

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101

December 8th, 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

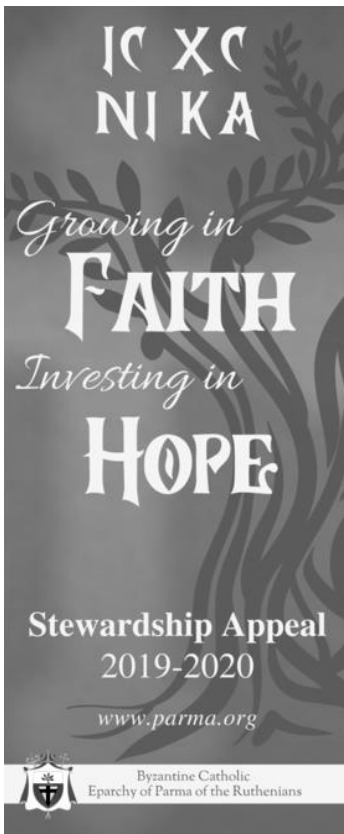
Wednesday evening **Divine Liturgy** at 7:00pm

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

Philip's Fast (*Filipovka*)

Nov. 15th – Dec. 24th

"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 Metropolia 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

The Stewardship Appeal helps cover the costs of a variety of programs in the Eparchy including the support of seminarian education and formation. New to the Eparchy of Parma this fall is a discernment program for young men considering the priesthood. Currently four young men are involved, two from the Eparchy and two from Slovakia. The goal of this program is to help spiritually form and guide young men into a deeper relationship with Christ and the church they would eventually be serving.

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

So far, we have raised \$1,740
\$7,460 to go!

Our Lady of Guadalupe

The icon of our Lady of Guadalupe (feast day: December 12th) appears as a type of the “woman clothed with the sun,” described in the book of Revelation (12:1). Though it is Roman Catholic, it is very much in the tradition one also finds in Eastern Orthodoxy of miraculously-appearing images. She is surrounded by a radiant mandorla found in many European images, though in the *Guadalupe* image, Mary stands on the crescent moon, hands together and head inclined, without the child Jesus.

The Guadalupe image appeared miraculously on the *tilma* (mantle) of an Aztec convert named Juan Diego, to whom the Virgin Mary is held to have appeared on Tepeyac Hill (a site sacred to the Aztec earth goddess Tonantzin). The legend relates that at one point she told him to go to a certain place where he found Castilian roses blooming in winter. He filled his *tilma* with the miraculous roses, and when he opened it to show a bishop as proof of his Marian apparition, the *tilma* was found to have the image of the Virgin imprinted on it — not painted, but “not made by hands” as the Russians and Greeks also say of certain of their miraculous images.



edited from source: <https://russianicons.wordpress.com/tag/virgin-of-guadalupe/>

Sunday, December 8, 2019



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 1

Pre-festive Day of the Maternity. Our Venerable Father Patapius.

4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:1-12.

Ephesians 5:8b-19. Luke 17:12-19.

8:00am Matins

9:45am Third Hour

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

+Hazel Percival, on the 40th day, from Louise Dalbo (12-4)

intention of Br. Philip Blazhkevych, from Melinda Dewitt (12-5)

+Joseph Humenik, from Robert & Helen Dalbo (12-7)

Reader: Elizabeth Druga

11:30am ECF

12:30pm Great Vespers *for the Maternity of the Holy Anna*

Monday, December 9, 2019



✙ THE MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA. The Holy Hannah, Mother of Prophet Samuel.

Vespers Paramia: Genesis 28: 10-17 • Ezekiel 43:27 - 44:4 • Proverbs 9: 1-11.

Matins Gospel: Luke 1:39-49, 56.

for the Maternity: Galatians 4:22-31. Luke 8:16-21.

for the day: 1 Timothy 5:1-10. Mark 8:11-21.

7:00pm Divine Liturgy *for the Maternity of the Holy Anna*

intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt

Tuesday, December 10, 2019



The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugephus (4th Century).

1 Timothy 5:11-21. Mark 8:22-26.

7:00am First & Third Hour

6:00pm Chant Practice

7:00pm Vespers – *with prostrations*

Wednesday, December 11, 2019



Day of Alleluia. Our Venerable Father Daniel the Stylite (489).

1 Timothy 5:22-6:11a. Mark 8:30-34.

6:00pm Great Vespers for Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for Our Lady of Guadalupe

+Josefa Patrick, from the Marron Family

Thursday, December 12, 2019



✝ The Mother of God of Guadalupe (1591).

Our Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus.

Vespers Paramia: Genesis 28: 10-17 • Ezekiel 43:27 - 44:4 • Proverbs 9: 1-11.

Matins Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

for Guadalupe: Hebrews 9:1-7. Luke 1:39-56.

for the day: 1 Timothy 6:17-21. Mark 9:10-16.

Parish Work Day

6:00pm Councils Meeting

Friday, December 13, 2019



✝ Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, & Orestes. Holy Virgin Martyr Lucy.

Our Holy Father Herman of Alaska.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 10:16-22.

for the Martyrs: Ephesians 6:10-17. Luke 21:12-19.

for the day: 2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18. Mark 9:33-41.

7:00am First & Third Hour

7:00pm Vespers - followed by Confessions

Saturday, December 14, 2019



Saturday of Alleluia. The Holy Martyrs Thrysus, Leucas, Philemon, Appolonius, & Callinicus (2nd C.).

The Blessed Priest and Ascetic Father Nimatulla al-Hardini (Joseph Kassab).

Galatians 5:22-6:2. Luke 14:1-11.

