

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101 November 24th, 2019

313-382-5901

website: saintstephenbyzantine.church

Priest: Rev. John R.P. Russell, M.Div.
 cell phone: 412-378-0308
 email: jrprussell@gmail.com

Deacon: Rev. Deacon Lawrence Hendricks

Cantors: Pani Mary Hendricks, Theresa Szatkowski



Glory to Jesus Christ! Welcome to St. Stephen!

You are welcome here. Join us in prayer and worship
of almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

About the Parish

St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church, led by the Holy Spirit, is called to evangelize – to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to welcoming and caring for all of God's children.

We are a parish of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Eparchy of Parma, an eparchy of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* of Pittsburgh. Bishop Milan (Lach) of Parma is our bishop. Archbishop William (Skurla) of Pittsburgh is our Metropolitan. We are in communion with our holy father Francis, the Pope of Rome.

“We are Catholics with the common heritage of our Orthodox brothers but in unity with
the Holy Father in Rome.” – Bishop Milan

LITURGICAL SERVICE TIMES

Sunday & Saturday Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

Wednesday evening Divine Liturgy at 7:00pm

Friday & Saturday evening Vespers at 7:00pm, followed by Confession

Philip's Fast (*Filipovka*) Nov. 15th – Dec. 24th

some excerpts from an article in the Horizons archive:

HORIZONS November 28, 1982 page 4



Rev. Vladimir G. Vancik, S.T.D.

With love look forward to Him coming



The paschal cycle contains preparation days before Easter, otherwise known as the Great Fast or Lent. In time the celebration of Christ's birthday became ever more solemn. Slowly there developed a preparation time for Christmas which, in imitation of the Great Fast, was finally fixed as lasting 40 days. In the West it is known as Advent or the time before Christ's coming to earth. Originally it was connected with His second coming since that is how the Gospel readings about it were read. It is only because these readings

occurred before Christmas that the pre-Christmas period became known as Advent, i.e., His first coming when He was born. It was not until the 12th century that our Church determined to observe this preparation time before Christmas with a 40 days fast. Since it begins on November 15th, the day after the Feast of St. Philip, it is popularly known as "filipovka." It is interesting that it was less strict than the Great Fast.

Liturgically, therefore, it remains that the Church begins to prepare us spiritually for the celebration of the coming of Christ on November 15th.

On Christmas we celebrate our Savior's coming and according to His promise His presence in the Church "until the consumation of time." We also look forward to His glorious second coming at the end of time. As the "people of God" we should eagerly look forward to Christ's second coming.

Our problem is to what extent are we ready to meet Christ at His second coming? Are we ready, are we anxious, to see Him, to meet Him? We are the people of hope and expectation who believe in God's future, God's lordship over the world. He is with us in the Church through the Holy Spirit and through His words in the Gospel. We believe in His final coming when He will vindicate the ways of God, deal and judge His creatures with justice and mercy. We are told that the Son of God is also called Emmanuel, i.e., God with us. To what extent are we aware of His mysterious presence in the Church, in the world? His spiritual and grace-presence is invisible and intangible but not to the eyes of faith! His first coming was fateful, foreboding and divisive although it was meant to be unitive, restorative, healing and saving. His Kingdom, even if it seems to be a "small flock" and ever under the attacks of various enemies, is still here; visibly and invisibly marching forward and winning battles. His day is coming, is approaching and will not fail to materialize. Therefore, preparing for Christmas is not only concerned with the worthy readiness to welcome Him on Christmas day. It is also a reminder that our whole life is an expectation, an unconquerable turning toward Him in firm hope and trust that He is faithful, that He is coming not to salvage the remnants, but to take His lordly sway over the world which the Father gave to Him. May we be among those who will be eagerly waiting for Him, who joyfully and "with love looked forward to His coming."

