

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101
313-382-5901

February 16th, 2020

website: saintstephenbyzantine.church

Priest: Rev. John R.P. Russell, M.Div.
cell phone: 412-378-0308
email: frjussell@parma.org

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

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2020

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Meatfare FEBRUARY 16th <small>FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY</small>	 The Last Judgment Reading: 1 Corinthians 8: 8-9: 2 Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 23rd <small>FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY</small>	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Reading: Romans 13: 11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6: 14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
<i>.....</i>		
<i>GREAT FAST BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i>		
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 1st	 SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Reading: Hebrews 11: 24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1: 43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 8th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Reading: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2: 1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 15th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHAI</i> Reading: Hebrews 4: 14-5: 6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9: 1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 22nd	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Reading: Hebrews: 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9: 17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent MARCH 29th	 ST MARY of EGYPT Reading: Hebrews 9: 11-14 & Heb 2:11-18 Gospel: Mark 10: 32-45 & LK 1:24-38	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.

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 \$138

Annual Stewardship Appeal

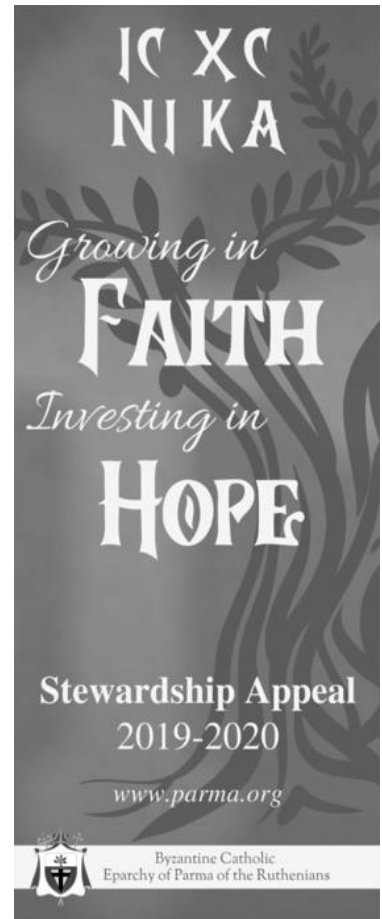
The Stewardship Appeal is in its third month and we have just a few more months to reach this year's goal! The Stewardship Appeal helps cover the costs of a variety of programs in the eparchy including seminarian formation and education (including for Subdeacon Michael Kunitz), active and retired priests (including Fr. Dennis Hrubciak), and youth ministry. Have you made your contribution yet? Visit us online at parma.org/2020appeal to submit your donation. As we profess our faith through the Nicene Creed, let's also profess it with our actions and our gifts of time, talent, and treasure!

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

As of the end of January, we had raised \$4,550

Thank you!

We're almost halfway to our goal. To meet our goal, we have to finish just as strong as we've started.



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 **today March 8th**, after Divine Liturgy.

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 Family** and to all who worked and cleaned this past week. May God grant them many years!

LITURGICAL SERVICE TIMES

Saturday evening at 5:00pm

Sunday morning at 8:00am & 10:00am

Wednesday & Friday evening at 7:00pm

Saturday morning at 10:00am

Sunday, February 16, 2020

MEATFARE SUNDAY. The Sunday of the Last Judgment. Tone 3

The Holy Martyrs, the Presbyter Pamphilius, Porphyry, and their Companions (309).

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

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2. Matthew 25:31-46.

8:00am Matins

9:45am Third Hour

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

+Anna Ballèr Div. & +Mary S. Eberle, from Edith Santo (2-11)

+Margaret Gombos, from Edith Santo (2-12)

+Julianna Kormos, from Edith Santo (2-13)

+David Himick, from Faith Himick (2-15)

Reader: Theresa Szatkowski

11:30am ECF

12:30pm Vespers

Monday, February 17, 2020



Cheesefare Monday. ☩ The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit (306).

3 John 1:1-15. Luke 19:29-40; 22:7-39. (*The Passion according to Luke is read this week*)

7:00am First & Third Hour – Reader's Service

Tuesday, February 18, 2020



Cheesefare Tuesday. Our Holy Father Leo, Pope of Rome (461).

Jude 1-10. Luke 22:39-42, 45b-23:1.

7:00am First & Third Hour

7:30am Divine Liturgy

+Frank & +Mary Kootun, from the family

6:00pm Chant Practice

7:00pm Vespers – with prostrations

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Day of Alleluia. Cheesefare Wednesday. The Holy Apostle Archippus.

6th Hour: Joel 2:12-26.

6:30pm Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy

+Hungarian Freedom Fighters of 1956, from Edith Santo

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Cheesefare Thursday. Our Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania (c. 787).

Our Holy Father Agathon, Pope of Rome.

