



## SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

March 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 Sunday – followed by Confessions

**Sunday, March 27, 2022**



4<sup>th</sup> 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: Dominique

*for the health of Carol, from Joe Biltz (3-23)*

*intention of the descendents of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (3-26)*

*+John Danko, from Mary Camilleri*

*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**

*+Olga Kootun, from Maryalice Lukas*

## 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.

**4:00pm Parastas** *for Andrew Vanchick – at Voran Funeral Home in Dearborn*

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

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

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

## Saturday, April 2, 2022

5<sup>th</sup> Sat. of the Great Fast. Akathistos Saturday. Venerable Fr. Titus the Wonder-worker (9th C.).

Hebrews 9:24-28 & *for Akathistos:* Hebrews 9:1-7.

Mark 8:27-31 & *for Akathistos:* Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

**9:30am Akathist**

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

*+Ernie Semak, from Bob & Jane Semak*

**12 noon Funeral** *for Andrew Vanchick*

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

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\* “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).

Sunday, April 3, 2022



5<sup>th</sup> SUN. OF THE GREAT FAST. OUR VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT. Tone 4  
Our Venerable Father and Confessor Nicetas, Hegumen of Medikion (824).

*1st Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20.*

*Hebrews 9:11-14 & for St. Mary: Galatians 3:23-29.*

*Mark 10:32b-45 & for St. Mary: Luke 7:36-50.*

**8:15am Matins**

**9:30am Akathist** (*Reader Service*) & **Confessions**

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

Reader: Cecilia

*intention of Br. Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt (4-1)*

*+Olga Kovtun, from Maryalice Lukas (3-31)*

*+Ernie Semak, from Bob & Jane Semak (4-2)*

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

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

Monday, April 4, 2022



Our Venerable Fathers, Joseph the Hymnographer (883) & George of Maleon (9th Century).

*Sixth Hour: Isaiah 48:17-49:4. Vespers: Genesis 27:1-41 • Proverbs 19:16-25.*

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

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

Tuesday, April 5, 2022



The Holy Martyrs Theodulus and Agathopodes and their Companions (303).

*Sixth Hour: Isaiah 49:6-10. Vespers: Genesis 31:3-16 • Proverbs 21:3-21.*

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

**7:00pm Office of Holy Repentance**

## Wednesday, April 6, 2022



Our Holy Father Eutyches, Archbishop of Constantinople (582).

✙ The Passing of our Holy Father Methodius, Teacher of the Slavs (885).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 58:1-11. *Vespers:* Gen 43:26-31; 45:1-16 • Proverbs 21:23-22:4.

*5:45pm Confessions*

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

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

+Eugene & +Angeline Dalbo, from Louise Dalbo

## Thursday, April 7, 2022



Our Venerable Father George, Bishop of Mitylene (816).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 65:8-16. *Vespers:* Genesis 46:1-7 • Proverbs 23:15-24:5.

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

## Friday, April 8, 2022



The Holy Apostles Herodian, Agabus, Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon, and Hermes.

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 66:10-24. *Vespers:* Genesis 49:33-50:26 • Proverbs 31:8-32.

*5:45pm Confessions*

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

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

+Frank & +Mary Kootun, from the family

### 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)



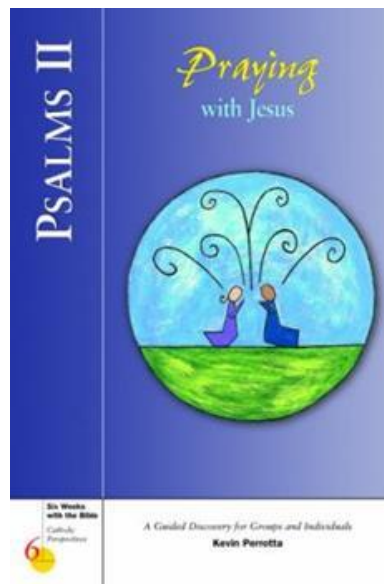
by tradition, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, or eggs)



by tradition, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat)

## Praying the Psalms with Jesus – Adult ECF

After Divine Liturgy today **Sunday, March 27<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.



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 Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 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  
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.

# 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 4<sup>th</sup>**.

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](mailto: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 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.



