



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

November 21st, 2021

313-382-5901

website: saintstephenbyzantine.church

Priest: Rev. John R.P. Russell, M.Div.
cell phone: 412-378-0308
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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 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

Reader: Pani Mary

+Josephine Eusani, from Anna & Elaine Szilagy

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

 *Day of Alleluia*

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*

Saturday, December 4, 2021



⌘ The Holy Great Martyr Barbara (306). Our Venerable Father John of Damascus (749)

Ephesians 1:16-23. Luke 12:32-40.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, December 5, 2021



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 3

✙ Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Sabbas the Sanctified (532).

Vespers Paramia: Wisdom 3:1-9 • Wisdom 5:15-6:3 • Wisdom 4:7-15.

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

Colossians 1:12-18. Luke 17:12-19.

8:00am Matins

9:45am Akathist

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

Reader: David Woods

+Josephine Eusani, from Anna & Elaine Szilagyi (11-30)

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (12-4)

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

7:00pm Great Vespers – *in Ann Arbor - for ✙ HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS*

Readers: Cecilia & Debra

Monday, December 6, 2021

✙ HOLY FR. NICHOLAS THE WONDER-WORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA (343).

Vespers Paramia: Proverbs 10:7, 6; 3:13-16; 8:6, 34-35, 4, 12, 14, 17, 5-9; 1:23 •

Proverbs 10:31-11:12 • Wisdom 4: 7-15.

Matins Gospel: John 10:9-16.

for Nicholas: Hebrews 13:17-21. Luke 6:17-23a.

(for the day: Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19. Luke 20:27-44).

10:00am Divine Liturgy for ✙ HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS

for the health of Barbara Barnes, from Phyllis Humenik

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

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

Tuesday, December 7, 2021




Day of Alleluia

Our Holy Father Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (397).

Hebrews 4:1-13. Luke 21:12-19.

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

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

 *Day of Alleluia*

Pre-festive Day of the Maternity. Our Venerable Father Patapius.

Hebrews 5:11-6:8. Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24.

7:00am Matins on a Day of Alleluia

6:00pm Great Vespers &

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for  *MATERNITY OF HOLY ANNA*. Reader: Debra
intention of Br. Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt

Thursday, December 9, 2021



 THE MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA.

The Holy Hannah, Mother of the Prophet Samuel.

Vespers Paramia: Genesis 28: 10-17 • Ezekiel 43:27 - 44:4 • Proverbs 9: 1-11.

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

for the Maternity: Galatians 4:22-31. Luke 8:16-21.

for the day: Hebrews 7:1-6. Luke 21:28-33.

Friday, December 10, 2021



The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eucarpus (4th Century).






Hebrews 7:18-25. Luke 21:37-22:8.





7:00am First & Third Hour

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)

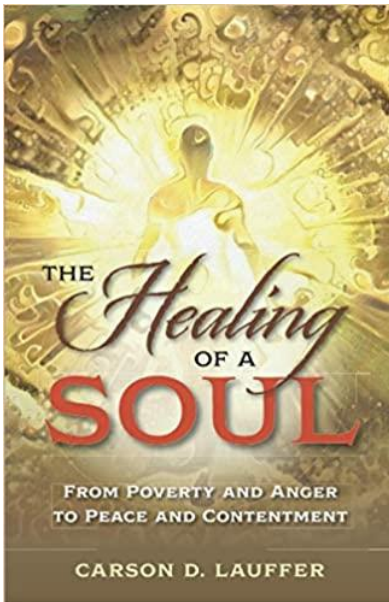
Philip's Fast (*Filipovka*)

Nov. 15th – Dec. 24th

“According to the forty-day tradition, the Philip's Fast in preparation for Christmas begins on Monday, November 15th. 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.

Carson Daniel Lauffer is leading a 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:

December 5th
December 12th

Byzantine Book Club

Next meeting: **November 29th 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.