Vespers: Joel 3:12-21.

Jude 1:11-25. Luke 23:1-34a, 44-56.

7:00pm Vespers – with prostrations

Friday, February 21, 2020

Day of Alleluia. Cheesefare Friday. Our Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola (795).

Our Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch (c. 338).

6th Hour: Zechariah 8:7-17.

7:00pm Vespers – followed by Confessions

Saturday, February 22, 2020

Cheesefare Saturday. Commemoration of Holy Ascetics.

The Finding of the Venerable Relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia.

Vespers: Zechariah 8:19-23.

Romans 14:19-23; 16:25-27 & *for the Ascetics:* Galatians 5:22-6:2.

Matthew 6:1-13 & *for the Ascetics:* Matthew 11:27-30.

9:45am Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Mary Strach, from Mike & Mary Camilleri

5:00pm Great Vespers – followed by Confessions

Sunday, February 23, 2020



CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. The Sunday of Forgiveness. Tone 4
The Holy Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (c. 155).

Vespers Paramia: Isaiah 40:1-3, 9; 41:17-18; 45:8; 48:20-21; 54:1

- Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:2; Malachi 3:1-3, 5-7, 12, 18, 17; 4:4-6
- Wisdom 4:7, 16-17, 19-5:7

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

Romans 13:11b-14:4. Matthew 6:14-21.

8:00am Matins

9:45am Third Hour

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

+*Frank & +Mary Koutun, from the family (2-18)*

+*Hungarian Freedom Fighters of 1956, from Edith Santo (2-20)*

+*Mary Strach, from Mike & Mary Camilleri (2-22)*

Reader: Debra Grega

11:30am ECF

11:30am *Holy Land Pilgrimage Presentation* with Dan & Chris Lauffer in the small hall

1:00pm Forgiveness 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)

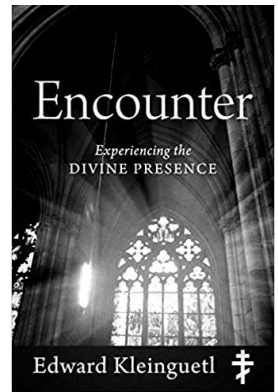
The Fast of Cheesefare Week 🏠

As we continue to prepare for the Great Fast, Cheesefare Week is traditionally a week of fasting from meat. It is called “Cheesefare” because this is our last week to eat dairy until Pascha, so we would traditionally eat or drink all our dairy (and eggs) this week. Cheesefare Sunday (Feb. 23rd) ends Cheesefare Week and the forty-days of the Great Fast begin with Clean Monday (February 24th).

“Today this fast is considered a part of the Great Fast, a preparation period in which we enter gradually into the asceticism of the Fast. It originated, however, in the Oriental Orthodox (non- Chalcedonian) Churches and was separate from the Great Fast. It was called the Fast of Nineveh, and was observed three weeks before the Great Fast, in what is now the Week after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. The Byzantine Church would not observe it at the same time as those Churches with which it was not in communion and moved it to the week before the Great Fast.” – Fr. David Petras

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. Their next meeting is **Monday, February 17th, 2020**, at 8461 Barrington Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. The 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, **February 18th** at 6pm. We will continue practicing the Presanctified Divine Liturgy.

RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE

Next week, we will take up the **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**. Our envelope for this collection is mistakenly marked **May 03, 2020**, so please retrieve it and use it ahead of time if possible. This collection supports the Church in more than 20 countries that still struggle to recover from Communist rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/ccee.

Support Mary's Mantle during the Great Fast



Please join us in supporting the new mothers at Mary's Mantle of Bloomfield Hills, MI this Great Fast Season. At this time, Mary's Mantle, a Catholic home for expectant mothers, is taking donations of newborn diapers, baby wipes, girls' clothes size 5T and 2T, boys' clothes size 5T, 4T, and 2T, Paper towels, bleach wipes, laundry detergent (free and clear), and gifts cards from Target, Meijer, Gas (any gas station), and Amazon. Donations can be left in the box labeled Mary's Mantle, located in the vestibule of the Church. Donations will continue until Holy Saturday. To make monetary donations, please visit www.marysmantle.net Thank you for helping with this important, life changing endeavor.

PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATION

On **February 23rd** after the Divine Liturgy, Dan and Chris Lauffer will offer a presentation about an upcoming opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Whether or not you think you can go on the trip, please come and learn about the land our Lord made holy by his presence.

