

## SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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:
4th Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 22nd</b>		<b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> 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 <b>MARCH 29th</b>		<b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> 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! <b>APRIL 5th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS		..... <b>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</b> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> 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 <b>APRIL 10th</b>		<b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <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! <b>APRIL 12th</b> NO FASTING!		..... <b>BRIGHT WEEK</b> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> 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:

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. *Fourth Sunday*, Heb. 6:13-20), while the lessons from the Gospel of St. Mark announce the voluntary Passion of Christ:

...the Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men and they will kill Him....  
(Mark 9:17-31)-- *Fourth Sunday*

# 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. **If, due to food shortages during this pandemic or other reasons, you need a dispensation, please contact me and I will dispense you. – Fr. John**

## 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. **During this pandemic, these celebrations continue in private and are not open to the public, but we continue to pray for you.**

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. **During this pandemic, the funeral is to be celebrated with only the immediate family present.**

## 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

*(All public services are cancelled until further notice)*

## 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.

*for the people of the parish*

## Monday, March 23, 2020



⊗ Pre-festive Day of the Annunciation.

The Holy Venerable-Martyr Nikon and his Students martyred with him (250).

Our Holy Mother Rafka.

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 37:33-38:6. *Vespers:* Genesis 13:12-18 • Proverbs 14:27-15:4.

## Tuesday, March 24, 2020



THE GREAT CANON OF OUR HOLY FATHER ANDREW OF CRETE.

Our Venerable Father Zachary. Our Holy Father Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia.

The Holy Martyr Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador.

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 40:18-31.

*Vespers:* Gen. 15:1-15 • Prov. 15:7-19.

*& for the Annunciation:* Gen. 28:10-14 • Ez. 43:27-44 • Prov. 9:1-11.

## Wednesday, March 25, 2020



⊕ THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY.

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 41:4-14.

*Vespers:* Genesis 17:1-9 • Proverbs 15:20-16:9

*& for the Annunciation:* Exodus 3:1-8 • Proverbs 8:22-31

Hebrews 2:11-18. Luke 1:24-38.

*5:45pm-6:15pm Confessions*

*+Ėdesanyâm Piroska, from Edith Santo*

Thursday, March 26, 2020



Leave-taking of the Annunciation. ☞ The Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel.

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 42:5-16. *Vespers:* Genesis 18:20-33 • Proverbs 16:17-33.

Friday, March 27, 2020



Our Venerable Mother Matrona of Thessalonica (c. 350).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 45:11-17. *Vespers:* Genesis 22:1-18 • Proverbs 17:17-18:5.

*5:45pm-6:15pm Confessions*

*intention of Carol & Frank, from Joe Biltz*

Saturday, March 28, 2020



Akathistos Saturday. Our Venerable Father Hilary the Younger (754).  
The Holy Stephen the Wonder-worker.

Hebrews 9:24-28 & for Akathistos: Hebrews 9:1-7.

Mark 8:27-31 & for Akathistos: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

*5:45pm-6:15pm Confessions*

*intention of Emily, from Joe Biltz*

Sunday, March 29, 2020



FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST.

MEMORY OF OUR VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT. Tone 1

Our Venerable Father Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, the Deacon Cyril, and Others who  
suffered martyrdom under Julian the Apostate (364).





*9th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:* John 20:19-31.

Hebrews 9:11-14 & for St. Mary: Galatians 3:23-29.

Mark 10:32b-45 & for St. Mary: Luke 7:36-50.

*for the people of the parish*

## LEGEND

⊕	Great Feast		by tradition, a strict fast day (no meat, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, or oil)
⊕	Feast with an All-night Vigil		by tradition, wine and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, eggs, or fish)
⊕	Feast with the Polyeleos at Matins		by tradition, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, or eggs)
⊕	Feast with the Great Doxology at Matins		by tradition, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat)
⊕	Feast with Six Stichera at Vespers		

## Liturgical Services

All public liturgical services and all other events and gatherings are cancelled in the Eparchy of Parma until further notice. However, we continue to pray for you daily and to celebrate liturgy privately for your intentions.

## Confessions

Our regular confession times are NOT cancelled

Wednesday, Friday, & Saturday: 5:45pm – 6:15pm – OR – by appointment.

