



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

July 30th, 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

Cantors: Victor, Dominique, Mary R.

Sunday, July 30, 2023

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 8

The Holy Apostles Silas and Silvanus and their Companions.

9th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:19-31.

1 Corinthians 3:9-17. Matthew 14:22-34.

8:15am Matins

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

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

Cantors: Mary H; Mary W

Reader: Dominique

blessings for Patterson & Materniak Families, from Nancy Patterson (7-28)

+Noah Semak, from Bob & Jane Semak (7-26)

+Melvyn & Josefa, from Sarah Marron (7-29)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall.

6:00pm Parastas for Mary Muntz at Solosy Funeral Home, Lincoln Park

Monday, July 31, 2023

⊗ Pre-festive Day of the Procession of the Venerable and Life-creating Cross.

The Holy and Righteous Eudocimus (9th Century). The Holy Joseph of Arimathea.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19. Matthew 21:18-22.


10:00am Funeral for Mary Muntz

with interment to follow at Bloomdale Cemetery in Trenton

7:00pm Byzantine Book Club - online: meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia

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

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

 *First day of Dormition Fast*

⊗ The Procession of the Wood of the Venerable and Life-creating Cross.
The Holy Seven Maccabees, their Mother Solomonia and the Elder Eleazar.
for the Cross: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24. John 19:6-11, 13-21, 25-27, 30-35.

for the day: 1 Corinthians 15:29-38. Matthew 21:23-27.

7:00am Matins *with Veneration of the Cross & Lesser Blessing of Water* Cantor: Victor

12 noon Divine Liturgy

Cantors: Mary R. Katie

+Manmohan Badhwar, from Bob & Jane Semak

Wednesday, August 2, 2023



⊗ The Translation of the Relics of our patron the Holy Protomartyr & Archdeacon Stephen.
Our Venerable Father Basil, Fool for Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:4-12. Matthew 21:28-32.

7:00am First Hour & Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Victor

intention of hieromonk Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers – *with prostrations*

Thursday, August 3, 2023



Day of Alleluia

Venerable Fathers Isaac, Dalmatus, and Faustus (5th Century). Holy Myrrh-bearer Salome.

2 Corinthians 1:1-7. Matthew 21:43-46.

Friday, August 4, 2023



Day of Alleluia

The Holy Seven Children of Ephesus. The Holy Venerable Martyr Eudoxia (2nd Century).

2 Corinthians 1:12-20. Matthew 22:23-33.

10:00am Paraklesis

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers

Saturday, August 5, 2023



⊗ Pre-festive Day of the Transfiguration. The Holy Martyr Eusignius (362).

Romans 15:30-33. Matthew 17:24-18:4.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Dominique

the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron

4:00pm Great Vespers *for Sun. & Transfiguration – followed by Confessions* Cantor: Mary R

Sunday, August 6, 2023



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 1

⊕ THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

Vespers: Exodus 24:12-18 • Exodus 33:11-23 • 1 Kings 19:3-9, 11-13, 15-16.

Matins Gospel: Luke 9:28-36.

for the Transfiguration: 2 Peter 1:10-19. Matthew 17:1-9.

for the day: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16. Matthew 17:14-23a.

8:15am Matins

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

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

Cantors: Mary H; Cecilia

followed by the blessing of fruit

Reader: Cecilia

intention of hieromonk Philip Blazkevych, from Melinda Dewitt (8-2)

the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (8-5)

+Manmohan Badhwar, from Bob & Jane Semak (8-1)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. 1 Corinthians Discussion in the small hall: 12:15pm

7:00pm Paraklesis at St. Francis in Ann Arbor

Monday, August 7, 2023



Post-festive Day of the Transfiguration. The Holy Venerable Martyr Dometius (363).





2 Corinthians 2:3b-15a. Matthew 23:13-22.

7:00pm Byzantine Book Club - online: meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia

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)

The Dormition Fast

PROCLAIM A HOLY FAST! (Joel 1:14) "The traditional rule for the Dormition Fast is a strict abstinence [abstinence from meat, fish, dairy products, eggs, alcohol, and foods cooked in oil] **from August 1 to 14**, with the usual mitigations (permitting wine and oil) for Saturday and Sunday and the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6). It is, therefore, observed as the Great Fast. The Ruthenian Metropolia has identified this period as a penitential season (Canon 880). The observance of this fast is voluntary" - from the Typicon arranged by Archpriest David M. Petras, S.E.O.D. for use in the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolia of Pittsburgh.