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

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

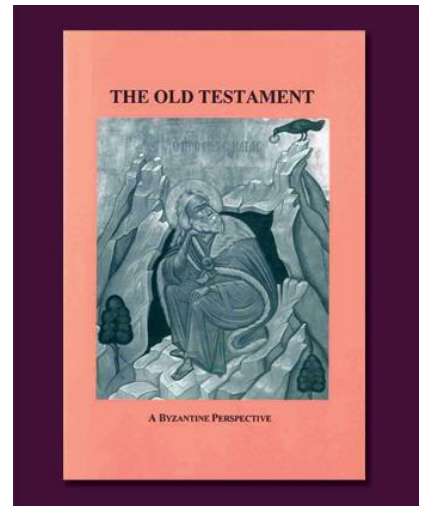


# Byzantine Book Club

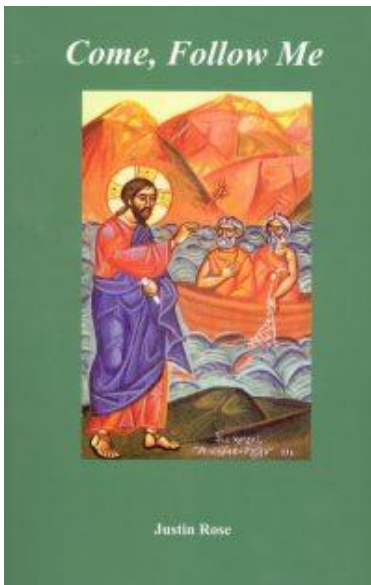
Next meeting: **Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

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

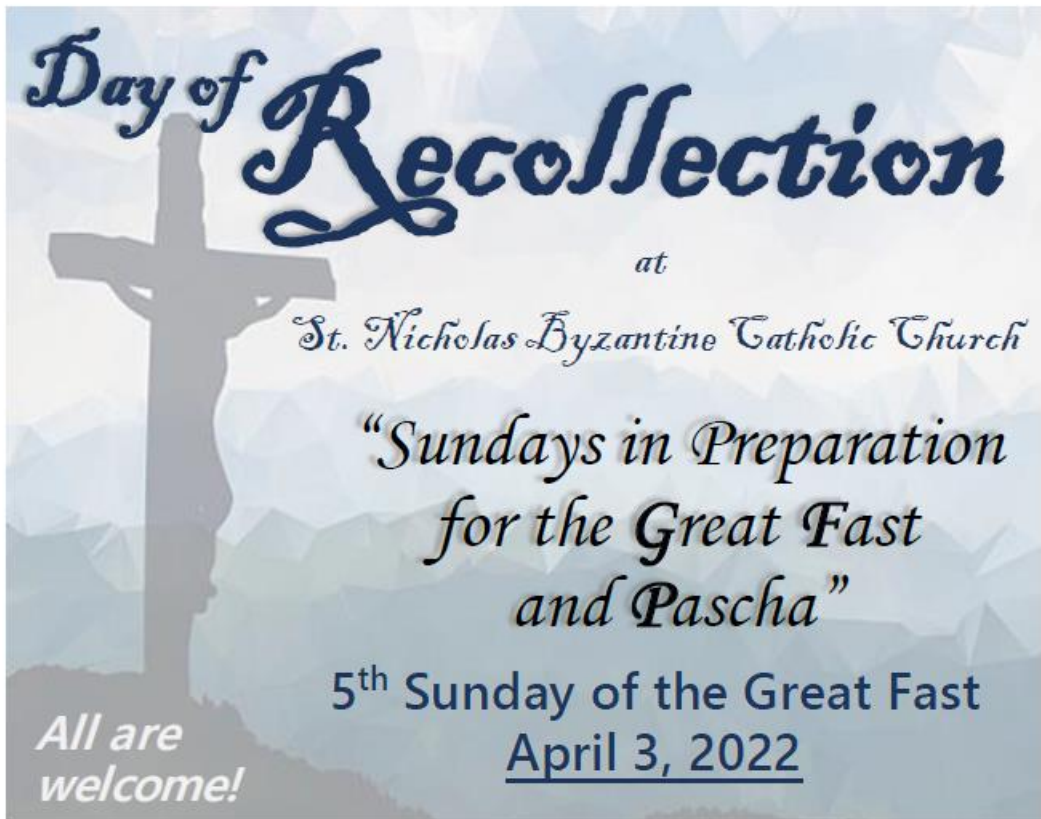


Jesus called his closest followers and apostles to "Come, follow me." We, too, are called to be disciples of Jesus, but this call is often drowned out by the "noise" of our lives. This is an opportunity to reconsider our call to discipleship. We will begin by finding a time/place to meet regularly, to 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)