"During this fast, it was the custom to observe a strict abstinence on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and a lesser abstinence (mitigation for wine and oil) on Tuesday and Thursday. The fast is observed more strictly from December 10 (in some traditions) or from December 20 (in other traditions), with daily strict abstinence, and a mitigated abstinence on (wine and oil) on Saturday and Sunday (cf. the Great Fast and the Dormition Fast). The Ruthenian Metropolis has identified this period as a penitential season (Canon 880, 2). This fast may be observed voluntarily, partially or in its entirety." –Fr. David Petras

Annual Stewardship Appeal

A graphic for the Stewardship Appeal featuring a dark background with a stylized olive branch on the right. The text is in white. At the top, 'ICXC NIKA' is written in a bold, serif font. Below it, 'Growing in' is in a script font, followed by 'FAITH' in a large, bold, serif font. Then 'Investing in' is in a script font, followed by 'HOPE' in a large, bold, serif font. Below this, a paragraph reads: 'Continue to grow in *faith* with the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma by investing in *hope*.' Underneath that is 'Please give generously.' and the website 'www.parma.org'. At the bottom left is a small crest with a cross and a chalice. To the right of the crest, it says 'The Eparchy of Parma of the Ruthenians' and 'Stewardship Appeal 2019-2020'.

The Stewardship Appeal helps cover the costs of a variety of programs in the Eparchy including the support of active priests.

Father Lukas Mitro, his wife, Stephanie, and their two children, Kristina (4), and Terezia (3) arrived in September from Kosice, Slovakia to help meet the urgent priest shortage in the Eparchy of Parma. After his marriage to Stephanie, Father Lukas was ordained a deacon in 2013 and a priest in 2015. Father Lukas was a mission priest and a social worker at the Dorka Social Center in Slovakia supporting adults and children to secure the nuclear family and assisting young adults aging out of foster care. He served as the Associate Priest at St. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Kosice, Slovakia before coming to the United States. When Bishop Milan approached Father Lukas

about joining the Eparchy of Parma, he did not hesitate to respond to the call. Father Lukas is assigned to the Holy Resurrection Church, in Euclid, Ohio. Supporting this year's Stewardship Appeal will ensure that the Eparchy can sponsor more priests like Father Lukas to serve the needs of our church.

If you have not already made your pledge or donation, please visit parma.org/2020appeal and consider a donation to the Eparchy to help financially with the many needs and expenses we face. Thank you for your generosity!

St. Stephen's goal this year: \$9,200

Sunday, November 24, 2019



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 7

Post-festive Day of the Entrance.

⊗ The Holy Great Martyr Catherine (310). The Holy Great Martyr Mercury (c. 255).

2nd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark 16:1-8.

Ephesians 2:14-22. Luke 13:10-17.

8:00am Matins

9:45am Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy - *for the people of the parish*

intention of Robbie Semak, from Jane Semak (11-20)

+Hazel Percival, from Bob & Jane Semak (11-21)

+Bennie, +Mary, +John Thomas, & +Sidney,

from Mary Ann Osmond (11-23)

Reader: Cecilia Hendricks

11:30am ECF

12:30pm Vespers

Monday, November 25, 2019



Leave-taking of the Entrance.

Our Holy Fathers & Martyrs Clement, Pope of Rome (101) & Peter, Bishop of Alexandria (311).

2 Thessalonians 1:1-10. Luke 19:37-44.

Tuesday, November 26, 2019



Day of Alleluia. Our Venerable Father Alypius the Stylite (640).

The Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Holy Great Martyr George in Kiev.

2 Thessalonians 1:10b-2:2. Luke 19:45-48.

7:00am First & Third Hour – *with prostrations*

7:00pm Vespers

Wednesday, November 27, 2019



The Holy Martyr James the Persian (400). Our Venerable Father Palladius (c. 600).

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. Luke 20:1-8.

6:00pm Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy

intention of Jeremy Semak, from Jane Semak

Thursday, November 28, 2019

Thanksgiving Day

⊗ The Holy Venerable Martyr Stephen the Younger (767). The Holy Martyr Irenarchus (4th C.).

2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5. Luke 20:9-18.