Traditional fasting during the two-week Dormition fast is like that during most of Great Fast:

Monday-Friday: **Strict Fast** (*one meal – no meat, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, or oil*)

Saturday and Sunday: **Wine and Oil permitted.**

Holy Transfiguration: **Fish, Wine, & Oil permitted.**

Veneration of the Cross & the Small Blessing of Water

On the first day of August, which is the first day of the Dormition Fast, we venerate the Cross and bless water at Matins. This will be at **7:00am on Tuesday, August 1st**.

Allen Park Street Fair!

The 2023 Fair will be held **August 4th and 5th** and St. Stephen will have a booth! This Fair attracts over 50,000 visitors. This will be a great opportunity to tell locals and visitors about our Church, our Tradition, and Jesus Christ! Sign up in the narthex to be present at the fair for whatever hours you're available on those days.

Blessing of Fruit

On the Great Feast of the Transfiguration, the Church blesses the first fruits, especially grapes and apples. We will offer this blessing after the Ambon Prayer at the Divine Liturgy for the Feast at **10am on Sunday, August 6th**. Bring your fruits to Liturgy that morning and place them on the table for the blessing.

Paraklesis

During the Dormition Fast, it is traditional to celebrate the beautiful Office of Supplication to the Theotokos known as the Paraklesis (or Paraklis). Keep an eye on the bulletin for several opportunities to pray this deeply moving service to our Mother, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. Don't let the Dormition Fast go by without coming to the Paraklesis!

Service Times: Friday, August 4th, 10am; Sunday, August 6th, 7pm – *at St. Francis in Ann Arbor*
Tuesday, August 8th, 10am; Wednesday, Aug. 9th, 7am; Fri., Aug. 11th, 7pm; Sun., Aug. 13th, 8:30am

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 continue on **August 6, Aug. 13, and Aug. 27 and further dates TBA.** 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.

The Office of Holy Repentance

During this penitential season in preparation for the Dormition of the Theotokos & Ever Virgin Mary, we will celebrate the full form of the office of holy repentance on **Thursday, August 10th at 7pm.** This includes private confession to a priest. Fr. Constantin & Fr. John will be available. This is a good opportunity for first confessions, for those who have been a long time away from this holy mystery to return, and for all of us to confess and rejoice in the mercy of our forgiving Lord Jesus Christ.

Pilgrimage Prep Work Day

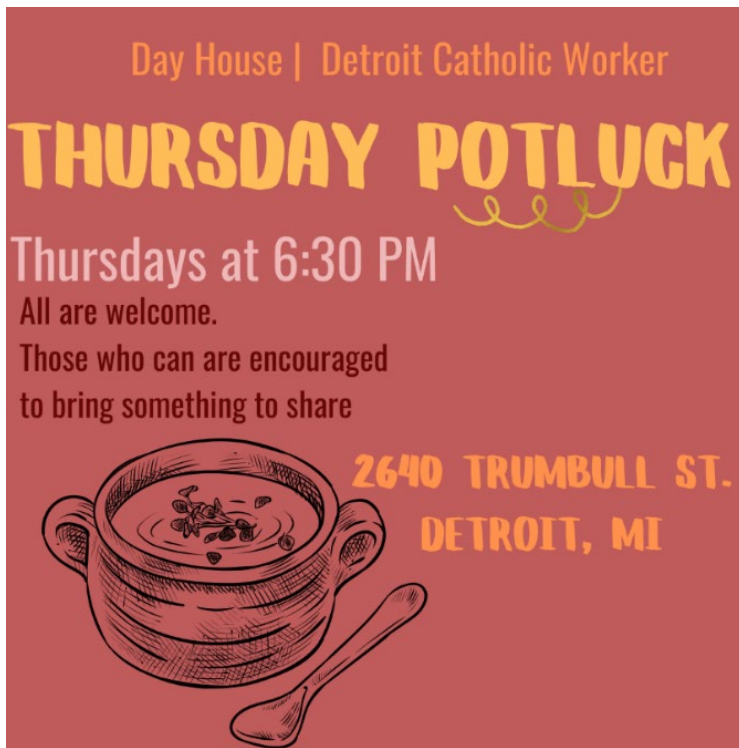
Saturday, August 12th, 9AM-12PM. Please help us get the Shrine ready for the Annual Pilgrimage on 8/19-20. Bring shovels, rakes, gloves, etc. Contact gregloya@yahoo.com for questions.

Blessing of Flowers

On the Great Feast of the Dormition, the Church blesses flowers. Bring your flowers for the feast and place them on the table for the blessing!

Parish Library

Please note that we have been growing a parish library, housed in the cabinets of the small hall. Parishioners are welcome to peruse and borrow the books, many of which have been donated for our continuing education and edification. Please contact Fr. John to arrange a visit to the parish library.



Special Collections 2023

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

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.



