



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

December 19th, 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, December 19, 2021 

THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY. THE SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS. Tone 5
The Holy Martyr Boniface (290).

Vespers Paramia: Genesis 14:14-20 • Deut. 1:8-11, 15-17 • Deut. 10:14-21.

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

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40. Matthew 1:1-25.

8:00am Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy - for the people of the parish **Reader: Guillermo**
intention of Br. Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt (12-15)
+Melvyn & Josefa, from Sarah Marron (12-18)

11:45am – Eastern Christian Formation Classes

7:00pm Great Vespers

Monday, December 20, 2021 

⌘ Pre-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Martyr Ignatius the God-bearer (107).

Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31. Mark 9:42-10:1.

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

Tuesday, December 21, 2021 

Pre-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (304).

Hebrews 12:25-26, 13:22-25. Mark 10:2-12.

7:00am First & Third Hour

7:00pm Office of Holy Repentance

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

Pre-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Great Martyr Anastasia (304).

James 1:1-18. Mark 10:11b-16.

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy

+Manouk Mykeloff, & +John & +Elizabeth Sabo, from Kathy Mykeloff


Thursday, December 23, 2021

Pre-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete (250).

Commemoration of the Dedication of the Great Church of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople.

James 1:19-27. Mark 10:17-27.

Friday, December 24, 2021

 *Day of Strict Fast*

Vigil of the Nativity. The Holy Great Martyr Eugenia (262).

First Hour: Micah 5:2-4a; Hebrews 1:1-12; Matthew 1:18-25.

Third Hour: Baruch 3:36-4:4; Galatians 3:23-4:5; Luke 2:1-20.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4, 8-10; Hebrews 1:10-2:3; Matthew 2:1-12.

Ninth Hour: Isaiah 9:6-7; Hebrews 2:11-18; Matthew 2:13-23.

10:00am Royal Hours for Christmas Eve

Reader: Katya

12:00 noon Decorate the Church for Christmas

4:00pm Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Reader: Misha

6:00pm Holy Supper

9:00pm Great Compline & Matins (*All-Night Vigil for Christmas*)

Saturday, December 25, 2021 *There is no fasting until January 5th*

⊕ THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

Vespers Paramia: Gen. 1:1-13 • Num. 24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18 • Micah 4:6-7; 5:2-4 • Is. 11:1-10 •
Baruch 3:35-4:4 • Dan. 2:31-36, 44-45 • Is. 9:6-7 • Is. 7:10-16a; 8:1-4, 8b-10
Hebrews 1:1-12. Luke 2:1-20.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25
Galatians 4:4-7. Matthew 2:1-12.

10:00am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom *for Christmas*

+Manouk Mykeloff, & +John & +Elizabeth Sabo, from Kathy Mykeloff (12-22)

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

Sunday, December 26, 2021

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY. COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY & JUST JOSEPH
THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, & JAMES THE BROTHER OF GOD. Tone 6

⊗. Synaxis of the Theotokos & Ever-Virgin Mary. Holy Martyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis.

9th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:19-31.

Galatians 1:11-19 *& for the Synaxis:* Hebrews 2:11-18.

for both the Sunday & the Synaxis: Matthew 2:13-23.

8:00am Matins

9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service

10:00am Divine Liturgy *with Chrismations of Julian, William & Dominic*

– for the people of the parish

Reader: Debra

No Eastern Christian Formation Classes Today – Christmas Break

7:00pm Great Vespers *for our Patron Stephen*

Monday, December 27, 2021

⊗ THE HOLY APOSTLE, FIRST MARTYR & ARCHDEACON STEPHEN, OUR PATRON

Venerable Fr. and Confessor Theodore, Brother of Theophane the Hymnographer (845).

for Stephen: Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60. Matthew 21:33-42.

(for the day: James 2:14-26. Mark 10:46-52).

10:00am Divine Liturgy *for our Patron Stephen – with Patronal Procession*

+Stephen Kastura, from Kathleen Johnston

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

Post-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Twenty thousand Martyrs of Nicomedia (302).
The Blessed Martyr Gregory Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanislaviv (1945).

James 3:1-10. Mark 11:11-23.

