

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101

March 8th, 2020

313-382-5901

website: saintstephenbyzantine.church

Priest: Rev. John R.P. Russell, M.Div.
cell phone: 412-378-0308
email: frjrusell@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:
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 PASCHA!</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 bowl
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 <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> 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!

The following is an excerpt from *Great Lent*, by Alexander Schmemmann:

You who believe in Christ, you who want to be baptized, who are preparing yourselves for Pascha – you shall see the inauguration of the new age, the fulfillment of all promises, the manifestation of the Kingdom. But you shall see it only if you believe and repent, if you change your mind, if you have the desire, if you accept the effort.

Of this we are reminded in the lesson of the *second* Sunday (Heb. 1:10-2:3):

...therefore, we must pay close attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it... How shall we escape if we neglect such salvation?

In the Gospel lesson of the second Sunday (Mark 2:1-12) the image of this effort and desire is the paralytic who was brought to Christ through the roof:

...and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic: 'My son, your sins are forgiven..

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, March 8, 2020



SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. ST. GREGORY PALAMAS. Tone 6

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophylact (845).

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

Hebrews 1:10-2:3 & for St Gregory: Hebrews 7:26-8:2.

Mark 2:1-12 & for St Gregory: John 10:9-16.

8:00am Matins

9:45am Third Hour

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

Reader: Debra Grega

intention of Br. Philip Blazhkevych, from Melinda Dewitt (3-4)

+Fr. Cyril Attak, from Char Bonacor & Ceil Burja (3-6)

+Josefa Marron, from the Marron Family (3-7)

11:30am Guild Meeting & Simple Lenten Luncheon

12 noon – Adult ECF – The Gift of Repentance – in the small hall

1:00pm Vespers

Monday, March 9, 2020



✙ The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste (320). The Holy Martyr Urpasianus of Nicomedia.

Vespers Paramia: Isaiah 43:9-14 • Wisdom 3:1-9 • Wisdom 5:15-6:3.

Matins Gospel: Luke 21:12-19.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 8:13-9:7. Vespers: Genesis 6:9-22 • Proverbs 8:1-21.

for the Martyrs: Hebrews 12:1-10. Matthew 20:1-16.

7:00am First Hour – Reader Service

Tuesday, March 10, 2020



The Holy Martyr Codratus and his Companions (250).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 9:9-10:4. Vespers: Genesis 7:1-5 • Proverbs 8:32-9:11.

7:00am Terce-Sext

Wednesday, March 11, 2020



Our Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (644).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 10:12-20. *Vespers:* Genesis 7:6-9 • Proverbs 9:12-18.

5:45pm Confessions

6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Reader: Theresa Szatkowski

+Joseph Humenik, from Mary Ann Osmond

Thursday, March 12, 2020



Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophane of the Sygrian Mountain (817).

Our Holy Fr. Gregory, Pope of Rome (604). Our Holy Fr. Symeon, the New Theologian.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 11:10-12:2. *Vespers:* Genesis 7:11-8:4 • Proverbs 10:1-22.

9:00am Terce-Sext

Friday, March 13, 2020



The Translation of the Relics of our Holy Father Nicephor, Patriarch of Constantinople (846).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 13:2-13. *Vespers:* Genesis 8:4-21 • Proverbs 10:31-11:12.

5:45pm Confessions

6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Reader: Debra Grega

intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt

Saturday, March 14, 2020



Souls Saturday. Our Venerable Father Benedict (550).

Hebrews 10:32-38a & *for the departed:* 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

Mark 2:14-17 & *for the departed:* John 5:24-30.

9:30am First & Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy – *followed by the Panachida for the Souls*

+David Himick, from Faith Himick

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

Sunday, March 15, 2020



VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Tone 7

The Holy Martyr Agapius and his Companions (303).

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

Hebrews 4:14-5:6. Mark 8:34b-9:1.