Meet and Greet
Friday August 18th, 2023 From 1pm-3pm
At Crowley Park Westwood St. Dearborn, MI
Please join us to find out more!

The Byzikids Co-op is a group of parents and kids who get together monthly to pray, read the gospel, learn about the saints, craft, share a snack and more. We will use resources from Byzikids magazine. Learn more at Byzikids.org All are welcome. Please join us to learn about Eastern Christianity and our rich faith.

We will meet monthly Starting in September
at St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church in Allen Park, MI

Contact Katie Russell at katierssll@gmail.com for more information

Annual Eparchial Pilgrimage

"Under the Protection of Your Veil"



SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023

- 3:00pm – Blessing of Water & Moleben to the Theotokos – Shrine Chapel
- 4:00pm – Divine Liturgy (for Saturday), Blessing of Pilgrims
- 5:30pm – Café open for dinner
- 7:00pm – Great Vespers (for Sunday)
- 8:30pm – Campfire and fireside chat
- 9:30pm – Compline
- *Afterwards & until midnight – supervised social interaction

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023

- 9:00am – Matins
- 11:00am – Teen activity
- 12 noon – Sixth Hour / Café open for Lunch
- 1:30pm – Children's Activity / Guest Speaker
- 3:00pm – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy; Mirovanija; Procession with the Plaschanicja (Burial Shroud of the Theotokos) & the Gospels
- 5:00pm – Café open for Dinner

The opportunity for Holy Repentance (Confession) will be available throughout the Pilgrimage ● Camping is permitted ● Food will be available for purchase at the cafeteria or you are welcome to bring your own food ● Bring your own chair

The Eastern Treasures Gift Shop will be open.
17486 Mumford Road, Burton, Ohio
<https://www.parma.org/shrine-of-mariapoch>

Upcoming Retreat Opportunities

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 for more opportunities! <https://www.parma.org/retreats>

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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

When:

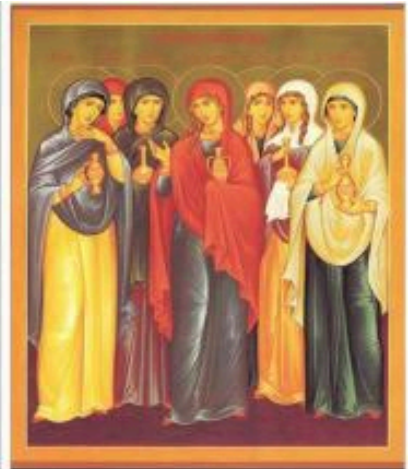
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November 10-12, 2023
Reserve your space by **October 1, 2023**

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



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

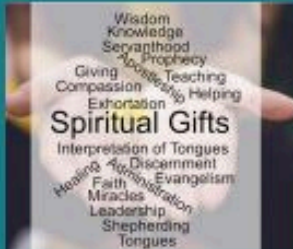
Venmo link for online payment:
[@Kim-Kocuba](https://venmo.com/Kim-Kocuba)

If you are paying online via Venmo, please email your registration information to kimkocuba@ameritech.net
Registration is first come first served!

Where:

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



**THE COURAGE
TO BE
MYRRH BEARERS**

.....

**Parma Eparchial Women's
Renewal 2023**

THE COURAGE TO BE MYRRH BEARERS

.....

Where:

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



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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 **Paper** registration and **checks** to:

Women's Renewal, 2023 4600 State Rd, Cleveland,
OH 44109

If mailing a check, please send in registration with it.

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

Online payment: Venmo link @Kim-Kocuba

Online registration form available @

<https://www.parma.org/retreats>

Contact Kim @ kimkocuba@ameritech.net or

216-337-2673 with questions.



Keynote: Lynne Wardach:

The ByziMom

<https://www.byzimom.com/byzikids>

ByziMom's Guide to Great Fast Meals.

She is also the creator and executive editor of
ByziKids Magazine, and is an oblate and
Coordinator of the Myrrhbearing Lay Sisters of
St. John the Beloved at Holy Annunciation
Byzantine Catholic Monastery.

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Phone #:

Parish:

Payment method:

.....

Check #

Venmo ID

Dietary restrictions:

Mobility restrictions:



Spiritual Leader:

Rev. Dennis Hrubciak

Retired - Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of
Parma

You have gifts to offer!

*Join us as we find our courage in
God and learn how to take the step
to share our gifts with others.*

*Registration is first come first
served. Don't miss your chance,
register by September 1, 2023*

The Courage to be Myrrh Bearers Women's Renewal

You have gifts to offer the world. Join us as we find our courage in God and learn how to take the steps to share our gifts with others.

The Eparchy of Parma and The 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.

