

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101

March 29th, 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:
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 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. *Fifth Sunday*, Heb. 9:11-14), while the lessons from the Gospel of St. Mark announce the voluntary Passion of Christ and His Resurrection:

...and the third day He shall rise again.
(Mark 10:32-45)-- *Fifth Sunday*

The catechesis, the preparation for the great mystery, is drawing to its end, the decisive hour of man's entrance into Christ's Death and Resurrection is approaching.

Today Lent is no longer the preparation of the catechumens for Baptism, but although baptized and confirmed, are we not in a sense still "catechumens"? Or rather, are we not to return to this state every year? Do we not fall away again and again from the great mystery of which we have been made participants? Do we not need in our life-- which is one permanent alienation from Christ and His Kingdom-- this annual journey back to the very roots of our Christian faith?



Marking our Doors with a Cross?

During this strange time, some of the faithful have begun to hang crosses on their doors, or to mark their doors with a cross of olive oil. This reminds me of Exodus 12:7, 13 (Read it!) As a sign of our faith in Christ and our hope for healing and Passover, I say, why not?

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 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.

10:00am Livestreamed Divine Liturgy on YouTube

-for the people of the parish

Monday, March 30, 2020



Our Venerable Father John Climacus, Author of "The Ladder" (649).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 48:17-49:4. *Vespers:* Genesis 27:1-41 • Proverbs 19:16-25.

Tuesday, March 31, 2020



Our Venerable Father Hypatius, Bishop of Gangra (326).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 49:6-10. *Vespers:* Genesis 31:3-16 • Proverbs 21:3-21.

Wednesday, April 1, 2020



Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt (c. 530).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 58:1-11. *Vespers:* Gen 43:26-31; 45:1-16 • Proverbs 21:23-22:4.

5:45-6:15pm Confessions

7:00pm Livestreamed Presanctified Divine Liturgy on YouTube

+Ernest Semak, from Bob and Jane Semak

Thursday, April 2, 2020



Our Venerable Father Titus the Wonder-worker (9th Century).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 65:8-16. *Vespers:* Genesis 46:1-7 • Proverbs 23:15-24:5.

Friday, April 3, 2020



Our Venerable Father and Confessor Nicetas, Hegumen of Medikion (824).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 66:10-24. *Vespers:* Genesis 49:33-50:26 • Proverbs 31:8-32.

5:45-6:15pm Confessions

7:00pm Livestreamed Presanctified Divine Liturgy on YouTube

intention of Br. Philip Blazhkevych, from Melinda Dewitt

Saturday, April 4, 2020



LAZARUS SATURDAY.

Our Venerable Frs, Joseph the Hymnographer (883) & George of Maleon (9th Century).

Hebrews 12:28-13:8. John 11:1-45.

10:00am Livestreamed Divine Liturgy on YouTube

+Bishop Kocis, from Edith Santo

5:45-6:15pm Confessions

Sunday, April 5, 2020



PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY.

The Holy Martyrs Theodulus and Agathopodes and their Companions (303).

Vespers: Genesis 49:1-2, 8-12 • Zephaniah 3:14-19 • Zechariah 9:9-15.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11, 15-17.

Philippians 4:4-9. John 12:1-18.





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

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

+Ernest Semak, from Bob and Jane Semak (4-1)

+Bishop Kocis, from Edith Santo (4-4)

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/>

St. Stephen has a YouTube channel, where we are livestreaming liturgical services:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC86ljGrag2QVhQ_2-ZmHfgQ/

Sacraments

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

The Holy & Great Fast

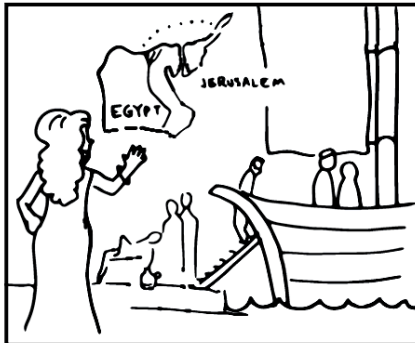
“Vespers and Matins [and other services] during the Great Fast..., end with... prostrations, as given in the service books.... [All the people prostrate insofar as they are able]. The Great Fast is our penitential preparation for the great feast of Pascha (Passover). As such, it is one of the most ancient 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.

