessaloniki*

On duty this Sunday:

Pangari:

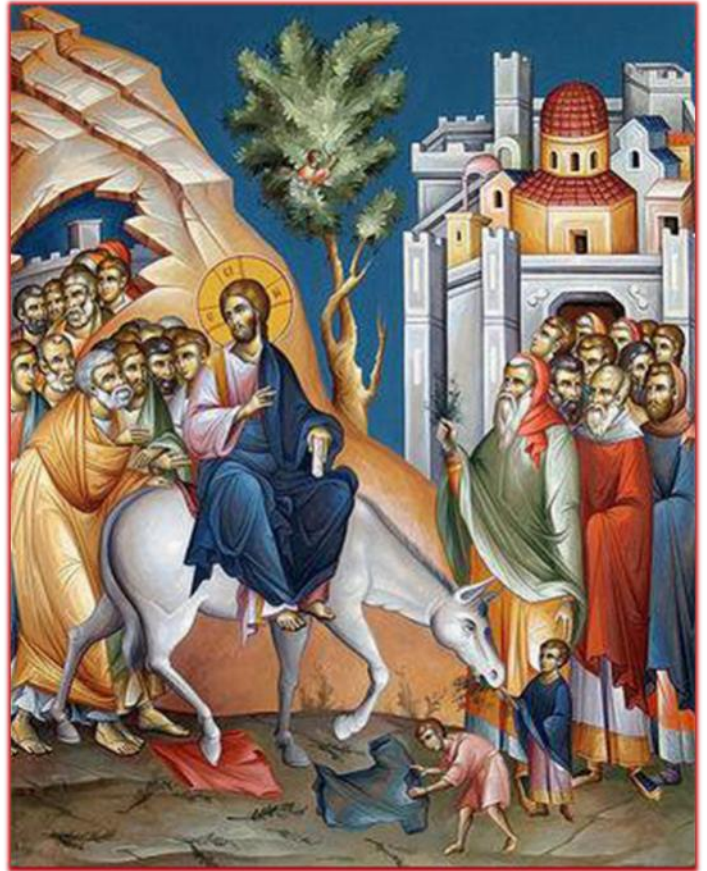
(MC) Team B (St. Philip)

(GAC) Team A (St. Andrew)

Acolytes:

(MC) Team A

(GAC) Team B



COME AND SEE THE RISEN LORD!

Join us each Sunday morning for
Orthros/Matins conducted
in Greek & English.

- ◇ Orthros Binders are in the narthex with service text
- ◇ Proper attire is required during church services.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Matins/Orthros..... 8:30am


Divine Liturgy 9:45am

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Matins/Orthros..... 8:00am

Divine Liturgy 9:00am

 WWW.STJOHNTHEBAPTISTGOC.ORG

 (847) 827-5510

 2350 E DEMPSTER ST, DES PLAINES, IL

 STJOHNBAPTISTGOC

 SJBGREEKORTHODOX



ENTRANCE HYMN

Ἐὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν
ὀνόματι Κυρίου. Θεὸς Κύριος καὶ
ἐπέφανεν ἡμῖν. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ
Θεοῦ, ὁ ἐπὶ πώλου ὄνου καθεσθείς,
ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα.

Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. God is the
Lord, and He revealed Himself to
us. Save us, O Son of God, who
sat on a donkey's colt. We sing to
You, Alleluia.

APOLYTIKION FOR PALM SUNDAY

IST TONE

Τὴν κοινὴν Ἀνάστασιν πρὸ τοῦ
σοῦ Πάθους πιστούμενος, ἐκ
νεκρῶν ἠγειρας τὸν Λάζαρον,
Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός· ὅθεν καὶ ἡμεῖς ὡς
οἱ Παῖδες, τὰ τῆς νίκης σύμβολα
φέροντες, σοὶ τῷ Νικητῇ τοῦ
θανάτου βοῶμεν· Ὡσαννὰ ἐν τοῖς
ὑψίστοις, εὐλογημένος ὁ
ἐρχόμενος, ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου.