Wednesday, December 29, 2021 *no fasting!*

Post-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Innocents killed by Herod in Bethlehem.
Our Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Akimetes (486).

James 3:11-4:6. Mark 11:22b-26.

7:00am Matins

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers &

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for Thursday

+Zack Conley, from Victor Jiomkowski

Thursday, December 30, 2021

Post-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Martyr Anysia, Bishop of Thessalonica (406).
The Venerable Zoticus, Priest and Protector of Orphans (4th Century).

James 4:7-5:9. Mark 11:27-33.

Friday, December 31, 2021 *no fasting!*

Leave-taking of the Nativity. Our Venerable Mother Melany of Rome (438).

1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10. Mark 12:1-12.

7:00am First & Third Hour

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm All-Night Vigil (Vespers & Matins) for ☩ Circumcision & Basil

Saturday, January 1, 2022

Civil New Year

Saturday before Theophany. ⊕ CIRCUMCISION OF LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.
HOLY FR. BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA (379).

Vespers Paramia: Gen. 17:1-7, 9-12, 14 • Prov. 8:22-30 • Prov. 10:31-11:12.

Matins Gospel: John 10:9-16.

for the Circumcision: Colossians 2:8-12 & *for Basil:* Hebrews 7:26-8:2.

for the Circumcision: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52 & *for Basil:* Luke 6:17-23a.

12:15am Moleben of Thanksgiving

10:00am Divine Liturgy for ⊕ *Circumcision & Basil*

+John Bonacor, from Char Bonacor

4:00pm Great Vespers *for Sunday*

Sunday, January 2, 2022

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY. Tone 7

Pre-festive Day of the Theophany. Our Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome (335).

Our Venerable & God-bearing Father Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov.

10th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 21:1-14.

2 Timothy 4:5-8. Mark 1:1-8.

8:00am Matins

9:45am Akathist

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

+Zack Conley, from Victor Jiomkowski (12-29)

+John Bonacor, from Char Bonacor (1-1)

No Eastern Christian Formation Classes Today – Christmas Break

7:00pm Vespers – *in Ann Arbor*

Monday, January 3, 2022

Pre-festive Day of the Theophany. The Holy Prophet Malachi.

The Holy Martyr Gordius (304). Venerable Mother Genevieve of Paris.

Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19. Luke 20:27-44.

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

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


Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Pre-festive Day of the Theophany. The Synaxis of the Holy Seventy Apostles.
Our Venerable Father Theoctist, Hegumen at Cuomo in Sicily (800).

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

7:00am First & Third Hour

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

 *Day of Strict Fast*

Vigil of the Theophany. The Holy Martyrs Theopempt and Theona (c. 350).
Our Venerable Mother Syncletica (4th Century). The Holy Prophet Micah.

1st Hour: Isaiah 35:1-10 • Acts 13:25-33a • Matthew 3:1-11

3rd Hour: Isaiah 1:16-20 • Acts 19:1-8 • Mark 1:1-8

6th Hour: Isaiah 12:3-6 • Romans 6:3-11 • Mark 1:9-15

9th Hour: Isaiah 49:8-15 • Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 • Matthew 3:13-17

10:00am Royal Hours for Theophany Eve

6:00pm Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

with the Great Blessing of Water

8:00pm Supper

Reader: Debra

9:00pm Great Compline & Matins (*All-Night Vigil for Theophany*)

Thursday, January 6, 2022

⊕ THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

Vespers Paramia: (1) Genesis 1:1-13 • (2) Exodus 14:15-18, 21-23, 27-29a •
(3) Exodus 15:22-16:1a • (4) Joshua 3:7-8, 15-17 • (5) IV [II] Kings 2:6-14 •
(6) IV [II] Kings 5:9-14 • (7) Isaiah 1:16-20 • (8) Genesis 32:1-10a •
(9) Exodus 2:5-10 • (10) Judges 6:36-40 • (11) III [I] Kings 18:30-39 •
(12) IV [III] Kings 2:19-22 • (13) Isaiah 49:8-15

1 Corinthians 9:19-27. Luke 3:1-18.

Matins Gospel: Mark 1:9-11

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7. Matthew 3:13-17.