1:00 p.m. – Hymns led by St. Nicholas Church Choir  
followed by presentations given by

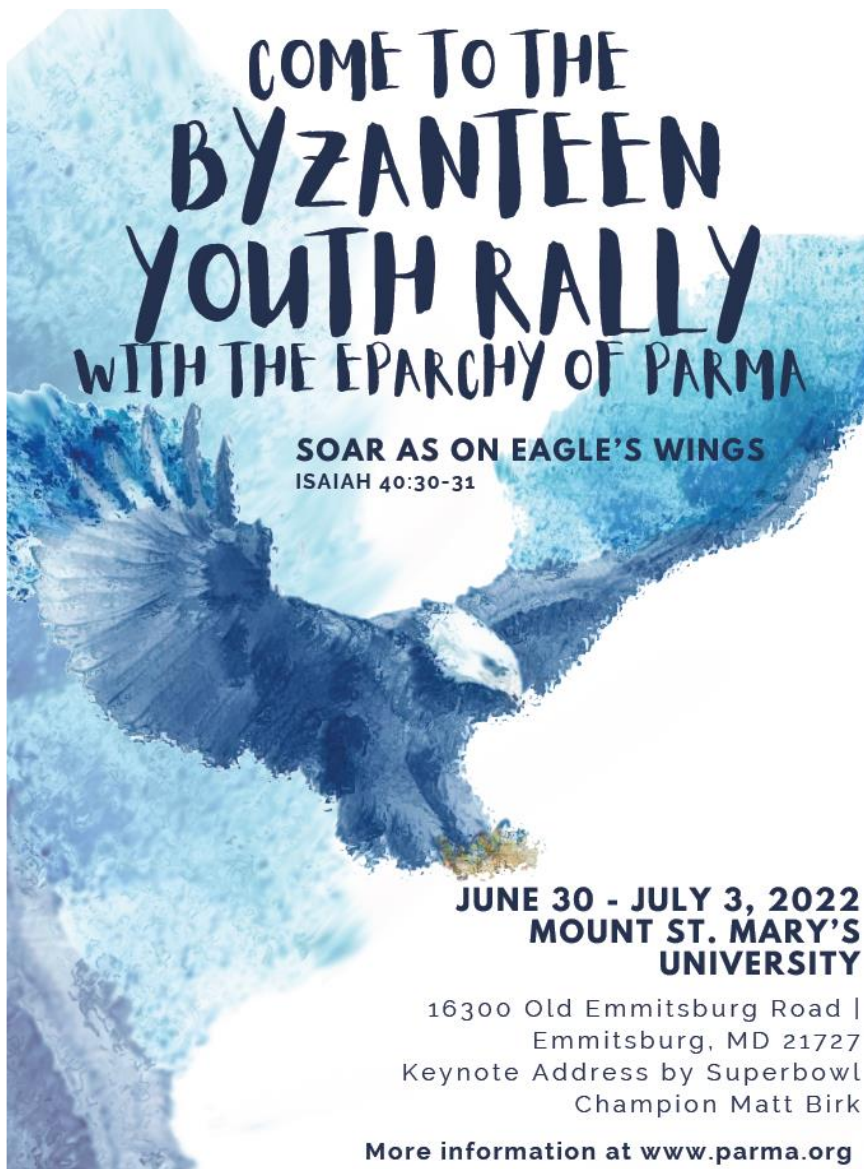
Fr. Deacon Robert Cripps &  
Fr. Deacon Gregory Loya

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



**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](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

##### 3. Humankind—the Crown of Creation

*For you fashioned a man by taking dust from the earth,  
and honoured him, O God, with your own image.  
You placed him in the Paradise of delight.  
(Anaphora of the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great)*

