

## SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

[ststephen@parma.org](mailto:ststephen@parma.org) 313-382-5901

*website:* [saintstephenbyzantine.church](http://saintstephenbyzantine.church)

Priest: Rev. John R.P. Russell, M.Div.  
412-378-0308  
[frjrusell@parma.org](mailto:frjrusell@parma.org)

Deacon: Rev. Deacon Lawrence Hendricks

Cantor: Pani Mary Hendricks

Hall Manager: Victor Azcuy  
[vazcuy1@gmail.com](mailto:vazcuy1@gmail.com)  
(239) 895-8931



### **Christ is born! 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 Christmas*

Cantors: Mary H & Mary R

*followed by Christmas Carols (Koljady) in the hall*

Cantors: Mary H, Daniel, Mary R, & Cecilia

*6:00pm – Holy Supper*

**9:00pm Great Compline** *for Christmas*

Cantors: Mary R & Daniel

## Sunday, December 25, 2022

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

*Vespers:* Genesis 1:1-13 • Numbers 24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18 • Micah 4:6-7; 5:2-4 •

Isaiah 11:1-10 • Baruch 3:35-4:4 • Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45 • Isaiah 9:6-7 •

Isaiah 7:10-16a; 8:1-4, 8b-10 • Hebrews 1:1-12. • Luke 2:1-20.

*Matins Gospel:* Matthew 1:18-25

*for the Nativity:* Galatians 4:4-7. Matthew 2:1-12.

**8:15am Matins** *for Christmas*

Cantors: Katie & Guillermo

**9:30am Christmas Carols – Koljady; Confession** – *in the Sacristy*

**10:00am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil** *for Christmas – for the people of the parish*

Reader: Debra

*Good health for Ritchie Maire, from Richardson Family (12-21)*

*+Rose Kepich, from Louise Dalbo (12-20)*

*+Diane Gyuloveszi, from Bob & Jane Semak (12-24)*

**7:00pm Vespers**

## Monday, December 26, 2022

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

*for the Synaxis:* Hebrews 2:11-18. Matthew 2:13-23.

**6:00pm Great Vespers &**

**7:00pm Divine Liturgy** *for our Patron Stephen*

Cantor: Katie

*+Stephen Lazlo Kastura, from Kathleen Johnston*

## Tuesday, December 27, 2022

⊗ THE HOLY APOSTLE, FIRST MARTYR AND ARCHDEACON STEPHEN.

Venerable Father & Confessor Theodore, Brother of Theophane the Hymnographer (845).

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

## Wednesday, December 28, 2022

*no fasting!*

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

Hebrews 10:1-18. Mark 10:11-16

**8:00am Matins**

*6:00pm Confessions*

**6:30pm Vespers &**

**7:00pm Divine Liturgy for Thursday**

Cantor: Misha

*+Robert Dubensky, from Sarah Dubensky-Obando*

## Thursday, December 29, 2022

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

Hebrews 10:35-11:7. Mark 10:17-27

*6:30pm Parish Council Meeting*

## Friday, December 30, 2022

*no fasting!*

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

Hebrews 11:8, 11-16. Mark 10:23-32

**8:00am First & Third Hour**

*6:00pm Confessions*

**7:00pm Vespers**

## Saturday, December 31, 2022

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

1 Timothy 6:11b-16. Matthew 12:15-21.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

Cantor: Katie

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

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

## Sunday, January 1, 2023

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY. Tone 5 ☩ THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
HOLY FR. BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA (379).

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

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

2 Timothy 4:5-8 & *for the Circumcision:* Colossians 2:8-12.

Mark 1:1-8 & *for the Circumcision:* Luke 2:20-21, 40-52.

