



# SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 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



## **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, November 14, 2021**

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 8

✙ The Holy and Illustrious Apostle Philip.

Our Holy Father Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica.

*Vespers:* 1 Peter 1:1-6 • 1 Peter 2:21-3:9 • 1 Peter 4:1-11.

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

Ephesians 4:1-6. Luke 10:25-37.

**8:00am Matins**

*9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service*

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

*intention of all living & +departed family of Judith Ng, from Judith Ng (11-10)*

*+Melvyn & +Josefa Marron, from Sarah Marron (11-13)*

*11:45am – Eastern Christian Formation Classes for All*

**7:00pm Vespers** – *with prostrations – for the first day of the Philip's Fast*

**Monday, November 15, 2021**



*Day of Alleluia*

*1<sup>st</sup> day of the Philip's Fast*

The Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Habib (322).

1 Timothy 1:1-7. Luke 14:1, 12-15.

*7:00pm Byzantine Book Club* - online: <https://meet.google.com/eyn-qwkv-vrh>  
or in person: 8461 Barrington Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Tuesday, November 16, 2021



✙ The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew.

*Vespers:* 1 Peter 1:1-6 • 1 Peter 2:21-3:9 • 1 Peter 4:1-11.

*Matins Gospel:* John 21:15-25.

*for Matthew:* 1 Corinthians 4:9-16. Matthew 9:9-13.

*(for the day: 1 Timothy 1:8-14. Luke 14:25-35).*

**9:30am First & Third Hour**

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

Reader: Mary Hendricks

*intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt*

**7:00pm Vespers** *for Wednesday*

Wednesday, November 17, 2021



Our Holy Father Gregory the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Neocaesarea (270).

1 Timothy 1:18-20; 2:8-15. Luke 15:1-10.

*6:00pm Confessions*

**6:30pm Vespers &**

**7:00pm Divine Liturgy** *for Thursday*

*+Steve Borella, from anonymous*

Thursday, November 18, 2021



The Holy Martyrs Plato and Romanus (303).

1 Timothy 3:1-13. Luke 16:1-9.

Friday, November 19, 2021



*Day of Alleluia*

The Holy Prophet Obadiah. The Holy Martyr Barlaam (304).

1 Timothy 4:4-8,16. Luke 16:15-18; 17:1-4.

**7:00am First & Third Hour** – *with prostrations*

*6:00pm Confessions*

**7:00pm Vespers** *for Saturday*

Saturday, November 20, 2021



Pre-festive Day of the Entrance. Our Venerable Father Gregory the Decapolite (9th C.).  
Our Holy Father Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople (446).  
Galatians 3:8-12. Luke 9:57-62.

*Gathering for St. Joseph at the Solanus Casey Center:*

*9:00am Confessions available & Film: Joseph of Nazareth*  
*11:00am Anointing & Divine Liturgy*  
*followed by lunch, a presentation about St. Joseph, & a blessing with his robe.*

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

Sunday, November 21, 2021



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 1

⊕ THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS & EVER-VIRGIN MARY INTO THE TEMPLE.

*Vespers:* Exodus 40:1-5, 9, 10, 16, 34-35 • 1 Kings 7:51-8:1, 3-7, 9-11 • Ez. 43:27-44:4.

*Matins Gospel:* Luke 1:39-49, 56.

*Ephesians 5:8b-19 & for the Entrance:* Hebrews 9:1-7.

*Luke 12:16-21 & for the Entrance:* Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

**8:00am Matins**

*9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service*

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

Reader: Katya

*intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt (11-16)*

*+Steve Borella, from anonymous (11-17)*

*11:45am – Eastern Christian Formation Classes for All*

**7:00pm Vespers** for Monday

Monday, November 22, 2021



Post-festive Day of the Entrance. The Holy Apostle Philemon and his Companions.

1 Timothy 5:1-10. Luke 17:20-25.

*7:00pm Byzantine Book Club - online:* <https://meet.google.com/eyn-qwkv-vrh>

*or in person:* 8461 Barrington Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Tuesday, November 23, 2021



Post-festive Day of the Entrance.