To confirm the general resurrection
before Your Passion, You
resurrected Lazarus from the dead,
O Christ our God. Therefore
imitating the children, carrying the
symbols of victory, we cry out to
You the Victor over death:
“Hosanna in the highest! Blessed
are You, the One, who comes in the
name of the Lord.”

APOLYTIKION FOR PALM SUNDAY

4TH TONE

Συνταφέντες σοι διὰ τοῦ
Βαπτίσματος, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν,
τῆς ἀθανάτου ζωῆς ἠξιώθημεν τῇ
Ἀναστάσει σου, καὶ ἀνυμνοῦντες
κράζομεν· Ὡσαννὰ ἐν τοῖς
ὑψίστοις, εὐλογημένος ὁ
ἐρχόμενος, ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου.

We were buried with You through
Baptism, O Christ our God, and
thus by Your Resurrection we have
been granted immortal life, and
extolling You we cry aloud,
“Hosanna in the highest! Blessed
are You, the One who comes in the
name of the Lord.”

KONTAKION FOR PALM SUNDAY

2ND TONE

Τῷ θρόνῳ ἐν οὐρανῷ, τῷ
πώλῳ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ἐποχοῦμενος
Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, τῶν Ἀγγέλων
τὴν αἴνεσιν, καὶ τῶν Παίδων
ἀνύμνησιν προσεδέξω
βοῶντων σοι· Εὐλογημένος εἶ
ὁ ἐρχόμενος, τὸν Ἀδὰμ
ἀνακαλέσασθαι.

In heaven upon the throne, on
earth upon the colt, You were
carried, O Christ our God; and
the praise of the Angels, and
the hymns of the children, You
received as they cried to You,
“Blessed are You, the One,
who is coming to call Adam
back again.”



THE EPISTLE— PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

Να χαίρεστε πάντοτε με τη χαρά που δίνει η κοινωνία με τον Κύριο. Θα το πω και πάλι: να χαίρεστε. Σ' όλους να δείχνετε την καλοσύνη σας. Ο Κύριος έρχεται σύντομα. Για τίποτε να μη σας πιάνει άγχος, αλλά σε κάθε περίπτωση τα αιτήματά σας να τα απευθύνετε στο Θεό με προσευχή και δέηση, που θα συνοδεύονται από ευχαριστία. Και η ειρήνη του Θεού, που είναι ασύλληπτη στο ανθρώπινο μυαλό, θα διαφυλάξει τις καρδιές και τις σκέψεις σας κοντά στον Ιησού Χριστό. Τέλος, αδερφοί μου, ό,τι είναι αληθινό, σεμνό, δίκαιο, καθαρό, αξιαγάπητο, καλόφημο, ό,τι έχει σχέση με την αρετή και είναι άξιο επαίνου, αυτά να έχετε στο μυαλό σας. Αυτά που μάθατε, παραλάβετε κι ακούσατε από μένα, αυτά που είδατε σ' εμένα, αυτά να κάνετε κι εσείς. Και ο Θεός που δίνει την ειρήνη θα είναι μαζί σας.

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.





Έξι μέρες πριν από το Πάσχα, ήρθε ο Ιησούς στη Βηθανία, όπου έμενε ο Λάζαρος, που είχε πεθάνει και ο Ιησούς τον ανέστησε από τους νεκρούς. Ετοίμασαν, λοιπόν, εκεί για χάρη του δείπνο, και η Μάρθα υπηρετούσε, ενώ ο Λάζαρος ήταν ένας απ' αυτούς που παρακάθονταν μαζί με τον Ιησού στο δείπνο. Τότε η Μαρία πήρε μια φιάλη από το πιο ακριβό άρωμα της νάρδου κι άλειψε τα πόδια του Ιησού. Έπειτα σκούπισε με τα μαλλιά της τα πόδια του, κι όλο το σπίτι γέμισε με την ευωδιά του μύρου. Λέει τότε ο Ιούδας ο Ισκαριώτης, ένας από τους μαθητές του, αυτός που σκόπευε να τον προδώσει: «Γιατί να μην πουληθεί αυτό το μύρο για τριακόσια αργυρά νομίσματα, και τα χρήματα να διανεμηθούν στους φτωχούς;» Αυτό το είπε όχι γιατί νοιαζόταν για τους φτωχούς, αλλά γιατί ήταν κλέφτης και, καθώς διαχειριζόταν το κοινό ταμείο, συχνά κρατούσε για τον εαυτό του από τα χρήματα που έβαζαν σ' αυτό. Είπε τότε ο Ιησούς: «Άφησέ την ήσυχη· αυτό που κάνει είναι για την ημέρα του ενταφιασμού μου. Οι φτωχοί πάντοτε θα υπάρχουν κοντά σας, εμένα όμως δε θα με έχετε πάντοτε». Πλήθος πολύ από τους Ιουδαίους της πόλεως έμαθαν ότι ο Ιησούς βρίσκεται εκεί και ήρθαν για να δουν όχι μόνο αυτόν αλλά και το Λάζαρο, που τον είχε αναστήσει

