



## SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

February 27<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 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.

*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**



*First Day of the Great Fast*

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**

Reader: Cecilia

*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\***

Reader: Mary Woods

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

## Saturday, March 5, 2022



First Saturday of the Great Fast. The Miracle of St. Theodore the Recruit.

The Holy Martyr Conon (251).

Hebrews 1:1-12 & *for Theodore:* 2 Timothy 2:1-10.

Mark 2:23-3:5 & *for Theodore:* John 15:17-16:2.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

*in Thanksgiving for Faith Himick's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday*

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

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\* "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)

## Sunday, March 6, 2022



1st SUN. OF THE GREAT FAST. SUN. OF ORTHODOXY. THE HOLY PROPHETS. Tone 8  
The Holy Forty-two Martyrs of Ammorium (848).

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

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2a. John 1:43-51.

### 8:15am Matins

*9:45am Procession with Icons & Synodikon of Orthodoxy*

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

Reader: Debra

*intention of Br. Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt (3-2)*

*in Thanksgiving for Faith Himick's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (3-5)*

*+Charles & +Mary Burja, from their daughters (3-4)*

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

**7:00pm Vespers** *in Ann Arbor for Cheesefare Monday*

## Monday, March 7, 2022



Holy Martyrs & Bishops of Cherson: Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius & others (4th C).  
Venerable Fr. Paul the Simple. Passing of the Martyred Priest-Exarch Leonid Feodorov (1935).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 4:2-5:6. *Vespers:* Genesis 3:21-4:7 • Proverbs 3:34-4:22.

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

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

## Tuesday, March 8, 2022



Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophylact (845).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 5:7-16.

*Vespers:* Gen. 4:8-15 • Prov. 5:1-15 & *for the Martyrs:* Is. 43:9-14 • Wis. 3:1-9 • Wis. 5:15-6:3.

**7:00am First Hour & Terce-Sext**

## Wednesday, March 9, 2022



✦ The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste (320). The Holy Martyr Urpasianus of Nicomedia.

*Matins Gospel:* Luke 21:12-19. *Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 5:16-25.

*Presanctified:* Gen. 4:16-26 • Prov. 5:15-6:3 & *for the Martyrs:* Heb. 12:1-10. Matt. 20:1-16.

*5:45pm Confessions*

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

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

*+Rebecca Funni, from Emily Czupinski*

Thursday, March 10, 2022



The Holy Martyr Codratus and his Companions (250).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 6:1-12. *Vespers:* Genesis 5:1-24 • Proverbs 6:3-20.

**7:00am First Hour & Terce-Sext**

Friday, March 11, 2022



Our Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (644).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 7:1-14. *Vespers:* Genesis 5:32-6:8 • Proverbs 6:20-7:1.

*5:45pm Confessions*

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

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

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

*followed by:*

**Parastas for All Souls**

Saturday, March 12, 2022



Second Saturday of the Great Fast. Soul Saturday.

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophane of the Sygrian Mountain (817).

Our Holy Father Gregory, Pope of Rome (604). Holy Father Symeon, the New Theologian.

Hebrews 3:12-16 & *for the departed:* 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

Mark 1:35-44 & *for the departed:* John 5:24-30.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

*intention of the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron*

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

#### 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)

# 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).



*By Vatican News staff reporter*

During the General Audience on Wednesday, Pope Francis made a heartfelt appeal for peace in Ukraine, saying that the threat of war had caused “great pain in my heart.”

“Despite the diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks,” the Pope said, “increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up,” with many people all over the world feeling anguish and pain.

““Once again the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests,” he stressed. Pope Francis appealed to those “with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war, who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies.””

He also prayed that “all the parties involved refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilizing coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute.”



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 online via Zoom on **Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 7pm. To participate in one of the meetings, please contact the facilitators directly:

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

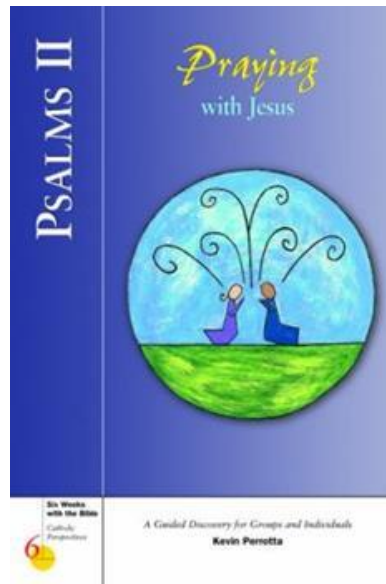
or

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.

