

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI
ststephen@parma.org 313-382-5901
website: saintstephenbyzantine.church

March 20th, 2022

Priest: Rev. John R.P. Russell, M.Div.
cell phone: 412-378-0308
email: frjussell@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, March 20, 2022 

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Tone 2
Our Venerable Fathers of the Saint Sabbas Monastery, killed by Saracens (796).

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

Hebrews 4:14-5:6. Mark 8:34b-9:1.

8:15am Matins with the Veneration of the Cross

9:45am Third Hour (*Reader Service*) & Confessions

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

Reader: Dan Lauffer


for the health of Paul Baize, from Betty Baize (3-16)

+Evelyn Fecko, from George Fecko (3-18)

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (3-19)

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

7:00pm Vespers *for Monday*

Monday, March 21, 2022 

Our Venerable Father and Confessor James, Bishop of Catania (8th Century).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 14:24-32. *Vespers:* Genesis 8:21-9:7 • Proverbs 11:19-12:6.

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

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

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 

The Holy Martyr Basilides, Priest of Ancyra (363).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 25:1-9. *Vespers:* Genesis 9:8-17 • Proverbs 12:8-22.

7:00am First Hour & Terce-Sext

Wednesday, March 23, 2022



Mid-Lent. The Holy Venerable-Martyr Nikon and his Students martyred with him (250).
Our Holy Mother Rafka.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 26:21-27:9. *Vespers:* Genesis 9:18-10:1 • Proverbs 12:23-13:9.

5:45pm *Confessions*

6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

for the health of Carol, from Joe Biltz

Thursday, March 24, 2022



⊗ Pre-festive Day of the Annunciation. Our Venerable Father Zachary.
Our Holy Father Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia.
Our Holy Father Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 28:14-22.

Vespers: Gen 10:32-11:9 • Prov 13:20-14:6. • Gen 28:10-14 • Ez 43:27-44 • Prov 9:1-11.

7:00am First Hour & Terce-Sext

Friday, March 25, 2022



⊕ THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY.

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

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 29:13-23.

Vespers: Genesis 12:1-7 • Proverbs 14:15-26. • Exodus 3:1-8 • Proverbs 8:22-31.

for the Annunciation: Hebrews 2:11-18. Luke 1:24-38.

7:00am Festal Matins for ⊕ ANNUNCIATION

6:00pm *Confessions*

7:00pm Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrys. for ⊕ ANNUNCIATION

+John Danko, from Mary Camilleri

Saturday, March 26, 2022

Leave-taking of the Annunciation. ☩ The Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel.

Hebrews 6:9-12. Mark 7:31-37

10:00am Divine Liturgy

intention of the descendents of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, March 27, 2022

4th SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS. Tone 3

Our Venerable Mother Matrona of Thessalonica (c. 350).

11th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 21:15-25.

Hebrews 6:13-20 & for holy father John: Ephesians 5:8b-19.

Mark 9:17-31 & for holy father John: Matthew 4:25-5:12a.

8:15am Matins

9:30am Hours (Reader Service) & **Confessions** available in the sacristy

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

Reader: TBD

intention

intention

+

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

7:00pm Vespers for Monday

Monday, March 28, 2022

Our Venerable Father Hilary the Younger (754). The Holy Stephen the Wonder-worker.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 37:33-38:6. *Vespers:* Genesis 13:12-18 • Proverbs 14:27-15:4.

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

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

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Our Venerable Father Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, the Deacon Cyril,

and Others who suffered martyrdom under Julian the Apostate (364).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 40:18-31. *Vespers:* Genesis 15:1-15 • Proverbs 15:7-19.

7:00am First Hour & Terce-Sext

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Our Venerable Father John Climacus, Author of “The Ladder” (649).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 41:4-14. *Vespers:* Genesis 17:1-9 • Proverbs 15:20-16:9.

7:00am First Hour & Terce-Sext

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Matins with the Great Canon of our holy Father Andrew of Crete*

Thursday, March 31, 2022

THE GREAT CANON OF OUR HOLY FATHER ANDREW OF CRETE.

Our Venerable Father Hypatius, Bishop of Gangra (326).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 42:5-16. *Vespers:* Genesis 18:20-33 • Proverbs 16:17-17:17.

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

intention TBD

Friday, April 1, 2022

Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt (c. 530).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 45:11-17. *Vespers:* Genesis 22:1-18 • Proverbs 17:17-18:5.