Holy Week

“In this week, the most solemn of the Church Year, we re-live the mystery of God’s merciful loving-kindness, when he suffered death and burial for our salvation, and is risen for our hope of eternal life. During Holy Week, we do not only observe what happened in history, but through our acts of repentance, our prayers and fasting, our processions and veneration, take an active part in what we remember as having happened and what is happening now through divine remembrance. We die in Christ and rise in the fullness of Life.” -Fr. David M. Petras, *2020 Typicon*, p. 28.

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THE LIFE OF
ST. MARY
OF
EGYPT

∞
manymercies.blogspot.com



MARY WAS FROM EGYPT, AND SHE LIVED A LIFE OF SHAME. ONE DAY SHE GOT ON A BOAT TO GO TO JERUSALEM.

SHE WANTED TO GO IN THE CHURCH TO SEE THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS...

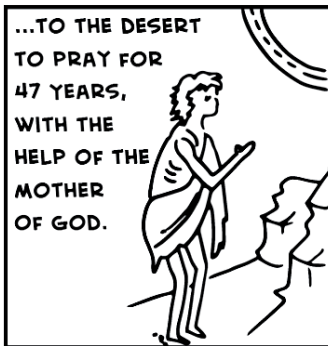


...BUT SHE COULDN'T GO IN! SHE SAW AN ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, AND WEPT FOR ALL HER SINS.

SHE HEARD A VOICE FROM THE HEAVENS...

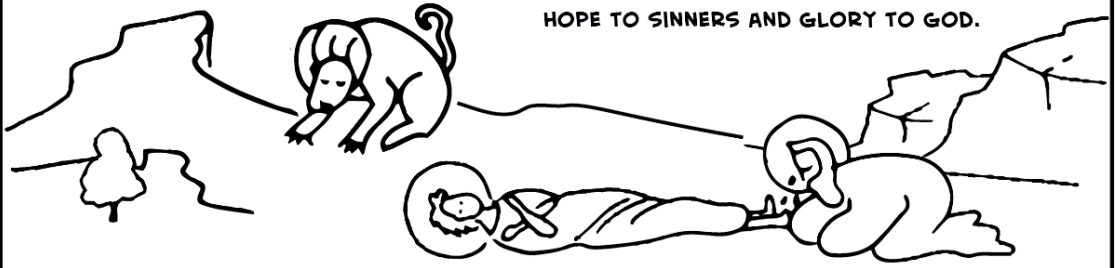


...SO SHE WENT ACROSS THE JORDAN...



SHE MET FR. ZOSIMAS IN THE DESERT. WHEN HE BROUGHT HER HOLY COMMUNION SHE WALKED ACROSS THE JORDAN AS ON DRY LAND.

WHEN ST. MARY REPOSED, FR. ZOSIMAS COVERED HER FEET WITH HIS TEARS, AND A LION DUG HER GRAVE. LATER, FR. ZOSIMAS TOLD HER STORY TO OTHERS, BRINGING HOPE TO SINNERS AND GLORY TO GOD.



HOLY ST. MARY OF EGYPT, PRAY TO GOD FOR US!

Annual Stewardship Appeal

As we move closer to the great Feast of Pascha, we continue in our process to identify the many gifts given to us by God, and ponder the ways in which we can respond to His generosity. Please remember the annual Stewardship Appeal as you prepare for the upcoming Feast of Pascha.

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 February, 31 contributors have donated \$4,650 and pledged \$4,720.

Thank you!

We need to raise another \$4,480.

Please remember to complete your Stewardship Appeal pledge and payments to the Eparchy's chancery office.



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 Yatchko
Helen Yatchko

& 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 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 22nd was **6**. Average Sunday attendance \approx **57**

Devote yourselves “to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

COLLECTION

The collection for March 22nd was **\$1556.25**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1394.62**

Sunday: \$1148; Holy Day: \$15; Candles: \$50; Flowers: \$10; Fuel: \$10; Online: \$323.25

“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