



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

January 3rd, 2021

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

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

Saturday, January 2, 2021

Saturday before Theophany. Pre-festive Day of the Theophany.

Our Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome (335).

1 Timothy 3:14-4:5. Matthew 3:1-11.

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+John, +Maria, +John, & +Mary, from Maryalice Lukas

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

Sunday, January 3, 2021

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY. Tone 6

Pre-festive Day of the Theophany. The Holy Prophet Malachi.

The Holy Martyr Gordius (304). Venerable Mother Genevieve of Paris.

9th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:19-31.

2 Timothy 4:5-8. Mark 1:1-8.

8:00am Sunday Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy with the Baptism of Photina Zoe Russell

- for the people of the parish

Reader: Carson Daniel Lauffer

+Charlie Carter, from Phyllis Humenik (12-30)

intention of Laura Gazdecki, from Judith Ng (12-31)

+John, +Maria, +John, & +Mary, from Maryalice Lukas (1-2)

Akathist to follow the Divine Liturgy

Monday, January 4, 2021

Pre-festive Day of the Theophany. The Synaxis of the Holy Seventy Apostles.

Our Venerable Father Theoctist, Hegumen at Cuomo in Sicily (800).

James 2:14-26. Mark 9:42-10:1.

7:00pm Byzantine Book Club

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

Tuesday, January 5, 2021



Vigil of the Theophany. The Holy Martyrs Theopempt and Theona (c. 350).
Our Venerable Mother Syncletica (4th Century). The Holy Prophet Micah.

1st Hour: Isaiah 35:1-10 • Acts 13:25-33a • Matthew 3:1-11

3rd Hour: Isaiah 1:16-20 • Acts 19:1-8 • Mark 1:1-8

6th Hour: Isaiah 12:3-6 • Romans 6:3-11 • Mark 1:9-15

9th Hour: Isaiah 49:8-15 • Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 • Matthew 3:13-17

10:00am Royal Hours - *in Preparation for Theophany*

6:00pm Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great *for Theophany &*
The Great Blessing of Water

10:00pm All-Night Vigil (*Great Compline & Matins*) *for Theophany*

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 *no fasting*

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

Vespers Paramia: (1) Genesis 1:1-13 • (2) Exodus 14:15-18, 21-23, 27-29a •
(3) Exodus 15:22-16:1a • (4) Joshua 3:7-8, 15-17 • (5) IV [II] Kings 2:6-14 •
(6) IV [II] Kings 5:9-14 • (7) Isaiah 1:16-20 • (8) Genesis 32:1-10a •
(9) Exodus 2:5-10 • (10) Judges 6:36-40 • (11) III [I] Kings 18:30-39 •
(12) IV [II] Kings 2:19-22 • (13) Isaiah 49:8-15
for the Vigil: 1 Corinthians 9:19-27. Luke 3:1-18.

Matins Gospel: Mark 1:9-11

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Matthew 3:13-17

10:00am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom *for Theophany*

Reader: Victor Jiompkowski

Thursday, January 7, 2021

⊗. The Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

for the Synaxis: Acts 19:1-8. John 1:29-34.

(for the day: James 4:7-5:9. Mark 10:17-27).

Friday, January 8, 2021



Post-festive Day of the Theophany. Our Venerable Father George the Chozebite (614).
Our Venerable Mother Dominica (474). Our Holy Father and Confessor Emilian (767).
1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10. Mark 10:23b-32a.

9:30am First & Third Hour

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers

Saturday, January 9, 2021

Saturday after Theophany. Post-festive Day of the Theophany. Holy Martyr Polyeuct (230).
for the Saturday after Theophany: Ephesians 6:10-17. Matthew 4:1-11.

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Joseph Humenik, from Phyllis Humenik

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

Sunday, January 10, 2021

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Tone 7

Our Holy Father Gregory of Nyssa (c. 395). Venerable Dometian, Bishop of Melitene (602).
Our Venerable Father Marcion, Priest and Econome of the Great Church (c. 471).
Our Venerable Father Theophan the Recluse (1894).

10th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 21:1-14.

for the Sunday after Theophany: Ephesians 4:7-13. Matthew 4:12-17.

