



## SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

ststephen@parma.org 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 Meatfare Sunday - followed by Confessions*

## Sunday, February 20, 2022

MEATFARE SUNDAY. The Sunday of the Last Judgment. Tone 6

Our Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania (c. 787). Holy Fr. Agathon, Pope of Rome.

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

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2. Matthew 25:31-46.

### **8:00am Matins**

*9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service*

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

Reader: David

*+Helen Drogowski, from Louise Dalbo (2-16)*

*+Robert Beraducci, from Pani Mary Hendricks (2-17)*

*+Melvyn & Josefa, from Sarah Marron (2-19)*

*11:45am Eastern Christian Formation Classes for All (Praying the Psalms with Jesus)*

**7:00pm Vespers** *for Cheesefare Monday*

## Monday, February 21, 2022



Cheesefare Monday. Our Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola (795).

Our Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch (c. 338).

3 John 1:1-14. Luke 19:29-40; 22:7-39.

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

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

## Tuesday, February 22, 2022



Cheesefare Tuesday. The Finding of the Venerable Relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia.

Jude 1-10. Luke 22:39-42, 45b-23:1.


**9:00am First & Third Hour**

**9:30am Divine Liturgy**

Reader: Mary H

*+Robert Beraducci, from Pani Mary Hendricks*

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

Wednesday, February 23, 2022  Day of Alleluia.

Cheesefare Wednesday. Holy Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (c. 155).

*6th Hour: Joel 2:12-26. Vespers: Joel 4:12-21.*

**6:00pm Great Vespers &**

**7:00pm Divine Liturgy** for + the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Finding of the Head of John the Forerunner

+ Evelyn Fecko, from the Camilleri Family


Thursday, February 24, 2022 

Cheesefare Thurs. + 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Finding of the Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, & Baptist John.

*Vespers Paramia from the Common of the Forerunner*

*for the Forerunner: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15. Matthew 11:2-15.*

*(for the day: Jude 1:11-25. Luke 23:2-34, 44-56).*

Friday, February 25, 2022  Day of Alleluia.

Cheesefare Friday. Our Holy Father Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople (806).

*6th Hour: Zachariah 8:7-17. Vespers: Zachariah 8:19-23.*

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

*6-7pm Confessions*

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

Saturday, February 26, 2022 

Cheesefare Saturday. Commemoration of the Holy Ascetics. Holy Fr. Porphyry, Bishop of Gaza.

The Holy Great Martyr Photina the Samaritan.

*Romans 14:19-23; 16:25-27 & for the Holy Ascetics: Galatians 5:22-6:2.*

*Matthew 6:1-13 & for the Holy Ascetics: Matthew 11:27-30.*

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

+ Melvyn & + Josefa, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, February 27, 2022



CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. The Sunday of Forgiveness. Tone 7

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite (741).

Our Holy Father Gregory of Narek.

*Vespers Paramia:* Isaiah 40:1-3, 9; 41:17-18; 45:8; 48:20-21; 54:1 •

Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:2; Malachi 3:1-3, 5-7, 12, 18, 17; 4:4-6 • Wisdom 4:7, 16-17, 19-5:7

*7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:* John 20:1-10.

Romans 13:11b-14:4. Matthew 6:14-21.

**8:00am Matins**

*9:45am Third Hour – Reader Service*

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

Reader: Guillermo

+ Robert Beraducci, from Pani Mary Hendricks (2-22)

+ Evelyn Fecko, from the Camilleri Family (2-23)

+ Melvyn & Josefa, from Sarah Marron (2-26)

*All Eastern Christian Formation Classes Cancelled so that we can all go to:*

**12:00pm Forgiveness Vespers\***

Monday, February 28, 2022



CLEAN MONDAY. Our Venerable Fr. & Confessor Basil, Fellow Ascetic of Procopius (741).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 1:1-20. *Vespers:* Genesis 1:1-13<sup>†</sup> • Proverbs 1:1-20.

**7:00pm Great Compline** *with part of the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete*

Tuesday, March 1, 2022



The Venerable Martyr Eudoxia (2nd Century). Our Holy Fr. David, Enlightener of Wales.

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 1:19-2:3. *Vespers:* Genesis 1:14-23 • Proverbs 1:20-33.