**8:15am Matins**

**9:30am Akathist** – *Reader Service*; **Confession** – *in the Sacristy*

**10:00am Divine Liturgy** with the Chrismation of Penelope Brewer

Reader: Erin

- *for the people of the parish*

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

*+Stephen Lazlo Kastura, from Kathleen Johnston*

*+Robert Dubensky, from Sarah Dubensky-Obando*

*After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. No ECF for children. Adult ECF in the small hall.*

**7:00pm Vespers** for Monday

## Monday, January 2, 2023

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

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

Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31. Mark 10:46-52.

7:00pm *Come, Follow Me* - online: <https://meet.google.com/njp-zcmn-hok>

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

## Tuesday, January 3, 2023

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

Venerable Mother Genevieve of Paris.

Hebrews 12:25, 26, 13:22-25. Mark 11:11-23.

**10:00am Third & Sixth Hour**

## Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Pre-festive Day of the Theophany. The Synaxis of the Holy Seventy Apostles.

Our Venerable Father Theoctist, Hegumen at Cuomo in Sicily (800).

James 1:1-18. Mark 11:23-26.

**10:00am Third & Sixth Hour**

6:00pm *Confessions*

**6:30pm Vespers &**

**7:00pm Divine Liturgy** for Thursday

Cantor: Dominique

*+Joseph Humenik, from Phyllis Humenik*

# Thursday, January 5, 2023

Vigil of the Theophany. The Holy Martyrs Theopempt and Theona (c. 350).

Our Venerable Mother Syncletica (4th Century). The Holy Prophet Micah.

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

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

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

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

**10:00am Royal Hours for ☩ Theophany**

Cantor: Mary R

**6:00pm Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for ☩ Theophany**

*-with the Great Blessing of Water*

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

Readers: Dominique & Misha

8:45pm Bountiful Supper (Meatless Potluck)

**10:00pm All-Night Vigil for ☩ Theophany (Great Compline & Matins)**

## Friday, January 6, 2023



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

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

*for the Vigil:* 1 Corinthians 9:19-27. Luke 3:1-18.

*Matins Gospel:* Mark 1:9-11

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

**10:00am Divine Liturgy for ☩ Theophany**

Cantor: Dominique

### 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)



## Come, Follow Me

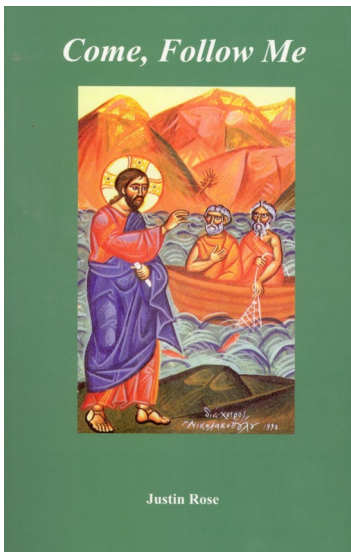
A program of parish renewal and scripture study for discipleship with weekly exercises and homework.

Next meeting: **Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

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 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.

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

Meetings will be both online: <https://meet.google.com/njp-zcmn-hok> and in person: 8461 Barrington Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.



# Adult Eastern Christian Formation Opportunities

## Reflections on the Divine Liturgy

We will gather most Sundays in the coming few months after the Divine Liturgy to reflect upon the Divine Liturgy together. Our next class is **Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>** Fr. John will present information about the Divine Liturgy and there will also be the opportunity for each of us to share our own thoughts and experiences of Divine Liturgy.

## The Holy Land & Biblical Archaeology

As we enter into the Sundays of preparation for the Great Fast, Daniel Lauffer will offer us a presentation on his experiences in the Holy Land and of Biblical Archaeology. These reflections will help strengthen our awareness of the real humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, who really lived and died and rose again in a real time and place of history. This is especially good to reflect on as we prepare for the Great and Holy Week which will lead into our celebration of Pascha.

## Bible Study

As we enter the Great Fast itself, Kevin Perrotta will again lead us in study and discussion of Holy Scripture. Please continue to share with us what particular books or themes you'd most appreciate.

