



## SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

March 12<sup>h</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, March 12, 2023**



THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Tone 7

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

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

*7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:1-10.*

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

**8:15am Matins with the Veneration of the Holy Cross**

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

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

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

*intention of the hieromonk Tadey (Kherovych) &*

Reader: Cecilia

*intention of the hieromonk Philip (Blazkevych), from Melinda Dewitt*

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

*After Liturgy: Fellowship & Meatless Potluck in the hall. ECF. Guild Meeting is small hall*

**4:00pm Vespers** at Sacred Heart, Livonia

**Monday, March 13, 2023**



The Translation of the Relics of our Holy Father Nicephor, Patriarch of Constantinople (846).

*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/njp-zcmn-hok>

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

**Tuesday, March 14, 2023**



Our Venerable Father Benedict (550).

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

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

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 

Mid-Lent. The Holy Martyr Agapius and his Companions (303).

*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**

Cantors: Mary Woods, David Woods


+Helen Hudak, from Michael Hudak

Thursday, March 16, 2023 

The Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Papas (287).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 28:14-22. *Vespers:* Genesis 10:32-11:9 • Proverb 13:20-14:6.

**8:00am First Hour & Terce-Sext**

Friday, March 17, 2023 

Our Venerable Father Alexis, Man of God (411). Our Holy Fr. Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland.

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 29:13-23. *Vespers:* Genesis 12:1-7 • Proverbs 14:15-26.

5:45pm *Confessions*

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

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

+Maurice Wilson & his +wife, from Bud & Mary Beth Wiltison

*after Presanctified:* **Parastas for All Souls**

Saturday, March 18, 2023 

Fourth Saturday of the Great Fast. Soul Saturday. Holy Fr. Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem.

Hebrews 6:9-12 & *for the departed:* 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Mark 7:31-37 & *for the departed:* John 5:24-30.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

Cantor: Mary R

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, March 19, 2023



4<sup>th</sup> SUN. OF THE GREAT FAST. OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS. Tone 8  
The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria (c. 253).

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

Hebrews 6:13-20 & for *St. John:* Ephesians 5:8b-19.

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

**8:15am Matins**

**9:30am First & Third Hour** – *Reader Service; Confession* – in the Sacristy

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

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

+Helen Hudak, from Michael Hudak (3-15)

Reader: Daniel B.

+Maurice Wilson & his +wife, from Bud & Mary Beth Wiltison (3-17)

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (3-18)

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

**4:00pm Vespers** at *St. Nicholas, Clinton Township*

Monday, March 20, 2023



Our Venerable Fathers of the Saint Sabbas Monastery, killed by Saracens (796).

*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/njp-zcmn-hok>

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

Tuesday, March 21, 2023



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

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

**8:00am First Hour & Terce-Sext**

Wednesday, March 22, 2023



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

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

**8:00am Matins**

6:00pm *Confessions*

**7:00pm Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**

Cantors: Mary Woods, David Woods

Thursday, March 23, 2023



THE GREAT CANON OF OUR HOLY FATHER ANDREW OF CRETE.

Holy Venerable-Martyr Nikon & his Students martyred with him (250). Holy Mother Rafka.

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

Friday, March 24, 2023



⊗ Pre-festive Day of the Annunciation. Our Venerable Father Zachary.

Holy Fr. Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia. Holy Fr. Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador.

*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**

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

+John & +Mary Ann Kukrak, from their children, John G. & Karen Kukrak

Saturday, March 25, 2023



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

Akathistos Saturday.

*Vespers Paramia:* Genesis 28:10-14 • Ezekiel 43:27-44 • Proverbs 9:1-11. • Exodus 3:1-8  
• Proverbs 8:22-31.

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

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

**8:30am Matins & Akathist Hymn for Annunciation & Akathistos Saturday**

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

Cantors: Cecilia, Mary H,

*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)









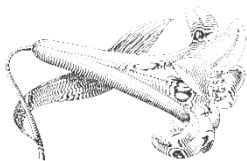
by tradition, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat)

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



*Paschal Flowers have been offered in memory of*

members of the Barillas Family  
members of the Barnes Family  
John Grega  
Bertha Grega  
Ferenc & Maria Griba

Helen Humenik  
Peter Humenik  
Joseph Humenik  
Linda Jacobson  
Helen Naret  
Andrew & Helen Yatcko  
Roman & Akinina Zukow

## Adult Eastern Christian Formation Opportunity: Bible Discussion

After the Sunday Divine Liturgy, Kevin Perrotta is leading us on 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.