##### *a. Humankind—in the Image and Likeness of God*

- 121 The Book of Genesis reveals a profound bond between humankind and God: “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness” (*Gn* 1:26). In his commentary upon these words, Saint Irenaeus of Lyons explains: “The image of God is the Son, according to whose image humankind was made; and for this reason he appeared in the last times, to render the image like himself.”<sup>99</sup> It was precisely in the image of Christ, the incarnate Son of God, that humankind was created. Humanity is the “image of the Image,”<sup>100</sup> existing “in Christ,” in whom the human being is adopted by God. It can only be understood “through Christ.”<sup>101</sup>
- 122 As affirmed by the Holy Fathers, humankind in its essence is the image of the Prototype—the inexpressible, unknowable, and immortal God.<sup>102</sup> Humankind has the capacity of “intellect and free will”<sup>103</sup> and the interior power of self-determination.<sup>104</sup> Thus, the Holy Fathers affirm that the image of God in humankind is the ground of our being, existence, and personal self-determination.
- 123 Humankind, as the image of God, always aspires to its Prototype: “As a deer longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for you, O God” (*Ps* 41[42]:2). The Holy Fathers referred to this aspiration as the longing of humankind to attain the *likeness of God*. In the words of Gregory of Nyssa, “truly herein consists the real assimilation to the Divine, that is, in making our own life in some degree a copy of the Supreme Being.”<sup>105</sup> Saint John of Damascus believes that “the phrase ‘after his likeness’ means likeness in virtue [to God] so far as that is possible.”<sup>106</sup>

124 Every human being that comes into the world is called to grow in likeness to God—to achieve *divinization* [also known as deification, the process of *theosis*]: “God has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become partakers of the divine nature” (2 Pt 1:4). This partaking in God’s nature constitutes human happiness. Likeness to God can be attained by us only by free choice and assent, and by cooperation with God’s grace. “Our likeness to God requires our cooperation. When the intellect begins to perceive the Holy Spirit with full consciousness, we should realize that grace is beginning to paint the divine likeness over the divine image in us.”<sup>107</sup>

<sup>99</sup> Irenaeus of Lyons, *Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching*, 22.

<sup>100</sup> See John Paul II, Apostolic Letter *Orientalis Lumen* [Light of the East], (May 2, 1995), 15; see also Gregory of Nyssa, *On Perfection, To the Monk Olympius*: PG 46, 272.

<sup>101</sup> See John Paul II, Encyclical *Redemptor Hominis* [The Redemption of Man] (March 4, 1979), 11.

<sup>102</sup> Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Making of Man*, 16: PG 44, 177.

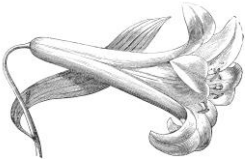
<sup>103</sup> John of Damascus, *Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith*, II, 12: PG 94, 920.

<sup>104</sup> See Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Making of Man*, 16: PG 94, 177.

<sup>105</sup> Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Soul and Resurrection*: PG 46, 89-92.

<sup>106</sup> John of Damascus, *Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith*, II, 12: PG 94, 920.

<sup>107</sup> Diadochos of Photiki, *On Spiritual Knowledge and Discrimination*, 89: PG 65, 1203.



*Paschal Flowers have been offered in memory of*

Robert Barnes  
Victoria Barnes  
Guillermo Barillas  
Caroline Barillas  
Burja Family  
John Fech  
Susanna Fech

Maria & Ferenc Griba  
Helen Hudak  
Helen Humenik  
Peter Humenik  
Rosen Family  
Joseph Sutyak  
Ruth Thomas

Andrew Yatcko  
Helen Yatcko  
Roman & Akilina Zukow

& in honor of  
Robert & Susan Druga  
for their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

## Annual Stewardship Appeal

We remember during this penitential season to give of our time, talent, and treasure. God has graced each of us with gifts and talents. How are you using these gifts to build up the Kingdom of God? What treasure do you have stored here on earth that could be offered for the Kingdom? Please consider supporting the Stewardship Appeal today! Visit us online at [parma.org](http://parma.org) to submit your monthly or one-time donation. Thank you for your generosity!

St. Stephen's goal this year is \$6,600.  
So far, 30 parishioners have donated a total of \$5575.87,  
putting us at over 84% 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 \$400 to the Image of God Pregnancy Center*

*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 \$2,095*

### 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 March 20<sup>th</sup> was **55**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **49**

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 20<sup>th</sup> was **\$1,815.35**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,811.20**

Sunday: \$1232; Holy Day: \$55; Online: \$379.35; Candles: \$84; Flowers: \$55; Initial Offering: \$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