## Daily Prayer in the Byzantine Tradition

Also as we are increasing our life of prayer during the Great Fast, Fr. John will teach and lead discussion on the Byzantine tradition of daily prayer, both in terms of daily liturgical prayer and also in terms of developing our own rules of prayer for private prayer in our homes. This course will be offered on a weeknight during the Great Fast.

## The Guild of St. Stephen

The Guild meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting is **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** after the Divine Liturgy in the small hall. The Guild of St. Stephen has a long and storied history. Come and be a part of its future! The mission of the Guild is primarily fundraising for the parish to help enable our many ministries of worship, service, and evangelization.

## **St. Nicholas Apostolate**

The St Nicholas Apostolate had several successful meetings, and we welcome all parishioners interested to attend future meetings! A monthly meeting will be held every third Tuesday at 7:30 pm via Zoom. Email Fr Deacon Lawrence at [frdeaconlawrence@yahoo.com](mailto:frdeaconlawrence@yahoo.com).

The St. Nicholas Apostolate is a means for members in our parish to practice Christian love through giving charitable donations and volunteering. The St. Nicholas Apostolate is facilitating donations from the parish for three funds modeled after the three purses of St. Nicholas. He was a wealthy man before he became a priest and bishop, and he chose to use his wealth to save three impoverished women from slavery by giving each of them a sack of gold coins for a dowry. St. Nicholas is often shown holding three purses or three coins. The three purses of the St. Nicholas Apostolate will be used to support the following:

- 1) charitable organizations  
(such as Day House, Image of God Pregnancy Center, & Fish & Loaves)
- 2) fellow parishioners in need
- 3) neighbors and strangers who come to the parish seeking help.

One way that parishioners are encouraged to practice Christ's command to "help those that ask" is through monetary donations. Someday soon, a basket next to an icon of St. Nicholas will be placed in the narthex with envelopes for parishioners to donate to a purse of their choosing or simply to make an unrestricted gift. Donations for the first purse, charitable organizations, are given directly to the organizations. Donations for the second and third purses, our parishioners and our neighbors, are distributed by Fr. John Russell as seen fit. All donations are tax deductible. In the near future, volunteer opportunities will also be organized for the parish to participate in.

**The St. Nicholas Apostolate is not a philanthropic club, but rather is a vehicle for the parish community to respond to God's commandment to love our neighbor, especially our neighbors in need.**

"On the subject of mutual charity you have no need for anyone to write you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another.... Nevertheless, we urge you... to progress even more." (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10).

## **Synodal Process**

From the survey and the conversations with parishioners in the context of reflections on the Beatitudes, we have formulated some goals for St. Stephen's.

### **\* Develop opportunities for adult religious education**

In the survey, parishioners expressed some reservations about their readiness to share the Christian faith with others. It seems that further education would be helpful. In order to develop something that will best meet parishioners needs, we need to ask more specific questions to discover areas in which they would most like to learn and formats they would find most helpful.

Action: we will create some ways of inquiring into educational needs in the parish during the fall. In the new year we will begin to present new educational opportunities.

Our goal is to involve at least 20 percent of the active adults in the parish in new educational experiences by Pascha next year.

### **\* Encourage and help parishioners to go on retreats**

Most parishioners report that they do not often or ever go on retreats. Taking retreat time is a normal practice in Christian life. While retreats in the eparchy are routinely brought to parishioners' attention, more could be done to encourage and help them.

Action: we will give more attention to helping parishioners see the value of taking retreats and will work to identify and promote retreats and help people attend them (transportation, etc.).

We would like to see 10 percent of the active adults in the parish attend a retreat by the end of 2023.

### **\* Develop outreach opportunities**

In conversation over the Beatitudes, parishioners expressed the need for ways of serving neighbors in need and also for deepening community life within the parish. Developing outreach opportunities in a way that also deepens parishioners relationships with each other would help to meet this need.

