



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

May 21st, 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



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 [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, May 21, 2023

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS AT THE 1ST NICEAN COUNCIL. Tone 6

✦ The Holy Emperor Constantine (337) and his Mother Helen (327), Equals to the Apostles.

Vespers Paramia: Genesis 14:14-20 • Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • Deut. 10:14-21.

Vespers: 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30 • Isaiah 61:10-62:5 • Isaiah 60:1-16.

10th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 21:1-14.

Acts 20:16-18a, 28-36. John 17:1-13.

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 Russell

+Sidney, +Bennie, +Mary, & +John Thomas, from Mary Ann Osmond (5-16)

Beatty Stankula, from Edith Santo (5-19)

for Irene Durisin, from Jane Semak (5-20)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. Guild Meeting in the Small Hall.

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for the Faithful Departed

Cantor: Dominique

+Michael Camilleri – for the 40th Day

Monday, May 22, 2023

Post-festive Day of Ascension. The Holy Martyr Basiliscus (308).

The Holy and Righteous Melchizedek, King of Salem.

Commemoration of the 2nd Ecumenical Council of Constantinople. Holy Mother Rita of Cascia.

Acts 21:8-14. John 14:27b-15:7.

8:00am First & Third Hour – Reader Service

Cantors: Victor & Dominique

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

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

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Post-festive Day of Ascension. Venerable Fr. & Confessor Michael, Bishop of Synnada (818).
Venerable Euphrosyne, Hegumena of the Monastery of our Holy Savior in Polotsk (1173).
Acts 21:26-32. John 16:2b-13a.

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Post-festive Day of Ascension. ☩ Venerable Father Simeon of the Wondrous Mountain (596).
☩. Our Venerable Father Nicetas the Stylite, the Wonder-worker of Perejaslav.
Acts 23:1-11. John 16:15-23.

7:00am First & Third Hour – *Reader Service*

Cantor: Victor

7:00pm Ninth Hour & Great Vespers – *Reader Service* Cantors: Victor & Dominique

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Post-festive Day of Ascension.

✦ The Third Finding of the Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

for the 3rd finding: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15. Matthew 11:2-15.

for the day: Acts 25:13-19. John 16:23b-33a.

Friday, May 26, 2023

Leave-taking of Ascension. The Holy Apostle Carpus, one of the Seventy.
Our Holy Father Augustine of Canterbury, Enlightener of England.
Acts 27:1-44. John 17:18-26.

7:00pm Ninth Hour & Great Vespers – *Reader Service* Cantors: Victor & Dominique

Saturday, May 27, 2023

Saturday of Souls. The Holy Bishop-Martyr Therapont (259).

Acts 28:1-31 & *for the departed:* 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

John 21:15-25 & *for the departed:* John 5:24-30.

10:00am Akathist for the Departed & Typika – *Reader Service*

4:00pm Great Vespers *for Sunday* – *Reader Service*

Sunday, May 28, 2023

⊕ PENTECOST SUNDAY. Tone 7

Our Venerable Father Nicetas, Bishop of Chalcedon (836).

Vespers Paramia: Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29 • Joel 2:23-32 • Ezekiel 36:24-28.

Matins Gospel: John 20:19-23.

Acts 2:1-11. John 7:37-52; 8:12.

8:15am Matins for Sunday – *Reader Service*

9:30am First & Third Hour – *Reader Service*

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

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

Reader: Erin

(Fr. Michael Lenz, OFM will celebrate Divine Liturgy for us).

After Liturgy: Fellowship in the hall.

Monday, May 29, 2023

PENTECOST MONDAY. The Holy Venerable Martyr and Virgin Theodosia (730).

Ephesians 5:8b-19. Matthew 18:10-20.

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

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

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

Pentecost Tuesday. Our Venerable Father Isaac, Hegumen of the Dalmatian Monastery (383).

Romans 1:1-7, 13-17. Matthew 4:25-5:12a.

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Pentecost Wednesday. The Holy Apostle Hermes. The Holy Martyr Hermeas (c. 160).