8:00am Matins – *with the Veneration of the Holy Cross*

9:45am Third Hour

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

Reader: Nick Wood

intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt (3-13)

+Joseph Humenik, from Mary Ann Osmond (3-11)

+David Himick, from Faith Himick (3-14)

11:30am Guild Meeting & Simple Lenten Luncheon

12 noon – 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)



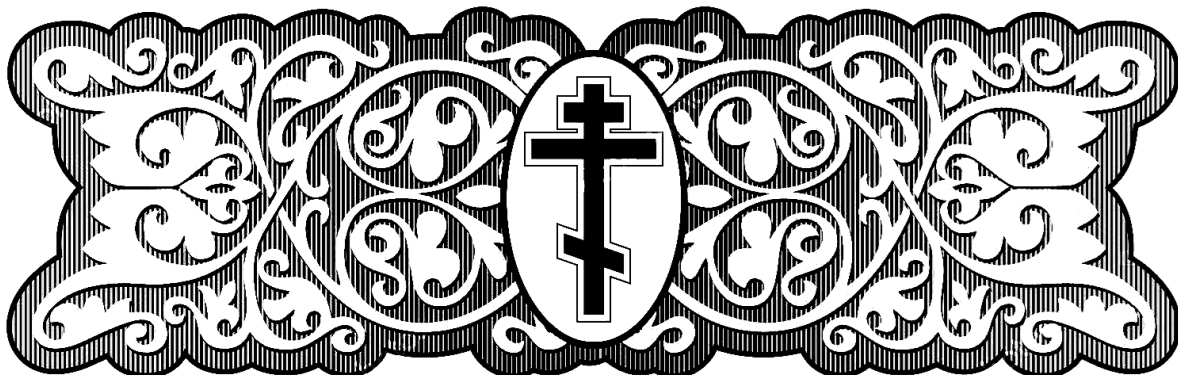
by tradition, a fast day permitting wine and oil. (no meat, dairy, eggs, or fish)



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)



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



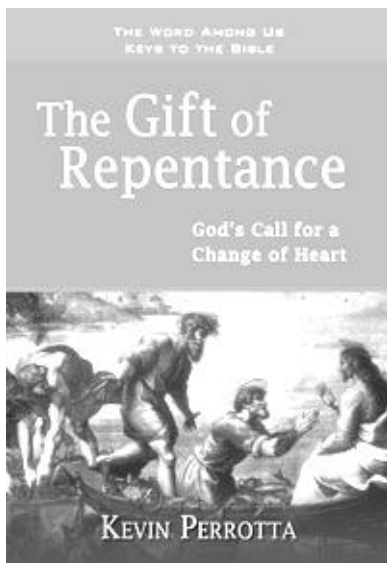
Please join us in supporting the new and expectant mothers at Mary's Mantle of Bloomfield Hills, MI this Great Fast Season. At this time, Mary's Mantle, a Catholic home for expectant mothers, is taking donations of newborn diapers, baby wipes, girls' clothes size 5T and 2T, boys' clothes size 5T, 4T, 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

Adult ECF during the Great Fast

This year, **continuing today**, and on the Sundays of the Great Fast, we will meet in the small hall at **12pm – noon** to participate in a formation program focused on repentance.

Even if you missed the first session, please join us! We've given away 12 books. If you would like one, let Fr. John know so he can order more. Or, you can purchase the book and listen to podcasts at <https://bookstore.wau.org/The-Gift-of-Repentance-Gods-Call-for-a-Change-of-Heart-P237.aspx>

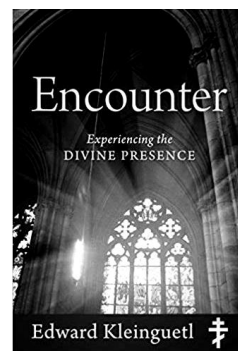


“Repentance is a gift—because coming to the realization of ourselves as sinners opens our hearts to the gospel. And while consciousness of our sins is uncomfortable, it is also a cause for hope. In those feelings of guilt, says popular Scripture commentator Kevin Perrotta, God is calling us to return 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 9th, 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, March 17th at 6pm**.

