



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

September 13th, 2020

313-382-5901

website: saintstephenbyzantine.church

Priest: Rev. John R.P. Russell, M.Div.
cell phone: 412-378-0308
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Deacon: Rev. Deacon Lawrence Hendricks

Cantors: Pani Mary Hendricks, Theresa Szatkowski



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

September Reflection

The Tree of Life & the Holy Eucharist

By Fr. Hezekias Carnazzo



What does the Bible teach regarding the Holy Eucharist? Why is it that Jesus teaches us that we must eat his flesh and drink his blood in order to have eternal life?

In order to understand our Lord's words in the Gospel of John, that we must "eat [his] flesh and drink [his] blood," it is necessary that we reflect on the plan of God in the beginning, the plan of God for man as he placed him in the Garden of Eden (Jn. 6:53). What was this plan? Recall, that God planted two trees in the midst of the Garden, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the Tree of Life (cf. Gen 2:9). God instructed Adam and Eve not eat from the Tree of Knowledge, for in the day that they ate of it, God warned, they would surely die (cf. Gen 2:17), but of the Tree of Life, man could freely eat, and through eating of it, man would receive "eternal life," that is, the life of God (cf. Gen. 2:16, 3:22).

It was God's plan to share his own life with his creation, and in the Tree of Life, God offered to man a communication, a participation, in the fullness of divinity. It was God's plan in the Garden of Eden for man to eat the Life of God by way of a created material tree. But Adam and Eve traded life for death and forsook the great gift of the Tree of Life. They ate from the Tree of Knowledge in disobedience to God's command and discovered, to their misery, the curse of death. The Sacred Scriptures tell us that man was cast forth from the Garden of Eden for one reason, "lest he put forth his hand and take also from the Tree of Life, and eat, and **live forever**" (Gen 3: 22).

Saint Ephrem the Syrian explains, 'If man had eaten from the tree of life in the state of fallen human nature, it would have made that state eternal, and man would have lived eternally in death, separated from his God.' Thus, God in his mercy separated man from his source of salvation, the Tree of Life, because what was made good for man had, through disobedience, become his downfall. But God does not change, and thus his plan remains for mankind to share in his own eternal life, through the tree of life.

In the fullness of time, God sent his only Son to save the world and restore man to his original state. It is to be expected, therefore, that we find on the lips of the One who was sent to reverse the curse of the Fall the words of our salvation 'eat, and you will **live forever**' (cf. Jn 6:48-59). On the mountain of Calvary, God devised a way to replant the Tree of Life and hanging upon that tree, the tree of the cross, we behold the fruit of our salvation, the flesh of the Son of God. In the Orthodox Catholic Church, the "Tree of Life" is planted in the midst of the Garden of the Faithful and each Divine Liturgy the people of God eat from this tree for their eternal salvation.

Let us approach with fear of God, with faith and with love and come to the Giver the Life and receive the fruit of the Tree of Life and eat our salvation in the Garden of the Most High.

Church Cleaning

We have resumed our regular weekly rotation of church cleaning. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church. Please sign up for any week you're available to clean. Thank you to Louise Dalbo for cleaning last week. Betty Sutyak & Leann Osentoski have signed up to clean this week.



God With Us
✠ ONLINE ✠
— at —
EASTERN CATHOLIC.ORG

GOD WITH US ONLINE is a collaborative outreach of the Eastern Catholic bishops and eparchies of the United States to provide educational resources for the faithful in our Eastern Christian traditions.

Go to **EASTERN CATHOLIC.ORG** to find many excellent talks, the opportunity to sign up for live educational webinars and other resources! *All resources are offered free of charge.*

Public Liturgical Services

Our liturgical services are open to the public. There is still no obligation to attend.

