



## SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

ststephen@parma.org 313-382-5901

*website: saintstephenbyzantine.church*

Priest: Rev. John R.P. Russell, M.Div.  
412-378-0308  
jrussell@gmail.com

Deacon: Rev. Deacon Lawrence Hendricks

Cantor: Pani Mary Hendricks

Hall Manager: Victor Azcuy  
ststephenshall123@gmail.com  
(239) 895-8931



**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 Kurt (Burnette) of Passaic is our apostolic administrator. Archbishop William (Skurla) of Pittsburgh is our Metropolitan. We are in communion with our holy father Francis, the Pope of Rome.

“Eastern Catholics are in union with Rome. We share the same basic faith and the same mysteries, however, our way of expressing them follows the same tradition as the Orthodox churches.”

– Fr. Joseph Radvansky. *A Brief Explanation of the Eastern Catholic Churches, Introduction.*

# 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, February 26, 2023**



1<sup>st</sup> SUN. OF GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. MEMORY OF HOLY PROPHETS. Tone 5  
Our Holy Father Porphyry, Bishop of Gaza (421). Holy Great Martyr Photina the Samaritan.  
*5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:* Luke 24:12-35.  
Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2a. John 1:43-51.

**8:15am Matins**

**9:30am Procession with the Holy Icons & the Synodikon of Orthodoxy**

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

Cantors: Mary H; Cecilia

Reader: Victor A

*intention of the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (2-25)*

*+James Adkins, from Dominique Azcuy (2-24)*

*+Fr. John Kachuba (2-22)*

*After Liturgy: Fellowship & Meatless Potluck in the hall. ECF for all / Bible Discussion*

**4:00pm Vespers** *at St. Michael, Oregon - 4001 Navarre Ave, Oregon, OH 43616*

Cantors: Dominique & Cynthia Bogusky

**Monday, February 27, 2023**



Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite (741). Holy Fr. Gregory of Narek.  
*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 4:2-5:6. *Vespers:* Genesis 3:21-4:7 • Proverbs 3:34-4:22.

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023**



Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Fellow Ascetic of Procopius (741).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 5:7-16. *Vespers:* Genesis 4:8-15 • Proverbs 5:1-15.

**10:00am Third Hour & Sixth Hour** – *with prostrations & reading*

## Wednesday, March 1, 2023

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

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 5:16-25. *Vespers:* Genesis 4:16-26 • Proverbs 5:15-6:3.

*5:45pm Confessions*

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

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy** Cantors: Mary Woods, David Woods, Victor A.

+Charles & +Mary Burja, from their daughters

## Thursday, March 2, 2023

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

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

**8:00am Matins**

## Friday, March 3, 2023

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

*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**

Cantor: Mary H; Mary R

+Eugene & +Angeline Dalbo, from Louise Dalbo

*after Presanctified: Parastas for All Souls*

## Saturday, March 4, 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the Great Fast. All Souls Saturday. Venerable Fr. Gerasimus of the Jordan (475).

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**

Cantor: Victor A

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, March 5, 2023



SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. ST. GREGORY PALAMAS. Tone 6  
The Holy Martyr Conon (251).

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

*Hebrews 1:10-2:3 & for St Gregory: Hebrews 7:26-8:2.*

*Mark 2:1-12 & for St Gregory: John 10:9-16.*

**8:15am Matins**

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

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

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

*+Charles & +Mary Burja, from their daughters (3-1)*

*+Eugene & +Angeline Dalbo, from Louise Dalbo (3-3)*

*+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (3-4)*

*After Liturgy: Fellowship & Meatless Potluck in the hall. ECF for all – Bible Discussion in small hall*

**4:00pm Vespers** *at St. Stephen, Allen Park*

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

Monday, March 6, 2023



The Holy Forty-two Martyrs of Ammorium (848).

