



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

February 21st, 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

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

Sunday, February 21, 2021



FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY.

MEMORY OF THE HOLY PROPHETS. Tone 5

Our Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola (795).

Our Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch (c. 338).

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

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2a. John 1:43-51.

8:00am Sunday Matins

9:45am Procession with the Holy Icons & the Synodikon of Orthodoxy

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

intention of Br. Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt

intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt

for the children of Melvyn & Sarah Marron, from Sarah Marron

In the hall after Divine Liturgy: Simple Food, Pysanky Decorating, Talk on Holy Week Services

7:00pm Vespers in Ann Arbor

2250 E Stadium Blvd Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Monday, February 22, 2021



The Finding of the Venerable Relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 4:2-6; 5:1-7. *Vespers:* Genesis 3:21-4:7 • Proverbs 3:34-4:22.

8:00pm DYING TO SIN: The First Steps in Askesis

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

Tuesday, February 23, 2021



The Holy Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (c. 155).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 5:7-16. *Vespers:* Genesis 4:8-15 • Proverbs 5:1-15.

9:30am First Hour & Terce-Sext

Wednesday, February 24, 2021



✦ The First & Second Finding of the Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, & Baptist John.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 5:16-25. *Vespers:* Genesis 4:16-26 • Proverbs 5:15-6:3.

2 Corinthians 4:6-15. Matthew 11:2-15

5:45pm Confessions

6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Reader: Cecilia Hendricks

+Angela Ng, from Judith Ng

Thursday, February 25, 2021



Our Holy Father Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople (806).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 6:1-12. *Vespers:* Genesis 5:1-24 • Proverbs 6:3-20.

9:30am First Hour & Terce-Sext

Friday, February 26, 2021



Our Holy Father Porphyry, Bishop of Gaza. Holy Great Martyr Photina the Samaritan.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 7:1-14. *Vespers:* Genesis 5:32-6:8 • Proverbs 6:20-7:1.

5:45pm Confessions

6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Reader: Victor Jiomkowski

intention of Laura Gazdecki, from Judith Ng

8:15pm Parastas for All Souls

Saturday, February 27, 2021



Second Saturday of the Great Fast. Souls Saturday.

Our Venerable Fr. & Confessor Procopius the Decapolite. Our Holy Fr. Gregory of Narek.

Hebrews 3:12-16 & for the departed: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Mark 1:35-44 & for the departed: John 5:24-30.

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+John Bonacor, from Mary Lynn Arvantis

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

Sunday, February 28, 2021



SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. ST. GREGORY PALAMAS. Tone 6

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Fellow Ascetic of Procopius (741).

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

Hebrews 1:10-2:3 & for St Gregory: Hebrews 7:26-8:2.

Mark 2:1-12 & for St Gregory: John 10:9-16.

8:00am Sunday Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

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

Reader: Carson Daniel Lauffer

+Angela Ng, from Judith Ng (2-24)

intention of Laura Gazdecki, from Judith Ng (2-26)

+John Bonacor, from Mary Lynn Arvantis (2-27)

In the hall after Divine Liturgy: Simple Food, Pysanky Decorating, Talk on Holy Week Services

7:00pm Vespers - *Reader Service in Ann Arbor*

Monday, March 1, 2021



The Venerable Martyr Eudoxia (2nd Century). Our Holy Fr. David, Enlightener of Wales.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 8:13-9:7. Vespers: Genesis 6:9-22 • Proverbs 8:1-21.

8:00pm DYING TO SIN: The First Steps in Askesis

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

Tuesday, March 2, 2021



The Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrene (302).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 9:9-10:4. Vespers: Genesis 7:1-5 • Proverbs 8:32-9:11.

Wednesday, March 3, 2021



The Holy Martyr Eutropius and his Companions, Cleonicus and Basiliscus (308).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 10:12-20. Vespers: Genesis 7:6-9 • Proverbs 9:12-18.