10:00am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for Theophany

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)



Welcome Fr. Michael & Pani Janine!
Αχιος!

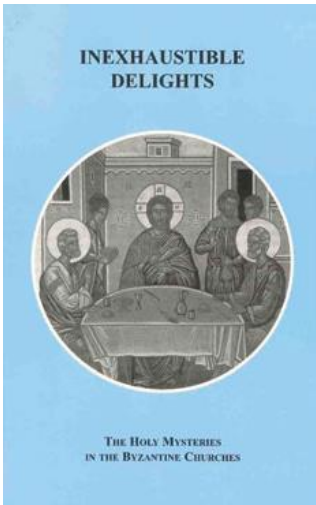
Philip's Fast (*Filiporka*)

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

Nut Rolls for Christmas

If you ordered Nut Rolls from the Guild, you can pick them up and pay for them in the hall on Sunday (December 19th).



Byzantine Book Club

Next meeting: **December 20th at 7pm**

The Byzantine Book club is reading *Inexhaustible Delights: The Holy Mysteries in the Byzantine Churches*. We are meeting @ the Hendricks Homestead (8461 Barrington Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48198) or online through Google Meet @ <https://meet.google.com/eyn-qwkv-vrh>.



The ByziKids Homeschool Co-op meets monthly at different parishes of the region.

Email Pani Katie Russell at katierrssl@gmail.com

for more information and to join us.



The Office of Holy Repentance

During this penitential season in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ, we will celebrate the full form of the office of holy repentance on **Tuesday, December 21st at 7pm**. This includes private confession to a priest. There will be an additional priest – Fr. Constantin Hadarag – available for confessions as well on this evening. This is a good opportunity for any prepared children to make their first confession, for those who have been a long time away from this holy mystery to return, and for all of us to simply to go to confession, which is key to a healthy spiritual life.

Decorating for Christmas!

We have decorated with trees and red pointsettias for the Phillip's Fast. On Christmas Eve, we will add white pointsettias to the red and fill the trees with lights and decorations in celebration of Christmas!

Thank you to all who have donated an ornament! These ornaments donated by all the various members of the parish become a representation of our community rejoicing together in celebration of the birth of our Lord. It's not too late! You can even bring an ornament in on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and hang it on the tree yourself. Because these ornaments will be in the church, they should be of a sacred character.



A Holy Supper

The Church has long observed a fast on the day before the Nativity. In the Byzantine tradition, this is a strict fast. When the Vigil of the Nativity falls on Monday through Friday, Vespers and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil are celebrated in the late afternoon or early evening. In the strictest observance, no food is eaten from midnight until after this Vigil Divine Liturgy. It is important that the fast can only be broken by the Eucharist. The meal that follows is much anticipated and significant. In the Slavic tradition, this meal is called the Holy Supper. It is a paradoxical meatless “fasting feast,” usually of twelve courses of fasting foods. **You’re invited to join us at St. Stephen for this holy supper. If you would like to come, please sign up in the narthex along with which course you will bring to share.**

House Blessings

House Blessings will begin on Theophany (January 6th) and ideally before it’s leavetaking on January 15th. It’s not too soon to start thinking about what day would be best to invite the priest for this annual blessing. There are envelopes for this purpose in your boxes for 2022.

NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH PASTORAL & FINANCE COUNCILS & DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION

The terms of our parish councils & also of our director of evangelization end on **January 31st**. Please pray and discern whether you or someone you know should serve our parish in this way and volunteer or nominate accordingly. Fr. John must appoint a director of evangelization and up to five members to each council. All his appointments must then be approved by the bishop. Council members are appointed for a two year term and must have been active parishioners for at least three years.

Christmas Flowers Offered

in memory of:

Abe & Ruth Attee

Robert Barnes

Don Bonezzi

Mary Ann Bonezzi

Joe Bonezzi

Mr. & Mrs. M. Borilla

Lisa Reardon

Barbara & Peter Sutyak

Joseph Sutyak

Andrew Yatcko

Helen Yatcko



CHRIST – OUR PASCHA

Part One

THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH

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

B. We Believe in the Only-Begotten Son

2. The Only-Begotten Son

89 The Son of God, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, equal in dignity and essence with the Father, is “the splendour of the Father, the unchangeable and immutable image of his essence and his nature, the fountain of wisdom and grace.”⁶⁸ Therefore, the Church professes Christ to be the only-begotten Son, in the bosom of the Father (see *Jn* 1:18). Begotten of the Father, the Son is uncreated; he is the only One from the Father, an unrepeatable Person of God, the Word of God.