*Sixth Hour: Isaiah 8:13-9:7. Vespers: Genesis 6:9-22 • Proverbs 8:1-21.*

Tuesday, March 7, 2023



Holy Martyrs & Bishops of Cherson: Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius & others.

Venerable Father Paul the Simple. Passing of the Martyr the Priest-Exarch Leonid Feodorov.

*Sixth Hour: Isaiah 9:9-10:4. Vespers: Genesis 7:1-5 • Proverbs 8:32-9:11.*

**10:00am Third Hour & Sixth Hour** – *with prostrations & reading*

Wednesday, March 8, 2023



Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophylact (845).

*Sixth Hour: Isaiah 10:12-20. Vespers: Genesis 7:6-9 • Proverbs 9:12-18.*

*5:45pm Confessions*

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

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

Cantors: Victor A, Mary Woods, David Woods

*+Helen Hudak, from Michael Hudak*

Thursday, March 9, 2023



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

*Vespers Paramia:* Isaiah 43:9-14 • Wisdom 3:1-9 • Wisdom 5:15-6:3.

*Matins Gospel:* Luke 21:12-19. *Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 11:10-12:2.

*Vespers:* Genesis 7:11-8:4 • Proverbs 10:1-22.

*for the Martyrs:* Hebrews 12:1-10. Matthew 20:1-16.

**8:00am Matins**

Friday, March 10, 2023



The Holy Martyr Codratus and his Companions (250).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 13:2-13. *Vespers:* Genesis 8:4-21 • Proverbs 10:31-11:12.

*5:45pm Confessions*

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

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

*intention of the hieromonk Philip (Blazkevych)*

*after Presanctified: Parastas for All Souls*

Saturday, March 11, 2023



Third Saturday of the Great Fast. Soul Saturday. Holy Fr. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Hebrews 10:32-38a & *for the departed:* 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Mark 2:14-17 & *for the departed:* John 5:24-30.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

Cantor: Dominique

*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)

# FASTING GUIDE

*Byzantine Rite Guidance For The Great Fast and Great and Holy Week 2023*

## TRADITIONAL STRICT FAST

Feb 6 - 11   Meatweek:	Use up all the meat in the house
Feb 12   Meatfare:	Last day to eat meat
Feb 13-18   Cheese week:	Use up all the dairy and eggs in the house
Feb 19   Cheese fare:	Last day to eat dairy and eggs
Feb 20 - Apr 2   Great Fast:	<p>Fasting - On weekdays, only one meal a day after noon; on weekends, 2 meals a day.</p> <p>Abstaining - No eggs, meat, dairy, fish, oil, or wine.</p> <p>Fish allowed on The Annunciation and Palm Sunday, oil and wine allowed on weekends and feast days*</p>
Apr 3 - 8   Great & Holy Week:	Same as Great Fast, + <b>NO</b> food cooked in oil on Holy Saturday

## MINIMUM FAST

Feb 20 - Apr 2   Great Fast:	No meat on Wednesdays and Fridays
Feb 20   Clean Monday:	One meal, no meat, eggs, dairy
Apr 3 - 8   Great & Holy Week:	No meat on Wednesday Apr 6.
Apr 7   Great and Holy Friday:	One meal, no meat, eggs, dairy.

Also aim to delay gratification, exercise discipline, increase spiritual intention, exchange old patterns for new beneficial ones, and practice gratitude. Attempt to attend Pre-sanctified Liturgy and Vespers. Learn the prayer of St. Ephrem and recite daily. Read scripture and religious texts. Pray the chotki.

### *\*Feast Days*

*Friday Feb 24 - The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Findings of the Head of St. John the Baptist*

*Thursday Mar 9 - Forty Martyrs of Sebaste*

*Friday-Sunday Mar 24-26 - Pre-feast, Feast of the Annunciation, and post-feast*

*Any patronal feasts of particular churches*



## The 3 Disciplines of Fasting

***Corporal fast***, by which we give up certain foods, drinks and amusements, in order to break the hold that such things may have over us.