Class Dates: *after Divine Liturgy on:* **Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

## The Guild of St. Stephen

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

## 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      |
|--------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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<br>Flowery Sunday           | St. Michael, Flushing          | Fr. Jim Batcha            |



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



- Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm; The Catholic Community of St. Jude, DeWitt
- Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm; Lansing Catholic High School, Lansing
- Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm ; Father Gabriel Richard High School, Ann Arbor
- Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00pm – St. Scholastica Catholic Church, Detroit
- Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm; Davidson Middle School, Southgate
- Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am; Davidson Middle School, Southgate

FOR MORE INFORMATION see:

[www.ToltonDrama.com](http://www.ToltonDrama.com) or [ToltonSouthgate.eventbrite.com](http://ToltonSouthgate.eventbrite.com)



# “SHROUD ENCOUNTER”

A LIVE Presentation of

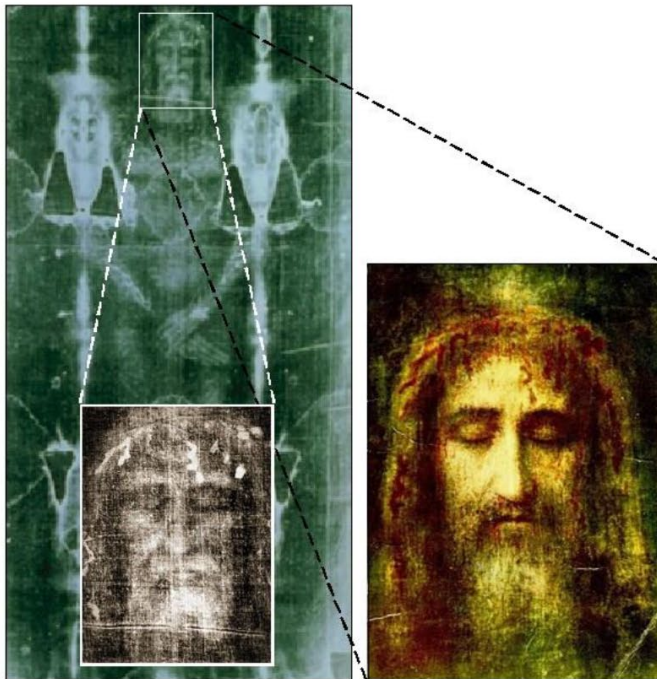
**Russ Breault**

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

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

**Sacred Heart Church Banquet Center**

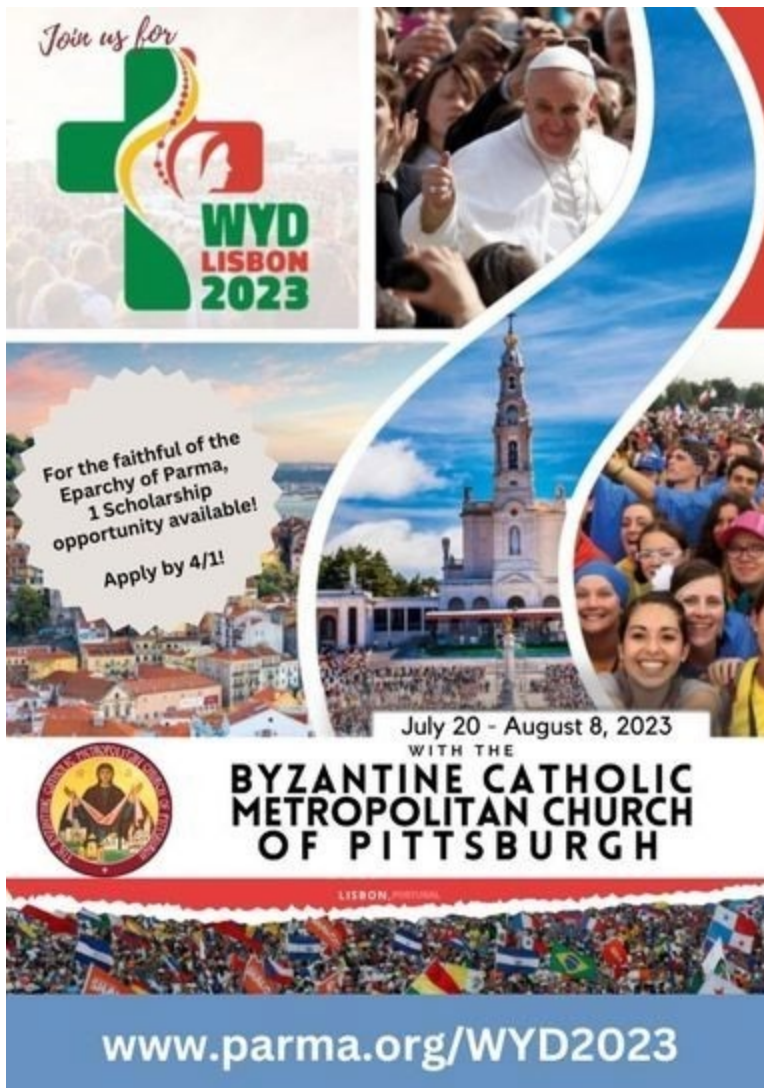
**29125 Six Mile Road (East of Middlebelt Road) - Livonia – MI 48152**



**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)



Join us for

**WYD  
LISBON  
2023**

For the faithful of the  
Eparchy of Parma,  
1 Scholarship  
opportunity available!  
Apply by 4/1!