5:45pm Confessions





6:20pm Ninth Hour & Typika

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

intention of Br. Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt

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)

* “In the fifth week of the Great Fast, we chant the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, to re-affirm our commitment to follow Christ.... The Great Canon is sung with prostrations at every troparion of the canticles. In parish use..., the Canon... may be sung on Wed. evening to permit the faithful to attend.” (Annual Typicon, p. 23).



Special Collection for Ukrainians in Need

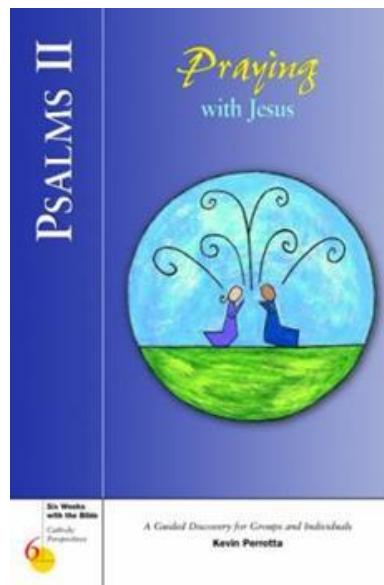
Pray for Ukraine and Donate to Help Support Ukrainians in Need

Bishop Milan Lach and the Eparchy of Parma express sincere compassion for the people of Ukraine, especially as they are now in the throes of war and are actively being attacked by Russia. Bishop Milan asks and encourages us to pray for the Ukrainian people and for the swift end of conflict upon them.

During the weeks of **March 13 and March 20, 2022**, a special collection is being taken by the Eparchy of Parma to help support the suffering people of Ukraine. The money we collect as an Eparchy will be given to Bishop Nil Lushchak, Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Mukachevo in Ukraine, and he will distribute it to those in most need. You can use the envelope in this bulletin to donate to this cause. Or, you can mail a check made payable to "The Eparchy of Parma" to 5000 Rockside Road, Suite 310, Independence, Ohio 44131 with the memo: Ukrainians in Need. Thank you for your support of this collection for our suffering brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

Praying the Psalms with Jesus – Adult ECF

After Divine Liturgy today **Sunday, March 21st**, 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.



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 Monday, March 21st at 7pm**. To participate in one of the meetings, please sign up on the sign up sheet in the narthex and/or contact the facilitators directly:

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

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.

Survey for Synodal Process

As a part of the Synodal Process in the Eparchy of Parma, we are taking a survey provided to us by the Catholic Leadership Institute. This survey is open to all our parishioners and is an anonymous way for you to share with Bishop Milan Lach and your parish priest your assessment of your faith life, your parish, and the Eparchy. The survey closes on April 4th.

There are paper surveys and a drop box in the narthex of the church. However, please take the survey online if you're capable of that. Anonymity is better that way and it makes the process less labor intensive for those compiling the data.

You can take the survey online at <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/y43x33>
For any technical issues, contact onlinesupport@catholicleaders.org
More information about the survey is available at <https://parma.org/>

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 a second pysanki class on:

Saturday April 9th 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.



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

Email Pani Katie Russell at katierrussll@gmail.com

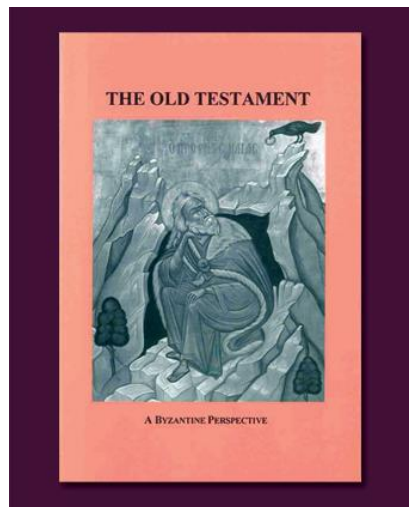
for more information and to join us.

Byzantine Book Club

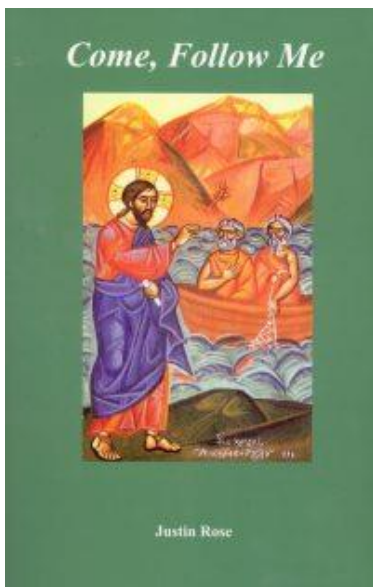
Next meeting: **Monday, March 21st at 7pm**

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

Day of **Recollecion**
at
St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church
“*Sundays in Preparation
for the Great Fast
and Pascha*”
5th Sunday of the Great Fast
April 3, 2022
*All are
welcome!*

1:00 p.m. – Hymns led by St. Nicholas Church Choir
followed by presentations given by
Fr. Deacon Robert Cripps &
Fr. Deacon Gregory Loya

Each presentation will be approximately 1/2 hour in length
with a break in between.