Action: We will revive the long defunct St. Nicholas Apostolate as a way of involving parishioners in service to needy neighbors—and to each other in the parish. The apostolate will encourage donations for help to individuals outside and inside the church and will help parishioners learn about, support, and participate in selected local nonprofit organizations.

Our goal is to involve at least 20 percent of the active adults in the parish in this apostolate.

**Please continue to let us know your thoughts about the parish and about these initiatives in particular. You may always call or write:**

**313-382-5901**

**4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101**

**ststephen@parma.org**

## House Blessings

House Blessings will begin on Theophany (January 6th) and ideally finish before it's leave-taking on January 15th. It's not too soon to start thinking about what day would be best to invite the priest for this annual blessing. There are envelopes for this purpose in your boxes for 2023.

## Stewardship

**Christ is born! Glorify Him! Consider the Father's Gift of the Christ Child and how you can offer your time, talent, and treasure back to God in thanksgiving. Help support the Eparchy of Parma's Annual Stewardship Appeal through a one-time or monthly donation at [parma.org](http://parma.org). Thank you for your generosity and a blessed Nativity to you!**

St. Stephen's goal this year is \$6,900. So far, 17 donors from St. Stephen have donated \$2520, putting us at roughly 37% of our goal. Thank you! If our parish exceeds its goal, a rebate will be paid equal to 100% of the amount by which we exceed our goal. Rebates paid will be exempt from the 10% eparchial

assessment. This rebate plan will help to strengthen the parishes and provide an opportunity to raise additional funds that are not subject to assessment.

## Reap the Most Tax Benefit While Supporting Your Parish

Maximize your giving dollars before the ball drops on New Year's Eve by using funds in your retirement account to support your parish. The IRA Charitable Rollover/Qualified Charitable Distribution allows donors who are 70.5 years or older to transfer up to \$100,000 from a traditional or Roth IRA to a qualified charity like St. Stephen. In doing so, donors keep their IRA distribution from impacting their gross income and possibly avoid being bumped into a higher tax bracket. The IRA charitable rollover can also count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD), which starts at age 72.

All transfers must be made directly from an IRA custodian to St. Stephen by December 31<sup>st</sup> to qualify as a 2022 rollover and be excluded from the donor's taxable income. If you would like to support your parish through an IRA, please contact Louise Dalbo at (313-382-6788 or [louisedalbo@gmail.com](mailto:louisedalbo@gmail.com)).

## Prayer List

*Pray for Barb Barnes, Edith Santo, Michael Hudak, Chris Lauffer  
and for the healing of all who suffer.*

## Christmas Flowers Offered

*in honor of:*

Bettina Barillas Senga  
Louise Dalbo  
Victor Jiompkowski  
Trisha & Family

*& in memory of:*

Caroline Barillas  
Robert Barillas  
Guillermo Barillas  
Charles & Mary Burja

the Butella Family

Anthony, Irene, & Jack Bonacor  
Jackie & Gene Gabany  
Pam & Cindy Gabany  
Helen Humenik  
Jim Humenik, Sr.  
Joseph Humenik  
Ruth Humenik  
Joseph Sutyak  
Andrew Yatcko  
Helen Yatcko



## 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 narthex of the church.

## CHARITABLE GIVING

*from St. Stephen Parish*

*We donate \$50 per month to Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry*

*Since our last contributions,*

For the Churches in Central & Eastern Europe, we have collected \$155  
for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, we have collected \$138  
for Catholic Home Missions, we have collected \$85.  
For the retirement of our nuns, we have collected \$295.

### 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 December 18<sup>th</sup> was **58**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **54**

Devote yourselves “to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,  
to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

**COLLECTION** – *Thank you for supporting your parish.*

Collection for December 18<sup>th</sup> was **\$3,021.35**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,052.99**

Sun.: \$768; Christmas: \$100; Holy Day: \$25; Online: \$449.35; Special Donation: \$1,500; Candles: \$19; Flowers: \$50; 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