Holy Frs. Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium (395) & Gregory, Bishop of Agrigento (7th C.).

1 Timothy 5:11-21. Luke 17:26-37.

**7:00am First & Third Hour**

**7:00pm Vespers** *for Wednesday*

Wednesday, November 24, 2021



Post-festive Day of the Entrance.

⊗ The Holy Great Martyr Catherine (310). The Holy Great Martyr Mercury (c. 255).

1 Timothy 5:22-6:11a. Luke 18:15-17, 26-30.

*6:00pm Confessions*

**6:30pm Vespers &**

**7:00pm Divine Liturgy** *for Thursday*

*+Sidney, +Bennie, +Mary, +John Thomas, from Mary Ann Osmond*

Thursday, November 25, 2021



*Thanksgiving Day*

Leave-taking of the Entrance.

Holy Fathers & Martyrs Clement, Pope of Rome (101) & Peter, Bishop of Alexandria (311).

1 Timothy 6:17-21. Luke 18:31-34.

**10:00am Moleben of Thanksgiving**

#### 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)

## Philip's Fast (*Filipovka*)

Nov. 15th – Dec. 24th

“According to the forty-day tradition, the Philip's Fast in preparation for Christmas begins on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. During this fast, it was the custom to observe a strict abstinence on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and a lesser abstinence (mitigation for wine and oil) on Tuesday and Thursday. The fast is observed more strictly from December 10 (in some traditions) or from December 20 (in other traditions), with daily strict abstinence, and a mitigated abstinence (wine and oil) on Saturday and Sunday (cf. the Great Fast and the Dormition Fast). The Ruthenian Metropolia has identified this period as a penitential season (Canon 880, 2). This fast may be observed voluntarily, partially or in its entirety.” –Fr. David Petras

## What is a Day of Alleluia?

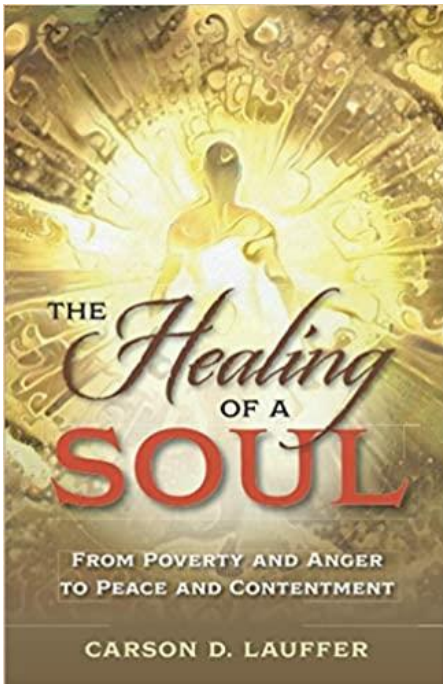
All weekdays during the Great Fast and certain weekdays during the minor fasts, such as the Philip's Fast we are now observing, are sometimes called “Days of Alleluia” because on these days we sing “Alleluia” instead of “the Lord is God” at Matins. When these days fall on Monday through Friday, they are penitential days. The vestments worn are dark. We make prostrations and pray the prayer of St. Ephrem at the liturgical services for these days. Perhaps most strikingly, we do not pray the anaphora (the eucharist prayer) on these days. It is good to make an effort to attend services on these days during the fasts because, as Fr. Michael Bezruchka says, “We are encouraged to pray more, not less, on these days”

## THE HEALING OF A SOUL

Eastern Christian Formation for Adults  
after Sunday Divine Liturgy during the Philip's Fast.

Starting at 11:45am on **Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**, Carson Daniel Lauffer will lead a 5 session course for adults using his book, *The Healing of a Soul*. The topic is a study of Theosis or Divinization. We will also study Biblical sources and the great writers Eastern Christianity including especially St. Athanasius and Origen. Mr. Lauffer's book will be available beginning Sunday October 24 from Mr. Lauffer or from the book rack. Offerings are always welcome. Please register as soon as possible to enable us to have enough books available. All adults are invited to attend.

