



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

April 23rd, 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



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 Sunday – followed by Confessions*

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: Mary R

+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.

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

7:00pm 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

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

✦ The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark.

Vespers: James 1:1-12 • James 1:13-27 • James 2:1-13.

Matins Gospel: John 21:15-25.

for St. Mark: 1 Peter 5:6-14. Mark 6:7-13.

for the day: Acts 8:5-17. John 6:27-33.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour

Wednesday, April 26, 2023



The Holy Martyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea (322).

Acts 8:18-25. John 6:35-39.

7:00am Matins

Cantor: Victor A

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary R

intention of George Durisin, from Jane Semak

Thursday, April 27, 2023

✠ The Holy Bishop-Martyr Simeon, Relative of our Lord.

Our Venerable Father Stephen, Bishop of Vladimir in Volhynia (1094).

Acts 8:26-39. John 6:40-44.

Friday, April 28, 2023



Holy Apostles Jason and Sosipater. Holy Martyrs Dadas, Maximus, & Quintillian (c. 350).

Our Holy Father Cyril, Bishop of Turov (c. 1182).

Acts 8:40-9:19a. John 6:48-54.

7:00am Hours & Divine Liturgy

Cantors: Dominique & Victor

+Manouk Mykeloff, from Kathleen Mykeloff

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers for Saturday

Cantor: Dominique

Saturday, April 29, 2023

Nine Holy Martyrs of Cyzice (3rd Century). Venerable Fr. Memnon the Wonder-worker.

Acts 9:19-31. John 15:17-16:2.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Dominique

+Michael Camilleri, from Phyllis Humenik

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

Sunday, April 30, 2023

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN. Tone 3

✙ The Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian.

Vespers: James 1:1-12 • James 1:13-27 • James 2:1-13.

4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:1-12.

Acts 9:32-42. John 5:1-15.

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

Reader: Vic J

intention of George Durisin, from Jane Semak (4-26)

+Manouk Mykeloff, from Kathleen Mykeloff (4-28)

+Michael Camilleri, from Phyllis Humenik (4-29)

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

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

7:00pm Vespers for Monday

Monday, May 1, 2023

The Holy Prophet Jeremiah. The Passing of Blessed Clement Sheptycky (1951).

Acts 10:1-16. John 6:56-69.

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)

Adult Eastern Christian Formation Opportunity: Bible Discussion

After the Sunday Divine Liturgy, Kevin Perrotta is leading us on an exploration and discussion of Jonah. This is a rich story that speaks 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 23rd

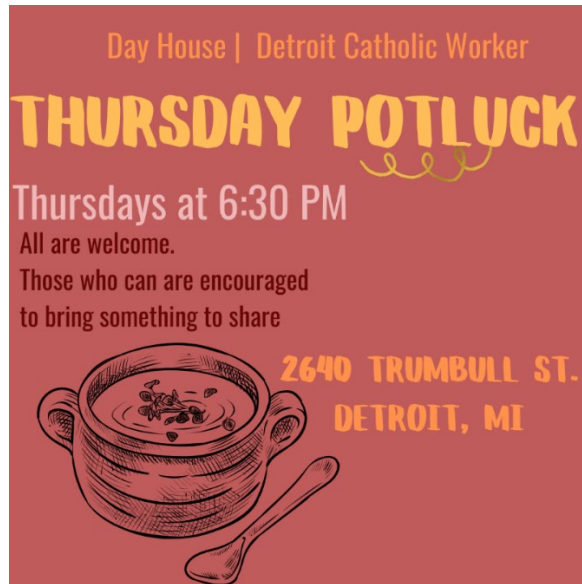
Sunday, April 30th

St. Stephen Guild

St. Stephen Guild earned \$550 for our parish with their sale of paskas and butter lambs! Their next meeting will be after the Divine Liturgy on **May 21st**. Please feel free to join them!

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.

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*

WEDDING AT CANA

MARRIAGE: THE FORETASTE OF HEAVEN

PLUMBING THE DEPTHS OF THE SACRAMENTAL MYSTERY OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

506 East Main Street

Marblehead, Ohio

Saturday, May 20, 2023

All adults, young adults and older teenagers are invited to attend.

Tickets \$25.00/Student tickets \$15.00

Registration at 8:00 am

Conference 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Continental breakfast and lunch are included.

Speaker

Father Thomas J. Loya

Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church

Homer Glen, Illinois

The event concludes at 3:00 pm with a panel discussion with

Father Thomas J. Loya and three married couples.

Divine Liturgy 4:00 pm. An opportunity!

Deadline to register Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Call 419-626-0375

Please leave name and number.