ICONOLOGY PRESENTATION

at Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish

41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48314 USA

on Saturday, December 4th after a 9am Mass

Fr. Marek Višnovský will help prepare our hearts for the Coming of Jesus at Christmas as Father gives a 90-minute presentation and an introduction into Eastern Christian iconography explaining the icon of the Nativity of Our Lord and how we can relate the events of the Mystery of the Incarnation into our lives!

Fr. Marek will explain:

- The origins of the iconography
- How icons are related to the Liturgy and our lives
- The spirituality and theology of icons



Along with his priesthood, Fr. Marek has pursued his interest and talents for Eastern Christian iconography. In 2000-2001, Fr. Marek studied Byzantine Iconography under the guidance of well-known iconographer Phil Zimmerman of New Florence, PA. He has been teaching iconography in hands-on demonstration classes here in the US and Europe, as well as giving talks on the subject on the radio, and at seminaries, college campuses, monasteries, and youth and church gatherings. He has painted over 700 icons for private homes and churches in many countries since 2000.

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 11th** 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, 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.



The ByziKids Homeschool Co-op meets monthly on the 3rd Friday of each month at different parishes of the region. Our next meeting is on Friday, December 17th beginning at 11am.

Email Pani Katie Russell at katierrussll@gmail.com
for more information and to join us

The Didache – The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles

2. And the second commandment of the Teaching; You shall not commit murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not commit pederasty, you shall not commit fornication, you shall not steal, you shall not practice magic, you shall not practice witchcraft, you shall not murder a child by abortion nor kill that which is born. You shall not covet the things of your neighbor, you shall not swear, you shall not bear false witness, you shall not speak evil, you shall bear no grudge. You shall not be double-minded nor double-tongued, for to be double-tongued is a snare of death. Your speech shall not be false, nor empty, but fulfilled by deed. You shall not be covetous, nor rapacious, nor a hypocrite, nor evil disposed, nor haughty. You shall not take evil counsel against your neighbor. You shall not hate any man; but some you shall reprove, and concerning some you shall pray, and some you shall love more than your own life.

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

- 82 The personal distinctiveness of the Father from the Son and the Holy Spirit lies in the fact that the *Father is unbegotten*. Himself unbegotten, he is the Beginning of the Person of the Son and of the Person of the Holy Spirit. The fact that God the Father is without beginning means that he is not conditioned by anyone or anything else.

The Father is called thus because he begets the Son; and the Son is called thus because he is begotten by the Father; and the Holy Spirit is called thus because of his procession from the Father, yet being inseparable from him.⁶³

- 83 In the Anaphora of the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, the Church calls the Father *incomprehensible* and *uncircumscribable*. The *incomprehensibility* of the Father indicates that no stage of our coming to know God is ever definitive. After all, only God can know God to his very depths: “no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God” (1 *Cor* 2:11). Our knowledge of God will grow in faith, according to the words of the holy apostle Paul, until we see him “face to face” (1 *Cor* 13:12). For humankind, the incomprehensibility of God guarantees an endless growth in coming to know God, which is “eternal life.”
- 84 Just as the Father cannot be circumscribed, so also his incomprehensibility attests to the impossibility of reducing the Personhood of God to any forms of expression used by human beings, whether through image or word. God the Father is not portrayed on icons, because the Father did not become incarnate, nor take on the image of a human being. The Father is revealed by his only-begotten Son, who is the “image of the invisible God” (*Col* 1:15).

⁶² *Floral Triodion*, Pentecost, Vespers, Final Sticheron at Psalm 140.

⁶³ Ilarion, Metropolitan of Kyiv, *Confession of Faith*.

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 Betty Sutyak & LeAnn Osentoski for cleaning last week. Phyllis, Char, & Ceil 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 21st was **48**. 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 21st was **\$1,960.60**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,784.83**

Sun.: \$1051; Holy Day: \$145; Online: \$139.35; Candles: \$67.50; Fuel: \$20; Horizons: \$36; Icons: \$501.75

“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