5:45pm Confessions

6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Reader: Cecilia Hendricks

intention of Br. Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt

Thursday, March 4, 2021



Our Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan (475).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 11:10-12:2. *Vespers:* Genesis 7:11-8:3 • Proverbs 10:1-22.

7:00pm Vespers

Friday, March 5, 2021



The Holy Martyr Conon (251).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 13:2-13. *Vespers:* Genesis 8:4-21 • Proverbs 10:31-11:12.

5:45pm Confessions

6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Reader: Debra Grega

intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt

Saturday, March 6, 2021



Third Saturday of the Great Fast. Souls Saturday. The Holy 42 Martyrs of Ammorium.

Hebrews 10:32-38a & *for the departed:* 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

Mark 2:14-17 & *for the departed:* John 5:24-30.

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Charles & +Mary Burja, from their daughters

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

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)

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA!

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
1st Sunday of Lent		<i>GREAT FAST BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Reading: Hebrews 11: 24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1: 43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent		ST GREGORY PALAMAS Reading: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2: 1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent		VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Reading: Hebrews 4: 14-5: 6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9: 1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent		ST JOHN of the LADDER Reading: Hebrews: 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9: 17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent		ST MARY of EGYPT Reading: Hebrews 9: 11-14 & Heb 2:11-18 Gospel: Mark 10: 32-45 & LK 1:24-38	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY!		<i>.....</i> <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Reading: Philippians 4: 4-9 Gospel: John 12: 1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT WEEK BEGINS			
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY		GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet, & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS!		<i>.....</i> <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1: 1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!
NO FASTING!			

The Commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas

The Second Sunday of Lent is the commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas. It was Saint Gregory (d.1359) who bore living witness that men can become divine through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit; and that even in this life, by prayer and fasting, human beings can become participants of the uncreated light of God's divine glory.

Talks on 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?

Fr. John is giving a series of brief talks on the services of Great & Holy Week 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.



Make Pysanki!

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.

Lenten Sunday Evening Vespers in Ann Arbor

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**. 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/>



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 Ss. 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/>



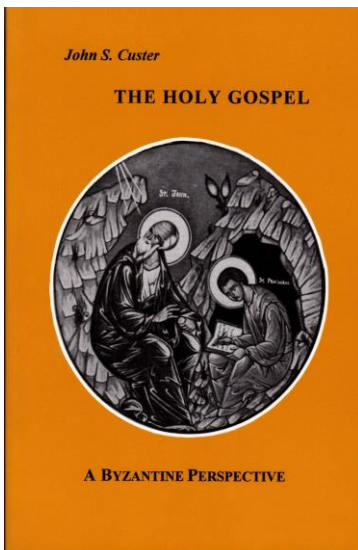
Byzantine Book Club


Our Book Club will next meet on **March 15th 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





COME TO THE BYZANTEEN YOUTH RALLY WITH THE EPARCHY OF PARMA

SOAR AS ON EAGLE'S WINGS
ISAIAH 40:30-31

**JULY 1 - 4, 2021
MOUNT ST. MARY'S
UNIVERSITY**

16300 Old Emmitsburg Road |
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Keynote Address by Superbowl
Champion Matt Birk

More information at www.parma.org

GIFT DISCERNMENT

A couple Sundays ago, we conducted our Gift Discernment in the hall. Many participated and I know that I found it to be a deeply illuminating process. If you didn't get a chance to participate, please watch the video of the presentation on our YouTube channel and do the written exercise which is linked there and on our website. After you have done the exercise, hopefully it will help and inspire you to explore further ways you can serve the Church. -Fr. John

The possibilities are endless, but here are a few ideas:

- **Altar Servers**

- Altar Serving is open to men and to boys in our Church. Some have the wrong idea that this ministry is only for the young. If you would like to serve in the holy altar and learn the various duties and services, please see **Fr. Dcn. Lawrence**.