***Spiritual fast***, by which we seek to turn from any sin or evil habits in our lives, so that we may come into God's presence well-prepared to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection and our redemption.

***Spiritual renewal***, by which we seek a greater practice of the virtues, a deeper life of prayer, repentance for our sins, and a greater conversion (metanoia) of heart, which manifests itself in good works. All of these are oriented to a deeper union with God – theosis.

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting”









“The Kingdom of God does not concern eating and drinking, but right behavior, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.”



# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

Adapted by Fr Vitalii Stashkevych (BCC) for the Gregorian Calendar

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup></b> 	<p><i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i></p> <p><b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b></p> <p>Epistle: Hebrews 1:24-26, 32-12:2  Gospel: John 1:43-51</p>	<p>Bring an icon to church for a procession.</p>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup></b> 	<p><b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b></p> <p>Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3  Gospel: Mark 2:1-12</p>	<p>Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today!  Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.</p>
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup></b> 	<p><b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b></p> <p><i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i></p> <p>Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6  Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1</p>	<p>Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!</p>
<b>4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup></b> 	<p><b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b></p> <p>Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20  Gospel: Mark 9:17-31</p>	<p>Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!</p>
<b>5<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup></b> 	<p><b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b></p> <p>Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14  Gospel: Mark 10:32-45</p>	<p>Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.</p>
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup></b> <small>GREAT WEEK BEGINS</small> 	<p><i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i></p> <p><b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b></p> <p>Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9  Gospel: John 12:1-18</p>	<p>Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!</p>
<small>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</small> <b>APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup></b> 	<p><b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b></p> <p><i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i></p> <p>CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE</p>	<p>Refrain from TV, Internet &amp; Phones to honor Christ's Death.</p>
<b>FEAST OF FEASTS!</b> <b>APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup></b> <small>NO FASTING!</small> 	<p><i>BRIGHT WEEK</i></p> <p><b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b></p> <p>Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17</p>	<p>Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" &amp; say it before good morning and goodnight!</p>

## Rides to Church

Victor Jiomkowski has kindly agreed to help coordinate rides to church. If you need a ride or are willing to offer a ride to others, please contact Victor Jiomkowski (313-930-0801 / v.jiomkowski1111@att.net) so he can help make the arrangements. The St. Nicholas Apostolate is still looking for a second person to help coordinate rides to church for people having trouble getting to services. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Victor Jiomkowski or Father John.

## Adult Eastern Christian Formation Opportunity: Bible Discussion

Starting today, on Sunday, **February 26<sup>th</sup>** after the Divine Liturgy, Kevin Perrotta will lead an exploration and discussion of two short Old Testament books: Ruth and Jonah. These are rich stories that speak to us about love, faithfulness, and mercy. Studying them together and talking about our own lives in light of these texts will be an opportunity to encounter God's word to us and deepen our relationship with each other.

Day House | Detroit Catholic Worker

# THURSDAY POTLUCK

Thursdays at 6:30 PM

All are welcome.  
Those who can are encouraged  
to bring something to share



2640 TRUMBULL ST.  
DETROIT, MI



# Stational Vespers

On the Sunday Evenings of the Great Fast

For the Great Lakes Protopresbyterate

On each Sunday evening of the Great Fast at 4:00 pm, we will celebrate Vespers at a different parish of the Great Lakes Protopresbyterate. A different priest will serve and preach a brief sermon at each Vespers after the Great Prokeimenon. Meanwhile, other priests will be available for confession. The hosting parish will provide a simple meatless Lenten meal of soup and bread after Vespers. All our parishioners are encouraged to participate. In addition to being an opportunity for prayer and repentance during the Great Fast, this is also a chance for us to visit the other parishes of our region and for us to all be together and get to know each other better.

