

# SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

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

Deacon: Rev. Deacon Lawrence Hendricks

Cantors: Dominique Azcuy, Victor Azcuy, Daniel Barillas,  
Guillermo Barillas, Debra Grega Beckerman, Cecilia  
Hendricks, Pani Mary Hendricks, Pani Katie Russell,  
Mary Russell, David Woods, Mary Woods

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.”  
– our former pastor Fr. Joseph Radvansky in *A Brief Explanation of the Eastern Catholic Churches*.

# LITURGICAL SERVICE TIMES

Sunday & Saturday morning at 10:00am  
Wednesday & Friday evening at 7:00pm

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

Cantor: Mary R

*Young Adult Gathering at Kiwanis Park in Southgate*

## Sunday, October 1, 2023

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 1

⊕ PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY.

The Holy Apostle Ananias. Our Venerable Father, Romanus the Melodist (496).

Our Venerable Mother Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1897).

*Vespers:* Genesis 28:10-17 • Ezekiel 43:27-44:4a • Proverbs 9:1-11.

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

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 & for the Protection: Hebrews 9:1-7.

Luke 6:31-36 & for the Protection: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

**8:15am Matins** for ⊕ the Protection

Cantor: Victor A

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

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

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

Reader: Daniel B

*for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (9-30)*

*+Mary Muntz, from Bob & Jane Semak (9-27)*

*+Anna M. Suman (9-29)*

*After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. ECF for all. Bible Discussion at 12:15 in small hall.*

**7:00pm Vespers**

## Monday, October 2, 2023

⊗ The Holy Bishop-Martyr Cyprian (258).

The Holy Martyr Justina (258). The Holy Andrew, Fool for Christ (911).

Philippians 1:1-7. Luke 6:24-30.

7:00pm *Byzantine Book Club* - online: [meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia](https://meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia)

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

## Tuesday, October 3, 2023

⊗ The Holy Bishop and Martyr Denis the Areopagite.  
Philippians 1:8-14. Luke 6:37-45.

*7:00am Coffee with Fr. John – a casual meetup on Zoom*

## Wednesday, October 4, 2023

The Holy Martyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens. Our Venerable Fr. Francis of Assisi (1226).  
Philippians 1:12-20a. Luke 6:46-7:1.

*7:00pm Vespers for Thursday – Reader Service*

## Thursday, October 5, 2023

The Holy Martyr Charitina (304).  
Philippians 1:20b-27a. Luke 7:17-30.

## Friday, October 6, 2023

✦ The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas.  
*Vespers:* 1 John 1:1-7 • James 1:1-12 • Jude 1-7, 17-25.  
*Matins Gospel:* John 21:15-25.  
*for Thomas:* 1 Corinthians 4:9-16. John 20: 19-31.  
*for the day: Philippians 1:27-2:4. Luke 7:31-35.*

*7:00pm Vespers for Saturday – Reader Service*

Cantor: Mary H

## Saturday, October 7, 2023

⊗ The Holy Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus (303).  
1 Corinthians 15:58-16:3. Luke 5:27-32.

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

Cantor: Victor A

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

## Sunday, October 8, 2023

NINETEETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 2

Our Venerable Mother Pelagia (457).

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

*2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9. Luke 7:11-16.*

**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 H

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

**7:00pm Great Vespers** *for †The Holy Apostle James Alpheus.*

## Monday, October 9, 2023

† The Holy Apostle James Alpheus.

Our Venerable Father Andronicus and his Wife Athanasia (4th Century).

Righteous Forefather Abraham and his Nephew Lot. Holy Martyr Denis, Bishop of Paris.

*Vespers: 1 John 1:1-7 • James 1:1-12 • Jude 1-7, 17-25.*

*for James: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16. Luke 10:16-21.*

*for the day: Philippians 2:12-16a. Luke 7:36-50.*

*7:00pm Byzantine Book Club - online: [meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia](https://meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia)*

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

## Tuesday, October 10, 2023

The Holy Martyrs Eulampius and Eulampia (302).

*Philippians 2:16b-23. Luke 8:1-3.*

*7:00am Coffee with Fr. John – a casual meetup on Zoom*

## 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)

## Bible Discussion – 1 Corinthians

Our ongoing 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 **Oct. 1, 22, 29; Nov. 5**

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.

## Coffee with Fr. John

*a casual meetup on Zoom*

Perhaps you have questions and haven't been able to find a moment to ask. Or perhaps you'd just like to hang out for a while in the morning before work. You're invited to share some time as we journey together through this life in Christ. This will be an online meeting through Zoom at 7am on Tuesdays. You can join with or without video.

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83054002720?pwd=QzZNMNS9GUE9KTIkxU01DdVdCeTRLZz09>

Meeting ID: 830 5400 2720

Passcode: 389460

## Byzantine Book Club

The Byzantine Book Club meets on most Monday evenings from 7-8 pm. Our group has been meeting for a number of years, although the composition of the group has changed somewhat over time. There are a handful of stalwart individuals who participate in the group week after week, but we are always looking for new people to join our discussions.

### What is it that we do?

In the book for our current reading at the Book Club, “The Orthodox Way,” by the late Bishop Kallistos Ware, the author says: “By no means do all Orthodox (or Byzantine Catholics) have a spiritual father of their own...As well as books, and as well as spiritual fatherhood, there is also spiritual brotherhood or sisterhood – the help that is given to us, not by teachers in God, but by our fellow disciples. We are not to neglect the opportunities offered to us in this form.” In the Byzantine Book Club, we take advantage of this important opportunity to share our reflections on our readings, to get to know one another better, and to grow together in our spiritual lives. We believe that it is not necessary to read alone at home; we read together when we meet and then discuss what we’ve read as a group.

