



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

December 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

Cantor: Pani Mary Hendricks

Director of Evangelization: Carson Daniel Lauffer



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, 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

LITURGICAL SERVICE TIMES

Sunday & Saturday morning at 10:00am

Wednesday & Friday evening at 7:00pm

Saturday, December 12, 2020



✙ Our Lady of Guadalupe (1591).

✙ Our Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus.

Vespers Paramia: Genesis 28: 10-17 • Ezekiel 43:27 - 44:4 • Proverbs 9: 1-11.

Matins Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

for Guadalupe: Hebrews 9:1-7. Luke 1:39-56.

(for the day: Ephesians 1:16-23. Luke 13:18-29).

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy

health of Michael Rosen, from Ceil & Char

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

Sunday, December 13, 2020



SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. Tone 3

✙ The Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes.

The Holy Virgin Martyr Lucy. Our Holy Father Herman of Alaska.

Vespers Paramia: Isaiah 43:9-14 • Wisdom 3:1-9 • Wisdom 5:15-6:3.

6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:36-53.

Colossians 3:4-11. Luke 14:16-24.

8:00am Sunday Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

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

+Irene Hendricks, from Rev. Dcn. Lawrence Hendricks (12-8)

12:30pm Vespers – with prostrations

Monday, December 14, 2020



Day of Alleluia

The Holy Martyrs Thrysus, Leucas, Philemon, Appolonius, and Callinicus (2nd Century).

The Blessed Priest and Ascetic Father Nimatulla al-Hardini (Joseph Kassab).

Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19. Mark 8:11-21.

8:00pm Seven Ages of the Kingdom: A Study of Salvation History

<https://godwithusonline.org/events/seven-ages-of-the-kingdom/>

Tuesday, December 15, 2020



The Holy Martyr Eleutherius (120). Our Venerable Father Paul of Latra (950).

⌘. Our Holy Father Stephen, Archbishop of Surozh (c. 775).

Hebrews 4:1-13. Mark 8:22-26.

9:30am First & Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt

7:00pm Vespers – *with prostrations*

Wednesday, December 16, 2020



Day of Alleluia

The Holy Prophet Haggai.

Hebrews 5:11-6:8. Mark 8:30-34.

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy

children of Melvyn & Sarah Marron, from Sarah Marron

Thursday, December 17, 2020



⌘ The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children, Hananiah, Azariah, & Mishael.

Hebrews 7:1-6. Mark 9:10-16.

Friday, December 18, 2020



Day of Alleluia

The Holy Martyr Sebastian and his Companions (287).

Hebrews 7:18-25. Mark 9:33-41.

9:30am First & Third Hour – *with prostrations*

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers

Saturday, December 19, 2020



Saturday of Alleluia

Saturday before the Nativity of the Lord. The Holy Martyr Boniface (290).

Galatians 3:8-12. Luke 13:18-29.

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Manouk (Mike) Mykeloff, from Kathy Mykeloff

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

Sunday, December 20, 2020



THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY. THE SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS. Tone 4

⌘ Pre-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Martyr Ignatius the God-bearer (107).

Vespers Paramia: Genesis 14:14-20 • Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • Deut. 10:14-21.

7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:1-10.

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40. Matthew 1:1-25.

8:00am Sunday Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

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

Reader: Debra Grega

intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt (12-15)

children of Melvyn & Sarah Marron, from Sarah Marron (12-16)

12:30pm Vespers

Monday, December 21, 2020



Pre-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (304).

Hebrews 8:7-13. Mark 9:42-10:1.

Tuesday, December 22, 2020



Pre-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Great Martyr Anastasia (304).

Hebrews 9:8-10, 15-23. Mark 10:2-12.

9:30am The Churching of the Child on the Fortieth Day

followed by First & Third Hour

7:00pm Vespers

Wednesday, December 23, 2020



Pre-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete (250).


Commemoration of the Dedication of the Great Church of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople.

Hebrews 10:1-18. Mark 10:11b-16.

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers

Thursday, December 24, 2020

 *Day of Strict Fast*

Vigil of the Nativity. The Holy Great Martyr Eugenia (262).

First Hour: Micah 5:2-4a; Hebrews 1:1-12; Matthew 1:18-25.

Third Hour: Baruch 3:36-4:4; Galatians 3:23-4:5; Luke 2:1-20.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4, 8-10; Hebrews 1:10-2:3; Matthew 2:1-12.

Ninth Hour: Isaiah 9:6-7; Hebrews 2:11-18; Matthew 2:13-23.

10:00am Royal Hours - in Preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord

Noon: Decorate the Church for Christmas

4:00pm Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for the Nativity

Readers: Ceceilia Hendricks & Carson Daniel Lauffer

6:00pm Holy Supper

9:00pm All-Night Vigil for the Nativity

Friday, December 25, 2020

⊕ THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

Vespers Paramia: Genesis 1:1-13 • Numbers 24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18 • Micah 4:6-7; 5:2-4

• Isaiah 11:1-10 • Baruch 3:35-4:4 • Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45 • Isaiah 9:6-7
• Isaiah 7:10-16a; 8:1-4, 8b-10

At the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil: Hebrews 1:1-12. Luke 2:1-20.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

At the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: Galatians 4:4-7. Matthew 2:1-12.