8:00am Sunday Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy *with the Baptism of Thomas Cassius Sabula*

- for the people of the parish Reader:

+Joseph Humenik, from Phyllis Humenik (1-9)

12:30pm Vespers

Monday, January 11, 2021

Post-festive Day of the Theophany. ✙ Venerable Fr. Theodosius, Founder of the common life (529).

for Theodosius: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15. Matthew 11:27-30.

(for the day: James 2:14-26. Mark 10:46-52).

7:00pm Byzantine Book Club

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

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Post-festive Day of the Theophany. The Holy Martyr Tatiana (c. 227).

James 3:1-10. 1 Peter 3:10-22. Mark 11:11-23. Mark 12:18-27.

9:30am First Third Hour

7:00pm Vespers

Wednesday, January 13, 2021



Post-festive Day of the Theophany. The Holy Martyrs Hermylaous and Stratonicus (c. 309).

Our Venerable Father Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.

James 3:11-4:6. 1 Peter 4:1-11. Mark 11:22b-26. Mark 12:28-37.

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers

8:00pm *PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE: A Patristic Study of Deification*

<https://godwithusonline.org/events/partakers-of-the-divine-nature/>

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Leave-taking of the Theophany. Venerable Frs. martyred by Arabs in Sinai & Raitho (312).

Commemoration of the Passing of the holy Equal-to-the-apostles Nina, Enlightener of the Georgians.

James 4:7-5:9. 1 Peter 4:12-5:5. Mark 11:27-33. Mark 12:38-44.

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>

Jordan Water

We will bless the Jordan water at the 6pm service on **January 5th** for the feast of the Theophany. The Jordan Water will be accessible for all who may wish to drink it or take some to keep in their homes.

This year, I will take certain precautions while blessing the Jordan Water:

- 1) I will wear a mask
- 2) The troitsja and hand cross will be sanitized ahead of time, before they are dipped in the water.
- 3) I will use hand sanitizer right before blessing the water with my hand

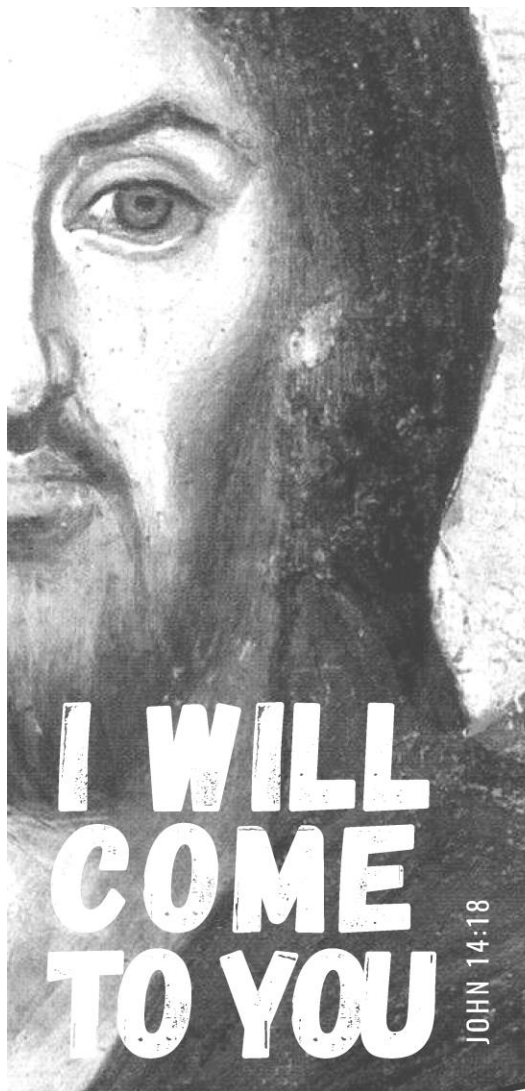
Furthermore, you can bring your own container filled with your own water, and you can this on the tetrapod to be blessed as I also bless the font filled with water. This is an option for those who are more cautious during this time.

from the Consecration of the Jordan Water:

O Loving King, come now and through the descent of the Holy Spirit sanctify this water. Grant it the grace of redemption and the blessing of the Jordan. Make it a fount of incorruptibility, a gift of sanctification, a redemption of sins, a healing potion for illness, and a destroyer of demons. Make it immune to hostile powers, and fill it with angelic power so that all who drink and receive of it may be purified in soul and body, cured of ills, sanctified in their homes, and given every befitting grace.

