

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

February 23rd, 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:

Cheesefare
FEBRUARY 23rd
 FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY



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.

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

HALF WAY TO PASCHA!
 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.

FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY!

APRIL 5th
 GREAT WEEK BEGINS



GREAT AND HOLY WEEK
ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Reading: Philippians 4: 4-9
 Gospel: John 12: 1-18

Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

APRIL 10th



GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS
 CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE

Refrain from TV, Internet, & Phones to honor Christ's Death.

FEAST OF FEASTS!

APRIL 12th
 NO FASTING!



BRIGHT WEEK
HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1: 1-17

Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

FASTING REGULATIONS AND LITURGICAL DIRECTIVES FOR LENT 2020

ABSTINENCE

The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat or meat byproducts, permitting the use of eggs and dairy products. Abstinence is to be observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays during the Great Fast.

STRICT ABSTINENCE

The law of strict abstinence forbids the use of meat, eggs and dairy products or any of their byproducts. All adult faithful, who receive Eucharist, are obliged to observe strict abstinence on the first day of the Great Fast, February 24, on Great and Holy Friday, April 10, and all day Holy Saturday, April 11, until midnight.

Those with valid medical reasons, as well as pregnant or nursing mothers, are not bound to fast.

DISPENSATION

Pastors and administrators may, for a just cause, grant to individual faithful and individual families, dispensations or commutations of abstinence and strict abstinence into other pious practices.

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

The Liturgies of St. John Chrysostom or St. Basil the Great are not to be celebrated on the weekdays of Great Lent, not even for funerals. In compliance with liturgical prescriptions, pastors and administrators should celebrate the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts during the Great Fast, that is, on Wednesdays and Fridays, if possible, and on at least one of the first three days of Great and Holy Week.

A stipend may be accepted for this Divine Liturgy; it is to be the only liturgy celebrated that day.

On Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays of the Great Fast, a liturgical service may be celebrated; the Presanctified Gifts may be distributed, if there is pastoral need.

FUNERALS

A funeral may be served during weekdays of Great Lent without the Eucharist.

VESTMENT COLOR

Vestments worn on Sundays during the Great Fast are to be bright or white; dark vestments are to be worn on All Souls Saturdays and on the third Sunday of the Great Fast (the Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross) and on weekdays. This rule applies to liturgies celebrated in anticipation of Sunday as well. After the prokeimenon at Sunday evening Vespers, dark vestments are to be worn.

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 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 Kovtun, 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 in classroom

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

1:00pm Forgiveness Vespers

Monday, February 24, 2020



CLEAN MONDAY. 1st & 2nd Finding of the Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, & Baptist John.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 1:1-20. *Vespers:* Genesis 1:1-13 • Proverbs 1:1-20.

7:00am First Hour – *Reader Service*

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Reader: Nicholas Zawaski

+*Joseph Humenik, from Mary Ann Osmond*

Tuesday, February 25, 2020



Our Holy Father Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople (806).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 1:19-2:3. *Vespers:* Genesis 1:14-23 • Proverbs 1:20-33.

7:00pm Great Compline – *with a section of the Great Canon of St. Andrew*

Wednesday, February 26, 2020



Our Holy Father Porphyry, Bishop of Gaza (421).

The Holy Great Martyr Photina the Samaritan.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 2:3-11. *Vespers:* Genesis 1:24-2:3 • Proverbs 2:1-22.

5:45pm – 6:15pm Confessions

6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Reader: Cecilia Hendricks

Intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite (741). Our Holy Father Gregory of Narek.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 2:11-21. *Vespers:* Genesis 2:4-19 • Proverbs 3:1-18.

7:00pm Great Compline – *with a section of the Great Canon of St. Andrew*

Friday, February 28, 2020



Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Fellow Ascetic of Procopius (741).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 3:1-14. *Vespers:* Genesis 2:20-3:20 • Proverbs 3:19-34.

5:45pm – 6:15pm Confessions

6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Reader: Theresa Szatkowski

+Mary Ann Bonezzi, from Char Bonacor & Ceil Burja

Saturday, February 29, 2020



The Miracle of St. Theodore the Recruit. Our Venerable Father Cassian (c. 453).

Hebrews 1:1-12 & *for Theodore:* 2 Timothy 2:1-10.

Mark 2:23-3:5 & *for Theodore:* John 15:17-16:2.

9:45am Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Mary Strach, from Mike & Mary Camilleri

5:00pm Great Vespers – *followed by Confessions*

Sunday, March 1, 2020



FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY.

MEMORY OF THE HOLY PROPHETS. Tone 5

Venerable Martyr Eudoxia (2nd Century). Our Holy Father David, Enlightener of Wales.

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

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2a. John 1:43-51.

8:00am Matins – followed by procession with icons

9:45am Third Hour

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

Intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt (2-26)

+Joseph Humenik, from Mary Ann Osmond (2-24)

+Mary Ann Bonezzi, from Char Bonacor & Ceil Burja (2-28)

+Mary Strach, from Mike & Mary Camilleri (2-29)

Reader: Theresa Szatkowski

11:30am ECF in classroom – Simple Lenten Luncheon in hall

12:00am Adult ECF – The Gift of Repentance – in the small hall

1:00pm 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)

PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATION

Today (Feb. 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.

RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE

Today, 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.

The Holy & Great Fast

“All [week]days of the Great Fast are days of Alleluia, unless otherwise noted. On each day, the schedule of services begins with Matins in the morning to Vespers on the evening of the day itself. [During the rest of the year liturgical days are reckoned as beginning with Vespers]. However, the commemoration of the saint is anticipated as usual.... Vespers and Matins [and other services] during the Great Fast..., end with... prostrations, as given in the service books.... The Great Fast is our penitential preparation for the great feast of Pascha (Passover). As such, it is one of the most ancient parts of the liturgical year. Its forty days symbolize the forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert, while the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is the fulfillment of the promise of the manna, as St. John wrote, “So Jesus said to them, ‘Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven’ (John 6:32). In the Great Fast, we imitate Jesus our Lord, who fasted for forty days in the desert following his baptism.... Our observance of the Great Fast... is our renewal of our baptismal fervor. During the First Week of the Great Fast, at Vespers, we read the story of the fall of Adam and Eve. In the Great Fast, abstinence from meat, fish, dairy products, alcohol, and foods cooked in oil was prescribed for all days except days of mitigation [e.g. wine & oil is permitted on Saturdays and Sundays]....” -Fr. David M. Petras, *2020 Typicon*, p. 15.

Support Mary's Mantle during the Great Fast



Please join us in supporting the new and expectant 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

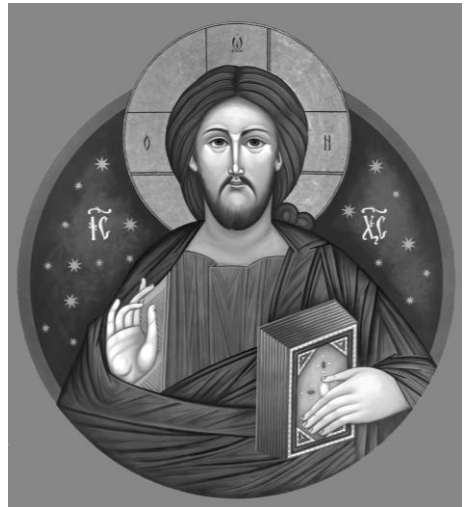
until Holy Saturday. To make monetary donations, please visit www.marysmantle.net
Thank you for helping with this important, life changing endeavor

AN ONLINE SCHOOL OF PRAYER

“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/.

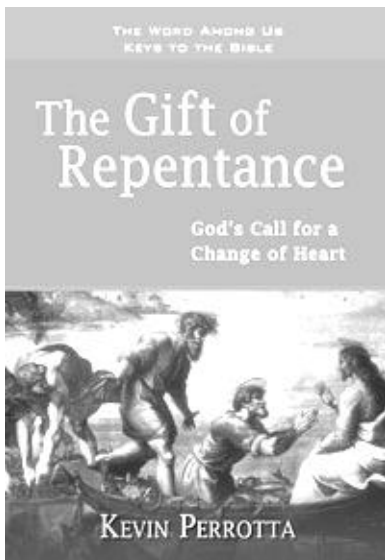


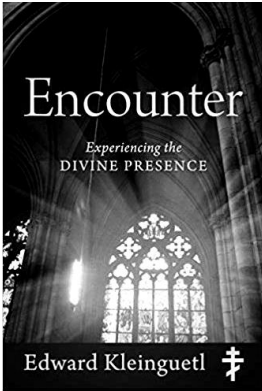
Adult ECF during the Great Fast

This year, starting **March 1st**, on the Sundays of the Great Fast, we will meet in the small hall at 1pm to participate in a formation program focused on repentance.

“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.”





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, March 2nd, 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."

Presentation at Wayne State University

You're invited to join Fr. John, Fr. Dcn. Lawrence, and Subdeacon Phillip as we lead the students at the Newman Catholic Center at Wayne State University in Ninth Hour and offer a presentation on repentance. This will be a great way for our parish to make connections with our community and our young neighbors.

7th floor Student Center Building

5221 Gullen Mall

Detroit, MI 48202

Tel: 313-577-3462

newman@wayne.edu

<https://catholic.wayne.edu/>

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, **March 17th** at 6pm. We will continue practicing the Presanctified Divine Liturgy.

We will celebrate the full form of the Office of Holy Repentance on **Thursday, March 19th** at 7pm.

On **March 28th**, Fr. John will present on married priests at St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church of Lansing

Annual Stewardship Appeal

As our minds look to the Great Fast with today's celebration of Cheesefare, let us remember how Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us. How can we repay Him? What can we do to strengthen His Church on earth? The Stewardship Appeal is just one of many ways we can give back and show our appreciation. Please also consider the many ways that you can help at your local parish to strengthen and build up your community.

Visit parma.org/2020appeal for more information and to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through our website. Thank you for your past support and for your continued generosity with this year's campaign.

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 on **Sunday 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 Raupp Family is scheduled to clean the church this week. Many thanks to **the Dalbo Family** and to all who worked and cleaned this past week. 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 \$138

ATTENDANCE

Attendance on February 16th was **53**. 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 16th was **\$1627.41**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1401.95**

Sunday: \$1560; Children: \$1; Fuel: \$15; Candles: \$42; Online: \$9.41

“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