



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Pascha! April 4th, 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

Christ is Risen! 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 The Paschal Vigil - Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil*

11:30pm The Midnight Office of Pascha†

Sunday, April 4, 2021

⊕ PASCHA!

Acts 1:1-8. John 1:1-17.

8:45am Paschal Matins‡ & Divine Liturgy§ Reader: Cecilia Hendricks

Followed by the blessing of the Paschal Foods in the Hall

12:30pm Agape Vespers

Monday, April 5, 2021

BRIGHT MONDAY.

Agape Vespers Gospel: John 20:19-25.

Acts 1:12-17, 21-26. John 1:18-28.

8:00am Paschal Matins & Divine Liturgy††**

intention of Br. Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt

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

* At the Paschal Vigil, we change from dark to bright vestments and proclaim the Gospel of the Resurrection.

† At the Midnight Office of Pascha, the Burial Shroud is brought from the Tomb to the Holy Table, where it remains until the Ascension.

‡ *“At the beginning of Matins, the Resurrection Procession [a.k.a. the Rush Procession] is held. The priest open all the doors of the icon screen. They remain open throughout Bright Week. The priest then lights the candles of the faithful. They are to be held for the Resurrection Matins. The procession goes around the church during the singing of the sticheron. The service of Matins begins before the closed exterior doors of the church. At the final singing of “Christ is risen...” in the opening Troparia, the priest makes the sign of the cross on the doors with the hand cross. The doors are opened and all enter the church and the service continues” -Typikon*

§ *“By tradition in the Slav recensions, the Gospel at this Liturgy [‘In the beginning was the Word...’] is read in various languages.” -Typikon*

** *“Resurrection Matins, but without the opening procession.” -Typikon*

†† *“After the Ambon Prayer, a procession may take place around the church, with the singing of the Paschal Troparion and Kontakion. A Gospel is read at each side of the Church. This procession is more ancient than the Paschal Procession for Resurrection Matins on Sunday.*

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

BRIGHT TUESDAY. † The Passing of our Holy Fr. Methodius, Teacher of the Slavs (885).

Acts 2:14-21. Luke 24:12-35.

8:00am Paschal Matins

7:00pm Agape Vespers

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 *no fasting!*

BRIGHT WEDNESDAY.

Acts 2:22-36. John 1:35-51.

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Agape Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy

+Ernest Semak, from Bob & Jane Semak

Thursday, April 8, 2021

BRIGHT THURSDAY.

Acts 2:38-43. John 3:1-15.

Friday, April 9, 2021 *no fasting!*

BRIGHT FRIDAY.

Acts 3:1-8. John 2:12-22.

8:00am Paschal Matins

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Agape Vespers

Saturday, April 10, 2021

BRIGHT SATURDAY.

Acts 3:11-16. John 3:22-33.

9:45am Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Frank & Mary Kootun, from the family

4:00pm Great Vespers *for Thomas Sunday*

Sunday, April 11, 2021

THOMAS SUNDAY. The Holy Martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum in Asia (c. 92).

1st Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20. Acts 5:12-20. John 20:19-31.

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. Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt (4-5)

+Ernest Semak, from Bob & Jane Semak (4-7)

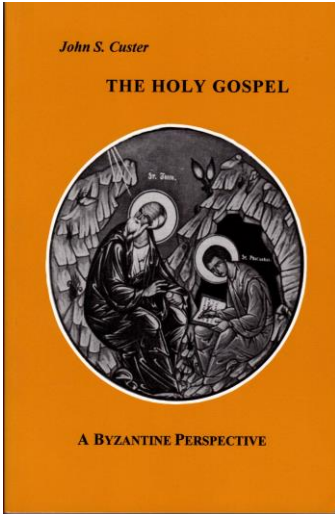
+Frank & Mary Kootun, from the family (4-10)

LEGEND

⊕	Great Feast		by tradition, a strict fast day (no meat, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, or oil)
⊕	Feast with an All-night Vigil		by tradition, wine and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, eggs, or fish)
+	Feast with the Polyeleos at Matins		by tradition, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, or eggs)
⊗	Feast with the Great Doxology at Matins		by tradition, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat)
⊗	Feast with Six Stichera at Vespers		

“The Paschal celebration begins on sunset on Holy Thursday when we celebrate the new covenant, where our Lord gives us his Body and Blood as a continual commemoration of his passion and death. Good Friday is the day of his victory over death by death when he destroys the power of death, and the Paschal Liturgy is the proclamation of his gift of life through the resurrection. This is when the Scriptures mentioned in the Creed, "he rose on the third day according to the scriptures" are read. The Sunday Liturgy is the first "after" Pascha, when we begin the Fifty Day celebration (Pentecost) by reading the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of St. John. The problem is "zero-sum" theories of Pascha. If the Vigil Liturgy on Saturday evening is important, then Sunday Matins-Liturgy are less important. If the Sunday Matins-Liturgy is the Pascha, then Holy Saturday cannot be that important - in fact, some priests simply "cancel" it. The reality is that both share in the one glory of the resurrection. Those who keep the Pascha by going to the proclamation of the resurrection on Saturday will love the Sunday even more, and those who understand the Sunday - which, after all, is a jewel of the Byzantine Liturgy - will also understand the glory of the Vigil Liturgy. Thus, Saturday is 'the Pascha celebration' but that does not mean the Sunday is any less.” – Fr. David Petras

Byzantine Book Club



Our Book Club will next meet on **April 5th 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.

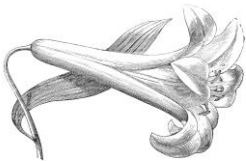
We have books available for any who would like to participate. Copies are available in the narthex.

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

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. No one has signed up to clean this week. Thank you to Phyllis Humenik and Illona Zukow for cleaning 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
Roberta Kadluz
Mary
Angela Ng
Sid Osmond

Joseph Sutyak
Mr. Frank Vitagliano
Ng Chok Wah & 2 wives
Andrew Yatcko
Helen Yatcko
Mr. & Mrs. Roman Zukow

The Visitation Icon



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, 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.
- Sunday, May 2nd, Marcus Halcomb will take home the icon

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 \$204
for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, we have collected \$138

The Day House Detroit:

Thank you to everyone who contributed toward the Day House during the Great Fast!

Annual Stewardship Appeal:

Christ is Risen! Thank you to everyone who participated in the Annual Stewardship Appeal to date. Your generosity is deeply appreciated! A blessed Pascha to all!

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.

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance on March 28th was **40**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **32**

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 March 28th was **\$1,290.32**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1606.68**

Sunday: \$700; Holy Day: \$170; Online: \$366.32; Candles: \$14; Icons: \$40

“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

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