



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

January 31st, 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



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, January 30, 2021

✙ THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS: BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM. The Holy Bishop-Martyr Hippolytus (235).

Vespers Paramia: Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • Deuteronomy 10:14-21 • Wis. 3:1-9.

Matins Gospel: John 10:9-16.

for the Hierarchs: Hebrews 13:7-16. Matt. 5:14-19. (for the day: 2 Tim 3:1-9. Lk 20:45-21:4).

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Helen Bobovski, from Irene Jane Semak

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

Sunday, January 31, 2021

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. Tone 2

✙ The Holy Wonder-workers and Unmercenary Healers Cyrus and John (311).

Our Holy Father the Priest Don Bosco.

2nd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark 16:1-8.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20. Luke 15:11-32.

8:00am Sunday Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy - for the people of the parish Reader: Carson Daniel Lauffer

+Michael & +Irene Hrubiak, from Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Dennis Hrubiak

+Helen Bobovski, from Irene Jane Semak

12:30pm Vespers

Monday, February 1, 2021

Meatfare Monday. ✙ Pre-festive Day of the Meeting. The Holy Martyr Tryphon (250).

1 John 2:18-3:10a. Mark 11:1-11.

6:00pm Great Vespers &

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for ✙ THE MEETING

for the healing of Alicia Sottile, from JoAnn Humenik

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

⊕ THE MEETING of Our Lord, God & Savior Jesus Christ with Simeon & Anna

Vespers Paramia: Ex 12:51, 13:1-3, 10-16, 22:29; Num 8:16; Lev 12:1-4, 6-8; Num 8:16-17

• Isaiah 6:1-12 • Isaiah 19:1-5, 12, 16, 19-21.

Matins Gospel: Luke 2:25-32.

for the Meeting: Hebrews 7:7-17. Luke 2:22b-40. (for the day: 1 Jn 3:10b-20. Mk 14:10-42).

8:00am Festal Matins for ⊕ THE MEETING

7:00pm Vespers

Wednesday, February 3, 2021



Meatfare Wednesday. ⌘ The Synaxis of the Holy Prophet Simeon & the Prophetess Anna.

for Simeon & Anna: Hebrews 9:11-14. Luke 2:25-38

(for the day: 1 John 3:21-4:6. Mark 14:43-15:1).

6:00pm Confession

6:30pm Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy

+Joseph Humenik, from Phyllis Humenik

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Meatfare Thursday. Post-festive Day of the Meeting. Venerable Fr. Isidore of Pelusium.

1 John 4:20-5:21. Mark 15:1-15.

Friday, February 5, 2021



Meatfare Friday. Post-festive Day of the Meeting. The Holy Martyr Agatha (250).

2 John 1:1-13. Mark 15:22, 25, 33-41.

9:30am First & Third Hour

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers

Saturday, February 6, 2021

Meatfare Saturday. 1st Saturday of Souls. Post-festive Day of the Meeting.
Our Venerable Father Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna (2nd Century).
The Holy Martyr Silvanus, Bishop of Emesa, and his Companions (313).
Our Venerable Father and Confessor Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople.

1 Corinthians 10:23-28 & *for the Souls*: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36 & *for the Souls*: John 5:24-30.

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy followed by a *Panachida* for the Souls

+Melvyn & +Josefa Marron, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, February 7, 2021

MEATFARE SUNDAY. The Sunday of the Last Judgment. Tone 3
Post-festive Day of the Meeting. Our Venerable Fr. Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus (318).
The Passing of the Martyr and Priest Peter Verhun (1957).

3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark 16:9-20.

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2. Matthew 25:31-46.

8:00am Sunday Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

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

for the healing of Alicia Sottile, from JoAnn Humenik (2-1)

+Joseph Humenik, from Phyllis Humenik (2-3)

+Melvyn & +Josefa Marron, from Sarah Marron (2-6)

Divine Liturgy will be followed by the Akathist

Noon: Meatfare Potluck & Gift Discernment in the Hall

Monday, February 8, 2021



Cheesefare Monday. ⑧ Post-festive Day of the Meeting.
The Holy Great Martyr Theodore (318). The Holy Prophet Zechariah.

3 John 1:1-14. Luke 19:29-40; 22:7-39.

7:00pm Byzantine Book Club

meet.google.com/woh-kxmx-pme

Tuesday, February 9, 2021



Cheesefare Tuesday. Leave-taking of the Meeting. The Holy Martyr Nicephor (260).