10:00am Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving

+Mary Margaret McCormick, from Joe Biltz

Parish Work Day

7:00pm Vespers – *with prostrations*

Friday, November 29, 2019



Day of Alleluia. The Holy Martyr Paramon (250). The Holy Martyr Philemon.
Our Venerable Father Acacius, mentioned in "The Ladder."

2 Thessalonians 3:6-18. Luke 20:19-26.

7:00pm Vespers - *followed by Confessions*

Saturday, November 30, 2019



+ The Holy and Glorious Apostle Andrew the First-called.

Vespers: 1 Peter 1:1-6 • 1 Peter 2:21-3:9 • 1 Peter 4:1-11.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23.

for Andrew: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16. John 1:35-51.

for the day: Galatians 1:3-10. Luke 12:32-40.

9:45am Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Anthony & +Irene Bonacor, from Diane McInchak

7:00pm Great Vespers - *followed by Confessions*

Sunday, December 1, 2019



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 8

The Holy Prophet Nahum. Our Holy Father Philaret the Merciful.

3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark 16:9-20.

Ephesians 4:1-6. Luke 18:18-27.

8:00am Matins

10:00am Divine Liturgy - *for the people of the parish*

intention of Jeremy Semak, from Jane Semak (11-27)

+Mary Margaret McCormick, from Joe Biltz (11-28)

+Anthony & +Irene Bonacor, from Diane McInchak (11-30)

Reader: Theresa Szatkowski

11:30am ECF

12:30pm Vespers – *with prostrations*

LEGEND

- ⊕ Great Feast
- ✙ Feast with an All-night Vigil
- ✙ Feast with the Polyeleos at Matins
- ⊗. Feast with the Great Doxology at Matins
- ⊗ Feast with Six Stichera at Vespers



by tradition, a strict fast day (no meat, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, or oil)



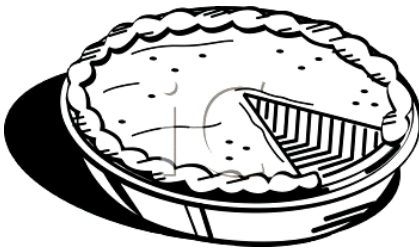
by tradition, a fast day permitting wine and oil. (no meat, dairy, eggs, or fish)



by tradition, a fast day permitting fish, wine, and oil (no meat, dairy, or eggs)



by tradition, a fast day permitting dairy, eggs, fish, wine, and oil (no meat)



PUMPKIN PIES!

The Guild has baked your pumpkin pies. Pies can be picked up today **Sunday, November 24th** after liturgy. They will be fresh and great for Thanksgiving.

Byzantine Book Club

You are invited to join a book club! Most Mondays from 7 – 9 pm at Fr. Deacon Lawrence & Pani Mary Hendricks' home. This group has been meeting for several years to read and discuss books on Byzantine and Eastern Christianity. Our next meeting is **tomorrow Monday, November 25th**, at 8461 Barrington Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. We are reading a new book: *Heaven Starts Now*. And *Now* is a great time to join the Book Club!



Celebrating Thanksgiving as Byzantine Catholics

adapted from <https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2010/11/orthodox-christians-and-thanksgiving.html>

For those of us who follow the New Calendar, the giant feast associated with Thanksgiving always occurs during a 40-day period of fasting prior to Christmas. Fasting is generally dispensed with on Thanksgiving, however, so that we may participate in this traditional American holiday as a harvest festival, a time for families to come together and celebrate, and to offer thanks to God for all He grants to us individually, as a family, and as a country. The Philip's Fast is usually a fairly lenient fasting time in any case, especially before December 10th, so such *economia* should not be looked upon as a major violation of any canon. Also, as Christians, the Apostle Paul advises us to not give offense either by our fasting or our feasting, and certainly it would be odd for Byzantine Catholic citizens in America to not join the rest of the country in commonly celebrating a Thanksgiving feast to the glory of God, whether it be with the traditional meats or not. "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). Ideally, Byzantine Catholics participate in the Divine Liturgy on Thanksgiving morning prior to feasting, since the Divine Eucharist is the ultimate offering of thanksgiving to God. To that end, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy Thanksgiving morning at 10am.