3:00 p.m. (approx.) – Conclusion: Praying the Hours
St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

23300 King Drive, Clinton Township • (586) 791-1052



COME TO THE BYZANTEEN YOUTH RALLY WITH THE EPARCHY OF PARMA

SOAR AS ON EAGLE'S WINGS
ISAIAH 40:30-31

JUNE 30 - JULY 3, 2022
MOUNT ST. MARY'S
UNIVERSITY

16300 Old Emmitsburg Road |
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Keynote Address by Superbowl
Champion Matt Birk

More information at www.parma.org

ByzanTEEN Rally 2022 - After two years of the COVID-19 pandemic preventing teens of the Metropolitan Church from meeting at the biannual ByzanTEEN Youth Rally, we are happy to announce that **we will finally meet again this year, June 30 - July 3, 2022 in Emmitsburg, MD.** We are so excited to gather **at Mount St. Mary's University** with the youth of the Metropolitan Church and we hope you will join our Eparchial Youth Committee and travel with us to the Rally! For more information see: <https://parma.org/rally2022>

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
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 or

Victor Jiompkowski at 313-930-0801 or v.jiompkowski1111@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

For you fashioned a man by taking dust from the earth. (Anaphora of the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great)

3. Humankind—the Crown of Creation

118 “Lord ... what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him little less than God, and crown him with glory and honour. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet” (*Ps* 8:1, 4-6). With these words Holy Scripture extols humankind. The Lord God set humanity to govern creation: “Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth” (*Gn* 1:26).

119 In the course of *six days* God creates the world, preparing it for humankind: “It was not to be looked for that the ruler should appear before the subjects of his rule; but when his dominion was prepared, the next step was that the king should be revealed.”⁹⁵ Having created humankind, God crowns his creation. “In what then does the greatness of humankind consist, according to the doctrine of the Church? Not in his likeness to the created world, but in his being in the image of the nature of the Creator.”⁹⁶

120 Based on the above, Gregory of Nyssa teaches that the dignity of the human being lies in the fact that by its very nature humanity is higher than all creation, since it was created in the royal image of its creator and freely and with full authority rules over its desires.⁹⁷ The dignity of humankind is in the image of God. The Lord himself preserves human dignity as inviolable and cares for the human being:

Who else is there that ministers to you more faithfully than I? All creation I created to serve you; the heaven and the earth serve you: the one with its moisture, the other with its fruits. For your sake the sun serves with its light and with its warmth, and the moon and the stars lighten the night. For your sake the clouds nourish the earth with rain, and the earth brings forth all manner of grasses with their seeds and the trees with their fruits to serve you. For your sake the rivers bear fish and the wastes rear beasts.⁹⁸

⁹⁵Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Making of Man*, 2: PG 44, 132.

⁹⁶Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Making of Man*, 16, PG 44, 177.

⁹⁷See Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Making of Man*, 3-4: PG 44, 134-136.

⁹⁸Kirill of Turov, *Sermon for the Fourth Sunday after Easter*.

Annual Stewardship Appeal

During this Lenten season, please consider the blessings that our Lord has bestowed upon you and your family. Consider the ways you may give back to God and His Church through assisting at your parish, and by pledging to the Stewardship Appeal. Please be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in sharing your gifts through your time, talent, and treasure. Please visit parma.org to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through our website.

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.

CHARITABLE GIVING

from St. Stephen Parish

St. Stephen Parish donates \$50 per month to Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry

We donated \$150 to the Churches in Central & Eastern Europe

Since our last contributions,

for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, we have collected \$138

for the Catholic Home Missions, we have collected \$125

for the Religious Freedom Lecture (Iraqi Christian Relief): we have collected \$865

for Ukrainians in need, we have collected \$1,120

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 at Divine Liturgy on March 13th was **53**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **48**

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 March 13th was **\$1,092.35**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,813.28**

Sunday: \$682; Holy Day: \$10; Online: \$189.35; Candles: \$46; Icons: \$25; Flowers: \$130; 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