Jude 1-10. Luke 22:39-42, 45b-23:1.

9:30am First & Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Theresa Bobovsky, from Jane Semak

7:00pm Vespers – *with prostrations*

Wednesday, February 10, 2021



Day of Alleluia

Cheesefare Wednesday. The Holy Martyr Charalampas (203).

6th Hour: Joel 2:12-26. Vespers: Joel 3:12-21.

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy

for all relatives, living & departed, of Judith Ng

Thursday, February 11, 2021



Cheesefare Thursday. The Holy Martyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste (316).

Jude 1:11-25. Luke 23:2-34, 44-56.

8:00pm Falling on our Faces - Byzantine Catholic Theology on Tap

Zoom ID: 834 8312 2138 Passcode: 331765

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)

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; 1 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 Fast of Cheesefare Week

As we continue to prepare for the Great Fast, Cheesefare Week is traditionally a week of fasting from meat. It is called “Cheesefare” because this is our last week of eating dairy until Pascha, so we would traditionally eat or drink all our dairy (and eggs) this week. Cheesefare Week begins **February 8th** (the Monday after Meatfare Sunday) and ends with Cheesefare Sunday on **February 14th**. The forty-days of the Great Fast begin with Clean Monday (**February 15th**).

“Today this fast is considered a part of the Great Fast, a preparation period in which we enter gradually into the asceticism of the Fast. It originated, however, in the Oriental Orthodox (non- Chalcedonian) Churches and was separate from the Great Fast. It was called the Fast of Nineveh, and was observed three weeks before the Great Fast, in what is now the Week after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. The Byzantine Church would not observe it at the same time as those Churches with which it was not in communion and moved it to the week before the Great Fast.” – Fr. David Petras

John S. Custer

THE HOLY GOSPEL



A BYZANTINE PERSPECTIVE

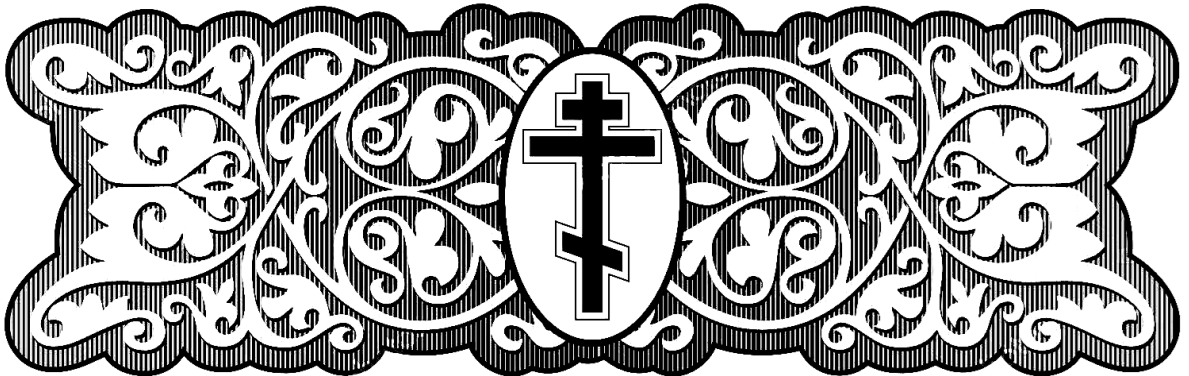
Byzantine Book Club

Our Book Club will next meet on **February 8th at 7pm** and continue discussing *The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective*, by Fr. Jack Custer, (rector of the Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Passaic). The book 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. Copies are available in the narthex.

Fr. Deacon Lawrence & Pani Mary host the Byzantine Book Club from their home. You can join through Google Hangouts at the following link:

meet.google.com/woh-kxmx-pme



02.11.
2021

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC
**THEOLOGY
ON TAP**
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

8PM
EST

HOSTED BY MOTHER GABRIELLA

BRING YOUR FAVORITE DRINK
(BEER, WINE, TEA, CHOCOLATE MILK - WHATEVER)
AND JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL THEOLOGY ON TAP

