

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101

March 15th, 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:
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.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 5th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> 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!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> 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 Fr. Alexander Schmemmann:

On the *third* Sunday-- "*Sunday of the Cross*"-- the theme of the Cross makes its appearance, and we are told (Mark 8:34-9:1):

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

From this Sunday on, the lessons from the Epistle to the Hebrews begin to reveal to us the meaning of Christ's *sacrifice* by which we are given access "into the inner shrine behind the curtain," i.e., into the holy of holies of God's Kingdom (cf. *Third* Sunday, Heb. 4:14-5:6).

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

Sunday morning at 10:00am

(All other services cancelled until further notice)

Sunday, March 15, 2020



THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. 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.

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)

Monday, March 16, 2020

The Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Papas (287).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 14:24-32. *Vespers:* Genesis 8:21-9:7 • Proverbs 11:19-12:6.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Venerable Father Alexis, Man of God (411). Holy Father Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 25:1-9. *Vespers:* Genesis 9:8-17 • Proverbs 12:8-22.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020



Mid-Lent. Our Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem (386).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 26:21-27:9. *Vespers:* Genesis 9:18-10:1 • Proverbs 12:23-13:9.

5:45pm-6:15pm Confessions

Thursday, March 19, 2020

The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria (c. 253).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 28:14-22. *Vespers:* Genesis 10:32-11:9 • Proverb 13:20-14:6.

Friday, March 20, 2020



Our Venerable Fathers of the Saint Sabbas Monastery, killed by Saracens (796).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 29:13-23. Vespers: Genesis 12:1-7 • Proverbs 14:15-26.

5:45pm-6:15pm Confessions

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Souls Saturday. Our Venerable Fr. & Confessor James, Bishop of Catania (8th Century).

Hebrews 6:9-12 & *for the departed*: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Mark 7:31-37 & *for the departed*: John 5:24-30.

5:45pm-6:15pm Confessions

Sunday, March 22, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. OUR HOLY FR. JOHN CLIMACUS. Tone 8

The Holy Martyr Basilides, Priest of Ancyra (363).

8th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:11-18.

Hebrews 6:13-20 & *for St. John*: Ephesians 5:8b-19.

Mark 9:17-31 & *for St. John*: Matthew 4:25-5:12a.

10:00am Divine Liturgy - *for the people of the parish* Reader: Elizabeth Druga
+Joseph Fekete, from Edith Santo (3-19)

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 BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PARMA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Prot. No. 39/2020 L
March 13, 2020

DECREE

In light of the development of the Coronavirus in the United States and the desire to ensure the health of our faithful, effective immediately and until further notice, **I, Bishop Milan Lach, S.J., dispense the faithful of the Eparchy of Parma from the obligation to attend Sunday Divine Liturgy and all Holy Day services.** Please see below for further instructions.

1. Priests will continue to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, but you are strongly encouraged to stay home if you are feeling unwell, are elderly, and if you have a concern of being exposed to any illnesses. If you do attend the Sunday Divine Liturgy, please do so at your own discretion and with concern for your fellow parishioners. This dispensation for attending the Divine Liturgy does not mean that you are dispensed from keeping Sunday, the Lord's Day, holy by rest and prayer. As the elderly are the most vulnerable to this virus, I strongly encourage the elderly to remain at home, as well as anyone who is feeling weak or ill, and to refrain from attending the Divine Liturgy on Sunday as well as any other social gatherings within or outside the parish.
2. For those who choose to come to Sunday Divine Liturgy, please feel free to abstain from receiving Holy Communion and know that you receive a blessing with the Holy Eucharist every Sunday after the distribution of Holy Communion, even if you do not receive. There is no obligation to receive weekly Communion (you are only required to receive one time a year during the Pascha season), but if you do receive, please receive properly as at all other times by following the instructions below:
 - Fast for 1 hour before receiving Holy Communion (excludes water and medicine).
 - Tilt your head all the way back; open your mouth as wide as possible; don't stick out your tongue; don't close your mouth on the spoon; don't say "Amen".
 - You must be in the state of grace (have not committed a mortal sin, a list can be found on the Eparchial website in my Pastoral Letter given at the beginning of the Great Fast).
3. Please follow the instructions of the government authorities in your particular state. In the State of Ohio, the Governor has instructed that people of Ohio refrain from meeting in groups over one hundred persons for the next three weeks. As your bishop, I also advise and encourage you to follow this request in order to ensure your health and the health of those around you. Please also practice good hygiene to create a healthy environment for you and others:
 - a. Stay home if you do not feel well! You are not obligated to attend the Divine Liturgy on Sunday if you are feeling sick. Please stay home and pray instead.
 - b. Wash hands often, especially after using the restroom and before eating.
 - c. Wash hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds, then dry with a paper towel. Use hand sanitizer when soap is not available.
 - d. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



