

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

April 16th, 2023

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

Deacon: Rev. Deacon Lawrence Hendricks

Cantor: Pani Mary Hendricks

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



Christ is Risen! 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 [comm]union with Rome. We share the same 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 *Thomas Sunday*

Cantor: Mary R

Sunday, April 16, 2023

THOMAS SUNDAY. The Holy Virgins and Martyrs Agape, Irene, and Chiona (c. 304).

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

Acts 5:12-20. John 20:19-31.

8:15am Matins for *Thomas Sunday*

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

10:00am Divine Liturgy for *Thomas Sunday*

Cantors: David; Mary Woods

Reader: Victor A.

intention of Robert Yohman, from Tom Bernard (4-10; 4-11)

intention of the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (4-15)

+Louis Joseph Jacobs (4-12)

+Mary Kotula (4-14)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. Easter Egg Hunt for our children.

Bible Discussion of Jonah in the small hall starting at 12:15pm.

4:00pm Vespers for *Monday*

Monday, April 17, 2023

Our Venerable Father Simeon of Persia (c. 341). Venerable Acacius, Bishop of Melitene

Acts 3:19-26. John 2:1-11.

7:00pm Parastas for *+Michael Camilleri – at Voran Funeral Home*

5900 Allen Rd, Allen Park, MI 48101

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Our Venerable Father John, Disciple of the Holy Gregory the Decapolite (820).

Acts 4:1-10. John 3:16-21.

10:00am Funeral for *+Michael Camilleri*

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Our Venerable Father John of the Ancient Cave (8th Century).

Acts 4:13-22. John 5:17b-24.

7:00am First & Third Hour

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers &

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for Thursday

Baby Cuthbertson, from Christine Cuthbertson

Cantor: Victor A

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Our Venerable Father Theodore the Hair-shirt Wearer (c. 400).

Acts 4:23-31. John 5:24-30.

Friday, April 21, 2023

Holy Bishop-Martyr Januarius and his Companions (305). Holy Martyr Theodore of Perga.

Acts 5:1-11. John 5:30b-6:2.

6:30am First & Third Hour

7:00am Divine Liturgy

+David Letrich

Cantor: Dominique

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers for Saturday

Cantor: Dominique

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Our Venerable Father Theodore the Sykiot (c. 613).

Acts 5:21-33. John 6:14-27.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Meloyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron

Cantor: Dominique

4:00pm Great Vespers for Sunday

Sunday, April 23, 2023

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN. Tone 2

⊕ HOLY & VICTORIOUS GREAT MARTYR GEORGE THE WONDER-WORKER (303).

Vespers Paramia: Isaiah 43:9-14 • Wisdom 3:1-9 • Wisdom 4:7-15.

Matins Gospel: Luke 12:2-12.

3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark 16:9-20.

for St. George: Acts 12:1-11. John 15:17-16:2.

for the day: Acts 6:1-7. Mark 15:43-16:8.

8:15am Matins for Sunday

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

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

Cantors: Mary H; Cecilia

Reader: Dominique

+Michael Camilleri (4-18)

+David Letrich (4-21)

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (4-22)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. ECF for all.

Final Bible Discussion of Jonah in the small hall starting at 12:15pm.

4:00pm Vespers for Monday

Monday, April 24, 2023

The Holy Martyr Sabbas the General (272).

Acts 6:8-7:5a, 47-60. John 4:46b-54.

7:00pm Byzantine Book Club - online: <https://meet.google.com/njp-zcmn-hok>

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

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)

SHINE IN SPLENDOR O NEW JERUSALEM

“Shine in splendor, O new Jerusalem. For the glory of the Lord is risen upon you, O Sion; sing with joy and rejoice! And you, pure Mother of God, rejoice in the resurrection of your Son.”

This is the Irmos to the Troparia sung repeatedly throughout Pascha. In Greek, it means “Link” or “Introduction” to the Chant that follows. This Irmos alone is my favorite tone of the entire year. It begins my every day. I usually chant it silently but often chant it aloud, especially at the beginning of each new day and several times throughout the day. It’s like the starting of a reliable engine. It is my spiritual starting point. It launches me into the challenges of the day. I chant it to myself as I encounter an old or new friend. It reminds me that I am not alone. It reminds me that I am the Church the Body of Christ in every situation and with every person I meet.

You may want to try it as a reminder that you are receiving the Good News of Christ Jesus’ Life in you and as a reminder that you are bringing that Good News to others. That’s Evangelism.

Your brother, Carson Daniel Lauffer

Adult Eastern Christian Formation Opportunity: **Bible Discussion**

After the Sunday Divine Liturgy, Kevin Perrotta is leading us on an exploration and discussion Jonah. This is a rich story that speak to us about love, faithfulness, and mercy. Studying it together and talking about our own lives in light of this text will be an opportunity to encounter God's word to us and deepen our relationship with each other.

