



## SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

November 21<sup>st</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 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**

Friday, November 26, 2021



*Day of Alleluia*

Our Venerable Father Alypius the Stylite (640).

Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Holy Great Martyr George in Kiev.  
2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18. Luke 19:12-28.

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

*6:00pm Confessions*

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

Saturday, November 27, 2021



The Holy Martyr James the Persian (400). Our Venerable Father Palladius (c. 600).

The Holy Icon of the Theotokos called "the Sign."

Galatians 5:22-6:2. Luke 10:19-21.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

*for the healing of Cynthia Scott, from Betty Baize*

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

Sunday, November 28, 2021



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 2

⌘ The Holy Venerable Martyr Stephen the Younger (767). Holy Martyr Irenarchus (4th C.).

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

Ephesians 6:10-17. Luke 13:10-17.

**8:00am Matins**

*9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service*

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

Reader: Misha

*+Sidney, +Bennie, +Mary, +John Thomas, from Mary Ann Osmond (11-24)  
for the healing of Cynthia Scott, from Betty Baize (11-27)*

*No Eastern Christian Formation Classes Today – Thanksgiving Weekend*

**7:00pm Vespers** – *with prostrations – for Monday*

Monday, November 29, 2021



*Day of Alleluia*

The Holy Martyr Paramon (250). The Holy Martyr Philemon.

Our Venerable Father Acacius, mentioned in “The Ladder.”

2 Timothy 2:20-26. Luke 19:37-44.

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

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

Tuesday, November 30, 2021



✝ The Holy and Glorious Apostle Andrew the First-called.

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

*Matins Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23.*

*for Andrew: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16. John 1:35-51.*

*(for the day: 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4. Luke 19:45-48.)*

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

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

*+Josephine Eusani, from Anna & Elaine Szilagy*



*Day of Alleluia*

# Wednesday, December 1, 2021

The Holy Prophet Nahum. Our Holy Father Philaret the Merciful.


2 Timothy 4:9-22. Luke 20:1-8.

**7:00am Matins on a Day of Alleluia**

*6:00pm Confessions*

**7:00pm Vespers** - *with prostrations - for Thursday*


# Thursday, December 2, 2021

 *Day of Alleluia*

The Holy Prophet Habakkuk.

Titus 1:5-2:1. Luke 20:9-18.

# Friday, December 3, 2021

 *Day of Alleluia*

The Holy Prophet Zephaniah.

Titus 1:15-2:10. Luke 20:19-26.

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

*6:00pm Confessions*

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

## 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)

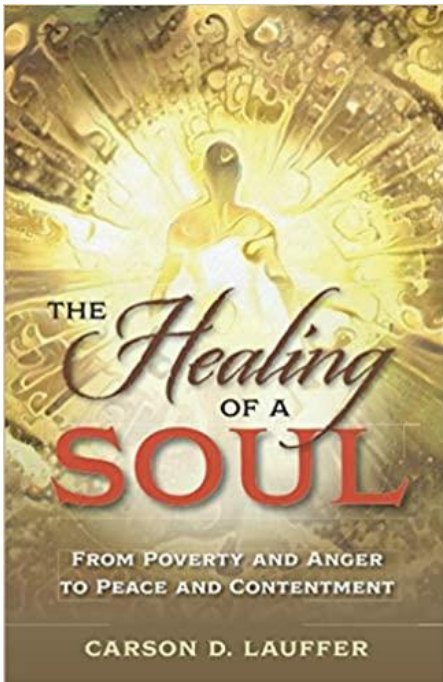
## Philip's Fast (*Filipovka*)

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 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

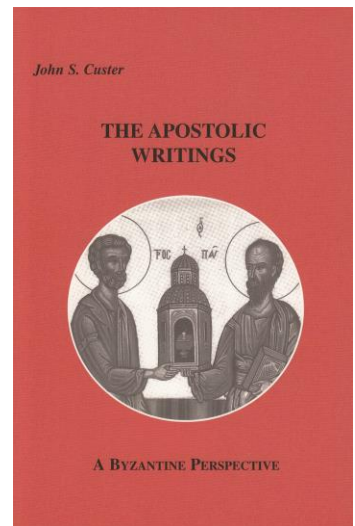
If you are not able to attend the Bridegroom's Banquet benefit dinner (in Parma, Ohio) in person, you can still join us online on **Sunday, November 14**, the day after the banquet, for a live-streamed greeting from us and the online premier of our new video, "Be poor with Me: reflections on poverty." 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 22<sup>nd</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.