### Books we are considering for future reading:

- *Mary as the Early Christians Knew Her*, by Frederica Mathewes-Green
- *Poustinia: Encountering God in Silence, Solitude and Prayer*, by Catherine Doherty

**Please join us on any Monday at 7PM at our Google Meet link:**

[meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia](https://meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia)

If you are interested in joining the group when we begin our next book (in the near future), we would like to know what Christian book(s) you would like to read/share with us. Please forward any suggestions you may have to Fr. Deacon Lawrence ([frdeaconlawrence@yahoo.com](mailto:frdeaconlawrence@yahoo.com))

## 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.

## Annual Stewardship Appeal

The Stewardship Appeal helps cover the costs of a variety of programs in the Eparchy including the support of parishes and missions. For the good of the faithful, we will examine all regions of the Eparchy and determine the way forward. We will provide consultation in financials, capital improvements, and human resources. We will assess the vitality of parishes and determine the establishment of new parishes as we stabilize ourselves as a community first.

If you have not already made your pledge or donation, please visit [parma.org](http://parma.org) and consider a donation to the Eparchy to help financially with the many needs we face. Thank you for your generosity!

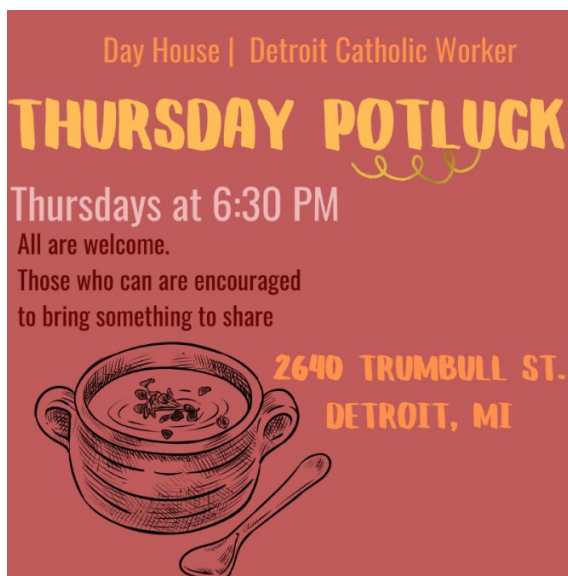
St. Stephen's goal this year is \$7,300.

## Special Collections 2023

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.



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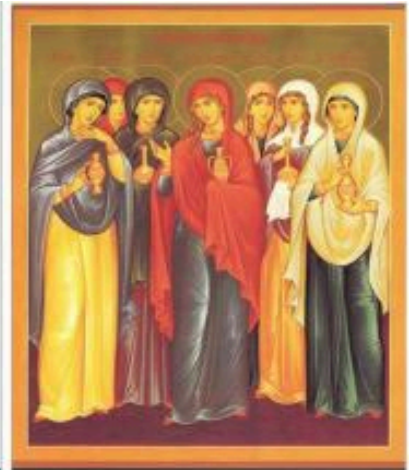
**November 10-12, 2023**  
Reserve your space by  
October 1, 2023

**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://www.venmo.com/@Kim-Kocuba)

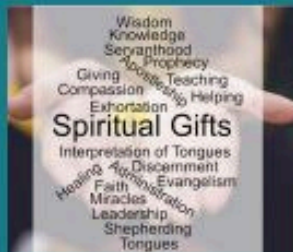
If you are paying online via Venmo, please  
email your registration information to  
kimkocuba@ameritech.net

**Registration is first come first  
served!**

### Where:

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



**THE COURAGE  
TO BE  
MYRRH BEARERS**

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**Parma Eparchial Women's  
Renewal 2023**

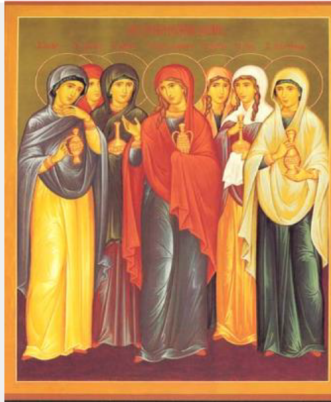


# THE COURAGE TO BE MYRRH BEARERS

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## 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](mailto: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:**

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**Address:**

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**Email address:**

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**Phone #:**

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**Parish:**

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## **Payment method:**

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**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*



# 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](mailto:byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com) | **Web:** [byzantineassembly2023.org](http://byzantineassembly2023.org)

## 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](mailto: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 have revived 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 would like 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 \$475.

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,  
Pat Carlson, Lawrence Thomas Dion, Chris Lauffer, Michael Mykeloff,  
Thomas Payeur, & Edith Santo*

From Chris Lauffer:

Thank you for your prayers for my healing. I am experiencing significant progress in overcoming what has been daily headaches for years. Thanks also to Fr. John for his anointing me and his pastoral care. I have also appreciated your kind words. To God be the glory!

**ATTENDANCE** – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on September 24<sup>th</sup> was **60**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **58**

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 September 24<sup>th</sup> was **\$1,531.17**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,054.47**

Sunday: \$690; Holy Day: \$15; Online: \$767.17; Candles: \$59

“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