



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

December 20th, 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

Christ is born! 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

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: Cecilia Hendricks & Carson Daniel Lauffer

6:00pm Holy Supper

9:00pm All-Night Vigil for the Nativity

Friday, December 25, 2020

no fasting

⊕ 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

7:00pm Vespers

Saturday, December 26, 2020

Saturday after the Nativity. ☩. The Synaxis of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

The Holy Martyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis.

1 Timothy 6:11b-16. Matthew 12:15-21. Ephesians 5:1-8. Luke 16:10-15.

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Reader: Victor Jiompkowski

+Stephen L. Kastura, from Kathleen Johnston

4:00pm Great Vespers – *for our Patron St. Stephen & for Sunday*

– *followed by Confessions*

Sunday, December 27, 2020

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY. Tone 5

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY AND JUST JOSEPH THE BETROTHED,
DAVID THE KING, AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF GOD.

⊗ THE HOLY APOSTLE, FIRST MARTYR AND ARCHDEACON STEPHEN.

Our Venerable Fr. & Confessor Theodore, Brother of Theophane the Hymnographer (845).

8th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:11-18.

Galatians 1:11-19 & for Stephen: Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60.

Matthew 2:13-23 & for Stephen: Matthew 21:33-42

8:00am Sunday Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy - *for the people of the parish* Reader: Carson Daniel Lauffer
+Stephen L. Kastura, from Kathleen Johnston (12-26)

12:30pm Vespers

Monday, December 28, 2020

Post-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Twenty thousand Martyrs of Nicomedia (302).

The Blessed Martyr Gregory Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanislaviv (1945).

Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31. Mark 10:46-52.

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

Post-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Innocents killed by Herod in Bethlehem.

Our Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Akimetes (486).

Hebrews 12:25-26, 13:22-25. Mark 11:11-23.

9:30am First & Third Hour

7:00pm Vespers

Wednesday, December 30, 2020 *no fasting*

Post-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Martyr Anysia, Bishop of Thessalonica (406).

The Venerable Zoticus, Priest and Protector of Orphans (4th Century).

James 1:1-18. Mark 11:22b-26.

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy

+Charlie Carter, from Phyllis Humenik

Thursday, December 31, 2020

Leave-taking of the Nativity. Our Venerable Mother Melany of Rome (438).

James 1:19-27. Mark 11:27-33.

5:00pm All-Night Vigil (*Great Vespers & Matins*) &

approx. 7:00pm Divine Liturgy

intention of Laura Gazdecki, from Judith Ng

New Year's Eve

12:15am Moleben of Thanksgiving

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)

Byzantine Book Club

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>

God With Us

✠ ONLINE ✠

FALL / WINTER EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

EASTERN CATHOLIC.ORG



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.

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 Betty Sutyak & Leann Osentoski for cleaning this week. Phyllis & Ceil & Char have signed up to clean this week.



The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord is this week and through the liturgies of the Church we have been called to focus on the miracle of the *Incarnation* in the cave of Bethlehem. God the Father will give us the greatest gift in His Son this Christmas. How are you responding to God's gracious gift to us? How will you show your gratitude for the infant Christ?

As you complete your preparations for the Christmas Feast, please remember the Eparchy of Parma and the Church's many needs by contributing to the annual Stewardship Appeal. 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. Visit parma.org/2021appeal to make your one-time or monthly donation through our secure website. Thank you for your generosity!

CHARITABLE GIVING

from St. Stephen Parish

St. Stephen Parish donates \$50 per month to Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry
We donated \$322 toward the retirement fund of the Basilian Sisters in Uniontown

Since our last contributions,

for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe, we have collected \$119
for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, we have collected \$138

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance on December 13th was **42**. Average Sunday attendance \approx **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 13th was **\$2,222.32**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1444.96**

Sun.: \$465; Children: \$1; Candles: \$71; Fuel: \$20; Flowers: \$65; Online: \$40; Special Donation: \$1560.32

“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