από τους νεκρούς. Γι' αυτό οι αρχιερείς αποφάσισαν να σκοτώσουν και το Λάζαρο, επειδή εξαιτίας του πολλοί Ιουδαίοι εγκατέλειπαν αυτούς και πίστευαν στον Ιησού. Την άλλη μέρα, το μεγάλο πλήθος που είχε έρθει για τη γιορτή του Πάσχα, όταν άκουσαν ότι έρχεται ο Ιησούς στα Ιεροσόλυμα, πήραν κλαδιά φοινικιάς, και βγήκαν από την πόλη να τον προϋπαντήσουν κραυγάζοντας: Δόξα στο Θεό! Ευλογημένος αυτός που έρχεται σταλμένος από τον Κύριο! Ευλογημένος ο βασιλιάς του Ισραήλ! Ο Ιησούς είχε βρει ένα γαϊδουράκι και κάθισε πάνω του, όπως λέει η Γραφή: Μη φοβάσαι θυγατέρα μου, πόλη της Σιών· να που έρχεται σ' εσένα ο βασιλιάς σου, σε γαϊδουράκι πάνω καθισμένος. Αυτά στην αρχή δεν τα κατάλαβαν οι μαθητές του· όταν όμως ο Ιησούς ανυψώθηκε στη θεία δόξα, τότε τα θυμήθηκαν. Ό,τι είχε γράψει για κείνον η Γραφή, αυτά και του έκαναν. Όλοι, λοιπόν, εκείνοι που ήταν μαζί με τον Ιησού, όταν φώναξε το Λάζαρο από τον τάφο και τον ανέστησε από τους νεκρούς, διηγούνταν αυτά που είχαν δει. Γι' αυτό ήρθε το πλήθος να τον προϋπαντήσει, επειδή έμαθαν ότι αυτός είχε κάνει το θαυμαστό αυτό σημείο.

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead.

So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.



HOLY WEEK & PASCHA 2026

Palm Sunday Evening 7pm

Matthew 12:18-43

The Gospel describes the plotting of the priests and elders to trap Jesus as a religious heretic. The hymns of this Nymphios service commemorate two things: the prophetic figure of Joseph, who suffered unjustly at the hands of his brothers before being greatly rewarded, and the parable of the fig tree, which in failing to bear fruit became a symbol of the fallen creation and our own lives, in which we have also failed to bear spiritual fruit.

Holy Monday Morning 9am

Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy

Matthew 24:3-35

Holy Monday Evening 7pm

Matthew 22:15-46

This evening's theme is watchfulness and preparation before the awesome judgment seat of Christ to render an account of ourselves. The Gospel reading contrasts the efforts of the Pharisees to trick and discredit Jesus. The hymns remind us of the parable of the Ten Young Virgins – five wise and five foolish.

Holy Tuesday Morning 9am

Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy

Matthew 24:36-26:2

Holy Tuesday Evening 7pm

John 12:17-50

True repentance and transformation from the life of sin to a life of faith is seen in the person of the sinful woman who anoints Jesus with myrrh and washed His feet. The highlight of the service is a beautiful hymn written by St. Kassiani in honor of her. The Gospel foretells and recalls Christ's inner struggles and agony.