House Blessings

House blessings will begin on Theophany (January 6th). It is traditional for us all to have our houses blessed with the Jordan Water consecrated on the feast of Theophany. Ideally, House Blessings take place during the postfestive season of Theophany (**from January 6th – 14th**), but other times are also possible. Please let me know if and when I may come bless your house. You may submit your house blessing envelope with dates written on it. Or, you may sign up on the sheets available in the back of the Church. Or, contact me.



**I WILL
COME
TO YOU**

JOHN 14:18

OUR HOST:

Seminarian Candidates
Studying at the
International
Theological Institute
in Trumau, Austria



.....
THE EPARCHY OF PARMA
YOUTH COMMITTEE

INVITES YOU TO OUR

ONLINE **zoom**
YOUTH MEETINGS

.....
GIVE US 45 MINUTES OF YOUR
TIME AND SHARE WITH US
HOW YOU LIVE THE FAITH IN
YOUR YOUTH COMMUNITY

WHEN?

**JANUARY 9, 2021
SATURDAY @ 1PM EST**

DETAILS

**MEETING ID: 861 4184 3557
PASSCODE: 246850**

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86141843557>



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.

MEAT FARE & GIFT DISCERNMENT

Something very special is coming for members of St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church on Meat Fare Sunday. As you know, we Eastern Catholics begin our preparation for Pascha in some very special ways. This year is really special.

Meat Fare Sunday (**February 7, 2021**) is traditionally the last day we eat meat until Pascha. This year, we will have a potluck on Meat Fare Sunday. (Fr. John says, “luck is a heresy” – where he’s from they call this a “pitch-in”). Sign up with what you plan to bring on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule of the church. (Hopefully we get plenty of meat dishes – but also a good variety). We’ll begin our meal around noon.

But then we’ll get to the real “meat” of the event: at around 1pm, we will do a Spiritual Gift Discernment exercise. Dan Lauffer, our Director of Evangelization, will present about spiritual gifts and then we will do a personal gift discernment which will help you discern what the Holy Spirit has gifted you with and will help the Church to understand better what gifts our members have for the upbuilding of the Church.

In preparation, read Romans 12; I Corinthians 12; and Ephesians 4.

Begin now to plan for your favorite foods to offer to our other members and bring them to Church on February 7 for Meat Fare. For further information contact the Church office 313-382-5901 or Director of Evangelization, Carson Daniel Lauffer 248-309-1552 or carsonlauffer0903@comcast.net.

The Eighth Annual Women's Retreat: Our Lord's Mercy

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont, Ohio

Friday, February 19th through Sunday, February 21, 2021
(the first weekend of the Great Fast)

The retreat master is one of Fr. John's spiritual fathers:

Rev. John (Ivan) Freishyn-Chirovsky

Physical distancing and mask-wearing will be observed according to the guidelines of the State of Ohio. The fee is \$200 for a single or \$225 for a single with private bath. More information is available in the pamphlet in the vestibule of the church.

Christmas Flowers Offered

in memory of:

Anthony & Irene Bonacor
John Bonacor
Mr. & Mrs. M. Borella
Stephen Borella
Chuck & Mary Burja
Butella Family
Harry Capron
Michael & Kathryn Druga

Joseph Humenik
Angela Ng
Joseph Sutyak
Andrew Yatcko
Helen Yatcko

& in honor of:

David Capron
Donna Capron



Special Donation from the Greek Catholic Union

Due to the challenges presented by the current pandemic, many parishes are suffering financial hardships. To assist each of the parishes of the Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Church in the United States, the GCU's Board of Directors established at COVID-19 Grant Program. In the true spirit of St. Nicholas, they presented our parish with a grant of \$1,000. Thank you to the GCU!

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 Mary Ann Reardon for cleaning this week. No one has signed up to clean this week.



A blessed Theophany to you! Have you considered your pledge to this year's Stewardship Appeal? The Eparchy of Parma relies on your continued support to provide for our various programs and outreaches.

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.

Please make your pledge today! Visit us online at parma.org/2021appeal to make a donation. 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 Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, we have collected \$138

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance on December 27th was **33**. Average Sunday attendance \approx **36**

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 27th was **\$5,398.05**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1473.22**

Sun.: \$3,565; Children: \$1; Candles: \$27; Fuel: \$20; Fuel: \$40; Holy Day: \$80; Christmas: \$1,260; Online: \$425.05

“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