For God sent forth the Word ... just as the root puts forth the tree, and the fountain [i.e., spring] the river, and the sun the ray ... I should not hesitate, indeed, to call the tree the son or offspring of the root, and the river that of the fountain [i.e., spring], and the ray that of the sun; because every original source is a parent, and everything which issues from the origin is an offspring. Much more is this true of the Word of God, who has actually received as his own peculiar designation the name of Son.⁶⁹

90 The Church professes the Son to be one in being [essence] with the Father, emphasizing the equality of Persons within the Most Holy Trinity, and the unity of God’s nature, thus confirming the divinity of the Son of God. The Son did not come to be in time, as did creatures. Therefore, he is not lower than the Father. He co-exists with him eternally and is equal to him in all things, other than begetting, which belongs to the Father.⁷⁰

⁶⁸ *Floral Triodion*, Monday of the Holy Spirit, Vespers, Second Kneeling Prayer.

⁶⁹ Tertullian, *Against Praxeas*, 8: PL 2, 163.

⁷⁰ See Cyril of Alexandria, *On the Gospel of John*, 16, 13: PG 74, 411.

The Didache – The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles

4. My child, remember night and day him who speaks the word of God to you, and honor him as you do the Lord. For wherever the lordly rule is uttered, there is the Lord. And seek out day by day the faces of the saints, in order that you may rest upon their words. Do not long for division, but rather bring those who contend to peace. Judge righteously, and do not respect persons in reproving for transgressions. You shall not be undecided whether or not it shall be. Be not a stretcher forth of the hands to receive and a drawer of them back to give. If you have anything, through your hands you shall give ransom for your sins. Do not hesitate to give, nor complain when you give; for you shall know who is the good repayer of the hire. Do not turn away from him who is in want; rather, share all things with your brother, and do not say that they are your own. For if you are partakers in that which is immortal, how much more in things which are mortal? Do not remove your hand from your son or daughter; rather, teach them the fear of God from their youth. Do not enjoin anything in your bitterness upon your bondman or maidservant, who hope in the same God, lest ever they shall fear not God who is over both; for he comes not to call according to the outward appearance, but to them whom the Spirit has prepared. And you bondmen shall be subject to your masters as to a type of God, in modesty and fear. You shall hate all hypocrisy and everything which is not pleasing to the Lord. Do not in any way forsake the commandments of the Lord; but keep what you have received, neither adding thereto nor taking away therefrom. In the church you shall acknowledge your transgressions, and you shall not come near for your prayer with an evil conscience. This is the way of life.

Annual Stewardship Appeal

The Stewardship Appeal helps cover the costs of a variety of programs in the Eparchy including the Works of the Apostolate. We will evangelize the Word of God, teach the Faith to children and adults with catechesis and increase the ministries with the children and youth of our Eparchy, support pro-life ministries and provide help for the poor. Our young people face an ever more difficult challenge to live out our Byzantine Catholic faith in the current culture. Your contributions to the stewardship appeal help facilitate the development and implementation of dynamic programming, retreats, camps, and gatherings designed to deepen the faith of our young people.

If you have not already made your pledge or donation, please visit parma.org and consider a donation to the Eparchy to help financially with the needs and expenses we face. Thank you for your generosity!

The Visitation Icon

Thank you for praying 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. There are just a few weeks left, after which we will find a permanent home in the church for the icon. 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 MaryAnn Reardon for cleaning last week. Thank you to Phyllis, Char, & 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 December 12th was **45**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **45**

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 December 12th was **\$1,708.35**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,795.93**

Sun.: \$1076; Christmas: \$100; Holy Day: \$20; Online: **\$359.35**; Candles: \$53; Flowers: \$90; Fuel: \$10

“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