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**



www.parma.org/WYD2023



METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY



Art | History | Presentations | Prayer | Dancing

NOVEMBER 2 - 5, 2023

**LIVING OUR FAITH
Moving Forward
Appreciating Our Past**

- \$250 per person
- \$400 per family
- Young Adult (18-35)*
*registration underwritten by
The Maria Theresa Foundation



**St. Mary Byzantine
Catholic Church,
Hillsborough, NJ**

Assembly Coordinators

Fr. Edward Cimbala 212-677-0516 | Fr. Yuriy Oros 609-394-5004

Email: byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com | **Web:** byzantineassembly2023.org



Assembly
Of The
Byzantine (Ruthenian)
Metropolitan Church
2023
LIVING OUR FAITH
Moving Forward
Appreciating Our Past
November 2-5, 2023

Save the Date

The Assembly of the Byzantine (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church
to be Held in Hillsborough, New Jersey, November 2 – 5.

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla and the Council of Hierarchs of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh will be hosting the 3rd assembly of our Church on Thursday, November 2 to Sunday, November 5, 2023, at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Hillsborough, NJ. The Assembly's theme is Living Our Faith: Moving Forward, Appreciating Our Past.

The Assembly will consist of two tracks. A clergy track will be presented on Thursday and Friday, November 2nd and 3rd. A laity track will occur from Friday to Sunday, November 3rd to 5th. This gathering aims to increase the appreciation of the Byzantine Ruthenian Church's history (both in the "Old Country" and the United States) and Byzantine Ruthenian art and culture. The second goal of the assembly is to learn about the best practices occurring in our parishes today, which are contributing to the growth of our communities, with the hope that the attendees will incorporate this information into their parish activities. A third goal is to develop concrete steps to ensure the future and growth of our Church. The synodal meetings revealed these three topics to be the most important to those participating.

The cultural aspect of the Assembly will consist of presentations by Dr. Paul Magocsi on the history of the founders of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America. His influential book, *Our People: Carpatho-Rusyns and Their Descendants in North America*, has just been released in a new and expanded edition. Dr. Magocsi will also present on the art and culture of this community. His book on the artists of the Transcarpathian School will be published shortly.

Fr. Christopher Zugger will explore the history of the foundation of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America. Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Basil Takach, the first bishop of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church in America. Fr. Zugger is the author of

The Forgotten: Catholics of the Soviet Empire from Lenin through Stalin and Finding a Hidden Church. His third book, which focuses on the history of the Byzantine Ruthenian Church from its founding to the present, will be released in November.

The Eparchy of Passaic's collection of works by artists of the Transcarpathian School will be displayed throughout the assembly venue. Maria Silvestri, a renowned promoter of Rusyn history, art, and culture, will curate this exhibit featuring works by Adalbert Erdelyi, Josyf Bokshay, Shubo, Andrii Korska, and other artists.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan will offer the keynote address at the opening dinner on Friday evening.

As music and dancing play a significant part in the cultural heritage of Carpatho-Rusyns, attendees will have an opportunity to enjoy music, food, and fellowship at a gala Saturday evening. Pajtási – a noted Rusyn/Slovak Band, will be the musical entertainment, and the dinner menu will feature a variety of ethnic foods.

To discover the best practices utilized in Byzantine Catholic parishes throughout the United States, the assembly committee will issue a call for presentation proposals from individuals or teams, clerical, religious, and lay. Presentations may be based on personal experience or academic research. The ideal would be a combination of the two. The request for proposals may be found on the Assembly website and at any parish or chancery office of the Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh.

Registrations may be made through the Assembly website or by mail beginning June 15. The fee includes meals, breaks, presentations, materials, and the gala on Saturday evening. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between the ages of 18 and 35.

Special rates for hotel accommodations have been arranged at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bridgewater, NJ. The reservation link and hotel information may be found on the Assembly Website. The hotel is a fifteen-minute drive to St. Mary's in Hillsborough.

For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Fr. Ed Cimbala, at 212-677-0516 or Fr. Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is byzantineassembly2023.org, and the email is byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com.



Assembly
Of The
Byzantine (Ruthenian)
Metropolitan Church
2023
LIVING OUR FAITH
Moving Forward
Appreciating Our Past
November 2-5, 2023

CALL FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla and the Council of Hierarchs of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh will be hosting the 3rd assembly of our Church on Thursday, November 2 to Sunday, November 5, 2023, at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Hillsborough, NJ. The Assembly's theme is Living Our Faith: Moving Forward, Appreciating Our Past. This gathering is a continuum of the synodal process held in 2022.

The Assembly will consist of two tracks. A clergy track will be presented on Thursday and Friday, November 2nd and 3rd. A laity track will occur from Friday to Sunday, November 3rd to 5th. This gathering aims to increase the appreciation of the Byzantine Ruthenian Church's history (both in the "Old Country" and the United States) and Byzantine Ruthenian art and culture. The second target of the assembly is to learn about the best practices occurring in our parishes today, which are contributing to the growth of our communities, with the hope that the attendees will incorporate this information into their parish activities. Developing concrete steps to ensure the future and development of our Church is the third objective of the Assembly. The synodal meetings revealed these three topics to be the most important to those participating in the process.

The assembly committee seeks proposals from individuals or teams, clerical and lay for presentations to discover the best practices utilized in our parishes throughout the United States. The presentations may be based on personal experience or academic research. The ideal would be a combination of the two. The Eparch of the presenter will be contacted to receive his nihil obstat.