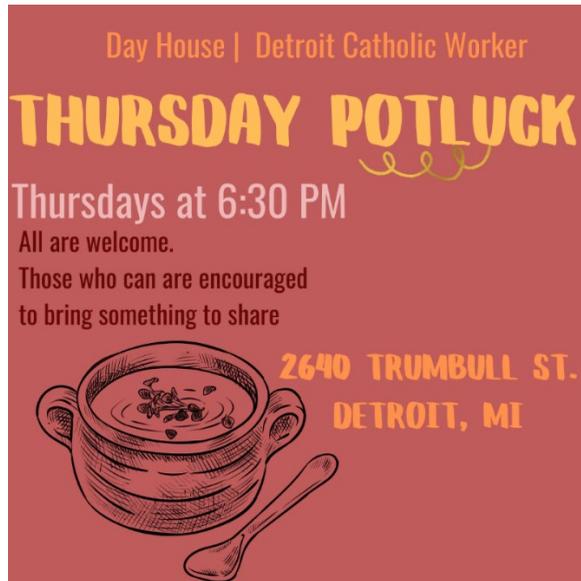
Class Dates: *after Divine Liturgy on:*

Sunday, April 16th

Sunday, April 23rd

Prayer List

*Pray for the healing of Barb Barnes, Dorothy Brooks, Chris Lauffer, Edith Santo
And for the repose of +Michael Camilleri*



Special Collections 2023

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

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.



www.parma.org/WYD2023

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

Scan the QR with your mobile device

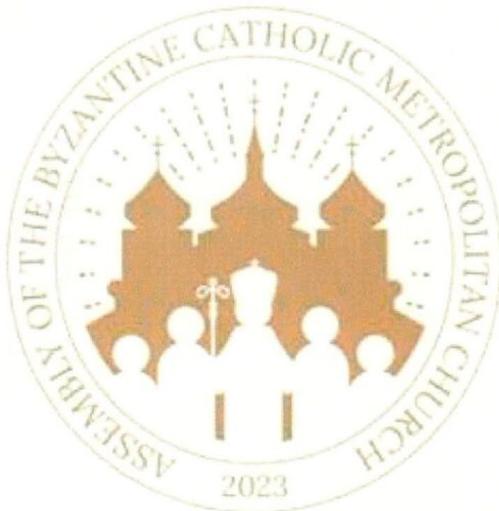
Call Catherine at 708-653-8344

Email us at 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 Skurla*

Most Reverend William C Skurla, 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

.....

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](https://www.venmo.com/@Kim-Kocuba)

If you are paying online via Venmo, please
email your registration information to
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.*

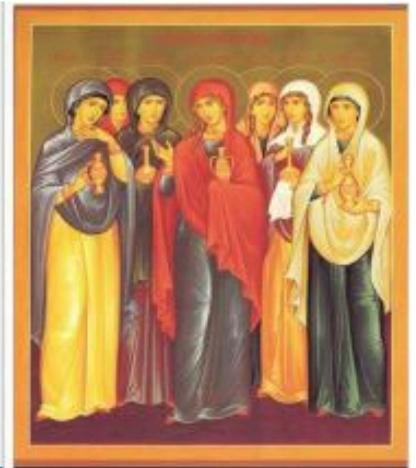
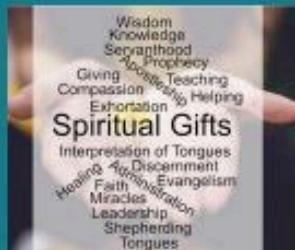
For questions & online registration:

Kim Kocuba
kimkocuba@ameritech.net
216-337-2673

Where:

.....

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



THE COURAGE TO BE MYRRH BEARERS

.....

Parma Eparchial Women's
Renewal 2023

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.

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

Rides to Church

If you need a ride or are willing to offer a ride to others, please contact Victor Jiompkowski (313-930-0801 / v.jiompkowski1111@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 Jiompkowski or Father John.

Stewardship Appeal

This year's Annual Stewardship Appeal will support four important needs in the Eparchy: Development of Parishes; Vocations and Seminarian Education; Works of the Apostolate; and Retired Priests.

Your generosity is appreciated and thanks to everyone for their contributions. We hope to finish this year's campaign strong! If you have not pledged yet, please do so today! Visit us online at parma.org to make your monthly or one-time donation.

St. Stephen's goal this year is \$6,900. So far, 29 donors from St. Stephen have donated \$5944, putting us at roughly 86% 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.

CHARITABLE GIVING

from St. Stephen Parish

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

Since our last contributions,

For the Church in Central & Eastern Europe: \$20.

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 April 9th was **98**. 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 April 9th was **\$3,593.35**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,036.55**

Sunday: \$1496; Pascha: \$946; Holy Day: \$439; Online: \$644.35; Candles: \$68

“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