AN ONLINE SCHOOL OF PRAYER

Return to Me

-ISAIAH 44:22



FEBRUARY 27: WHAT IS PRAYER? A GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED

MARCH 5: CHEWING THE CUD: THE WORD OF GOD AND CHRISTIAN PRAYER

MARCH 12: THE MYSTERIES OF THE JESUS PRAYER PART I:
A PRAYER FOR THE WEAK DURING THE WEEK

MARCH 19: AN INTRODUCTION TO SACRED SILENCE: A PRAYER FOR THE EMPTY

MARCH 26: THE MYSTERIES OF THE JESUS PRAYER PART 2:
HOW TO PRAY LIKE CHILDREN OF GOD

APRIL 2: FROM THE ALTAR TO THE ICON CORNER: BRINGING LITURGICAL PRAYER HOME

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



MARK THERRIEN



MOTHER CECILIA
OF CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM MONASTERY



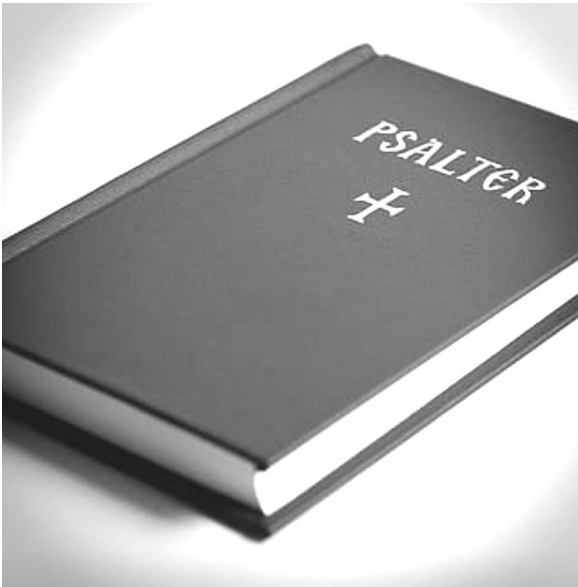
DEACON CYRIL KENNEDY

*Seek him who
seeks you first*

SIGN UP FOR THE WEBINARS: THURSDAYS @ 7 P.M. CST AT [STMARYWHITING.ORG/RETURNTOME](http://stmarywhiting.org/returntome)

“Return to me; for have I redeemed you” –Isaiah 44:22

Cultivate intimacy with your Savior with “Return to Me,” a Lenten formation program sponsored by St. Mary’s Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, Indiana. The parish will host an online webinar series on prayer Thursdays during Lent beginning February 27 at 7 p.m. CST (8 p.m. EST). Learn how scripture, the Jesus Prayer, silence, and the liturgy offer the language you need to speak with and hear the Lord who loves you. For more info and to sign up for the FREE webinars, go to stmarywhiting.org/returntome/.



Psalter Prayer Group

“The Great Fast (Lent) is quickly sneaking up on us, it's only 2 weeks away! Many people joined us for the Nativity Psalter Group, would anyone be interested in trying again during the Great Fast?

Just like before, your only commitment is to read a section of the Psalms everyday, and to pray for the people in your group.

“You may say "Nah, I didn't do so well last time. I only read one section." That's okay! Try again! Reading one set of Psalms is always better than not reading the Psalms at all!” – Megan Semler

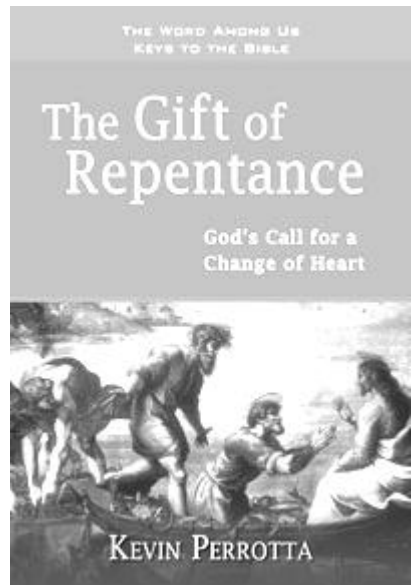
If you want to give it a go, just send Fr. John (frjrusell@parma.org) your email.

Adult ECF begins during the Great Fast

This year, we will meet after Divine Liturgy on the Sundays of the Great Fast in the small hall to share simple Lenten food and the participate in this formation focused on repentance, led by Kevin Perrotta:

“Repentance is a gift—because coming to the realization of ourselves as sinners opens our hearts to the gospel. And while consciousness of our sins is uncomfortable, it is also a cause for hope. In those feelings of guilt, says popular Scripture commentator Kevin Perrotta, God is calling us to return to him.

“The first three sessions of this Bible study are designed to spur readers to reflect on their own experience of recognizing their sins and taking action against them. The second three sessions focus on Jesus, who calls us to grow in love beyond anything that is easy or comfortable for us—and enables us to do it by nourishing us with himself.”



ATTENDANCE

Attendance on February 9th was **49**. 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 February 9th was **\$1149.00**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,405.71**

Sunday: \$815; Holy Day: \$15; Fuel: \$282; Candles: \$37

“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