Holy Wednesday Morning 8am

Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy

Matthew 26:6-16

Holy Wednesday Afternoon

2pm (Main Church) **3pm** (Chapel)

Luke 10:25-37, 19:1-10, Matthew 10:1-8, 8:14-23, 25:1-13, 15:21-28, 9:9-13

The theme of this service is our human need for the healing and forgiveness that comes into our lives when we establish a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. **The Sacrament of Holy Unction** anoints the faithful, healing them physically and spiritually. The oil is sanctified by seven Epistle readings, seven Gospel lessons and seven Priestly prayers of blessing. The faithful are also reconciled to each other to receive the gift of Holy Communion instituted by Christ at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday Morning.

Holy Wednesday Evening 7pm

Service of the Matins for Holy Thursday focuses on four events 1) the washing of the feet, 2) the Mystical Supper 3) the Garden of Gethsemane 4) the betrayal. Jesus Christ washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, showing His humility and love. In the Upper Room, Jesus established and instituted the mystery of the Holy Eucharist and washed the feet of His disciples. By washing the feet of His disciples, he summarized the meaning of His ministry, manifested His perfect love and revealed His profound humility. The act of the washing of the feet is closely related to the sacrifice of the Cross. While the cross constitutes the ultimate manifestation of Christ's perfect obedience to His Father, the washing of the feet signifies His intense love and the giving of Himself to each person according to that person's ability to receive Him. Following the service will be the anointing with the Sacrament of Holy Unction from the afternoon.

Holy Thursday Morning 7am

Series of events from the Four Gospels leading to the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great has Christ establishing the New Covenant prophesied by Jeremiah at the Last Supper through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Presanctified Lamb is reserved as Holy Communion for the sick for the rest of the year.

Holy Thursday Evening 7pm

Twelve Passion Gospels

We commemorate the unjust suffering that Jesus Christ endured for our sake, so that we might be reconciled to God our Father. Twelve Passion Gospels are read. A procession representing Christ carrying His own Cross along the streets of Jerusalem to Golgotha takes place in the Church.

11pm Akathist to the Holy Cross

We chant odes of praise to the Holy and Life-Giving Cross and conclude the evening in the quiet, darkened church before the Crucified Christ, praying the Jesus Prayer together.

Holy Friday Morning 8am

Matthew 27:1-56, Mark 15:16-41, Luke 23:32-49, John 18:28-19:37

Service of the **Royal Hours**. Each hour has a theme: the coming of Christ, the true light (1st); the descent of the Holy Spirit (3rd); the passion and crucifixion of Christ (6th); and the death/burial of Jesus (9th). The central prayer to each of the Hours is the Lord's Prayer.

Holy Friday Afternoon 3pm

Matthew 21:1-38, Luke 23:39-43, Matthew 27:39-54, John 19:31-37, Matthew 27:55-61

At this service, we are witnesses to the undeserved suffering of Christ and to His terrible passion and death. This service is known as the **Apokathelosis**, or the Un-nailing. The service remembers how Joseph of Arimathea removed Christ's body from the Cross, wrapped it in clean linen and carried it to his own unused tomb for burial.

Holy Friday Evening 7pm

Ezekiel 37:1-14, 1Cor 5:6-8, Galatians 3:13, Matthew 27:62-66

Good Friday evening's theme is Christ's descent into Hades during which the gospel of repentance and reconciliation with God is shared with those who died before Christ's saving dispensation in the flesh. The service contains the Lamentations, also called **Enkomia** (Praises), divided into three stasis. It includes the procession of the flower decorated *Kouvouklion* (carved wooden funeral bier) containing the *Epitaphios* (cloth Icon of the burial of Christ). The service ends on a note of joy and hope, with the reading of the prophet Ezekiel in which he describes his vision of our resurrection yet to come. Death is about to be conquered and faithfulness rewarded.