## Praying the Psalms with Jesus – Adult ECF

After Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**, 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.





*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.

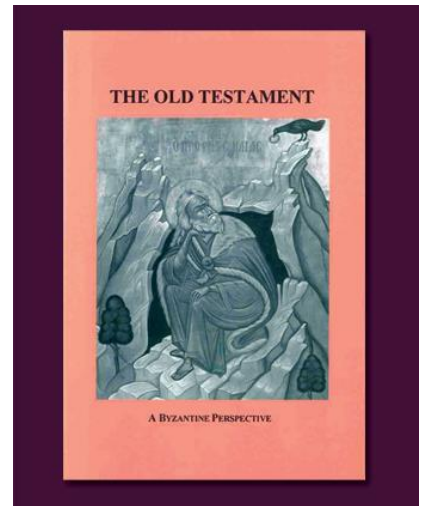
**RSVP for Dinner @ [stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms](http://stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms)**

# Byzantine Book Club

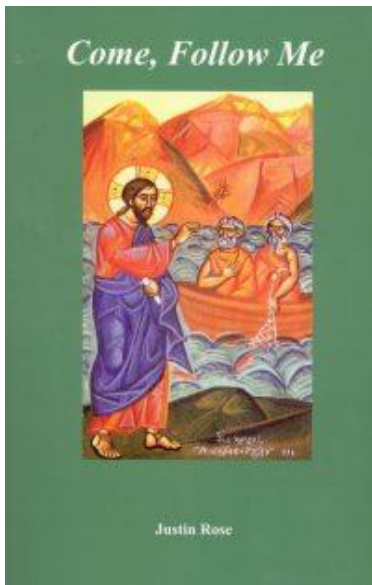
Next meeting: **Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

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>.



## 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)



The ByziKids Homeschool Co-op meets monthly at different parishes of the region.  
Email Pani Katie Russell at [katierrussll@gmail.com](mailto:katierrussll@gmail.com)  
for more information and to join us.

## Make Pysanki!



Come and learn the ancient Slavic art of wax-resist egg decoration. These are a wonderful and traditional way to beautify your Easter baskets for Pascha! Learn both Rusyn & Ukrainian techniques. The egg represents the tomb of Christ, from which new life comes.

Pani Katie will lead pysanki classes on:

**Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** from 11:30am to 1:30pm

**Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>** from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

The materials for making pysanki will continue to be available in the hall each Sunday of the Great Fast after the Divine Liturgy.

## 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)

# **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**

##### ***c. God's Plan***

- 111 God the Creator fills creation with the grace of his presence, and yet at the same time, he remains unattainable in his essence. God's presence in the world is discovered through prayerful contemplation, which is capable of seeing in the world his divine Prototype, the Christ.
- 112 In accordance with his plan, God acts in the world; he sustains the world in existence and leads it to its final fulfilment. This action of God is referred to as the Divine Plan (Providence) of God. Divine Providence consists in his gracious "foresight" and the "counsel from before the ages" of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit;<sup>86</sup> this Providence is God's will for the world and determines the consummation of the world: "By your power you hold together the creation, and by your providence you govern the world."<sup>87</sup> This means that in the world and in our lives, there are no coincidences or random occurrences. Faith makes it possible to see the action of Divine Providence in the concrete circumstances of life.

<sup>87</sup> *Trebnyk*, Rite of the Great Blessing of Water for the Feast of Theophany, Third Prayer.

## 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. Thank you to Betty Sutyak & LeAnn Osentoski for cleaning last week. Phyllis, Char, & Ceil 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 \$865

## 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](mailto: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 at Divine Liturgy on February 20<sup>th</sup> was **59**. Average Sunday attendance  $\approx$  **47**

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 20<sup>th</sup> was **\$1,241.35**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,788.82**

Sunday: \$788; Holy Day: \$90; Online: \$189.35; Candles: \$44; Initial Offering: \$20; Fuel: \$110;

“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