July 20 - August 8, 2023  
WITH THE  
**BYZANTINE CATHOLIC  
METROPOLITAN CHURCH  
OF PITTSBURGH**

LISBON, PORTUGAL

[www.parma.org/WYD2023](http://www.parma.org/WYD2023)

The Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma will be providing one scholarship to a young member of our Eparchy which will cover the cost of the full trip **July 20 - August 8, 2023**, including airfare. The recipient will serve as a chaperone for an English summer camp in Slovakia and enjoy a European road trip to Portugal, stopping in Nice, Lourdes, and Fatima, before arriving to Lisbon to participate in the World Youth Day Pilgrimage. Visit [www.parma.org/WYD2023](http://www.parma.org/WYD2023) to learn more and **Apply by April 1, 2023.**

# Pre Cana Weekend

Preparation for marriage according to the Byzantine Rite

**Sat. & Sun. April 29 & 30, 2023**

**12:30pm - 5:00pm**

**St. John Byzantine Catholic Church  
36125 Aurora Rd - Solon, OH 44139**



## **Ways to register:**

On-line at [taborlife.org](http://taborlife.org)

Scan the QR with your mobile device

Call Catherine at 708-653-8344

Email us at [taborlife@earthlink.net](mailto:taborlife@earthlink.net)



**Registration Fee: \$150/couple**

*Sponsored by the Marriage and Family ministry of the Ruthenian Eparchy of Parma  
in cooperation with the Tabor Life Institute*





March 10, 2023

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Dear Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh:

With this letter I emphasize my call to each of you to attend the Assembly of our Byzantine (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church 2023. You are encouraged to come and participate with representatives from each of our eparchies and our exarchate in Toronto, Canada at Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, New Jersey this coming autumn.

The clergy will meet on Thursday, November 2 through Friday evening of November 3. Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday, November 4 and 5 will be especially for the laity.

The chosen themes have emerged from Archieparchial and Eparchial synod reports, and thus as a Church, we will remember our historical past, consider the reality of our present, and explore the vision and dreams of our going forward into the future. In addition, we will celebrate our cultural heritage of art and music as expressed through the lived experience of "Our People."

Whenever we gather like this our sharing of insights becomes not only an enriching personal experience, but it also gives and receives new approaches in how to spread the good news of the Gospel.

Your presence and participation are vital and welcome. Please consider attending and supporting this historic Assembly 2023. Watch for more information as it is disseminated.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *William C Skurła*

Most Reverend William C Skurła, DD  
*Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh*

## 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

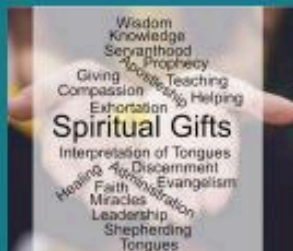
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**Parma Eparchial Women's  
Renewal 2023**

### Where:

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The Lial Retreat Center  
5908 Davis Rd,  
Whitehouse, OH 43571



# 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**

# 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   Cheeseweek:        | Use up all the dairy and eggs in the house                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Feb 19   Cheesefare:           | Last day to eat dairy and eggs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Feb 20 - Apr 2   Great Fast:   | <i>Fasting</i> - On weekdays, only one meal a day after noon; on weekends, 2 meals a day.<br><i>Abstaining</i> - No eggs, meat, dairy, fish, oil, or wine.<br>Fish allowed on The Annunciation and Palm Sunday, oil and wine allowed on weekends and feast days* |
| 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."

## 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.*

## 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.

## Stewardship Appeal

**We remember during this penitential season to give of our time, talent, and treasure. God has graced each of us with many 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 \$6,900. So far, 26 donors from St. Stephen have donated \$5612, putting us at roughly 81% 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. Ashley & Nick Sabula have signed up to clean the church this 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 March 5<sup>th</sup> was **59**. 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 March 5<sup>th</sup> was **\$2,219.35**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,960.74**

Sunday: \$1110; Holy Day: \$5; Online: \$977.35; Candles: \$52; Flowers: \$75

“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