

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101

December 15th, 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 **Matins** at 8:00am

Sunday & Saturday **Divine Liturgy** at 10:00am

Wednesday & Friday evening 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 youth ministry. Our young people face an ever more difficult challenge to live out our Byzantine Catholic faith in the current culture. Your contributions to the stewardship appeal help facilitate the development and implementation of dynamic programming, retreats, camps, and gatherings designed to deepen the faith of our young people.

As we continue in this season of preparation for the Nativity, let us keep focus on the coming Feast of the Incarnation and the great gift the Father has given us in His Son, Jesus. 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

As of the end of November, we had raised \$1,740
\$7,460 to go!



IC XC
NI KA

Growing in
FAITH
Investing in
HOPE

Stewardship Appeal
2019-2020

www.parma.org

 Byzantine Catholic
Eparchy of Parma of the Ruthenians



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC
EPARCHY of PARMA

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

Christmas Flowers Offered in Memory of:

Mr. & Mrs. Boulla
Mike & Mary Cipko
Bertha Grega
John Grega
Mike Grega
Bea Gruscow
Mary Polifko
Joseph Sutyak
Wendell Myres
Andrew Yatcko
Helen Yatcko



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*

Monday, December 16, 2019



Day of Alleluia. The Holy Prophet Haggai.

2 Timothy 2:20-26. Mark 9:42-10:1.

Tuesday, December 17, 2019



☩ The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children, Hananiah, Azariah, & Mishael.

2 Timothy 3:16-4:4. Mark 10:2-12.

6:30am First & Third Hour

7:00am Divine Liturgy

+Amy & +Joseph Laus, from Sarah Marron

1st Day of Photo Shoot for new Parish Directory

7:00pm Vespers – *with prostrations*

Wednesday, December 18, 2019



Day of Alleluia. The Holy Martyr Sebastian and his Companions (287).

2 Timothy 4:9-22. Mark 10:11b-16.

2nd Day of Photo Shoot for new Parish Directory

6:00pm Ninth Hour

7:00pm Vespers & Compline - followed by Confessions

(Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on Days of Alleluia)

Thursday, December 19, 2019



Day of Alleluia. The Holy Martyr Boniface (290).

Titus 1:5-2:1. Mark 10:17-27.

Parish Work Day

7:00pm OFFICE OF HOLY REPENTANCE

Friday, December 20, 2019



⊗ Pre-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Martyr Ignatius the God-bearer (107).

Titus 1:15-2:10. Mark 10:23b-32a.

6:30am First & Third Hour

7:00am Divine Liturgy

+Manouk Mykeloff & +John & +Elizabeth Sabo, from Kathleen Mykeloff

7:00pm Vespers - followed by Confessions

Saturday, December 21, 2019



Saturday before the Nativity of the Lord. The Holy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (304).

Galatians 3:8-12. Luke 13:18-29.

9:45am Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+David Himick, from Faith Himick

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

Sunday, December 22, 2019



THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY. THE SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS. Tone 3
The Holy Great Martyr Anastasia (304).

VespersParamia: Genesis 14:14-20 • Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • Deut. 10:14-21.

6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:36-53.

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40. Matthew 1:1-25.

8:00am Matins

9:45am Third Hour

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

+Amy & +Joseph Laus, *from Sarah Marron (12-17)*

+David Himick, *from Faith Himick (12-21)*

Reader: Debra Grega

12:30pm Vespers

Monday, December 23, 2019



Pre-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete (250).

Commemoration of the Dedication of the Great Church of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople.

Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19. Mark 10:46-52.

Tuesday, December 24, 2019



Vigil of the Nativity. The Holy Great Martyr Eugenia (262).

7:00am Office of Readings (*from Royal Hours*)

Decorate the Church for Christmas

5:00pm Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil *for Christmas*

- *for the people of the parish*

+Manouk Mykeloff & +John & +Elizabeth Sabo,
from Kathleen Mykeloff (12-20)

7:00pm Holy Supper

10:00pm All-Night Vigil *for Christmas (Great Compline & Matins)*

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

⊕ THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

Vespers Paramia: Genesis 1:1-13 • Numbers 24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18 • Micah 4:6-7; 5:2-4 •
Isaiah 11:1-10 • Baruch 3:35-4:4 • Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45 • Isaiah 9:6-7 •
Isaiah 7:10-16a; 8:1-4, 8b-10

Hebrews 1:1-12. Luke 2:1-20.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Galatians 4:4-7. Matthew 2:1-12.

9:45am Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for Christmas
- for the people of the parish

6:00pm Vespers for the Theotokos

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for the Theotokos

+John Siko, from Jason & Steven Siko

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)



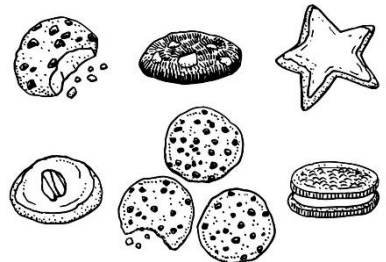
by tradition, a fast day permitting fish, wine, and oil (no meat, dairy, or eggs)



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

ANNUAL COOKIE SALE

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





KOLBASZ!

If you ordered kolbasz from St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, it is available here at St. Stephen's for pickup!

Decorating for Christmas!

We have decorated with real trees and red pointsettias for the Phillip's Fast. On Christmas Eve, we will add white pointsettias to the red and fill the trees with lights and decorations, which will 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>



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**



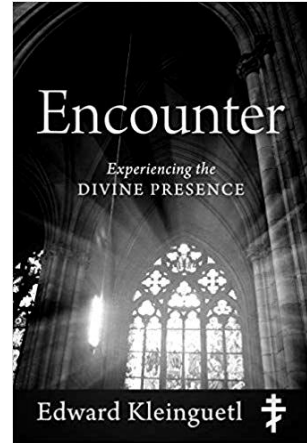
St Nick's Annual Carpathian Mountain Potluck

Saint Nicholas, Clinton Township

On Saturday, January 4, St Nick's will be having its annual Potluck Party, hosted by the Carpatho-Rusin Cultural Society of Michigan. The evening's events will begin with a panachida for deceased members after the 4:00 pm Divine Liturgy, with the potluck immediately following in the church hall. Entertainment will include traditional Rusin/Slovak/Hungarian songs by the Beskidy Folk Ensemble, and cantor-led singing of our traditional Kol'ady (Christmas carols), in both English and Slavonic. Ethnic dress is encouraged to add to the European atmosphere of the evening, but not required. As always, other parishes are encouraged to attend. For more information, please see our website, www.stnicksdetroit.com, or contact the parish office (586)-791-1052, or e-mail Anne Nagrant: RusynSocietyMichigan@yahoo.com.

Byzantine Book Club

You are invited to join a book club! Most Mondays from 7 – 9 pm 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."



at

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 have chant practices monthly, 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, **January 21st** at 6pm.



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!

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 8th was **62**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **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 8th was **\$1751**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,445.96**
Sunday: \$1477; Holy Day: \$107; Children: \$1; Christmas Flowers: \$136; Candles: \$30

“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