## Presbyteral Ordination

By the grace of God, his eminence, Metropolitan William (Skurla) of Pittsburgh has called the deacon Michael Kunitz to priestly ordination. The ordination will take place on Sunday, **December 11<sup>th</sup>** at 9:45am at the St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Munhall, PA. There will be a livestream of the ordination at

<https://www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com>

## 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).



We meet monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each Month at different parishes of the region.  
Email Pani Katie Russell at [katiersll@gmail.com](mailto:katiersll@gmail.com)  
for more information and to join us

### *The Didache – The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles*

1. There are two ways, one of life and one of death, but a great difference between the two ways. The way of life, then, is this: First, you shall love God who made you; second, love your neighbor as yourself, and do not do to another what you would not want done to you. And of these sayings the teaching is this: Bless those who curse you, and pray for your enemies, and fast for those who persecute you. For what reward is there for loving those who love you? Do not the Gentiles do the same? But love those who hate you, and you shall not have an enemy. Abstain from fleshly and worldly lusts. If someone strikes your right cheek, turn to him the other also, and you shall be perfect. If someone impresses you for one mile, go with him two. If someone takes your cloak, give him also your coat. If someone takes from you what is yours, ask it not back, for indeed you are not able. Give to every one who asks you, and ask it not back; for the Father wills that to all should be given of our own blessings (free gifts). Happy is he who gives according to the commandment, for he is guiltless. Woe to him who receives; for if one receives who has need, he is guiltless; but he who receives not having need shall pay the penalty, why he received and for what. And coming into confinement, he shall be examined concerning the things which he has done, and he shall not escape from there until he pays back the last penny. And also concerning this, it has been said, Let your alms sweat in your hands, until you know to whom you should give.



# 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

##### 2. The Father without Beginning

79 The Church calls “Father” him who has no father, and was never anyone’s son.<sup>57</sup> The evangelist John says that the Word was “in the beginning” (*Jn* 1:1) (in Slavonic, *v nachali*, “as the foundational principle”). The Holy Fathers understood this to affirm that “the beginning” is the Person of the Father.<sup>58</sup> He who is the personal Beginning of all is himself without a beginning that would cause him to be. In other words, the Father is the Beginning without beginning. This antinomy expresses the freedom of the divine Person of the Father, who is not caused by anything or anyone. “The Father is ... said to be both without origin, and origin himself—origin in that he is the cause and spring and eternal light.”<sup>59</sup> As the Beginning of all creation, the Father fills all things, and at the same time surpasses all that is created.

80 In her experience, the Church always contemplates the Father in relation to the Son and the Holy Spirit, and this Trinity (Triad) as a communion of Persons.

I believe in one God, the Father glorified in the Trinity—unbegotten, beginningless and endless; in the Son—begotten, yet cobeginningless and co-endless with the Father; and in the Holy Spirit—who proceeds from the Father and is revealed in the Son, cobeginningless and equal to the Father and the Son. I believe in the Trinity, one in essence, yet multiple in Persons; Trinity according to names, yet one God.<sup>60</sup>

81 The Father is the Father because he is the Father of the Son and the Source of the procession of the Holy Spirit. The Son and the Holy Spirit are “from the Father, although not *after* the Father.”<sup>61</sup> The generation of the Word and the procession of the Spirit are not to be taken according to categories of time: “For the Father eternally begets the Son, co-eternal and co-reigning; and the Holy Spirit is in the Father, glorified with the Son; one power, one nature, and one divinity.”<sup>62</sup> God the Father is the Beginning of the indivisible and most intimate communion (in Greek, *koinonia*) in love of the divine Persons.

<sup>57</sup> See Athanasius the Great, *First Letter to Serapion*, 16: PG 26, 568.

<sup>58</sup> Gregory the Theologian, *Oration 42*, 15: PG 36, 475.

<sup>59</sup> Gregory the Theologian, *Oration 20, On Theology, and the Appointment of Bishops*, 7: PG 35, 1073.

<sup>60</sup> Ilarion, Metropolitan of Kyiv, *Confession of Faith*.

<sup>61</sup> See Gregory the Theologian, *Oration 29, The Third Theological Oration*, 3: PG 36, 77.

## 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, prayer for life and an end to abortion.



## 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 cleaning last week. Betty Sutyak & LeAnn Osentoski 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 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 basket in the narthex. To volunteer in this capacity, contact 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 14<sup>th</sup> was **46**. 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 14<sup>th</sup> was **\$1,142.35**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,756.18**

Sunday: \$677; Online: \$379.35; Candles: \$37; Fuel: \$25; Horizons: \$24

“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