There are two primary areas for exploration:

Where we are – these sessions will explore the present conditions of our Church, both good and bad – looking at its development and growth over time. How have we grown, and how have we changed. Where we have developed, where have we fallen short, and what have we learned from these experiences. Evangelization and the different approaches that individual parishes have taken for growth will be presented in this section. In these sessions, we will explore the

present parish life in our communities by presenting success stories that can be used as examples for other communities to utilize. Best practices will be explored.

Where are we (or where should we be) going –in these sessions, presentations will focus on what we should be doing as a Church. It is an opportunity to present a vision for the future. This is an opportunity to present the dream of the Byzantine Catholic Church going forward. What can be done that has not been done? The conclusion of this section will discuss the steps to utilize the fruits of this gathering to make the dream a reality.

How to Submit a Presentation:

- 1) Review the themes and ideas in the following table. Use these suggestions to spark ideas about what you can contribute, but do not limit your thoughts to those presented. If there is something that you believe should be explored, do not hesitate to submit a proposal.
- 2) Present your topic in a short paragraph using the submission form. Explain your topic and how you would like to present it – for example, an individual presenter or a group presentation. The final presentation would be no more than an hour, including Q & A. This may be modified depending on the number of successful submissions. Your presentation may take the form of a breakout session.
- 3) Would you like to present to the clergy, the laity, or both?
- 4) Create a short video (no more than 5 minutes) presenting your topic
- 5) Submit your proposal information form, the video, and a short bio to Fr. Edward Cimbala via email:

Byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com.

The committee will contact you to discuss or clarify your proposal if necessary.

Themes and Ideas for Topics

The observance of the Divine Office as well as the Divine Liturgy is necessary for a living, healthy parish and for the survival and thriving of every Church.
A proposal for recovering an ancient successful ecclesial paradigm: Pre-evangelization, Evangelization, Catechesis, and Mystagogy as a seamless process and the members of the Byzantine Ruthenian Church as missionary disciples.
The Divine Liturgy as a Tool for Evangelization – The Divine Liturgy as a Missional Act
The Culture of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church as a Tool for Evangelization
Young Adults and their attraction to the Byzantine Catholic Church – Why they long for Liturgy
Successful Mission Outreach and Parish Development
Evangelization and the Church Year – the Seasons of Fasting and Feasting a School for Evangelization
The Liturgy after the Liturgy as a means of developing community
What is the mission field for the Byzantine Catholic Church in America? Where should we be developing new parishes?

Principles to be applied to becoming a parish of the future
Listening to the people in the pews: Closing, Rebuilding and Revitalizing Parishes
The development of a Byzantine Mission Theology
A Blueprint for the Growth of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America
The use of social media for Evangelization

TIMELINE

May 1	Requests for presentations out
June 1	Application deadline - Videos and support materials received
June 15	Committee reviews submissions
June 20	Presenters Notified
July 1	Full Assembly Scheduled Announced and major promotion begins

PRESENTER COMPENSATION

Presenters will receive a stipend of \$250.00, and their Assembly registration will be covered.

<p>Have Any Questions?</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Ed Cimbala at 212-677-0516 or fredecimbala@gmail.com if you have any questions or need additional information to aid you in formulating your proposal.</p>
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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
**Registration is first come first
served!**

When:

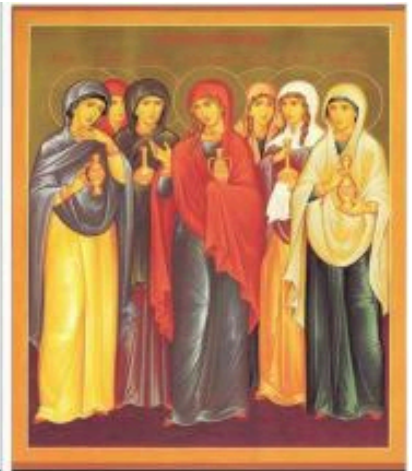
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November 10-12, 2023
Reserve your space by
October 1, 2023

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



THE COURAGE TO BE MYRRH BEARERS

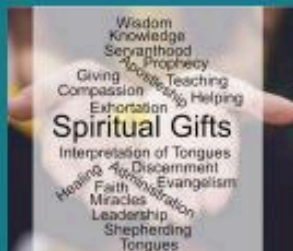
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**Parma Eparchial Women's
Renewal 2023**

Where:

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



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

Those who practice stewardship have a keen sense of what it means to give back to God. A good steward has gratitude and knows everything is from our Lord. We need to reflect on what we have done with our life, our time, our talent, and our opportunities. How did we care for God's blessings we have received?

If you have not donated yet, please prayerfully consider how you can help the Eparchy financially this year. Visit parma.org to donate. Thank you for your generosity!

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. Thank you to Phyllis & Betty for cleaning 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 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 16th was **61**. 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 16th was **\$804.10**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,003.41**

Sunday: \$629.00; Online: \$144.35; Candles: \$30.75

“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