USE THE QR CODE

- OR THE MAGNIFIER -

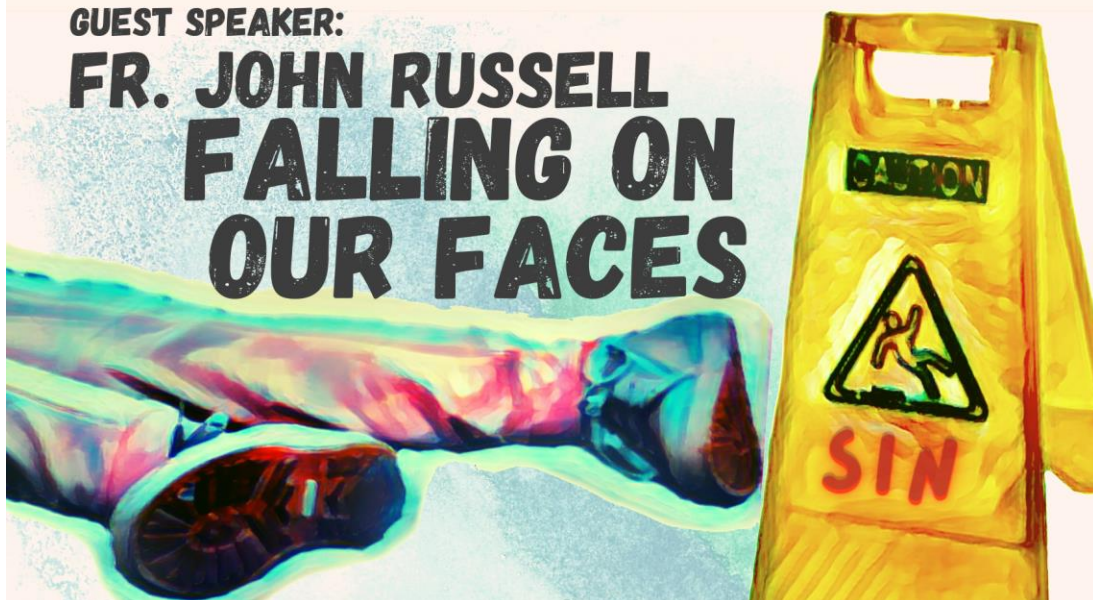
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PASSCODE: 331765



GUEST SPEAKER:

**FR. JOHN RUSSELL
FALLING ON
OUR FACES**



Great & Holy Week

Services & Themes

Why is Great & Holy Week different from every other week in our Church?

What are the services like? Why should we participate in them? What do they mean to us?

Starting on Cheesefare Sunday (**February 14th, 2021**), Fr. John will give a series of brief talks on the services of Great & Holy Week and try to address these questions and more. After the Divine Liturgy for each Sunday of the Great Fast, we will provide simple Lenten food in the hall and Fr. John will give a brief presentation. Questions welcome.



Pysanki Classes

Materials for making pysanki will be available in the hall each Sunday of the Great Fast after the Divine Liturgy. Pani Katie will try to be available with her experience and advice. We also have other knowledgeable and experienced parishioners who may be able to help if needed. Come and learn the ancient Slavic art of wax-resist egg decoration. These are a wonderful and traditional way to beautify your Easter baskets for Pascha! The egg represents the tomb of Christ, from which new life comes.

Pysanky make beautiful gifts and are rich in symbolism. The eggs may be taken to the church on Pascha to be blessed, after which they may be given away. Some may be given to the priest. They may be taken to the cemetery and placed on graves of the family. They may be given to your children or godchildren. They were often exchanged by the unmarried girls with the eligible men in the community. Several were saved to place in the coffin of loved ones who might die during the year. Remember that the eggs symbolize life coming out of the tomb. Young people were traditionally given pysanky with bright designs; dark pysanky were given to older people. A bowl full of pysanky may be kept in every home.

Lenten Sunday Evening Vespers in Ann Arbor

In an effort to reach out to our larger community, we will celebrate our Sunday evening Vespers during the Great Fast in Ann Arbor rather than Allen Park. Please join us there **each Sunday at 7pm**, starting on Cheesefare Sunday (**February 14th**) for Forgiveness Vespers.

Hopefully, this will both enable some people to join us for worship who are not otherwise able and also introduce some new people to the Byzantine Catholic tradition.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Ann Arbor has kindly invited us to celebrate Vespers in their church:

2250 E Stadium Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

<https://www.stfrancisa2.com/>

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 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.