Holy Saturday Morning 8am (Main Church)

Matthew 28:1-20

The crucifixion is over, Christ is buried, the twelve Apostles and other disciples are scattered and defeated. And yet, three myrrh-bearing women come with faith to perform the last act of love--to anoint Jesus according to the Jewish burial custom. They are the first witnesses to the Resurrection. This joy is commemorated through the scattering of flower petals and bay leaves by the priest.

Holy Saturday Evening 10:45pm (OUTDOORS)

Mark 16:1-8 (Orthros), John 1:1-17

The Church is completely darkened. Precisely at midnight, a single light emerges from the altar, representing the victory of Christ over death, the defeat of the Prince of Darkness by Jesus, the Light of the World. As the light is passed from person to person, it pushes back the darkness of the church and defeats it completely. The Resurrection of Christ is proclaimed, and the singing of *Christos Anesti* signifies Christ's victory over death. After the Anastasis Service, the Resurrectional Orthros service begins followed by the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. The light is carried back to our homes so that they might be filled with its light and warmth and triumph.

Holy Pascha Agape Vespers 12 noon

John 20:19-25

The theme of this special service is love, forgiveness, reconciliation, triumph and joy--these are the gifts that we receive because Christ lived, died and triumphed for our sake. This service is characterized by the reading of the Gospel in several languages to illustrate the universal Good News of the Resurrection to all ends of the world.





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

GOOD FRIDAY RETREAT



And a Sword Shall Pierce Your Own Soul
The Theotokos at the Foot of the Cross

Friday, April 10, 2026
Noon until Apokathelosis Service
Check-in starts at 11:45 am
Kindergarten to 12th grade



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM AT
SUNDAYSCHOOL@STJOHNTHEBAPTISTGOC.ORG

Community Focus

Find more info on these events on the church website.



Palm Sunday Bake Sale: Stop by the table to pick up a variety of baked goods for your Paschal dessert table (and some fasting items as well).

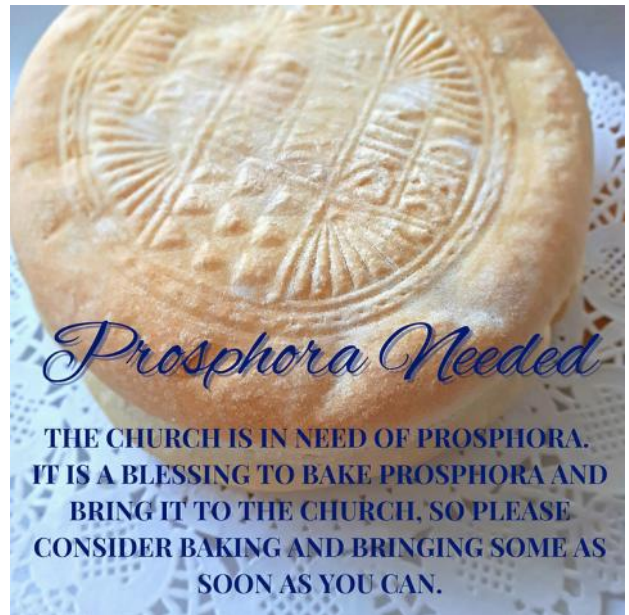
Sponsored by Philoptochos.

Palm Sunday Fish Fry: In the Great Hall after Divine Liturgy today. Some spots still available.

Jr. Olympics Coaches Needed: We are in need of coaches for Jr. Olympics! If you are interested in coaching, please email Pericles Petropulos at athletics@stjohnthebaptistgoc.org and let him know which sport and age group you would be interested in.

Visit the Church Website Under *Around the Metropolis and beyond* for more information on the following:

- Ionian Village Summer 2026
- Orthodox Missions in 2026
- National Hellenic Society's Heritage Greece Program



FLOWER OFFERING

Help adorn the church with flowers by either offering your God-given time to help adorn the church and icons on the Saturday of Lazarus or the Kouvouklion and Resurrection Icon on Holy Friday. If you are unable to give of your time, then we ask you to consider offering from your God-given treasure towards the purchase of these flowers. *Flower Offering envelopes are available on the Pangari. Also, this year, if you are able to, please consider bringing a lily plant to the church by Holy Saturday morning.*



A Message about Stewardship

“First seek the kingdom of God, the salvation of men, their strengthening in faith, the amendment of their lives; strengthen yourself in faith, cleanse your heart, conscientiously fulfill your calling, carefully perform your duties, and everything else, such as money, food, clothing, etc., shall be added to you.”