Romans 1:18-27. Matthew 5:20-26.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour – *Reader Service*

Cantors: Victor & Dominique

7:00pm Ninth Hour & Great Vespers – *Reader Service*

Cantors: Victor & Dominique

Thursday, June 1, 2023

Pentecost Thursday. The Holy Martyr Justin the Philosopher and his Companions (167).

Romans 1:28-2:9. Matthew 5:27-32.

Friday, June 2, 2023

Pentecost Friday. Our Venerable Father Nicephor the Confessor (771).

Romans 2:14-29. Matthew 5:33-41.

7:00pm Ninth Hour & Great Vespers – Reader Service Cantors: Victor & Dominique

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Leave-taking of Pentecost. The Holy Martyr Lucillian and his Companions (273).

Romans 1:7b-12. Matthew 5:42-48.

10:00am Akathist – Reader Service

Cantor: Victor

4:00pm Great Vespers for Sunday – Reader Service

Sunday, June 4, 2023

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS. Tone 8

Holy Fr. Metrophane, Patriarch of Constantinople. Holy Myrrh-bearers Martha & Mary.

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

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

Hebrews 11:33-12:2a. Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30.

8:15am Matins for Sunday

9:30am Akathist – Reader Service; Confessions – in Sacristy

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

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

Reader: Debra

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall.

7:00pm Vespers – at St. Francis in Ann Arbor

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

Monday, June 5, 2023

The Apostles Fast Begins.

The Holy Martyr Dorotheus, Bishop of Tyre (362). Holy Martyr Cosmas, an Armenian Priest.

Romans 2:28-3:18. Matthew 6:31-34; 7:9-11.

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

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

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Our Venerable Father Bessarion the Wonder-worker (446).

Venerable Fr. & Confessor Hilary the Younger, Hegumen of the Dalmatian Monastery (845).

Romans 4:4-12. Matthew 7:15-21.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour

Wednesday, June 7, 2023



Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Ancyra (303). Holy Martyrs Cyriaca, Valeria, & Maria.

Romans 4:13-25. Matthew 7:21-23.

7:00am Matins

Cantor: Victor

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Dominique

For the hieromonk Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt

Thursday, June 8, 2023

⊗ The Translation of the Relics of the Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit (319).

Blessed Maria Theresa Mankdiyan Chiramel.

Romans 5:10-16. Matthew 8:23-27.

Friday, June 9, 2023



⊗ Our Holy Father Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria (444).

Romans 5:17-6:2. Matthew 9:14-17.

7:00am Akathist & Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Victor

for the hieromonk Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers

Saturday, June 10, 2023

The Holy Martyr Timothy, Bishop of Prusia (362).

Romans 3:19-26. Matthew 7:1-8.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Dominique

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, June 11, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 1

✙ The Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas.

Vespers: 1 Peter 1:3-9 • 1 Peter 1:13-19 • 1 Peter 2:11-14.

2nd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark 16:1-8.

Romans 2:10-16. Matthew 4:18-23.

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

With the Baptism of Basil Brewer!

Reader: Thomas

For the hieromonk Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewit (6-7)

for the hieromonk Tadey Kherovych, from Melinda Dewitt (6-9)

+Meloyyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (9-10)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall.

7:00pm Vespers

- ⊕ 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

LEGEND



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)

An Altar Curtain for St. Stephen

As you may or may not remember, Fr. Michael & Janine Kunitz gave our parish an altar curtain as a wedding gift three years ago. Getting this installed has proven an unforeseen saga, the details of which I won't go into, but it finally happened this week!

Here below is an article on the altar curtain that Fr. Michael (then Subdeacon) wrote for us at the time of giving us this gift:

- **What is this?**

The Altar Curtain (or Altar Veil) is a linen which is drawn behind the Holy Doors of the Iconostasis (Icon Screen) and aids in the ritual separation of the Sanctuary (Holy Place) from the Nave. It is reminiscent of the veils which separated the Sanctuary and Holy of Holies in the Old Testament Jewish Temples. Even in the Gospel accounts, we hear about the tearing of these veils upon the death of Christ on the Cross. The inclusion of such curtains in Christian worship is common to a variety of traditions, including the Byzantine tradition.

