



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI
313-382-5901

March 7th, 2021

website: saintstephenbyzantine.church

Priest: Rev. John R.P. Russell, M.Div.
cell phone: 412-378-0308
email: frjussell@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, March 7, 2021



THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Tone 7
The Holy Martyrs & Bishops of Cherson: Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius & others (4th C.).
Venerable Fr. Paul the Simple. Passing of the Martyr the Priest-Exarch Leonid Feodorov (1935).

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

Hebrews 4:14-5:6. Mark 8:34b-9:1.

8:00am Sunday Matins with the Veneration of the Cross[†]

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

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

Reader: Cecilia Hendricks

intention of Br. Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt (3-3)

intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt (3-5)

+Charles & +Mary Burja, from their daughters (3-6)

Akathist after the Divine Liturgy (1st Sunday of the Month)

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

7:00pm Vespers - in Ann Arbor

Monday, March 8, 2021



Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophylact (845).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 14:24-32. *Vespers:* Genesis 8:21-9:7 • Proverbs 11:19-12:6.

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

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

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

* "The Cross is to be placed on the Holy Table in the place of the Gospel Book before Vespers." -Typikon

† "The Veneration of the Holy Cross takes place after the Great Doxology of Matins" -Typikon

Tuesday, March 9, 2021



✦ The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste (320). The Holy Martyr Urpasianus of Nicomedia.

Matins Gospel: Luke 21:12-19.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 25:1-9. *Vespers:* Genesis 9:8-17 • Proverbs 12:8-22.

for the Martyrs: Hebrews 12:1-10. Matthew 20:1-16.

9:30am First & Third Hour *for the ✦ Forty Holy Martyrs*

Wednesday, March 10, 2021



Mid-Lent.* The Holy Martyr Codratus and his Companions (250).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 26:21-27:9. *Vespers:* Genesis 9:18-10:1 • Proverbs 12:23-13:9.

5:45pm *Confessions*

6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Reader: Victor Jiomkowski

+Frank & +Mary Kootun, from the family

Thursday, March 11, 2021



Our Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (644).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 28:14-22. *Vespers:* Genesis 10:32-11:9 • Proverb 13:20-14:6.

9:30am First Hour & Terce-Sext

Friday, March 12, 2021



Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophane of the Sygrian Mountain (817).

Our Holy Father Gregory, Pope of Rome (604). Our Holy Fr. Symeon, the New Theologian.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 29:13-23. *Vespers:* Genesis 12:1-7 • Proverbs 14:15-26.

5:45pm *Confessions*

6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy[†]

Reader: Debra Grega

for priestly vocations & for the sons of Laura Gazdecki, from Judith Ng

after Presanctified: Parastas for All Souls

* "On Wednesday we pass the mid-point of the Great Fast. During this week we venerate the Cross, which stands at the center of our salvation." -Fr. David Petras

† "The Cross is returned to the Holy Table after Matins, after it is venerated for the final time. There is no special ritual for its removal. The removal of the Cross may be delayed until after the Presanctified Liturgy for pastoral reasons." - Typikon

Saturday, March 13, 2021



All Souls Saturday.

The Translation of the Relics of our Holy Fr. Nicephor, Patriarch of Constantinople (846).

Hebrews 6:9-12 & *for the departed*: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Mark 7:31-37 & *for the departed*: John 5:24-30.

9:45am Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Melvyn & +Josefa Marron, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, March 14, 2021



4th SUN. OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FR. JOHN CLIMACUS. Tone 8
Our Venerable Father Benedict (550).

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

Hebrews 6:13-20 & *for St. John*: Ephesians 5:8b-19.

Mark 9:17-31 & *for St. John*: Matthew 4:25-5:12a.

8:00am Sunday Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

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

Reader: Debra Grega

for priestly vocations & for the sons of Laura Gazdecki, from Judith Ng (3-12)

+Frank & +Mary Kovtun, from the family (3-10)

+Melvyn & +Josefa Marron, from Sarah Marron (3-13)

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

7:00pm Vespers - *in Ann Arbor*

Monday, March 15, 2021



The Holy Martyr Agapius and his Companions (303).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 37:33-38:6. *Vespers*: Genesis 13:12-18 • Proverbs 14:27-15:4.

7:00pm Byzantine Book Club - meet.google.com/woh-kxmx-pme

Tuesday, March 16, 2021



The Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Papas (287).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 40:18-31. *Vespers*: Genesis 15:1-15 • Proverbs 15:7-19.

9:30am First Hour & Terce-Sext

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Our Venerable Fr. Alexis, Man of God (411). Our Holy Fr. Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 41:4-14. *Vespers:* Genesis 17:1-9 • Proverbs 15:20-16:9.

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Matins with the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete*

Thursday, March 18, 2021

THE GREAT CANON OF OUR HOLY FATHER ANDREW OF CRETE.

Our Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem (386).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 42:5-16. *Vespers:* Genesis 18:20-33 • Proverbs 16:17-33.

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Reader: Victor Jiompkowski

+Frank Vitagliano, from Judith Ng

Friday, March 19, 2021

The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria (c. 253).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 45:11-17. *Vespers:* Genesis 22:1-18 • Proverbs 17:17-18:5.

5:45pm Confessions






6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika





7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Reader: Debra Grega

+Roberta Kadlec, from Judith Ng


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)

* "At this Matins the Great Canon is sung, with prostrations at every troparion of the canticles. In parish use, the Canon may be sung on Wednesday evening to permit the faithful to attend." -Typikon

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA!

| SUNDAYS | THEMES / GOSPEL READING | HOW TO PARTICIPATE: |
|---|--|---|
| 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 bowl |
| 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! GREAT WEEK BEGINS |  <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 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! NO FASTING! |  <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! |

Sunday of Saint John of the Ladder (Glimacus)

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. The abbot of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt 10: 12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against . . . the rulers of the present darkness . . . the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places . . ." (Eph 6.12). St John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt 24.13).