**Righteous John,
Wonderworker of
Kronstadt**



It is the season for us to renew our commitment as part of the New Creation in Christ and as Stewards of St. John the Baptist.

If you haven't already, please review the invitation sent by mail or follow the QR code.



The Ladies Philoptochos and Parish of
St. John the Baptist



Food & Supplies Drive through Holy Friday

Drop off weekdays 9-5 or before/after services.

Place nonperishables on table or in black bins.

**(Food, household supplies,
and personal care items only, please.)**

Especially needed right now:

- Toothbrushes



- Toothpaste

- Bar soap



- Dish soap

- Laundry detergent



- Canned peaches,
Pineapple



- Pancake mix

- Syrup

- Oatmeal

- Coffee, Tea

- Cocoa Mix

- Flour, Sugar
(4-5 lb bags)



Thank you!

Golden Agers

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026
10AM BLUE ROOM
WRAPPING EGGS & PREPARING



THE PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST INVITES YOU TO A

MAD HATTER Luncheon

ROSÉ AND RADIANCE:
A SISTERHOOD IN BLOOM

SATURDAY, MAY 2ND, 2026

11 O'CLOCK
THE CONCORDE BANQUETS
20922 N. RAND RD
KILDEER, IL



GATHERING IN SISTERLY LOVE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE BENEVOLENT FUND AND OTHER PHILANTHROPIC ENDEAVORS

Join us in your finest hat and partake in our fabulous raffle!



JUNIOR OLYMPICS

MAY 22-24

(FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

Events include:

- Soccer Coed (Ages: 7-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-18)
- Basketball Coed (7-10, 11-15)
- Track & Field (7-18)
- Swimming (7-18)
- Girls Volleyball (13-18)
- Boys Volleyball (13-18)
- Softball Coed (13-18)
- Chess/Checkers/Backgammon (7-18)
- Tennis (13-18)
- Table Tennis (13-18)
- Bowling Coed (13-18) - *On Friday*

REGISTER HERE:



REGISTER NOW!

COACHES STILL NEEDED!!!
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS EMAIL:
ATHLETICS@STJOHNTHEBAPTISTGOC.ORG



BRIGHT FRIDAY CELEBRATION

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH - DES PLAINES

Friday, April 17, 2026
DOORS OPEN 6 PM
DINNER 7 PM

Σια βήματα της Μεγαλόχαρης:
Από την Τήνο στο Σικάγο

Music & Fun Activities



SCAN TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS



PLEASE REGISTER BY 4/5/26

Honoring
Father John and Presvytera Irene Rallis



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

AN EVENING OF

Love

AND

Gratitude

CELEBRATING

FATHER JOHN & PRESVYTERA IRENE RALLIS

MAY 17, 2026

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

*Recognition Ceremony with Reception to Follow
Cocktails & Chef-Curated Stations*

*Concorde Banquets
Kildeer, Illinois*



COCKTAIL ATTIRE



SAINTS COMMEMORATED THIS WEEK

	Mon, 6	Tues, 7	Wed, 8	Thurs, 9	Fri, 10	Sat, 11
April	HOLY MONDAY Eutychius Patriarch of Constantinople, 120 Martyrs of Persia	HOLY TUESDAY Calliopus & Akylina, Martyrs George, Bishop of Mytilene	HOLY WEDNESDAY Agavos, Rufus, Asynkritos, Phlegon, Herodion & Hermes of the 70 Apostles	HOLY THURSDAY Eupychius the Martyr, Raphael, Nicholas and Irene	HOLY FRIDAY Terence & his Companions, Gregory V of Constantinople	HOLY SATURDAY Antipas Bishop of Pergamum, Pharmuthios the Anchorite