- **Where did it come from?**

Early Christians understood themselves as the inheritors of the religious tradition passed onto them by their Jewish forebears. Christ was Jewish and all his Apostles were Jewish, with Gentile followers quickly coming into the fold after the Resurrection. As such, while Christianity would go on to grow into its own unique expression of the faith as handed down by the descendants of Adam and Abraham. Therefore, in Christianity, especially in Catholicism and Orthodoxy, much of our religious practices and nomenclature look very Jewish. One of the reasons we maintain the use of Old Testament scripture is because we recognize a spiritual continuity with that tradition. When Christianity began to move out of home Churches and into larger temples for public worship, developments which harked back to the old Tent of Meeting (Exodus 36:8- 38:20) and the Temple of Solomon (1 Kings 6:1-38 and 7:13-51) were not far behind. One of the earliest versions of this was the Templon, a barrier which separated the clergy in the sanctuary from the laity in the nave. This would develop into the Iconostasis with Curtain which we are familiar with today.

- **What does it mean?**

Apart from having a cosmetic similarity to the old Jewish Temple, the Altar Curtain is another example of how the Byzantine tradition emphasizes the aspects of mystery and covering of sacred things in our spirituality. While God has made Himself manifested to us in the Incarnation, there is still much about Him which is beyond our comprehension and even set apart from our own perceptions, just like in the Old Testament context. Bearing in mind also that we are not merely the people of the Old Covenant but also of the new, the opening of

the Curtain is a unique feature to Christianity. Where before the Curtain was always closed to the people, now the Curtain is torn open by the Passion of Christ (Matthew 27: 45-56, Mark 15:33-41, and Luke 23:44-49). The Curtain emphasizes the mysteries of God in its concealing of the Sanctuary and accentuates God revealing Himself to us every time it is drawn open, especially during Pascha where the Curtain is fully opened for all of Bright Week.

- **Why have we never seen it before?**

While the inclusion of an Altar Curtain is not universally done on a pastoral basis, varying from parish to parish, it is nonetheless a part of the received liturgical traditions of our Byzantine Catholic Church. In 1944, a commission from the Sacred Congregation of the Eastern Churches in Rome published and promulgated, among many others, two books which discussed the practice and implementation of liturgy and worship in our Church:

The Ordo Celebrationis: The Order for the Celebrations of Vespers, Orthros and the Divine Liturgy According to the Ruthenian Recension
and the
Instruction for Applying the Liturgical Prescriptions of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches.

The purpose of these books was to outline the attributes of our Ruthenian expression of our Byzantine Catholic faith. Among these texts are frequently mentioned of the use of the Altar Curtain as a preferred included element in our worship spaces. In the United States, many of our people rejected their inclusion (even rejecting the inclusion of the Icon Screen as a whole) for a variety of reasons. Despite these objections, nothing has changed in the formal position of our particular church, which is to have a preference for involving all aspects of our liturgical life, including the Altar Curtain.

Summer Bible Discussion – 1 Corinthians

This summer the parish Bible discussion is focused on Paul's first letter to the Christians in Corinth. When Paul writes to them, the Corinthian Christians are enthusiastic new believers who have a lot to learn about how to live Christian life together. In 1 Corinthians, Paul answers their questions and straightens them out in some areas where they're going wrong. His instructions to them speak to us today.

The reading and discussions will begin on June 18 with a visit to first-century Corinth via photos of the ancient site and some historical background by Kevin Perrotta. We will continue on June 25, July 9, July 16, August 6, August 13, and August 27.

Everyone is welcome. You don't need to take part in all the sessions. Drop in when you can. The group is using a brief guide to 1 Corinthians in the Six Weeks with the Bible series by Kevin. Free copies are available.

We meet at 12:15 pm in the small hall.



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.

Want to learn more about the
Byzantine Catholic faith?