Source: <https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/sundays-of-lent>

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 are 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 are celebrating 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/>

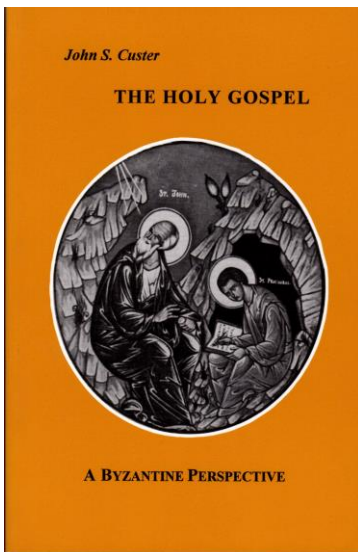
Byzantine Book Club

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



Recipe for the Great Fast
submitted by Pani Mary Hendricks

Vegan Vanilla Cake:

- ⊙ 1 and 3/4 cups (220g) All-Purpose Flour
- ⊙ 1 cup (200g) White Sugar
- ⊙ 1 tsp Baking Soda
- ⊙ 1/2 tsp Salt
- ⊙ 1 cup (240ml) non-dairy milk)
- ⊙ 2 tsp Vanilla Extract
- ⊙ 1/3 cup (80ml) vegetable oil)
- ⊙ 1 Tbsp Vinegar

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C)
2. Sift the flour into a mixing bowl.
3. Add the sugar, baking soda and salt and mix together.
4. Add the soy milk, vanilla, oil and vinegar and give it a quick whisk with a hand whisk until just combined.
5. Grease one 9" cake pan with coconut oil (or spray with non-stick spray) and cut parchment paper into circles to fit the bottoms.
6. Divide the batter evenly between them.
7. Bake for 30 minutes.
8. Remove from the oven and using a toothpick, insert into the center of the cake. If it comes out clean then your cake is done.
9. Move to a cooling rack to cool completely.

GIFT DISCERNMENT

Several 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. Most of the time lately, we have no servers. It would be good to have 5! 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. It would be wonderful to have many cantors to harmonize! 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
 - o cleaning and organizing liturgical objects in the sacristy and church
 - o setting up for liturgical services
 - o 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:
 - O Summer Picnic
(Invite Police, Fire Dept, & Hospitals to have their Cars, Trucks, & Ambulances blessed for St. Elias Day)
 - O Trunk-Or-Treat for Hallowe'en
 - O 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
 - O Providing Food, Clothing, Shelter, & Presence to those in need.

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



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

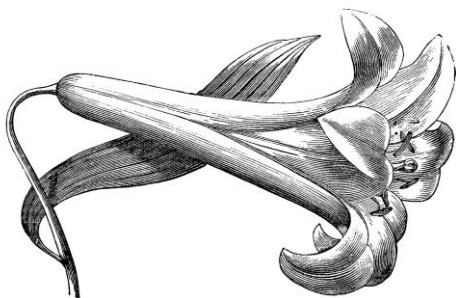
inspire meditation on the mystery of life and prayer for life and an end to abortion.

- Sunday, 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.
- Sunday, April 4th, Char Bonacor will take home the icon.
- Sunday, April 11th, Ceil Burja will take home the icon.
- Sunday, April 18th, Andrew Yatcko will take home the icon.
- Sunday, April 25th, Helen Wood 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 Ashley & Nick Sabula for cleaning this week. No one has signed up to clean this week.





*Paschal Flowers
have been offered
in memory of*

Mr. & Mrs. M. Borella
the Butella Family

Dawn

Mr. & Mrs. Ferenc Griba
the Gutkowski Family

Helen Humenik

Peter Humenik

Robertta Kadluz

Mary

Angela Ng

Joseph Sutyak

Mr. Frank Vitagliano

Ng Chok Wah & 2 wives

Andrew Yatcko



Helen Yatcko

Mr. & Mrs. Roman Zukow

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RESTORE THE CHURCH
BUILD THE FUTURE

www.usccb.org/ccee

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March 20 and 21 (*our donation envelopes are misdated May 2nd*)

This collection supports the training of seminarians and lay leaders, supporting social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral and catechetical centers, schools, church construction and renovation, and evangelization through Catholic media in Eastern and Central Europe. Our Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Churches in Europe directly benefit from this USCCB Collection.

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 \$144

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.

So far, we have donated \$20, water bottles and thermoses. Thank you!



As we continue the Great Fast with today's celebration of the Veneration of the Holy Cross, let us remember how Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us. How can we repay Him? What can we do to strengthen His Church on earth? The Stewardship Appeal is just one of many ways we can give back and show our appreciation. Please also consider the many ways that you can help at your local parish to strengthen and build up your community.

St. Stephen's goal this year is \$7,000. As of March 2nd, 29 contributors have donated \$5886.31, which puts us at 84% toward our goal.

Visit parma.org/2021appeal for more information and to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through our website. Thank you for your past support and for your continued generosity with this year's campaign.

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance on February 28th was **43**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **33**

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 28th was **\$1,834.94**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1598.64**
Sun.: \$1076; Holy Day: \$15; Candles: \$24; Children: \$1; Fuel: \$55; Flowers: \$161; Icons: \$260; Online: \$242.94

“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