- e. Do not sneeze or cough into your hands. Use a tissue or your elbow.
 - f. Do not shake hands with others.
 - g. Do not stand close to each other, spread out in the church.
 - h. Refrain from kissing the icons during this time of dispensation. Make a deep bow before them instead.
4. All ECF classes, social gatherings after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, fish fries, sales, any parish meetings, clubs, retreats, etc. are cancelled at the parishes until further notice.
5. All other liturgical services (Matins, Vespers, Saturday Vigil Liturgies, Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts, All Souls Saturdays, etc.) are cancelled as well until further notice.
6. You will have the opportunity to watch a live stream video of the Divine Liturgy from the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist at 11AM EDT. You can find this on the Eparchy of Parma Facebook page (please access via this link if you do not have a Facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/EparchyParma/videos/493809317961987/>), or on TV Logos at <http://www.logos.tv/parma-live>. For other links you can check the Eparchial website www.parma.org.
7. I encourage all families and believers to pray the Paraklisis, Akathist, Moleben, or other prayers at home for the people affected by the virus, for the deceased, for all medical professionals, and all government officials who need to make decisions for the protection of our communities.
8. Please know that this is an evolving situation, and we will continue to provide updates.

Dear brothers and sisters, together with our priests and deacons, I am praying for you as we live together through these challenging times. This period is also an opportunity for us to prepare for the celebration of the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the victor over all.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Milan Lach, S.J.
Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma

Notary

Adult ECF

Our Adult ECF sessions on *The Gift of Repentance* on Sundays are **cancelled** until further notice. We will resume when this period of distancing ends.

Monthly Chant Practice

Our monthly chant practice, which was to be on **Tuesday, March 17th at 6pm**, is **cancelled**.

The Office of Holy Repentance

The full liturgical form of holy repentance, which was to be offered on **Thursday, March 19th at 7pm** is **cancelled**. If the opportunity arises, we will offer this later on during the Great Fast. Our regular confession times are **NOT** cancelled (5:45pm – 6:15pm on Wednesday, Friday, & Saturday).

Pysanki

Our gatherings to make pysanki, which were to be on **March 21st** and **March 28th** at 11am – 1 pm are **cancelled** until further notice.

The Holy & Great Fast

“Vespers and Matins [and other services] during the Great Fast..., end with... prostrations, as given in the service books.... [All the people prostrate insofar as they are able]. 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.... 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.

PARISH PASTORAL AND FINANCE ADVISORY COUNCILS

Bishop Milan has approved as members of the Parish Pastoral Council:

Victor Jiomkowski, Peter Raupp, & Thomas Sabula

And as members of the Parish Finance Council:

Jane Adams, Louise Dalbo, Michael Camillieri, James Humenik, & Phyllis Humenik

Thank you to these parishioners for their service. They are appointed for a two year term.

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.

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 Myres & Reardon Families** and to all who worked and cleaned this past week. May God grant them many years!

Annual Stewardship Appeal

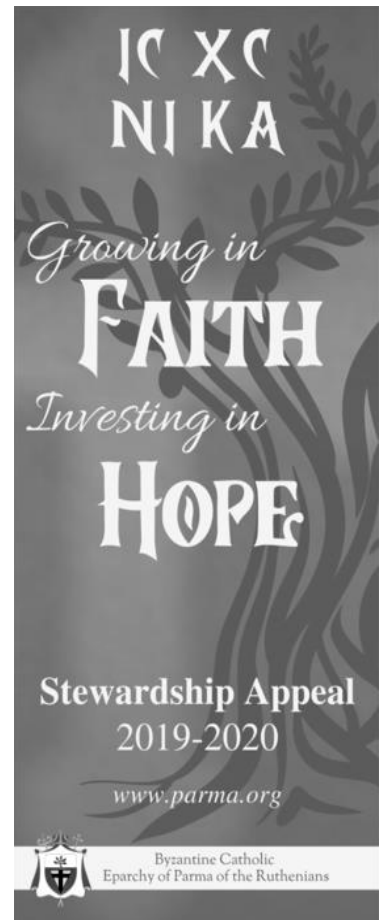
During this Lenten season, please consider the blessings that our Lord has bestowed upon you and your family. Consider the many ways you are able to give back to God and His Church through assisting at your parish, and by pledging to the Stewardship Appeal. Please be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in sharing your gifts through your time, talent, and treasure. Please visit parma.org/2020appeal to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through our website.

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.



Easter Flowers have been offered

In Memory of
Donald Bonezzi
Joseph Bonezzi
Mary Ann Bonezzi
Departed of the Butella Family
Dawn
Maria & Ferenc Griba

In Memory of
Joseph Humenik
Mary
Brett Reardon
Robert
Andrew Yatcko
Helen Yatcko

& In Honor of
the Butella Family
Joseph Daniels



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

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,

the Church in Central & Eastern Europe, we have collected \$29
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 8th 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 March 8th was **\$1190.55**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1418.98**

Sunday: \$1010; Children: \$1; Candles: \$29; Flowers: \$146; Online: \$4.55

“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