BECOMING  BYZANTINE

B G F A

BYZANTINE CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ADULTS
INITIAL & POST-BAPTISMAL CATECHESIS

*Join a Free Monthly Online
Webinar Series for Adults!*

Vineyard of the Lord Catholic Ministries & The Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute

If you are a Byzantine Catholic who would like to go deeper into your faith, a frequent attendee at a Byzantine Catholic parish, or are interested in exploring becoming Byzantine Catholic, this is for you!

Starts June 11, 2023 @ 6-7pm PST

12 MONTHS - SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

**Based on the Catechism, Christ Our Pascha,
and the series "Becoming Byzantine"**



**REGISTER
HERE**



Sponsored by the Eparchy of Phoenix Office of Religious Education

FAMILY & CANTOR CAMP



EPARCHY
OF PARMA

*Come with your spouse and children and join us for
a weekend of fellowship, prayer and spiritual
formation in the Byzantine Catholic Tradition.*

JULY 16-20, 2023

EASTON, KS



Marriage is designed to be the closest possible relation of increasing intimacy and growing interdependence. We have to keep working on our marriage to stay closely connected. At our Family Camp, parents will have time for themselves to nurture their marriage relationship... all while our team will take care of your children at the Cantor Camp.

At the Cantor Camp, led by Fr. Andrew Summerson, children divided into age groups will learn about the beauty of our tradition of chant in a very interactive and playful manner. We witness in our parishes how children cherish singing from early childhood; it's no wonder so many Byzantine Catholics are great singers from early on.

COME AND JOIN US FOR FAMILY AND CANTOR CAMP! www.parma.org/family-camp



www.parma.org/WYD2023

Upcoming Retreat Opportunities

Parma's Byzanteens may be interested in the Third Annual Young Adult Retreat: Becoming "Fools for Christ's Sake" scheduled to take place **July 27-30** in Marblehead, OH. Youth will come together for a weekend of service, socializing and spirituality.

Women within our Eparchy are invited to attend the 2023 Eparchial Women's Renewal: "The Courage to be Myrrh-bearers" scheduled to take place **November 10-11** in Whitehouse, OH. Join us as we find our courage in God and learn how to take the steps to share our gifts with others.

We encourage you to check back for more opportunities! <https://www.parma.org/retreats>

<p>.....</p> <p>The Eparchy of Parma and Dormition of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church are proud to sponsor a women's renewal.</p> <p>A weekend of empowerment, spiritual reflection and community fellowship.</p> <p>Registration</p>	<p>When: November 10-12, 2023 Reserve your space by October 1, 2023</p> <p>Early fee by Sept 1 = \$200 After Sept 1 fee = \$225</p> <p><i>Registration is first come first served. If needed, we will start a waiting list.</i></p> <p>For questions & online registration: Kim Kocuba kimkocuba@ameritech.net 216-337-2673</p>	
<p>Send registration and checks: Women's Renewal 4600 State Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109</p> <p>Make checks payable to: Dormition of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church</p> <p>Venmo link for online payment: @Kim-Kocuba</p> <p>If you are paying online via Venmo, please email your registration information to kimkocuba@ameritech.net</p> <p>Registration is first come first served!</p>	<p>Where: The Lial Retreat Center 5908 Davis Rd, Whitehouse, OH 43571</p> 	<p>THE COURAGE TO BE MYRRH BEARERS</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Parma Eparchial Women's Renewal 2023</p>



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

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

St. Stephen Guild

St. Stephen Guild's next meeting will be after the Divine Liturgy today on **May 21st**. Please feel free to join them!

Talent Show!

Some of our young parishioners came up with the idea that we could have a talent show at St. Stephen! The Sunday of All Saints (**June 4th**) seems like a good day to celebrate the many talents God has given us. Do you play an instrument? Sing? Perform? Show your hidden talents! You can also submit visual arts to be exhibited! Sign up in the hall!

Parish Picnic!

This year's parish picnic will coincide with our blessing of cars on **July 23rd**!
See Victor Azcuy to volunteer with set up, clean up, and donation.

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.

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.

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: \$85.

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.

Prayer List

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

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on May 14th was **56**. 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 May 14th was **\$1,523.35**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,016.12**

Sunday: \$1185; Holy Day: \$75; Online: \$244.35; Candles: \$19

“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