DYING TO SIN

The First Steps in Askesis

Mondays, February 22, March 1 & 8 @ 8 - 9 p.m.

Are we all called to askesis, or asceticism, or is it only the calling of a select few? Join us this Great Lent as we learn from the great ascetics of the Church, discovering how to apply the practice of askesis in our own lives.

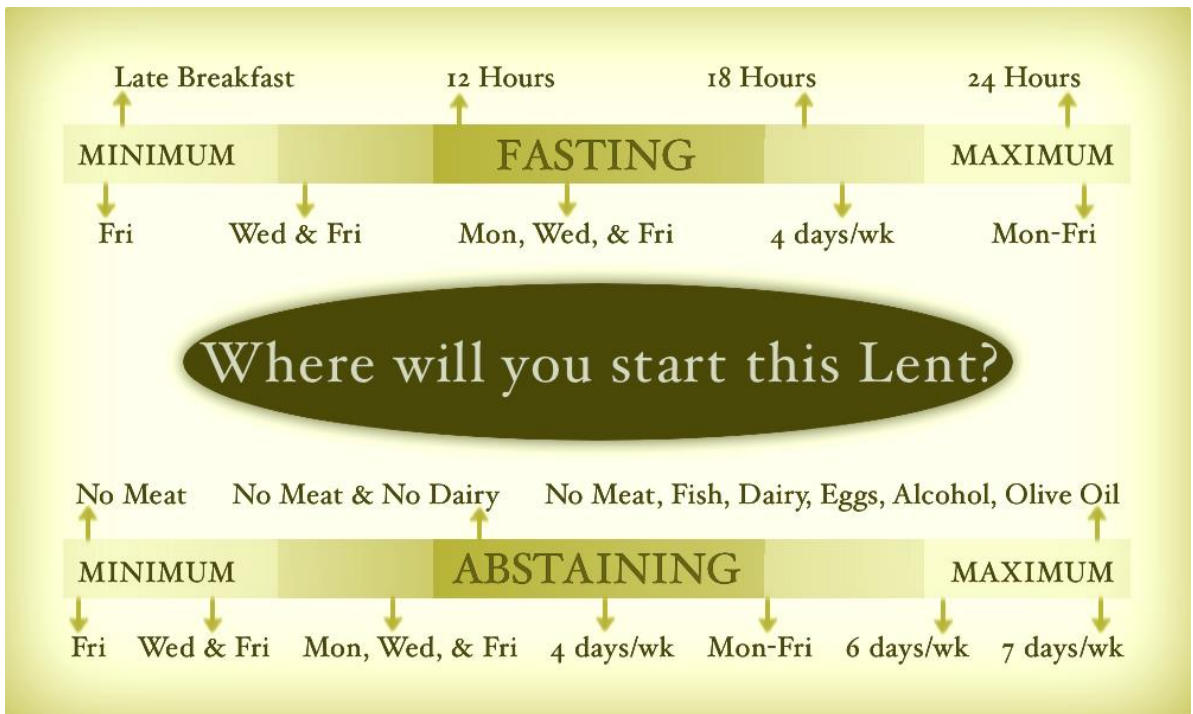
Instructor: Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses serves as a deacon at Our Lady of the Cedars Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Manchester, NH, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He is a graduate of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary and now works as a full time high school theology teacher at Bishop Guertin High School and a per diem chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital, both in nearby Nashua, NH. Some of his written work can be found on Catholic Exchange.



<https://godwithusonline.org/events/dying-to-sin/>

The Catholic Church is a communion of many Churches.

We are in communion with all the other *Byzantine Catholic Churches*, which are the Albanian Greek Catholic Church, the Belarusian Greek Catholic Church, the Bulgarian Greek Catholic Church, the Greek Catholic Church of Croatia and Serbia, the Greek Byzantine Catholic Church, the Hungarian Greek Catholic Church, the Italo-Albanian Catholic Church, the Macedonian Greek Catholic Church, the Melkite Greek Catholic Church, the Romanian Greek Catholic Church, the Russian Greek Catholic Church, the Slovak Greek Catholic Church, and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, *as well as the Alexandrian Catholic Churches*, which are the Coptic Catholic Church, the Eritrean Catholic Church, and the Ethiopian Catholic Church, *as well as the Armenian Catholic Church, as well as the East Syriac Catholic Churches*, which are the Chaldean Catholic Church, and the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, *as well as the West Syriac Catholic Churches*, which are the Maronite Church, the Syriac Catholic Church, and the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, *as well as the Roman Catholic Church.*



What is the Church's teaching on fasting & abstinence?