**7:00pm Great Compline** *with part of the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete*

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\* “It is the custom in many monasteries to exchange the kiss of peace as a sign of reconciliation before the Fast. Therefore, this Sunday is also called, ‘The Sunday of Forgiveness.’ The texts for the service of forgiveness are from the Office of Compline. During the exchange of the kiss of peace, the irmosi of the Paschal Canon or the Paschal Stichera are sung” (*Annual Typikon*, p. 15).

<sup>†</sup> During the First Week of the Great Fast, at Vespers, we read the story of the fall of Adam and Eve. (*Annual Typikon*, p. 15).

## Wednesday, March 2, 2022



The Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrene (302).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 2:3-11. *Vespers:* Genesis 1:24-2:3 • Proverbs 2:1-22.

5:45pm *Confessions*

**6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika**

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

*intention of Br. Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt*

## Thursday, March 3, 2022



The Holy Martyr Eutropius and his Companions, Cleonicus and Basiliscus (308).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 2:11-21. *Vespers:* Genesis 2:4-19 • Proverbs 3:1-18.

**7:00pm Great Compline** *with part of the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete*

## Friday, March 4, 2022



Our Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan (475).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 3:1-14. *Vespers:* Genesis 2:20-3:20 • Proverbs 3:19-34.

5:45pm *Confessions*

**6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika**

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy\***

*+Charles & +Mary Burja, from their daughters*

### 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)

\* "After the Ambon Prayer, kutia (boiled wheat and honey) may be blessed in memory of the miracle of St. Theodore.... The tetrapod with the kutia is incensed three times during the singing of the prescribed Troparia in preparation for the blessing." (*Annual Typikon*, p.16)

## The Fast of Cheesefare Week

“Today this fast is considered a part of the Great Fast, [or rather] a preparation period in which we enter gradually into the asceticism of the Fast. It originated, however, in the Oriental Orthodox (non-Chalcedonian) Churches and was separate from the Great Fast. It was called the Fast of Nineveh, and was observed three weeks before the Great Fast, in what is now the Week after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. The Byzantine Church would not observe it at the same time as those Churches in which it was not in communion and moved it to the Week before the Great Fast.” (*Annual Typikon*, p. 13)

## The Holy & Great Fast

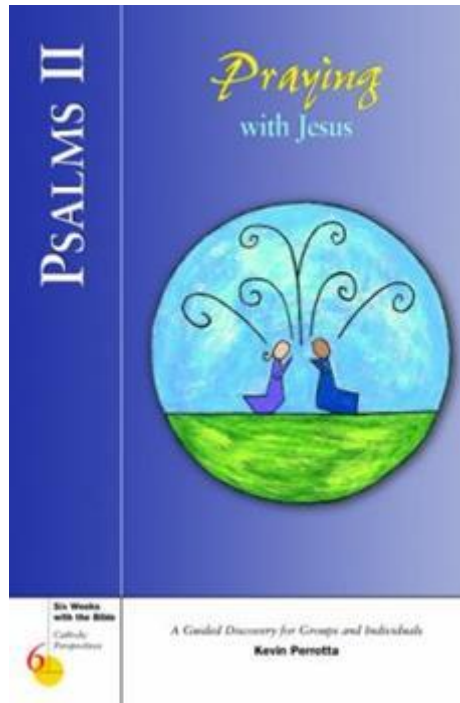
“All days of the Great Fast are Days of Alleluia, unless otherwise noted. On each day, the schedule of services begins with Matins in the morning to Vespers on the evening of the day itself. However, the commemoration of the saint is anticipated as usual.... Vespers and Matins during the Great Fast, beginning on Sunday evening, and concluding on Friday evening, end with the Troparia and prostrations, as given in the service books....

“The Great Fast is our penitential preparation for the great feast of Pascha (Passover). As such, it is one of the most ancient parts of the liturgical year. Its forty days symbolizes the forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert, while the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is the fulfillment of the promise of the manna, as St. John wrote, ‘So Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave bread from heaven; my Father give you the true bread from heaven” (John 6:32). In the Great Fast, we imitate Jesus our Lord, who fasted for forty days in the desert following his baptism. The Feast of Pascha was also the time for baptisms, and so the Great Fast was a time of preparation for baptism. Our observance of the Great Fast, therefore, is our renewal of our baptismal fervor....