- **Readers & Cantors**

- If you are able to clearly project your voice and carry a tune, God has blessed you. Consider learning to chant the readings and/or to serve as cantor for the liturgical services. Please see **Pani Mary Hendricks**.

- **Ushers & Greeters**

- To welcome the stranger as you would welcome Christ is indeed an apostolic ministry. Our Ushers and Greeters are usually the first people visitors to our church meet. If God has blessed you with the gift of hospitality, please see **Michael Camilleri** to learn to be an usher and greeter.

- **Evangelists**

- Christ commands us to proclaim his good news to the whole world. To learn more about our efforts to evangelize our neighbors and the community God has given us, and to join in that effort, please see our director of evangelism, **Dan Lauffer**.

There are many other ministries and services, some outlined on the next page. Please pray and consider how you could better serve your Church and contact **Fr. John** with your ideas.

Some Ideas for Serving the Church:

- Leading Reader Services
- Sacristan
 - cleaning and organizing liturgical objects in the sacristy and church
 - setting up for liturgical services
 - decorating the church for feasts, changing liturgical covers.
- Liturgical Prayer (come to the services & pray them)
- Intercessory Prayer
- Gathering & Recording Prayer Requests
- Providing Rides to Church
- Stewardship Committee
- Fundraising
- Advertising
- Hospitality (e.g. organizing socials / events; preparing food)
- Cleaning Church & Hall
- Groundskeeping
- Community Outreach
- Promote, Serve, Coordinate, & Donate for:
 - Summer Picnic
 - (Invite Police, Fire Dept, & Hospitals to have their Cars, Trucks, & Ambulances blessed for St. Elias Day)
 - Trunk-Or-Treat for Hallowe'en
 - Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- Visitation to our homebound
- Care packages and cards for the sick, hospitalized, and homebound
- Catechist for Catechumens
- ECF Teacher for Children or Adults
- Vacation Bible School
- Bible Study
- Byzantine Book Club
- Charitable Work
 - Providing Food, Clothing, Shelter, & Presence to those in need.

Are there other things not listed here that you very much enjoy?

Lenten Chocolate Wacky Cake

submitted by Louise Dalbo

- 3 C. flour
- 2 C. sugar
- 2/3 C. cocoa
- ½ t. salt
- 2 t. baking soda
- 2 t. vinegar
- 2 t. vanilla
- 2/3 C. oil
- 2 C. cold water

Sift flour, sugar, cocoa, salt, and baking soda. Make 3 wells in the sifted ingredients. In one well pour vinegar, in the other pour vanilla, and in the third well pour the oil. Then pour the cold water over all of this and mix. Do this right in the pan that you are baking it in. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Us a 9 x 13 pan.



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, February 21st, Phyllis Humenik will take home the icon.
- Sunday, February 28th, Michael & Mary Camilleri will take home the icon.
- Sunday, March 7th, Cecilia Hendricks will take home the icon.
- Sunday, March 14th, Harrison Capron will take home the icon.
- Sunday, March 21st, Mark Tamisiea will take home the icon.
- Sunday, March 28th, Dan & Chris Lauffer 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 Phyllis, Char & Ceil for cleaning this week. Ryan & Catherine Coffey-Burns have signed up to clean this week.



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 rmsjburns@gmail.com.



During this Lenten season, please consider the blessings that our Lord has bestowed upon you and your family. Consider the many ways you are able to give back to God and His Church through assisting at your parish, and by pledging to the Stewardship Appeal.

St. Stephen's goal this year is \$7,000. As of February 2nd, 29 contributors have donated \$5660.53, which puts us at almost 81% toward our goal.

Please be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in sharing your gifts through your time, talent, and treasure. Please visit parma.org/2021appeal to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through our website.

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance on February 14th was **37**. Average Sunday attendance \approx **34**

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 February 14th was **\$708.52**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1600.23**
Sun.: \$510; Holy Day: \$10; Candles: \$26; Children: \$1; Fuel: \$55; Flowers: \$10; Special Donation: \$12; Online: \$84.52

“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