Whenever you do not pray the Divine Liturgy, it is traditional to pray the Typika instead. We are also encouraged to pray Vespers, Matins, the Hours, and other services at home. 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 continue to live stream our liturgical services:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintStephenByzantineCatholicChurch>

LITURGICAL SERVICE TIMES

Sunday & Saturday morning at 10:00am

Wednesday & Friday evening at 7:00pm

Saturday, September 12, 2020

Leave-taking of the Nativity of the Theotokos.

Saturday before the Exaltation of the Cross. Holy Bishop-Martyr Autonomus (c. 300).

for the Cross: 1 Corinthians 2:6-9. Matthew 10:37-11:1.

(for the day: 1 Corinthians 4:17-5:5. Matthew 24:1-13).

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Bertha & +John Grega, from Debra Grega

4:00pm Great Vespers *for Sunday – followed by Confessions*

Sunday, September 13, 2020

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Tone 6

Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection of our Lord in Jerusalem (335).

The Holy Bishop-Martyr Cornelius.

Vespers: 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30 • Proverbs 3:19-34 • Proverbs 9:1-11.

4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:1-12.

for the Cross: Galatians 6:11-18. John 3:13-17.

(for the day: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15. Matthew 22:35-46).

8:00am Sunday Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy - *for the people of the parish* Reader: Debra Grega

health of Fr. Larry Richards (9-8)

intention of Br. Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt (9-10)

+Bertha & +John Grega, from Debra Grega (9-12)

+Charles & +Mary Burja, from their children (9-29)

12:00pm All-Night Vigil *for the ☩ EXALTATION OF THE CROSS*

Monday, September 14, 2020



⊕ THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS.

The Passing of our Holy Father John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople.

Vespers: Exodus 15:22-16:1 • Proverbs 3:11-18 • Isaiah 60:11-16.

Matins Gospel: John 12:28-36.

for the Cross: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24. John 19:6-11, 13-21, 25-27, 30-35.

(for the day: Galatians 4:28-5:10. Mark 6:54-7:8a).

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for the ⊕ EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

+Melvyn & +Josefa Marron, from Sarah Marron

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

⊗ Post-festive Day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Holy Great Martyr Nicetas (372). Venerable Fr. Symeon, Archbishop of Thessalonica.

Galatians 5:11-21. Mark 7:5-16.

9:30am First & Third Hour

Wednesday, September 16, 2020



⊗ Post-festive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. Holy Great Martyr Euphemia (303).

Galatians 6:2-10. Mark 7:14-24a.

9:30am First & Third Hour

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy

Intention of Laura Gazdecki, from Judith Ng

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Post-festive Day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Holy Martyr Sophia (Wisdom) & her three Children, Faith, Hope, & Charity (c. 137).

Ephesians 1:1-9. Mark 7:24-30.

8:00 pm Online Presentation by Robin Darling Young on

Christ, the Lover of Mankind.

<http://lumenchristi.org/event/2020/9/Christ-Lover-of-Mankind>

Friday, September 18, 2020



Post-festive Day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Our Venerable Fr. Eumenius the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Gortyna (7th Century).

Ephesians 1:7-17. Mark 8:1-10.

9:30am First & Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Frank & +Mary Kovtun & +John & +Maria, &

+John & +Mary, from the family & Maryalice Lukas

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers

Saturday, September 19, 2020

Saturday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius, and Dorymedont (c. 227).

for the Cross: 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. John 8:21-30.

(for the day: 1 Corinthians 10:23-28. Matthew 24:34-44).

10:00am Divine Liturgy

in thanksgiving for 50 years of marriage – Michael & Mary Camillieri

4:00pm Great Vespers *for Sunday – followed by Confessions*

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Catechetical Sunday

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Tone 7

The Holy Martyr Eustace and his Companions (118).

Holy Martyrs & Confessors, Great Prince Michael & his Counselor Theodore, Wonder-workers of Chernigov (1244).

5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:12-35.

for the Cross: Galatians 2:16-20. Mark 8:34-9:1.

(for the day: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10. Matthew 25:14-30).

