

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101

April 4th, 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

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.

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.

HOLY WEEK ALTERATIONS

On Palm (Flowery) Sunday, I will bless pussy willows and palms in the church at Matins. I will leave these in the narthex of church for any who would like to come and take them. The church will be open from noon to 8pm for private prayer and for this purpose. I will also leave the palms and pussywillows in the narthex throughout the week.

The service of Holy Anointing which we customarily celebrate on the evening of Holy Wednesday will be postponed until after this pandemic has ended. Bishop Milan wants us all to remember also that this holy anointing must be preceded by a recent confession.

I am still available for confession at the times indicated below or by appointment. If you are prudently unable to go to confession at this time, confess and express your sorrow for your sins to the Lord and prayerfully resolve to go to confession as soon as it becomes prudent. We are forgiven the moment we repent, which includes the intention to confess.

On Great & Holy Friday, the church will be open for the guarding of the tomb from 6pm to midnight. (Please no more than 10 people in the church at a time and remain at least 6 feet away from each other. If an eleventh person comes in, the person who has been in the longest should leave at that time to allow others the opportunity to pray. You may venerate the shroud by prostrating before it, but without kissing it.

Because the liturgical services of Holy Week are not public this year, I see no reason to schedule them according to when people would come rather than following the traditional schedule given in the Triodion. So, this is what I'm doing. This is an opportunity for us to learn about and experience the the traditional Holy Week schedule. After each service live-streams, it will be posted as a video, so you can follow along with it at whatever time is best for you.

If you would like to have your Easter basket blessed, you can bring it to the parking lot of St. Stephen's at 10am on Pascha and remain in your cars with your baskets. I will say the blessings and then go around with holy water, keeping a good distance while doing so. Alternatively, you can ask the Lord's blessing upon your Easter foods and sprinkle them with holy water at home.

LITURGICAL SERVICE TIMES

(All public services are cancelled through and including May 3rd, 2020)

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.

8:00am Live stream of Matins with the Blessing of Palms & Pussywillows

10:00am Live stream of 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)

Monday, April 6, 2020



GREAT & HOLY MONDAY. Our Holy Fr. Eutyches, Archbishop of Constantinople (582).

✦ The Passing of our Holy Father Methodius, Teacher of the Slavs (885).

Matins Gospel: Matthew 21:18-43. *Third Hour:* Matthew 1:1-16:12.

Sixth Hour: Ezekiel 1:1-20 • Matthew 16:13-28:20. *Ninth Hour:* Mark 1:1-9:16.

Vespers: Exodus 1:1-20 • Job 1:1-12. *Presanctified Liturgy:* Matthew 24:3-35.

7:00am Live stream of Bridegroom Matins

5:45-6:15pm Confessions

7:00pm Live stream of Presanctified Divine Liturgy

+Fr. John Kurty, from Char Bonacor & Ceil Burja

Tuesday, April 7, 2020



GREAT & HOLY TUESDAY. Our Venerable Father George, Bishop of Mitylene (816).

Matins Gospel: Matthew 22:15-23:39. *Third Hour:* Mark 9:17-16:20.

Sixth Hour: Ezekiel 1:21-2:1 • Luke 1:1-8:39. *Ninth Hour:* Luke 8:40-16:18.

Vespers: Exodus 2:5-10 • Job 1:13-22 *Presanctified Liturgy:* Matthew 24:36-26:2.

7:00am Live stream of Bridegroom Matins

5:45-6:15pm Confessions

7:00pm Live stream of Presanctified Divine Liturgy

intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt

Wednesday, April 8, 2020



GREAT & HOLY WEDNESDAY.

The Holy Apostles Herodian, Agabus, Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon, and Hermes.

Matins Gospel: John 12:17-50. *Third Hour:* Luke 16:19-24:53.

Sixth Hour: Ezekiel 2:3-3:3 • John 1:1-7:36. *Ninth Hour:* John 7:37-13:32.

Vespers: Exodus 2:11-22 • Job 2:1-10. *Presanctified Liturgy:* Matthew 26:6-16.

7:00am Live stream of Bridegroom Matins

5:45-6:15pm *Confessions*

7:00pm Live stream of Presanctified Divine Liturgy

intention of George Durisin, from Jane Semak

Thursday, April 9, 2020



GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY. The Holy Martyr Euphychius (c. 362).

Matins Gospel: Luke 22:1-39. *First Hour:* Jeremiah 11:18-12:5, 9-11, 14-15.

Vespers: Exodus 19:10-19 • Job 38:1-23; 42:1-5 • Isaiah 50:4-11. 1 Corinthians 11:23-32.

Composite Gospel: Matt. 26:1-20; John 13:3-17; Matt. 26:21-39; Luke 22:43-45; Matt. 26:40-27:2.

1:00am Live stream of Matins

2:00pm Live stream of Vespers with Divine Liturgy of Basil

5:45-6:15pm *Confessions*

8:00pm Live stream of Strasti – Matins for Great & Holy Friday

Friday, April 10, 2020



GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY. The Holy Martyrs Terence, Pompey, & their Companions (250).

Matins: The Twelve Passion Gospels: (1) John 13:31b-18:1 • (2) John 18:1-28 • (3) Matt. 26:57-75 • (4) John 18:28-19:16 • (5) Matthew 27:3-32 • (6) Mark 15:16-32a • (7) Matthew 27:33-54 •

(8) Luke 23:32-49 • (9) John 19:25-37 • (10) Mk 15:43-47 • (11) Jn 19:38-42 • (12) Matt 27:62-66.