The weekend will take place November 10-12, 2023, at The Lial Retreat Center in Whitehouse, OH.

Our Keynote Speaker is Lynne Wardach, ByziMom of <https://www.byzimom.com>. Rev. Dennis Hrubiak is the spiritual director.

Early registration fee is \$200. Registration is first come first served. Don't miss your chance, register by September 1, 2023.

Registration:

Online registration form available @ <https://www.parma.org/retreats> Online payment: Venmo link @Kim-Kocuba

Send Paper registration and checks to: Women's Renewal, 2023 4600 State Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109

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

See brochure at the entrance of the church, for more information.

Contact Kim @ kimkocuba@ameritech.net or 216-337-2673 with questions.

FAQ:

1 Can I carpool with someone or is there a bus?

A We are working on a solution, please sign up and in make a note that you would need a ride to the event. We will get back to you.

2 Can I pay later?

A Yes. Please sign up if you are interested and when the time comes, you can send a check or Venmo online, no later than 30 days before. If we are selling out, we can reach out to you to send in payment to secure your spot.

3 Can I pick my own room?

A No, but if you let us know if you have special needs, we can try to accommodate.

4 I sent in my registration online or by mail, am I signed up?

A No, you need to pay to complete your registration and hold your spot. If you send in your information, we can reach out as we fill up to check on your payment.

5 Are you offering vouchers or discounts?

A No, we are already extending a great value due to the support of the Eparchy and their generous donation to the event.



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



METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY

NOVEMBER 2 - 5, 2023

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

Art | History | Presentations | Prayer | Dancing

A gathering for all Byzantine Catholic faithful to learn about their past and plan for growth in the future.

Schedule



Special Guests

Thursday, November 2, 2023	Clergy Day
9:30 AM-Noon	Registration Vendors Throughout Assembly
Noon	Lunch
1:30 PM to 6:00 PM	Welcome and Presentations
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Dinner
8:00 PM	Presentation
9:00 PM	Compline
9:30 PM to 10:30 PM	Social
Friday, November 3, 2023	Clergy Days Continue
8:00 AM	Morning Prayer
8:30 AM to 9:15 AM	Continental Breakfast
9:30 AM to Noon	Presentations
10:00 AM to Noon	Laity Registration
Noon to 1:30 PM	Lunch
	Clergy and Laity
1:30 PM to 7:00 PM	Presentations to Clergy and Laity
7:30 PM to 9:45 PM	Dinner and Keynote
10:00 PM	Compline
Saturday, November 4, 2023	Clergy and Laity
8:00 AM	Morning Prayer
8:30 AM to 9:15 AM	Continental Breakfast
9:30 AM to Noon	Presentations
Noon to 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM to 5:30 PM	Presentations
6:00 PM	Vespers
7:00 PM to 11:00 PM	Gala Dinner & Dancing to the Music of Pajtáši
Sunday, November 5	
8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
10:00 AM	Breakfast Buffet
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM	Final Presentation, What's Next?, Wrap-up, and Farewell



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.



Bishop Nil Lushchak O.F.M. is an Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Mukachevo. Previously served as Auxiliary Bishop of the same eparchy since 19 November 2012 until 20 July 2020.



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

All other speakers will be announced soon!

Gala 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. Pajtáši – a noted Rusyn/Slovak Band, will be the musical entertainment, and the dinner menu will feature a variety of ethnic foods.

PAJTÁŠI



Registration Now Open!

Registration deadline is October 1, 2023



Get in touch

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

Email: byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com
Website: byzantineassembly2023.org



Accommodations

Hilton Garden Inn Bridgewater
500 Promenade Boulevard
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

Location

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
1900 Brooks Boulevard,
Hillsborough, NJ, 08844



St. Nicholas Apostolate

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 donation box 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 he deems appropriate. 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).

Contact Fr Deacon Lawrence (frdeaconlawrence@yahoo.com) for more information.

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.

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, we have collected \$85.

for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, we have collected \$138

for the retirement of our nuns, we have collected \$295.

for Peter's Pence, we have collected \$40

for Catholic Home Missions, we have collected \$40

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, Don & Theresa Butella, Dorothy Brooks, Misha & Katya Coffey-Burns, Lawrence Thomas Dion, Chris Lauffer, Thomas Payeur, & Edith Santo

And for the repose of Mary Muntz, Ilya Serafim Noach Coffey-Burns & Lev Vassily Moyshe Coffey-Burns

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on July 23rd was **68**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **57**

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 July 23rd was **\$1,248.20**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,102.09**

Sunday: \$625; Online: \$338.70; Candles: \$237.50; Stewardship Rebate: \$47

“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