9:45am Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

intention of Kenny Semak, from Jane Semak

7:00pm Great Vespers for Sunday- followed by Confessions

Sunday, December 15, 2019



SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. Tone 2

The Holy Martyr Eleutherius (120). Our Ven. Fr. Paul of Latra (950).

⊗. Our Holy Fr. Stephen, Archbishop of Surozh (c. 775).

5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:12-35.

Colossians 3:4-11. Luke 14:16-24.

8:00am Matins

9:45am Third Hour

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

intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt (12-9)

+Josefa Patrick, from the Marron Family (12-11)

intention of Kenny Semak, from Jane Semak (12-14)

Reader: Peter Raupp

Cookie Sale in the Hall after Divine Liturgy!

11:30am ECF

12:30pm Vespers – *with prostrations*

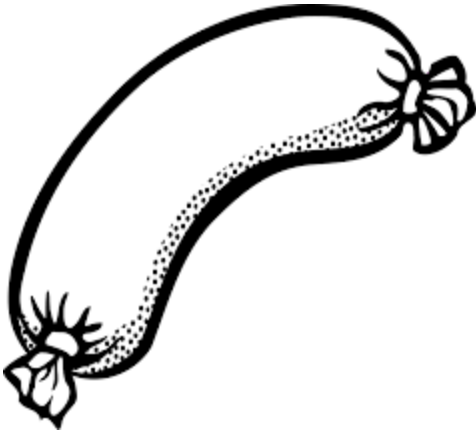
LEGEND

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|----|---|
| ⊕ | 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 |

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|--|---|
| | 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) |

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.



KOLBASZ!

Similar to kielbasa, kolbasz is a traditional Hungarian sausage and an excellent food with which to celebrate Christmas. St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Oregon, OH will be making these fresh kolbasz this year for Christmas. It sells for \$5 per pound. Please place your orders on the sign up sheet in the back of the church, or contact Fr. John to let him know how much you'd like. **Today, December 8th, is the last Sunday to place orders.**

Decorating for Christmas!

Because our parish customarily decorates well before Christmas, during the penitential season of the Philip's Fast, this year we'll decorate in two phases – in a more subdued way at first, during the Fast, and then we'll enliven it a great deal on Christmas Eve.

Firstly, we've ordered both red and white poinsettias. We will put out only the red (which is a penitential color in our Church) during the Fast. And then, on Christmas Eve, we will double the number of poinsettias, leaving out the red but adding just as many white ones (a color of celebration and joy in our Church).

Then, I'd like to use real trees instead of the illuminated animatronic angels (real, because everything in the church should be real rather than fake, whenever possible). We'll put these up with minimal or no decoration at first. Then, on Christmas Eve, we can fill them with lights and decorations, which can remain on them throughout the Christmas season.

I'd like everyone to donate an ornament. That way, the trees become a representation of our community rejoicing together in celebration of the birth of our Lord. Because they will be in the church, I'd like these ornaments to be of a sacred character.

To this end, there is on **amazon.com** a baby gift registry for baby Jesus. It's a baby registry under the name **Mary of Nazareth**. The baby's due date is **December 25th, 2019**, in the city of **Allen Park**.

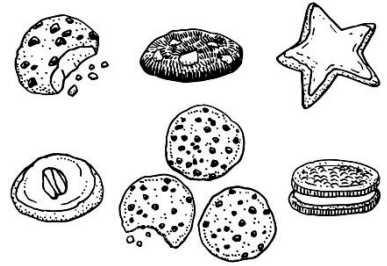
Here's the web address:

<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/maryof-nazareth-december-2019-allenpark/ZTGXPRDVS5YT>



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!

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

Photography Dates: **December 17th & 18th**

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.

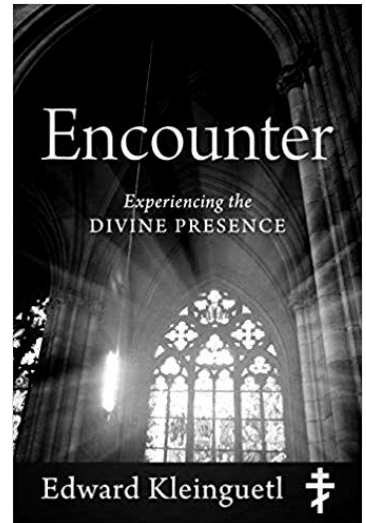


Subdiaconal Ordination

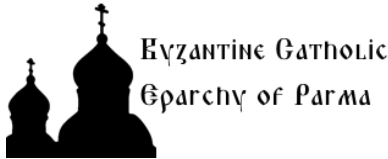
Bishop Milan will be coming to ordain Michael Kunitz to the Subdiaconate at the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, December 29th**

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. Now's a great time to join, because they've just finished one book and will best starting a new one. Their next meeting is **Monday, January 13, 2020**, at 8461 Barrington Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. The new book is: *Encounter: Experiencing the Divine Presence*. "Come and see. Consider how life in Christ is the only true source of lasting happiness. Experience a God who is always near. Discover or re-discover a faith that is ever ancient, ever new. Christ is the true light that has come into the world and darkness cannot overcome it."



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!



5000 Rockside Rd. Suite 310, Independence, OH 44131
(216) 741-8773
parma.org

Bishop Milan Lach, S.J.

Bishop of Parma

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

Director of Vocations

Laura Ieraci: ext. 3; horizons@parma.org

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 Osentoski and Sutyak Families are scheduled to clean the church this week. Many thanks to **the Russell 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

for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, we have collected \$111

ATTENDANCE

Attendance on December 1st was **62**. 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 December 1st was **\$1687.50**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,446.36**

Sunday: \$1394; Holy Day: \$200; Children: \$1; Candles: \$72.50; Fuel: \$20

“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