“In the Great Fast, abstinence from meat, fish, dairy products, alcohol, and foods cooked in oil was prescribed for all days, except days of mitigation. All Saturdays and Sundays, February 24, March 9, Wednesday to Friday of the Fifth Week, the Prefestive Day and Leave-taking (Otdaniye) of Annunciation were mitigations for wine and oil. The Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday were general mitigations [fish days]. The Ruthenian Metropolia prescribes strict abstinence (from meat and dairy products) on the First Monday of the Great Fast and Good Friday, and abstinence from meat on all Wednesdays and Fridays” (*Annual Typikon*, p. 15).

## Starting Today!

### Praying the Psalms with Jesus – Adult ECF



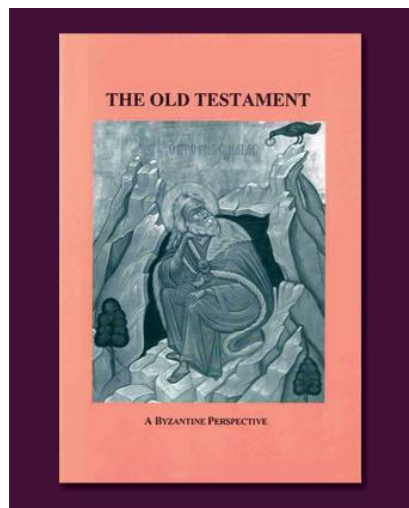
After today's (February 20<sup>th</sup> – Meatfare Sunday) Divine Liturgy, we are going to begin exploring a few of the psalms that Jesus prayed, in order to understand and pray the psalms ourselves and to enter into Jesus' prayer. We will use a study guide that provides brief background and explanation about the psalms and how Jesus used them, along with questions that will help us explore the biblical texts and reflect on what these prayers mean for us. The format of our sessions will be mainly a moderated discussion led by Kevin Perrotta, who is also the author of the study guide. The study guide is *Psalms II: Praying with Jesus*. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2002.

# Byzantine Book Club

Next meeting: **Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm**

The Byzantine Book club is reading *The Old Testament: A Byzantine perspective*. For more than 1500 years, the Old Testament has been studied, prayed over and proclaimed liturgically by Christians of the Byzantine Tradition. The Old Testament has nourished the artistry of our iconographers, church architects and hymnographers. In its pages our preachers and teachers have found foreshadowings of the the New Covenant, moral and ethical challenges, and models for pious living.

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.

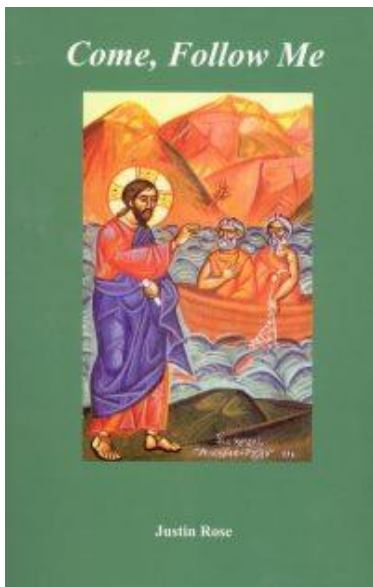
Email Pani Katie Russell at [katiersll@gmail.com](mailto:katiersll@gmail.com) for more information and to join us.

## Invitation to Come, Follow Me

Jesus called his closest followers and apostles to "Come, follow me." We, too, are called to be disciples of Jesus, but this call is often drowned out by the "noise" of our lives. This is an opportunity to reconsider our call to discipleship. We will begin by finding a time/place to meet regularly, to examine our lives, to make choices for the Gospel, and to hold one another accountable for our choices. In time, we will form smaller groups (if our numbers make that appropriate) for discussion, prayer, and support. Finally, we will be given the challenge to share what we are learning with our friends, family, and fellow parishioners.

This 160 page book by Father Justin Rose contains a 20-week program of parish renewal and scripture study for discipleship. Illustrated with weekly exercises and homework.

If you would like to investigate this opportunity, contact Fr. Deacon Lawrence at (734) 255-4099 or [frdeaconlawrence@yahoo.com](mailto:frdeaconlawrence@yahoo.com)







As part of the ongoing Synod, we are asking all parishioners to participate in at least one meeting with our facilitators, Victor Azcuy and Cecilia Hendricks. These meetings take about two hours and focus on the weekly meditations on the Beatitudes from the bulletin. Our parish's meetings will alternately be online and in person. This week's meeting will be in person in the small hall on Friday. To participate in one of the meetings, please contact the facilitators directly:

Victor Azcuy  
vazcuy1@gmail.com  
(239) 895-8931

or Cecilia Hendricks  
cecilia.hendricks@gmail.com  
734-255-4178

Please be aware that these meetings have a limit of ten attendees per session, so they will be first come, first signed-up. In order to prepare for the meeting, please spend some time praying with and reflecting on the Beatitudes handout from today's bulletin.