Here is the schedule:

Date	Sunday of the Great Fast	Parish	Celebrant & Preacher
26-Feb	Sunday of Orthodoxy	St. Michael, Oregon	Fr. Bob Stash
5-Mar	Sunday of our Holy Fr. Gregory Palamas	St. Stephen, Allen Park	Fr. Mykhailo Solianyik
12-Mar	Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross	Sacred Heart, Livonia	Fr. Mychail Rozmarynowycz
19-Mar	Sunday of our Holy Fr. John Climacus	St. Nicholas, Clinton Township	Fr. Joseph Marquis
26-Mar	Sunday of our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt	St. Basil, Sterling Heights	Fr. John Russell
2-Apr	Palm Sunday Flowery Sunday	St. Michael, Flushing	Fr. Jim Batcha

## The Guild of St. Stephen

The next Guild meeting is **Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** after the Divine Liturgy in the small hall.

# “SHROUD ENCOUNTER”

A LIVE Presentation of

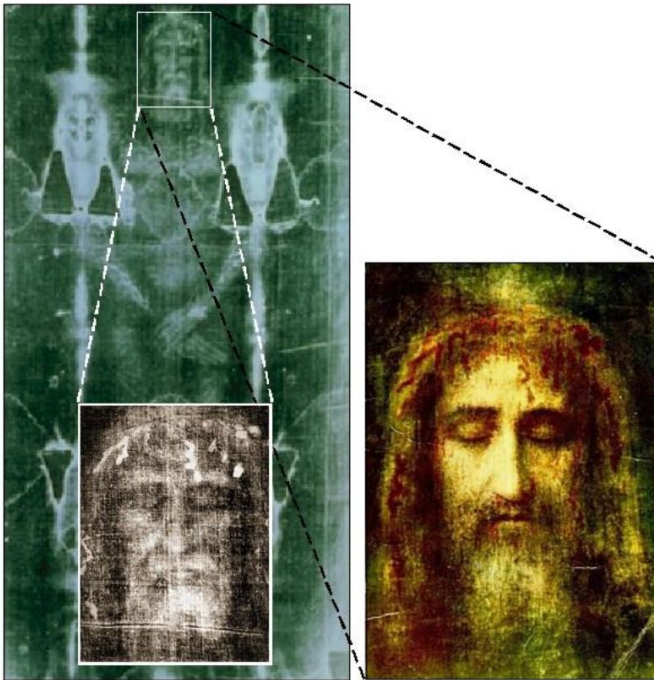
**Russ Breault**

*President of Shroud of Turin Education Project, Inc.*

**1:00 p.m., Sunday, March 26, 2023**

**Sacred Heart Church Banquet Center**

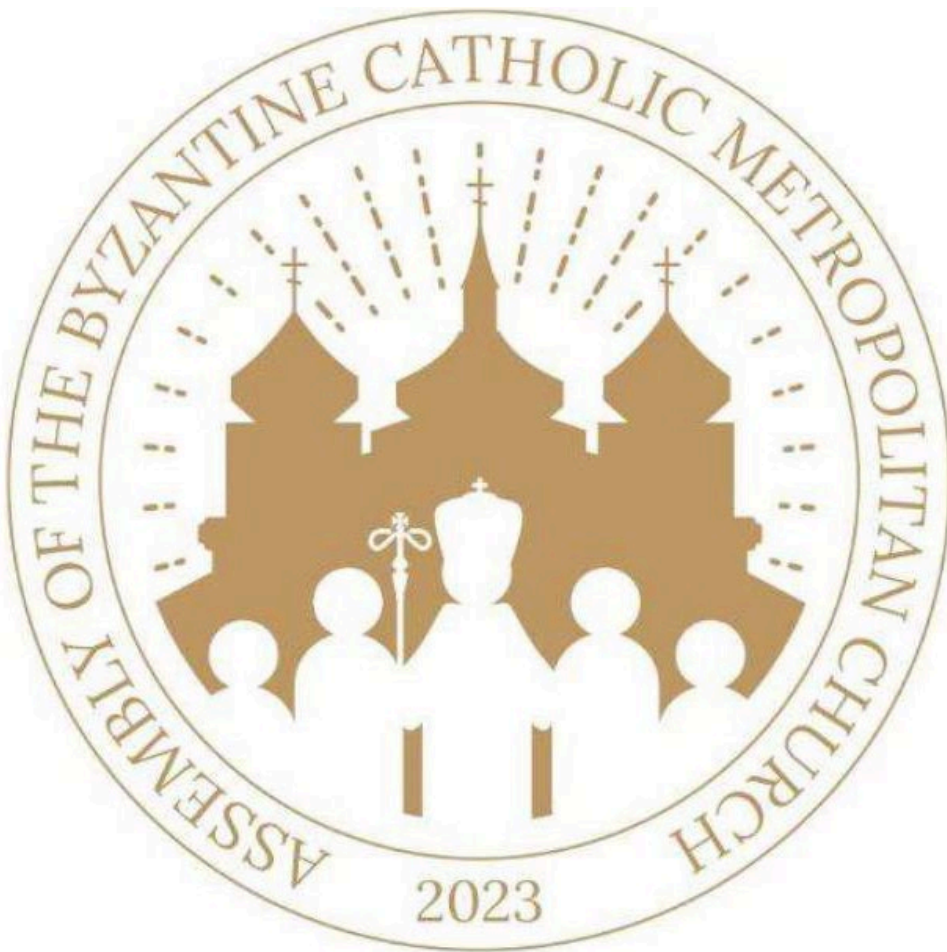
**29125 Six Mile Road (East of Middlebelt Road) - Livonia – MI 48152**



**General Admission Seating**

*(Sold at Door Only)*

- \$10 Per Adult (18 years and up)
- \$5 per Young Attendee (6 to 17 years of age)
- FREE Admission (5 years and below)



**To all the clergy and faithful of the Eparchy of Passaic, the Eparchy of Parma, the Eparchy of Phoenix, and the Exarchy of Toronto:**

**Mark your calendar for the Metropolitan Assembly of 2023.**

**Your Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla is calling you to assemble.