8:00am Sunday Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

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

+Frank & +Mary Kovtun; +John & +Maria, &

+John & +Mary, from the family & Maryalice Lukas (9-18)

+Melvyn & +Josefa Marron, from Sarah Marron (9-14)

intention of Laura Gazdecki, from Judith Ng (9-16)

in thanksgiving for 50 years of marriage – Michael & Mary Camillieri (9-19)

12:00pm Vespers

Monday, September 21, 2020

Leave-taking of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Holy Apostle Quadratus of Magnesia (c. 130).
Ephesians 1:22-2:3. Luke 3:19-22.

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

The Holy Martyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope (103). The Holy Prophet Jonah.
Ven. Fr. Jonah the Priest, Father of Theophane the Hymnographer & Theodore the Artist (9th C.).
Today we also commemorate the Holy Apostle Quadratus, because of the Leavetaking yesterday.
Ephesians 2:19-3:7. Luke 3:23-4:1.

Wednesday, September 23, 2020



⊗. The Conception of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John.
for John: Galatians 4:22-31. Luke 1:5-25.

(for the day: Ephesians 3:8-21. Luke 4:1-15).

7:00pm Vespers – Reader Service

Thursday, September 24, 2020

⊗ The Holy Protomartyr among Women, and Equal to the Apostles, Thecla (51).
Ephesians 4:14-19. Luke 4:16-22a.

8:00 p.m. Online Presentation by Alexander Laschuk on
Eastern Churches in Latin Territories.

<http://lumenchristi.org/event/2020/9/Eastern-Catholic-Diaspora>

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)

LUMEN CHRISTI INSTITUTE

presents

Eastern Catholic Theology in Action

The 23 Eastern Catholic Churches are distinct in their liturgy, theology, spirituality, and discipline of Church life. The Second Vatican Council urged the Eastern Catholic Churches to cultivate and promote their unique share of the tradition. This series responds to that mandate and features leading scholars in the field to offer their theological perspectives drawn from the wisdom of Christian East. In view of broadening our understanding of the Catholic intellectual tradition, this series draws attention to the vantage points of Christians who worship, think, and pray in continuity with the first 1,000 years of the undivided Church.

<http://lumenchristi.org/>

Series Lectures

Thursday, September 17, 8 p.m.

Christ the Lover of Mankind: Philanthropia, Mystery, and Martyria in Eastern Christianity

| Robin Darling Young (Catholic University of America)

<http://lumenchristi.org/event/2020/9/Christ-Lover-of-Mankind>

Thursday, September 24, 8 p.m.

Eastern Churches, Latin Territories: Ecclesial Catholicity and the Notion of Diaspora

| Alexander Laschuk (Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at University of St. Michael's College)

<http://lumenchristi.org/event/2020/9/Eastern-Catholic-Diaspora>

Thursday, October 1, 8 p.m.

Expanding the Archive: Syriac Literature and the Study of Early Christianity Today

| Erin Walsh (University of Chicago)

<http://lumenchristi.org/event/2020/10/expanding-archive-syriac-literature-study-of-early-christianity-today-erin-walsh>

Thursday, November 12, 8 p.m. CDT

Quo Vadis: the Direction of Eastern Catholic Theology, a Pastoral Perspective for the 21st Century

| Archbishop Borys Gudziak (Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA)

<http://lumenchristi.org/event/2020/11/Quo-Vadis-Eastern-Catholic-Theology>



GOD WITH US

The Art of Catechesis in the Orthodox Tradition

Rev. David Anderson

Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21 and 28 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET

As an old saying goes, the law of prayer is the law of belief. The foundation and authority of Orthodox Catholic catechesis is and always has been the Divine Liturgy of the Church. Rooted in prayer and looking to the Lord, we discover the Orthodox Faith in the face of Christ.