First Hour: Zachariah 11:10-13 • Galatians 6:14-18 • Matthew 27:1-56.

Third Hour: Isaiah 50:4-11 • Romans 5:6-11 • Mark 15:16-41.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 52:13-54:1 • Hebrews 2:11-18 • Luke 23:32-49.

Ninth Hour: Jeremiah 11:18-12:5, 9-11, 14-15 • Hebrews 10:19-31 • John 18:28-19:37.

Vespers: Exodus 33:11-23 • Job 42:12-17 • Isaiah 52:13-54:1 •

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2 • *Composite Gospel:* Matthew 27:1-38; Luke 23:39-43; Matthew 27:39-54; John 19:31-37; Matthew 27:55-61.

8:00am Live stream of Royal Hours

2pm – 3pm *Confessions*

4:00pm Live stream of Burial Vespers

Saturday, April 11, 2020



GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY. Holy Martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum in Asia (c. 92).

Matins: Ezekiel 37:1-14 • 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8, Galatians 3:13-14 • Matthew 27:62-66.

Vespers: (1) Genesis 1:1-13 • (2) Isaiah 60:1-16 • (3) Exodus 12:1-11 • (4) Jonah 1:1-4:11 •

(5) Joshua 5:10-15 • (6) Exodus 13:20-15:19 • (7) Zephaniah 3:8-15 • (8) 1 [3] Kings 17:8-24 •

(9) Isaiah 61:10b-62:5 • (10) Genesis 22:1-18 • (11) Isaiah 61:1-10a • (12) 2 [4] Kings 4:8-37 •

(13) Isaiah 63:11-64:5 • (14) Jeremiah 31:31-34 • (15) Daniel 3:1-88 (LXX)

Romans 6:3-11. Matthew 28:1-20.

1:00am Live stream of Jerusalem Matins

2pm – 3pm *Confessions*

4:00pm Live stream of Vespers & Divine Liturgy for Great & Holy Saturday –
The Paschal Vigil

11:30pm Live stream of Midnight Office of Pascha

Sunday, April 12, 2020

⊕ PASCHA. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Bishop of Parium (735).

Acts 1:1-8. John 1:1-17.

Midnight Live stream of Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy - *for the people of the parish*

+Fr. John Kurty, from Char Bonacor & Ceil Burja (4-6)

intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt (4-7)

intention of George Durisin, from Jane Semak (4-8)

10:00am Easter Basket Blessing in the Parking Lot

Remain in your cars with your baskets. I will say the blessings and then go around with holy water, keeping a good distance while doing so. Alternatively, you can ask the Lord's blessing upon your Easter foods and sprinkle them with holy water at home.

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, wine and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, eggs, or fish)



by tradition, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, or eggs)



by tradition, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat)



THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PARMA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Prot. No. 44/2020 L
March 31, 2020

DECREE

I, Bishop Milan Lach, S.J. **dispense all the faithful of the Eparchy of Parma from the obligation of attending Sunday Divine Liturgies effective today through, and including, May 3, 2020.** You are not dispensed from prayer on Sunday, the day of prayer and rest.

After the consultation of the Catholic Bishops of Ohio and respectful of the President of the United States extending his recommendations to “stay at home” until April 30, 2020, I am convinced that this is a very prudent decision at this time. Continue to abide by the laws and rulings of your particular State, County, and Municipality.

Divine services will continue to be livestreamed at <http://parma.org/live> or may be available through your parish website. All Sunday and weekday services and activities remain suspended for the public. Please know that the priests are celebrating these services privately and praying for you. Baptisms, funerals, and weddings can be celebrated with the immediate family only. 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.

Please continue to remember the financial needs of your particular parish at this time. If you are able to support your parish, you may mail in your contribution to your parish directly or you can ask your priest about other ways you can give.

Brothers and sisters, I know that this decision will be discouraging for many of you but I ask you to keep faith and hope during this most difficult time. Pray for those who are infected and dying from this virus in our country and throughout the world. Please also pray for the health care workers and our government, as they work to protect our lives.

Yours in Christ,

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

Notary

Public 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 confession times are NOT cancelled. You may also contact me for an appointment.

Holy Week Times:

Monday through Thursday: 5:45pm – 6:15pm

Friday & Saturday: 2pm – 3pm

Personal Prayer

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

Palm Sunday: Noon – 8pm

Great & Holy Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday: 9am – 6:15pm

Great & Holy Thursday: 7am – 1pm; 5pm – 7pm

Great & Holy Friday: 2pm – 3pm; 6pm – midnight (guarding the tomb)

Great & Holy Saturday: 7am – 3pm

Pascha: 7am – 6pm

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

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2020

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 5th <small>GREAT WEEK BEGINS</small>	 <small>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</small> 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 <small>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</small> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 12th NO FASTING!	 <small>BRIGHT WEEK</small> 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!



We are now in our final month for the 2020 Stewardship Appeal.

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. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and thanks to everyone for their contributions. We hope to finish this year's campaign strong! If you haven't pledged yet, please do so today! Visit us online at parma.org/2020appeal to make your monthly or one-time donation.

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

As of the end of March, 34 contributors have donated \$5606.50 and pledged \$5,666.50.

Thank you!

We're 61% toward our goal.

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
 Brett Reardon

Mary Polifko
 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 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 29th was **6**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **56**

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

COLLECTION

The collection for March 29th was **\$819.10**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1387.94**

Sunday: \$760; Online: \$59.10

“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