**

**When: November 2-5**

**November 2-3, Thursday through Friday evening especially for clergy**

**November 3-4-5, Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday especially for laity**

**Where: St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church**

**Hillsboro, New Jersey**

## Eparchial Events 2023

- Family Camp – July 13-16, 2023 – *location TBD*
- Teen Camp in Slovakia and World Youth Day – July 20-August 8, 2023
- Bishop's Golf Classic – August 14, 2023 - Ohio
- Pilgrimage to Shrine of Mariapoch, Burton, Ohio – August 20, 2023 (*tentative date*)
- Priest Convocation – October 16-20, 2023 - Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Ohio
- Evening of Hope – October 21, 2023, Independence, Ohio
- Eparchial Women's Renewal – November 10-12, 2023 at Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse, Ohio

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**The Eparchy of Parma and Dormition of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church are proud to sponsor a women's renewal.**

**A weekend of empowerment, spiritual reflection and community fellowship.**

**Registration**

**Send registration and checks:**  
 Women's Renewal  
 4600 State Rd,  
 Cleveland, OH 44109

**Make checks payable to:**  
 Dormition of the Mother of God  
 Byzantine Catholic Church

**Venmo link for online payment:**  
**@Kim-Kocuba**

If you are paying online via Venmo, please email your registration information to [kimkocuba@ameritech.net](mailto:kimkocuba@ameritech.net)

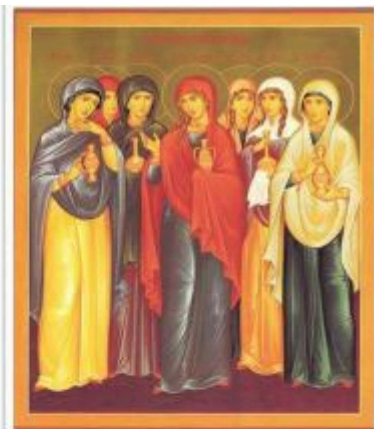
**Registration is first come first served!**