*Class Dates:* Today! - November 14<sup>th</sup>  
November 21<sup>st</sup>  
*no class November 28<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Weekend*  
December 5<sup>th</sup>  
December 12<sup>th</sup>  
December 19<sup>th</sup>



## Online Benefit Event for the Nuns of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery

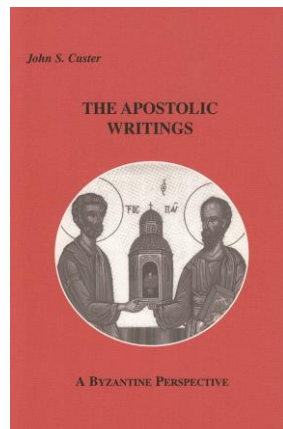
If you are not able to attend the Bridegroom's Banquet benefit dinner (in Parma, Ohio) in person, you can still join us online on **Sunday, November 14**, the day after the banquet, for a live-streamed greeting from us and the online premier of our new video, "Be poor with Me: reflections on poverty." More information about the time of this online event will be available at [www.christthebridegroom.org](http://www.christthebridegroom.org) closer to the date of the banquet. You can also donate toward the matching funds even if you cannot attend either the in-person or online events. More information is available on the "Bridegroom's Banquet" tab on our website. The registration deadline for the in-person event was **Oct. 29**. Thank you so much for your support of our monastic life! We are praying for you.

### Byzantine Book Club

Next meeting: **November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

We are meeting @ the Hendricks Homestead (8461 Barrington Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48198) or online through Google Meet @ <https://meet.google.com/eyn-qwkv-vrh>. We want to make it convenient for all Parishioners of St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church to attend.

Our current book is written by the Very Rev. John Custer, SSL, STD from the Eparchy of Passaic. *The Apostolic Writings: A Byzantine Perspective*. This is a companion to *The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective* by the same author, this volume seeks to be useful both as preparation for studying the Apostolic Writings or as a sort of commentary to be consulted while reading the biblical texts.



**We meet monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each Month at different parishes of the region.**

**We meet next**

**on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 11am**

**at St. Basil the Great Byzantine Catholic Church in Sterling Heights**

Email Pani Katie Russell at [katierrssl@gmail.com](mailto:katierrssl@gmail.com)

for more information and to join us





## St. Joseph, the Strong, Silent Type

A Gathering of the Great Lakes Protopresbyterate

at the Solanus Casey Center  
1780 Mt Elliott St, Detroit, MI 48207

**on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
from 9:00am until 2:00pm

To conclude this Year of St Joseph as a Protopresbyterate, all the parishes of the region are invited to participate in a day of reflection, repentance, healing, and worship.

At 9am, we will show the film, *Joseph of Nazareth*. At the same time, our priests will be available for confessions starting at 9am. At 11am, we will offer the Anointing of the Sick, followed by Divine Liturgy. We will then have lunch and a presentation on St. Joseph by Fr. Joseph Marquis. At the conclusion, there will be a blessing with a relic of St. Joseph's robe.

There is a cost of \$12 per participant to cover lunch. **Contact Fr. John by Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> to register.** Please join us!

## Discernment Retreat at Christ the Bridegroom Monastery

Single Catholic women, ages 18-35, who would like to take a weekend to pray about a possible vocation to the monastic life, are invited to inquire about attending the upcoming discernment retreat at Christ the Bridegroom Monastery, **December 17-19, 2021**. Experience the life of prayer at the monastery, listen to talks on prayer and discernment, make use of the opportunity to get to know the nuns, and receive healing through the Mystery of Holy Repentance (Confession). If you are interested in this retreat, or a future discernment opportunity, visit [www.christthebridegroom.org](http://www.christthebridegroom.org), click on the "Discerning?" tab, and fill out the online Vocation Inquiry Form. Please fill out the form by Dec. 6 for this retreat. Space is limited. Mother Theodora will contact you to talk about availability. With questions, call 440-834-0290 or email [christthebridegroom@gmail.com](mailto:christthebridegroom@gmail.com).