## Personal Prayer

During this pandemic, the church is open for personal prayer:

Sunday: Noon – 8pm

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 7am – 8pm

Wednesday & Friday: 7am – 6:15pm

Saturday: Noon – 6:15pm

Whenever the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated for whatever reason, it is traditional to pray the Typika instead. There are also many other services we may pray at home as well, including Vespers, Matins, and the Hours. To help with this, the Metropolitan Cantor Institute has many wonderful resources available at <https://mci.archpitt.org/>

If you would like to watch a live broadcast of liturgical services happening in our churches all over the country (and the world), here is an excellent resource: <http://liveliturgy.com/>

## Sacraments

I am still available to bring the holy mysteries to those in need. If needed, please contact me and I will arrange to bring them to you. -Fr. John



## THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PARMA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Prot. No. 41/2020 L  
March 17, 2020

### DECREE

After the latest development of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak and consideration of the serious health risks involved in public gatherings, I, Bishop Milan Lach, S.J., have decided, effective immediately, to suspend all publicly celebrated Sunday Liturgies and services, including Holy Week services and Pascha (Easter) services throughout the Eparchy of Parma. Churches will be open for personal prayer only at the dedicated time by your pastor. I encourage you, however, to pray together in your homes with the prayers of our Byzantine Church.

I, Bishop Milan Lach, S.J. **dispense all the faithful of the Eparchy of Parma from the obligation of attending Sunday Divine Liturgies including Holy Week and Pascha (Easter) Sunday.** You are not dispensed from prayer on Sunday, the day of prayer and rest.

This is not an easy decision. After the consultation of the Catholic Bishops of Ohio with the Ohio State Governor and health officials, consultation with Metropolitan William Skurla, Archbishop of Pittsburgh, the Council of Consultors of the Eparchy of Parma, and in consideration of the recommendations from doctors, and noting that various state governments are closing down places of public gathering, and respectful of the President of the United States asking Americans not meet in groups larger than ten, I am convinced that this is a very prudent decision at this time. The purpose for this is social distancing, so it would be counter to the intention for many people to join together or closely together in a small church to pray. Continue to abide by the laws and rulings of your particular State, County, and Municipality. The progression of this virus in the next few weeks will depend on our behavior and discipline.

Divine services will be livestreamed at <http://parma.org/live> or may be available through your parish website. All other weekday services and activities remain suspended. Baptisms, funerals, and weddings can be celebrated with the immediate family only.

Most of our churches are small in number of parishioners, yet the people have always been practical and generous. Although services are cancelled, we still must pay our bills. Please remember that your parish still must pay its bills, even if no one attends. In some parishes, the pastor may not be able to pay for himself (and care for his children) at the end of this month if there is no collection. Please remember to support your parish financially in the coming weeks, if at all possible. I realize that many people will also suffer financial loss or even lose their jobs during this crisis, so I only ask that you support your parish as you are able.

Please remember that the situation is very fluid and developing and we will keep you updated accordingly.

Brothers and sisters, this is the time to be very responsible and caring for our elderly, for each other, but especially for those who work in the hospitals and have very essential jobs for the well-being of our society and country. I encourage you to pray to God for a swift end to this unprecedented health crisis.

Yours in Christ,

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

Notary

## 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 Raupp Family** is 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

We remember during this penitential season to give of our time, talent, and treasure. God has graced each of us with many gifts and talents. How are you using these gifts to build up the Kingdom of God? What treasure do you have stored here on earth that could be offered for the Kingdom? Please consider supporting the Stewardship Appeal today! Visit us online at [parma.org/2020appeal](http://parma.org/2020appeal) to submit your monthly or one-time donation. Thank you for your generosity!

**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.

We are in the final weeks of this year's annual appeal. Please consider how you can help the Eparchy with the many expenses that the Stewardship Appeal supports.



## *Easter Flowers have been offered*

### **In Memory of**

Donald Bonezzi

Joseph Bonezzi

Mary Ann Bonezzi

Departed of the Butella Family

Dawn

John Gaydos

John M. Gaydos

Bertha Grega

John Grega

Maria & Ferenc Griba

Helen Humenik

James Humenik

Joseph Humenik

Peter Humenik

Ruth Humenik

Mary

Mary Polifko

Brett Reardon

Robert

Andrew Yatcko

Helen Yatcko

### **& In Honor of**

Don Burgener

the Butella Family

Joseph Daniels

Helen Naret



## **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](http://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

### **ONLINE GIVING**

You can now support the work and ministry of St. Stephen with online giving, which is especially helpful during this time of social distancing. You can set up recurring giving or make a one time donation.

Just click the "Give to St. Stephen" button on our website:

<https://saintstephenbyzantine.church/donations/>

*Donations may also be mailed to:*

4141 Laurence Avenue

Allen Park, Michigan, 48101

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance on March 15<sup>th</sup> was **39**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **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 15<sup>th</sup> was **\$543.25**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1400.50**

Sunday: \$466; Holy Day: \$5; Children: \$1; Candles: \$26.25; Flowers: \$45

“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