10:00am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Nativity

+Manouk (Mike) Mykeloff, from Kathy Mykeloff (12-19)

Reader: Victor Jiompkowski

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)

A Word of Encouragement

As the newly appointed director of evangelization, there is something I would like to encourage you to do that will make evangelization part of your life and will be of immense help to your loved ones. One of those ways of helping people is to watch for ways to pray for them. Naturally we pray before God as intercessors but sometimes our family and friends desperately need to hear us praying for them. Why not try this? When someone shares a concern instead of offering your suggestions why not ask them if you could pray for them. Then in simple words standing or seated next to them pray for their concern. You might say “Dear Father you love us more than we can tell. I lift up (name) in his/her time of need. You know how to help him/her in this situation (you may even name the situation). In the precious name of Jesus we pray. Amen.” Even praying “Lord Jesus, help my friend, just now. Amen.” When prayed with a sincere heart this is an act of “bringing good news” to another. That is evangelization. Pray for me, please as we prepare the “Discernment of Spiritual Gifts” event on Meatfare Sunday, February 7, 2021. More about that in my next report.

-Carson Daniel Lauffer
Director of Evangelization
for St. Stephen Parish

December Reflection
Partakers of Mary's flesh in the Eucharistic Theology
of St. Symeon the New Theologian

by Fr. Nathan Symeon Adams

St. Symeon the New Theologian (949–1022 AD) is known for his mystical piety, his explanation of the Divine Light, and also his deep reverence for the Holy Eucharist. Abbott Symeon went so far as to tell his monks “Brothers, never commune without tears.” It is no wonder, for this holy Saint knew that to fully receive all of the benefits of the life giving Eucharist one must be spiritually prepared, discerning the holy from the profane. After all, if the Eucharist is spiritual, only the spiritual man can partake thereof. Only those with a spiritual disposition can receive spiritual nourishment; otherwise it is subjectively only wine and bread for those who don't believe, even as when the Pharisees and Sadducees saw the Word of God incarnate they only experienced him with eyes of unbelief as a mere fishermen.

This emphasis on spirituality and the spiritual nature of the Eucharist does not mean that the Eucharist is not physical! In fact, St. Symeon believed so firmly in the physical nature of the Eucharist that for him to partake of the Eucharist is not only partaking of the incarnate historical Christ, but even to receive of the flesh which gave the incarnate word flesh, the Holy Theotokos. In other words, to partake in the Eucharist is even to partake in the flesh of Mary. By extension, St. Symeon might point out that Mary is not only our adopted mother in Christ, but actually we are her true children, even partaking of her flesh and blood. What is more, he did not see a radical distinction between physicality and spirituality. In keeping with the Biblical tradition, Christ's resurrected body is a spiritual body. Yes, he can eat and drink, but he can also go through walls. Most of all it is an eternal and incorruptible body. The spiritual body of Christ is his resurrected body, a perfected physical body. This is the kind of Eucharistic body the believer receives when he or she partakes in faith, as a spiritual person. This is a foretaste of the good things to come, the blessed hope, the beginning of the spiritual man's promised resurrection.

Nut Rolls for Christmas

The Guild will be preparing Nut Rolls for those who would like them for Christmas. There's a sign up sheet in the back of the Church.

The rolls are \$15 each.

Today (December 13th) is the last day to order!

Pick up on December 20th in the hall. Payment at time of pick up only.



Byzantine Book Club



The Byzantine Book Club will not be meeting until January, so as to allow people to participate in the Seven Ages of the Kingdom Study (*information below*).

The Book Club will next meet on **January 4th at 7pm** and continue discussing *The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective*, which looks at the Gospels from the perspective of the Greek Fathers and the liturgical usage of the Byzantine Churches with reference to 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. You can join through Google Hangouts at the following link:

<https://meet.google.com/eyn-qwkv-vrh?authuser=0>



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.

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

Church Cleaning

Please sign up to clean our church. Sign up for any week you're available to clean and clean the church on any day of that week. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church. Thank you to Fr. Dcn. Lawrence for cleaning this week. Betty Sutyak & Leann Osentoski have signed up to clean this week.





As we continue in this season of preparation for the Nativity, let us keep focus on the coming Feast of the Incarnation and the great gift the Father has given us in His Son, Jesus.

St. Stephen's goal this year is \$7,000. As of December 2nd, 20 contributors have donated \$2,782.25, which puts us at almost 40% toward our goal. If you have not already made your pledge or donation to the Stewardship Appeal, please visit parma.org/2021appeal and consider a donation to the Eparchy to help financially with the many needs we face. Thank you for your generosity!

CHARITABLE GIVING

from St. Stephen Parish

St. Stephen Parish donates \$50 per month to Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry

Since our last contributions,

for 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

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance on December 6^h was **38**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **38**

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 December 6th was **\$3160.50**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1436.07**

Sun.: \$2600; Holy Day: \$75; Children: \$1; Candles: \$39.50; Fuel: \$25; Flowers: \$25; Christmas: \$50; Online: \$345

“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