**When:**  
 .....  
**November 10-12, 2023**  
**Reserve your space by October 1, 2023**

**Early fee by Sept 1 = \$200**  
**After Sept 1 fee = \$225**

*Registration is first come first served.  
 If needed, we will start a waiting list.*

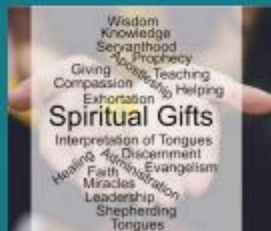
**For questions & online registration:**  
 Kim Kocuba  
[kimkocuba@ameritech.net](mailto:kimkocuba@ameritech.net)  
 216-337-2673



**THE COURAGE  
 TO BE  
 MYRRH BEARERS**

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**Parma Eparchial Women's  
 Renewal 2023**



# Special Collections 2023

This year we are grouping the collections so that they happen on one weekend each quarter.

March 25-26, 2023 (*use envelopes dated May 07, 2023*):

## **The Church in Central and Eastern Europe / Holy Land**

- Church in Central and Eastern Europe: This collection supports the training of seminarians and lay leaders, supporting social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral and catechetical centers, schools, church construction and renovation, and evangelization through Catholic media in Eastern and Central Europe. Our Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Churches in Europe directly benefit from this USCCB Collection.
- Holy Land: This is a Pontifical collection that supports the Holy Places as well as the pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of our Christian brethren and of the local communities.

June 24-25, 2023 (*use envelopes dated Jun 18, 2023 & Jun 25, 2023*):

## **Catholic Home Missions Appeal / Peter's Pence**

- Catholic Home Missions: The Eparchy of Parma benefits from this USCCB Collection through the financial support of our Chancery, and Eparchial Offices; support for our parishes, missions, Shrine, and religious education programs.
- Peter's Pence: This collection enables the Holy Father to respond with emergency financial assistance to requests to aid the neediest throughout the world – those who suffer as a result of war, oppression, and natural disasters.

September 23-24, 2023:

## **Catholic Communication Campaign**

- Catholic Communication Campaign: The Eparchy of Parma directly benefits from this USCCB Collection as 50% of the funds collected in our churches remain in the Eparchy to support Horizons and other media communications of the Eparchy. The Eparchy of Parma also benefits from the other 50% that goes to the USCCB, as we receive grants from them which financially assist us in our communication efforts within the Eparchy.

December 9-10, 2023 (*use envelopes dated Aug 27, 2023*):

## **Retirement Fund for Religious**

- Retirement Fund for the Religious: The Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Uniontown benefit directly from this USCCB Collection for their retired nuns. As they were active and provided ministry to our Eparchy in the past, we wish to help them by participating in this collection. This collection is not for our retired priests but will only benefit the retired nuns of the community of St. Basil the Great.

## 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**

## **Prayer List**

*Pray for Barb Barnes, Dorothy Brooks, Michael Camilleri, Katya Coffey-Burns, Robert Dalbo, Michael Hudak, Chris Lauffer, Edith Santo and for the healing of all who suffer.*

## **Stewardship Appeal**

**During the Great Fast**, we consider ways in which we can share our faith in Christ for all to see. One way to do that is by contributing to the needs supported by the Stewardship Appeal. Have you made your pledge or payment yet? If so, thank you! If not, there is still time! Visit us online at [parma.org](http://parma.org) to submit your one-time or monthly donation.

St. Stephen's goal this year is \$6,900. So far, 23 donors from St. Stephen have donated \$4710, putting us at roughly 68% 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.

## **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. Thank you to Ceil, Char, & Phyllis for cleaning last week.

## **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.

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

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on February 19<sup>th</sup> was **70**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **55**

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 19<sup>th</sup> was **\$1,108.89**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,946.05**

Sunday: \$776; Online: \$247.89; Candles: \$35; Fuel: \$50

“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