The Office of Holy Repentance

During this penitential season in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ, we will celebrate the full form of the office of holy repentance on **Thursday, March 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 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.

On Saturday, March 28th, Fr. John will be at St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church of Lansing giving a presentation on the ordination of married men to the priesthood.

Annual Stewardship Appeal

This year's Annual Stewardship Appeal continues. The Stewardship Appeal helps cover the costs of a variety of programs in the eparchy including seminarian formation and education, active and retired priests, and youth ministry.

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

As of the end of February, 31 contributors have donated \$4,650 and pledged \$4,720.

Thank you!

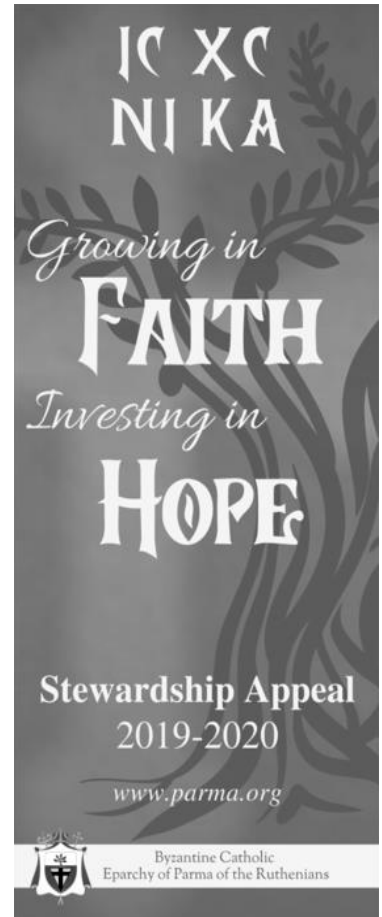
We need to raise another \$4,480.

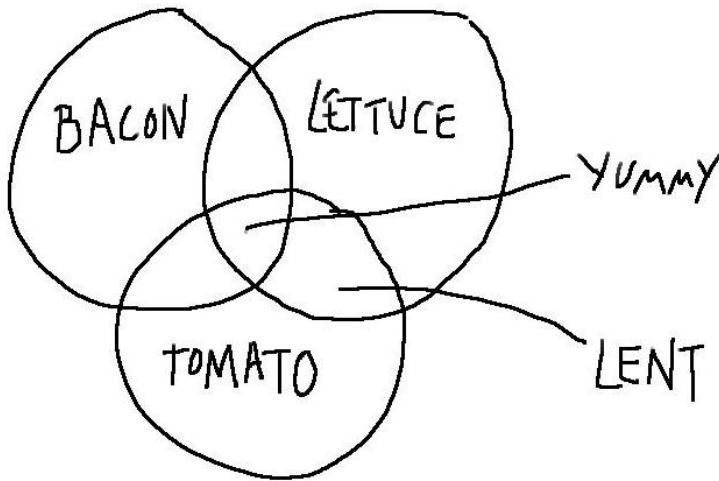
Please prayerfully consider a donation to the campaign to help offset the rising costs of ministry in our Eparchy. An automatic monthly or one-time donation can be set up online at parma.org/2020appeal. Please also remember the Eparchy in your daily prayers. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Easter Flowers have been offered

In Memory of
Mary Ann Bonezzi
Joseph Bonezzi
Donald Bonezzi
Brett Reardon

& In Honor of
Joseph Daniels





Orthograph by Steve Robinson

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

We collected and contributed to the Church in Central & Eastern Europe
a total of \$486 - Thank you!

Since our last contributions,

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 March 1st was **52**. 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 March 1st was **\$1751.75**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,416.90**

Sunday: \$1511.25; Children: \$1; Candles: \$34.50; Flowers: \$50; Initial Offering: \$10; Fuel: \$80; Online: \$65

“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