# CHRIST – OUR PASCHA

## Part One

### THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH

#### II. WE BELIEVE IN THE TRINITY, ONE IN ESSENCE AND UNDIVIDED

##### A. We Believe in God the Father

##### 1. God the Father Revealed in the Holy Scriptures

- 75 God reveals himself as Person: “I am who I am,” or “the One-Who-Is” (*Ex* 3:14). This God-who-is-Person is the only one who really *is*. Everything else exists only inasmuch as God wills it to exist. God is holy, that is, totally different from all creation. There is no other like God. He is unique. Thus, it is not possible to imagine him with our thoughts, or to portray him in any material way: “You shall not make for yourself an idol” (*Ex* 20:4). In contrast to lifeless idols, the true God *lives*. Lacking appropriate words to express the mystery of God’s life, Holy Scripture often makes use of anthropomorphisms, thereby applying to God the behavioural traits of a living human being: God *loves, converses, assists, pities, is sad, becomes angry, does battle, punishes...*
- 76 In the Old Testament, God reveals himself through various images and events that witness to his presence: in the three travellers whom Abraham received; in the vision of the ladder joining heaven and earth in the dream of the patriarch Jacob; before Moses in the burning bush that was not consumed; in the pillars of fire and cloud (see *Ex* 13:21); over the Ark of the Covenant (see *Ex* 25:22); and as a quiet and gentle breeze (see *1 Kgs* 19:12).
- 77 The Chosen People of God profess their God, exalting him with various names: Saviour (*2 Sm* 22:2-3; *Ps* 106[107]:21; *Is* 43:3-4; *Is* 45:15); Creator (*Job* 4:17; *Job* 32:22; *Ps* 95[96]:6; *Is* 17:7; *Is* 51:13); Lord (*Ex* 3:15); Father (*Ps* 89[90]:27; *Is* 9:5; *Is* 63:16; *Mal* 1:6); Bridegroom (*Hos* 2:22); and Shepherd (*Ps* 23[24]:1). However, the Old Testament titles were merely prefigurements of the Revelation of God as the Father of the only-begotten Son. “No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known” (*Jn* 1:18).
- 78 The Son of God, Jesus Christ, in whom along with a human nature “the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily” (*Col* 2:9), reveals the Father: “All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him” (*Mt* 11:27). Jesus teaches us to address God as “Our Father” (*Mt* 6:9) and to imitate his perfection: “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (*Mt* 5:48). In Jesus Christ, the invisible God becomes visible for people: “The Father and I are one” (*Jn* 10:30) and “whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (*Jn* 14:9).

## 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. Ceil Burja has signed up to take home icon on November 14<sup>th</sup>.



## 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 Phyllis, Char, and Ceil for signing 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 Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, we have collected \$138

for the Churches in Central & Eastern Europe, we have collected \$150

for the Catholic Home Missions, we have collected \$125

for the retirement of Religious Sisters, we have collected \$305

## Image of God Pregnancy Center

Our parish helps to support Image of God Pregnancy Center (4151 Seminole St., Detroit), a place of hope for disadvantaged women on the city's east side for the past 11 years. Their facility provides vital resources at no cost to current and expecting mothers, from pregnancy testing to professional counseling, in Detroit's most underserved area.

We can currently assist them by providing the following donations: **diapers** (sizes 4-6), **Pull-Ups** (2T-3T, 4T-5T), **baby wipes**, **baby lotion**, **baby shampoo**, **baby powder** (no talc), **pacifiers/teethers**, and **diaper bags**. Please bring donations to the designated area in the narthex. If you are interested in volunteering in this capacity, reach out to Ryan Coffey-Burns at (847) 477-6624 or rmsijburns@gmail.com for more information. You can also contact the center directly at (313) 923-8018.

**ATTENDANCE** – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance on November 7<sup>th</sup> was **56**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **44**

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.*

Collection for November 7<sup>th</sup> was **\$2,162.35**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,766.57**  
Sunday: \$1,875; Online: \$189.35; Candles: \$38; Horizons: \$24; St. Joseph Event: \$36

“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