*Young Adults* join us for

## *Lent in the Byzantine Catholic Tradition*



**Sunday, March 6**

**5:30 p.m. Dinner & Talk by Fr. John (in P.A.C.)**

**7 p.m. Vespers according to the Byzantine Rite (in church)**

Join us for a Lenten dinner and a talk by Fr. John of St. Stephen Byzantine Parish in Allen Park as he discusses the Lenten fasting customs according to the Byzantine tradition. Afterwards, we'll head to the church and join our Byzantine Catholic brothers and sisters in praying evening Vespers.

**RSVP for Dinner @ [stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms](http://stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms)**

## HOLY BISHOP MARTYR THEODORE ROMZHA RELIGIOUS FREEDOM LECTURES

Join us for the first annual “Holy Bishop Martyr Theodore Romzha Religious Freedom Lecture.” Bishop Theodore’s courage stands in a long line of Christians who have freely given their lives for the love of Christ and the world that starts with the first martyr of the Christian Church, St. Stephen.

The Religious Freedom Lecture will be on **September 25, 2022** in the Crystal Room at St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church..

The inaugural lecture in that series will be presented by Dame Juliana Taimoorazy who with much of her family fled Iran in 1989 and has founded the Iraqi Christian Relief Council. Through the council’s efforts thousands of suffering Christians in Iraq (Assyria) have been saved and given assistance. Moreover, Juliana has testified before the US Congress and has visited many countries with families who have needed their help. In 2021 she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. You can learn more about her and also see the work of the Relief council here:

<https://iraqichristianrelief.org/>

You can be part of this exciting event through sponsorship, advertising, and offering. Here is how:

1. **Sponsorship:** We need several people and Churches to step forward with gifts of \$100-\$249 (Silver); or \$250-\$499 (Gold); or \$500 and above (Diamond). Diamond Sponsors receive four free registrations; Gold and Silver receive two free registrations. All donors may be recognized by name in the program, if they would like.
2. **Advertisement:** If you have a business or you are acquainted with people who have a business you or they will be able to place an advertisement in the program. 1/8 page for \$100-\$249; ¼ page for \$250-499; ½ page for \$500 and above. If you know people who wish to include an ad please ask them if we might call them and please contact the Church office or Carson Daniel Lauffer 248-309-1552 or [Carsonlauffer0903@comcast.net](mailto:Carsonlauffer0903@comcast.net)
3. A **donation** of \$25.00 for each participant will pay for lunch, and the expenses for our guest lecturer.

All donations, sponsorships, and advertisements should be sent to the Church office. Make checks payable to St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church with reference “religious freedom lectures”. You may also donate online at <https://saintstephenbyzantine.church/donations/>

*Click the green button that says “Give to St. Stephen”  
select “Religious Freedom Lectures” from the drop-down menu.*

For answers to questions contact

Carson Daniel Lauffer at 248-309-1552 or [carsonlauffer0903@comcast.net](mailto:carsonlauffer0903@comcast.net) or

Victor Jiomkowski at 313-930-0801 or [v.jiomkowski1111@att.net](mailto:v.jiomkowski1111@att.net)

## **Latest from the St. Stephen Evangelization Society**

One of our most successful ministries is the Welcoming Ministry that occurs just inside the main entrance of the Church. This includes the podium and welcome sign-in book, the table with new table clothes, the carpet under the table, the changeable wreaths, the “Welcome Home” sign, the book sales, the gifts of choctkis and word of welcome from Father John, and the greeters who welcome people to the Church. This is the first greeting people receive when they attend our worship.

Visitors need a sense of welcome and most return because they are welcomed. They need material about our Church. They need direction on inserts for worship and well as instruction on how to use our worship book. They need an invitation and directions to the Crystal room for the “agape” (love) meal following liturgy. All of these are offered by those serving as greeters offering a welcome to new people.

When a visitor signs the guest book with their email addresses, Fr. John adds this information to our mailing list. Imagine coming to a new church with no greeting and no information to help them find their way through a new experience. When visiting a new church experience without such a welcome many if not most of us would never return. If you would like to join our team of greeters please contact Dan or Chris Lauffer in person, or phone 248-309-1552 or by email [carsonlauffer0903@comcast.net](mailto:carsonlauffer0903@comcast.net).