Happy Thanksgiving to All!

Monthly Chant Practice

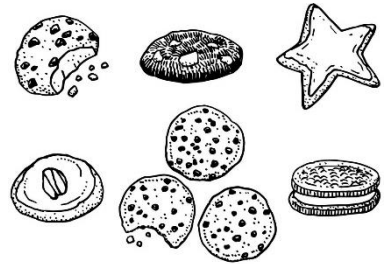
“Cherish the beauty of our *prostopinije*, our liturgical chant.

We constantly need to work on it” – Bishop Milan.

Toward this end, we will begin monthly chant practices, to which all are invited! In our Church, the congregation is the choir. You are in the choir, so it's good to practice. Our next practice will be on Tuesday **December 10th** at 6pm. We will practice our Christmas carols in anticipation of our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

ANNUAL COOKIE SALE

The Guild's annual cookie sale will take place on Sunday, **December 15th** after Divine Liturgy.



We're Making a New Parish Directory! (finally)

You are invited to participate in our upcoming professional photography sessions.

Photography Date: **December 17th**

Times: 2p-9p

To schedule your appointment, sign up today in the narthex or after in the hall.

Or, go to: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b30kq7ee/>

Or, call the parish office for assistance @ 313-382-5901

- No sitting fee!
- Complimentary 8x10 and free directory for each family
- Opportunity (with no obligation) to purchase additional portraits with discounts
- First responders, military personnel, and seniors over 60 will receive an additional 20% discount



The Office of Holy Repentance

During this penitential season in preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ, we will celebrate the full form of the office of holy repentance on **Thursday, December 19th at 7pm**. This includes private confession to a priest. There should be an additional priest available for confessions as well on this evening. This is a good opportunity for any prepared children to make their first confession, for those who have been a long time away from this holy mystery to return,

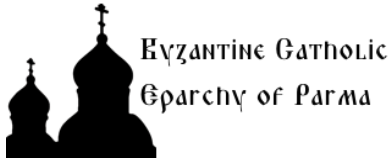
and for all of us to simply to go to confession as we all must frequently do.

Subdiaconal Ordination

Bishop Milan will be coming to ordain Michael Kunitz to the Subdiaconate at the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, December 29th**



The Guild will hold their annual Soup and Salad Lunch fundraiser on **Sunday, January 26th** after the Divine Liturgy. It's all you can eat, so come hungry!



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(216) 741-8773
parma.org

Bishop Milan Lach, S.J.

Bishop of Parma

Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Marek Visnovsky: ext. 6; frmvisnovsky@parma.org

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Editor of Horizons Newspaper

Fr. Deacon William Fredrick: 216-469-1425; wfredrick@parma.org

Safe Environment Coordinator

Dr. Sharon DiLauro Petrus: ext. *; 330-958-9630

Victim's Assistance Coordinator

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Join the Guild! The Guild is dedicated to caring for and beautifying our holy place and all the appointments for our Divine worship. All are welcome to join the Guild. They meet next on **Sunday, January 12th**, after Divine Liturgy. Come and see!

Join the workers! Please join the workers every Thursday for our weekly parish work day.

Join the cleaners! Please contact Louise Dalbo to volunteer to clean the church for any particular week you're able. Or, get your name put in the rotation of regular church cleaners.

The Raupp Family is scheduled to clean the church this week. Many thanks to **the Dalbo Family** and to all who worked and cleaned these past two weeks. May God grant them many years!

CHARITABLE GIVING

"I command you, you shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy,
and to the poor" (Deut. 15:11).

Since our last contributions,

for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe, we have collected \$71

for the Catholic Home Missions, we have collected \$146

for the retirement of our religious sisters, we have collected \$212

ATTENDANCE

Attendance on November 17th was **67**. Average Sunday attendance \approx **58**

Devote yourselves “to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

COLLECTION

The collection on November 17th was **\$1410.25**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,461.49**

Sunday: \$1299; Holy Day: \$55; Children: \$1; Horizons: \$12; Candles: \$43.25

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7).



Saint Stephen

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH