

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101 December 22nd, 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, Nick Wood



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**

Saturday evening **Vespers** at 5:00pm, followed by **Confession**

HOLY MYSTERIES

Holy Baptism and Chrismation

All you who have been baptized into Christ have been clothed in Christ. Alleluia!

Those who are not yet baptized and/or chrismated, contact Fr. John. Your life depends on it! A period of preparation and instruction (catechumenate) of at least one full year may precede adult baptisms and/or chrismations.

If you are expecting a child, please contact Fr. John to arrange for the child's baptism, chrismation, and communion (traditionally forty days after birth).

Holy Communion

Unless we eat the body and drink the blood of the Lord, we have no life in us.

Holy Communion is first received when we are baptized and chrismated. Thereafter, we receive frequently to nourish and sustain us in our life in Christ. Before we receive, we prepare according to our ability with prayer (traditionally including Vespers & Matins), fasting (traditionally from midnight or from Vespers), and holy repentance.

Those unable to attend Divine Liturgies, please contact Fr. John to arrange for him to bring them holy communion.

Holy Repentance

All of us sin and fall short of the glory of God. As often as we fall, let us get up again! Never despair of salvation, for God loves us and forgives us as often as we repent. Opportunities for confession are scheduled most Fridays and Saturdays after Vespers and other times by appointment. Just ask!

Four times a year, once during each of the penitential seasons, we celebrate the full Office of Holy Repentance, which includes psalms, readings, prayers and the opportunity for private confession and absolution. We will next celebrate this during the Great Fast, **Thursday, March 19th at 7pm.**

Holy Anointing

Holy anointing is offered to all in need of healing every year on Holy Wednesday. If anyone is sick, call Fr. John (412-378-0308), and he will come pray over you and anoint you with oil in the name of the Lord. This is not only for the dying, but for all who are in need of healing. Before surgery of any kind, it is good to first be anointed.

Monasticism

Monks and nuns are witnesses to the gospel carrying on the spirit of martyrdom and prophecy in the Church today. You may inquire at these monasteries to pursue this vocation:

Holy Resurrection Monastery

300 S 2nd Ave, PO Box 276, St. Nazianz, WI 54232
(920) 881-4009
monks@hrmonline.org
hrmonline.org

Christ the Bridegroom Monastery

17485 Mumford Rd. Burton, OH 44021
440-834-0290
christthebridegroom@gmail.com
christthebridegroom.org

Holy Matrimony

We rejoice with those preparing to be crowned in marriage. They are an icon of Christ and his Church. Contact Fr. John at least six months in advance of your wedding date to begin marriage preparation (and before you rent a hall!).

Holy Orders

For the sake of holy order, the Church needs deacons, priests, and bishops (and also readers, cantors, and subdeacons). Contact Fr. John to discuss the possibility of serving the Church in ordained ministry. The eparchy's Director of Vocations is the Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Marek Visnovsky 216-741-8773 ext. 6; frmvisnovsky@parma.org

Funerals

Brothers and sisters, we are going to die. It is good to remember this daily and to always be prepared for it. We know not the hour.

Death does not end our relationship with those who have died. We venerate the bodies of our departed saints and loved ones, because we believe in the resurrection. It is a work of mercy and a sign of faith in the coming resurrection to bury the dead and to pray for them.

The Church understandingly permits but does not prefer or encourage cremation, because we expect the resurrection of the body. The funeral must be celebrated in the church with the body prior to the cremation.

Our departed loved one attends the funeral with us and is not closed off from us. Many of the prayers are prayers *of* the departed person, to which we give voice. As a sign of this, when possible, the casket is traditionally open until the end of the funeral.

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 – *all are welcome!*

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

Thursday, December 26, 2019

⊗. Synaxis of the Theotokos & Ever-Virgin Mary. Holy Martyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis.

Hebrews 7:1-6. Mark 11:27-33.

6:00pm Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy *for St. Stephen – with patronal procession*
+Stephen Lazlo Kastura, from R.C. Johnston

Friday, December 27, 2019 *no fasting!*

⊗ THE HOLY APOSTLE, FIRST MARTYR AND ARCHDEACON STEPHEN.

Our Venerable Fr. & Confessor Theodore, Brother of Theophane the Hymnographer (845).

Hebrews 7:18-25. Mark 12:1-12.

7:00pm Vespers *- followed by Confessions*

Saturday, December 28, 2019

Saturday after the Nativity. Post-festive Day of the Nativity.

The Holy Twenty-thousand Martyrs of Nicomedia (302).

The Blessed Martyr Gregory Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanislaviv (1945).

1 Timothy 6:11b-16. Matthew 12:15-21. Ephesians 2:11-13. Luke 17:3-10.

9:45am Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

intention of George and Irene Durisin, from Irene Jane Semak

5:00pm Great Vespers - followed by Confessions

Sunday, December 29, 2019

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY. Tone 4

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY AND JUST JOSEPH THE BETROTHED,
DAVID THE KING, & JAMES THE BROTHER OF GOD.

Holy Innocents killed by Herod in Bethlehem. Ven. Fr. Marcellus, Hegumen of the Akimetes (486).

7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:1-10.

Galatians 1:11-19. Matthew 2:13-23. Colossians 3:4-11. Luke 19:1-10.

8:00am Matins

10:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Subdiaconal Ordination

- for the people of the parish

+John Siko, from Jason & Steven Siko (12-26)

+Stephen Lazlo Kastura, from R.C. Johnston (12-27)

intention of George and Irene Durisin, from Irene Jane Semak (12-28)

Come to hall for a luncheon after the Divine Liturgy!

5:00pm Vespers

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)

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 in celebration of Christmas!

Thank you all who have donated an ornament! These ornaments donated by all the various members of the parish become a representation of our community rejoicing together in celebration of the birth of our Lord. It's not too late! You can even bring an ornament in on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and hang it on the tree yourself, as some have talked about doing. Because these ornaments will be in the church, they should be of a sacred character.



We're Making a New Parish Directory!

The photo shoots are complete. Thank you to all who participated! If you did not have your picture taken here, please submit your picture (digitally, if possible) to be included in the directory.

Subdiaconal Ordination

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

Come to hall for a luncheon after the Divine Liturgy!



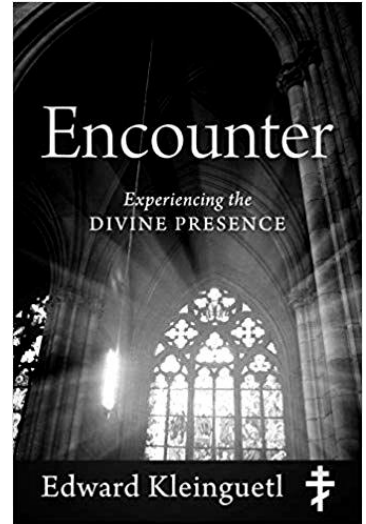
St Nick's Annual Carpathian Mountain Potluck

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 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."



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!



Annual Stewardship Appeal

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord is this week and through the liturgies of the Church we have been called to focus on the miracle of the *Incarnation* in the cave of Bethlehem. God the Father will give us the greatest gift in His Son this Christmas. How are you responding to God's gracious gift to us? How will you show your gratitude for the infant Christ?

As you complete your preparations for the Christmas Feast, please remember the Eparchy of Parma and the Church's many needs by contributing to the annual Stewardship Appeal. Visit parma.org/2020appeal to make your one-time or monthly donation through our secure website. Thank you for your generosity!

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

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

Christmas Flowers Offered in Memory of:

Mr. & Mrs. Boulla
Mike & Mary Cipko
Bertha Grega
John Grega
Mike Grega
Bea Gruscow
Helen Humenik

Peter Humenik
Irene & Vasil Kozub
Mary Polifko
Joseph Sutyak
Wendell Myres
Andrew Yatcko
Helen Yatcko





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 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

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

ATTENDANCE

Attendance on December 15th was **66**. 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 15th was **\$1224.75**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,445.39**
Sunday: \$936; Holy Day: \$70; Candles: \$47.75; Fuel: \$106; Flowers: \$15; Christmas: \$50

“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