## CHRIST – OUR PASCHA

### Part One

#### THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH

### III. WE BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, AND IN OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, AND IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LORD, THE GIVER OF LIFE

#### A. The Creator and His Creation

#### 1. The Father Creates through the Son in the Holy Spirit

##### *b. The Goodness of Creation*

107 In the account of the creation of the world, Holy Scripture discloses the way in which God assesses the world created by him: “And God saw that it was good” (*Gn* 1:10 et al.). Like an artist, God creates a masterpiece; he examines his creation with attention, and he delights in it. The Father contemplates the world and recognizes within its features the face of the Son—the first-born of all creation, by whom and for whom all was created (see *Col* 1:15f). The face of Christ comes through ever more distinctly throughout history—all the way to the incarnation of the Son of God and his second coming in glory. Creation is the visible icon of the invisible God. As history unfolds, this creation is being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit into a “new creation,” prefigured in the glorified body of the Risen Christ.

108 Contemplation—a deeper way of looking at the world, to which God calls us—teaches us to see the surrounding world not only as a material thing, or as something useful and pleasurable for our egos, but as the sphere of action of the personal God, who is distinct from us and from the world. The words of prayer from the Rite of the Great Blessing of Water provide us with a wonderful example of the Christian view of the world:

The sun sings your praises; the moon glorifies you; the stars entreat you; the light obeys you; the depths tremble before you; the springs serve you. You have stretched out the heavens like a tent; you have established the earth upon the waters; you have enclosed the sea with sand. You have poured forth air that living things may breathe...<sup>84</sup>

109 Contemplation of the world, in light of an experience of the personal God who alone is good (see *Lk* 18:19), provides the foundation for affirming the goodness of the world, of matter, and of all creation. “The world is good, and all its contents are seen to be wisely and skilfully ordered.”<sup>85</sup> In Holy Scripture, the image of God’s plan for the world is Paradise (see *Gn* 2). The realization of this plan depends upon the cooperation of humankind with God. Paradise is God’s gift, and at the same time, it is humankind’s vocation.

110 Conceived by God as Paradise, the world is God’s gift to humankind and the sphere of our relationship with God, with others, and with nature. For this reason, human beings cannot take a consumerist attitude towards the world, a world that is filled with the love and attention of the Giver. The Christian attitude towards the world is to see it as a gift of God. Growing in faith, Christians ascend in their understanding from the gifts to the Person of the Giver. Regarding the world as God’s gift allows one to avoid two extremes: the reduction of its value (since the world is God’s creation), or turning it into an absolute (since the world is not God).

<sup>84</sup> *Trebnýk*, Rite of the Great Blessing of Water for the Feast of Theophany, Third Prayer.

<sup>85</sup> Gregory of Nyssa, *Great Catechism*, I: PG 45, 16.

## Annual Stewardship Appeal

The effectiveness of this faith community and our Eparchy of Parma depends upon the support of our entire parish family. As stewards, we are challenged to show gratitude to God for bestowing us with gifts of time, talent, and treasure. With your financial support, we help build the Kingdom of God. Think of God first. Give your gift to God from the first fruits, not from what is left over. Visit us online at [parma.org](http://parma.org) to submit your one-time or monthly donation. Thank you for your generosity!

St. Stephen's goal this year is \$6,600.

So far, 22 parishioners have donated a total of \$4100.87,  
putting us at over 62% of our goal. Thank you!



## 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. Betty Sutyak & LeAnn Osentoski have signed up to clean the church 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 Religious Freedom Lecture (Iraqi Christian Relief): we have collected \$750

### **Image of God Pregnancy Center**

Our parish helps to support Image of God Pregnancy Center (4151 Seminole St., Detroit), contact Ryan Coffey-Burns at (847) 477-6624 or [rmsijburns@gmail.com](mailto:rmsijburns@gmail.com) for more information. You can also contact the center directly at (313) 923-8018.

We collected and donated \$400 for the Image of God Pregnancy Center.

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

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on February 13<sup>th</sup> was **60**. Average Sunday attendance  $\approx$  **46**

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 February 13<sup>th</sup> was **\$1,673.35**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,778.76**

Sunday: \$1372; Holy Day: \$20; Online: \$139.35; Candles: \$32; Initial Offering: \$20; Fuel: \$70; Literature: \$20

“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