CROWNED WITH GLORY

Understanding the Marriage Covenant

Rev. Stephen Freeman

Wednesday, November 11 @ 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. ET

"The love of husband and wife is the force that welds society together... Because when harmony prevails, the children are raised well, the household is kept in order, and neighbors, friends, and relatives praise the result. Great benefits, both of families and states, are produced. When it is otherwise, however, everything is thrown into confusion and turned upside-down." - St. John Chrysostom



SEVEN AGES OF THE KINGDOM

A Study of Salvation History

Rev. Daniel Dozier

Mondays, November 30, December 7 & 14 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET

The Church as God's Holy People is at the heart of His unfolding plan of salvation that is ultimately fulfilled in Christ. Join us as we explore how this plan for a universal covenant kingdom unfolds in Scripture through particular stages in the history of God's People.



PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE

A Patristic Study of Deification

Rev. Nathan Symeon Adams

Wednesdays, January 13, 20, & 27 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET

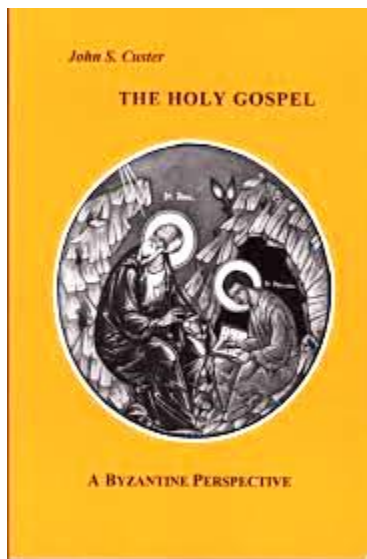
God has called his people to become partakers of His Divine Nature (2 Peter 1:4). Join us for this three-part series as we explore this process of participating in the Sacramental and moral life of Christ by which each individual and the whole Church are transformed into the mystical body of Christ.

All courses are offered as live webinars, free of charge. Live participation is highly encouraged for a full experience, including opportunities for discussion with fellow students and instructors.

For those unable to participate live, lectures are recorded and available on-demand, free of charge, in our event library, currently offering many hours of adult faith formation in the Eastern Christian tradition.

Register at EasternCatholic.org/Events

Byzantine Book Club



The Book Club will begin discussing *The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective* by Fr. Jack Custer on **September 28th at 7pm**. This book is a great introduction to the study of the Gospels employing the perspective of the Greek Fathers and the liturgical usage of the Byzantine churches with reference to some conclusions of contemporary scholarship. We have books available for any who would like to participate.

Fr. Deacon Lawrence & Pani Mary host the Byzantine Book Club from their home. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, they have been hosting the meeting through Google Hangouts through the following link: <https://meet.google.com/eyn-qwkv-vrh?authuser=0>

The Bridegroom's Banquet

Save the date for Christ the Bridgroom Monastery's annual benefit dinner, the "Bridegroom's Banquet," on **Saturday, November 7**, at a new location: St. Elias Melkite Catholic Church in Cleveland. There is no cost to attend the dinner, but **registration is required (by October 26)**. Adults 21 and older may attend. Enjoy a buffet dinner, entertainment, and an evening with the nuns and their guests. Learn more about and support the nuns and their life of prayer and hospitality. Donations given at the event or designated ahead of time will be doubled by matching donors! If an in-person event is not possible, a live online event may be held. For more information or to register, please visit www.christthebridegroom.org or call 440-834-0290.

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 have donated \$286 to the Catholic Home Missions, which also benefits the Eparchy of Parma. – Thank you!

Since our last contributions,

the Church in Central & Eastern Europe, we have collected \$119
for the retirement of our religious sisters, we have collected \$322
for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, we have collected \$138
for Peter's Pence, we have collected \$125

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance on September 6th was **37**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **44**

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

COLLECTION – *Thank you for supporting your parish.*

The collection for September 6th was **\$969.50**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1404.64**

Sunday: \$627; Candles: \$136.50; Holy Day: \$130, Children: \$1; Fuel: \$25; Online: \$50

“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