Following the Lord's teaching, the Church asks the faithful to fast on certain days and to abstain from meat and also from dairy products on certain days.

What is the difference between fasting and abstinence?

Fasting means to go without food or drink for a determined period of time or to limit the amount of food one consumes. Abstinence is to refrain from eating certain foods for a period of time.

Doesn't the Bible teach that, according to the New Covenant, all food is good?

Yes. Referring to foods considered unclean by the Jews, the Lord told the Chief Apostle St. Peter: "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean" (Acts 11:9). In the Old Law, God asked His Chosen People to avoid certain kinds of food altogether. The New Covenant removed these regulations, which were based on dietary precautions. The early Christians were both Jews and Gentiles, and had different dietary customs.

How are the faithful to observe a fast day?

On fast days, we totally abstain from meat and dairy products and take only one full meal. Other meals should be of smaller proportions, like snacks.

Doesn't fasting and abstinence belong to a culture of the past?

No. Christ taught us that certain evils "can only be driven out by prayer and fasting" (Mt 17:21). Self denial and penance are direct teachings of Christ and can never be changed by the Church. Pope John Paul II often asked Catholics to fast for peace and for other important intentions.

Text adapted with appreciation from [St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church's Fasting & Abstinence FAQ](#).



The Visitation Icon

Prayer for Life & an End to Abortion

As a parish, let's pray all year long for life and for an end to abortion.

We have an icon of Mary while she was pregnant with God visiting her cousin Elizabeth while she was pregnant with John the Forerunner. Please sign up to take this icon home with you one week of this year and bring it back the following week to give to another home. While the icon is in your home, may it inspire meditation on the mystery of life and prayer for life and an end to abortion.

- Sunday, January 31st, the Hendricks Family will take home the icon.
- Sunday, February 7th, the Coffey-Burns Family will take home the icon.

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 Nick & Ashley Sabula for cleaning this week. Fr. Dcn. Lawrence has signed up to clean this week.



Annual Stewardship Appeal

We are reminded of how fortunate we are and of the gifts we have received from God. Of course, the most important gift is that of salvation in Jesus Christ. This salvation requires our response with sacrifice, dedication and a sense of shared responsibility for the life of the Church and its mission on earth. Each of us has been given other great gifts – individual gifts such as our time, talents and treasure. Our Lord Jesus Christ asks us to use our gifts for the glory of God. This is the essence of Stewardship: an awareness that everything comes from God and ultimately belongs to God.

St. Stephen's goal this year is \$7,000. As of January 5th, 25 contributors (about 29% of our households) have donated \$3973.75, which puts us at almost 57% toward our goal.

Please consider supporting the Stewardship Appeal today! Visit us online at parma.org/2021appeal to submit your monthly or one-time 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

The Day House Detroit:

As a part of our almsgiving for this Great Fast, let's support the Day House.

The Day House (2640 Trumbull St., Detroit) is a community shelter in the heart of Corktown, following in the tradition of the Catholic Worker movement started by Servant of God Dorothy Day. They provide transitional housing for the destitute and strive to meet the needs of the disadvantaged metro Detroit community, both physical and spiritual.

The Day House Detroit is currently in need of the following: **water bottles, microwave, vacuum cleaner, projector screen, and cash donations.** Please place items, checks or cash for donation in the basket in the narthex. For any further questions, please contact the Day House at (313) 974-7752, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DayHouseDetroit> or Ryan & Catherine Coffey-Burns at rmsijburns@gmail.com.

Special Donations

You will occasionally see special donations listed with our weekly collections information. For example, last week there was a special donation of \$4793.26. Lately, these special donations have been generated from the sale of collectible bills donated to our parish years ago. Thank you so much to Mary Camillieri and Jim Humenik for their help with the sale of these bills! Jim says, "Mary was instrumental at the beginning of the project with guidance and information for me. She was a great person to lean on who had experience with this kind of transaction."

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance on January 24th was **36**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **35**

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 January 24th was **\$1,038.50**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1604.81**

Sun.: \$730; Candles: \$27.50; Children: \$1; Fuel: \$15; Holy Day: \$15; Initial Offering: \$10; Online: \$240

“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