

# SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI    November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
ststephen@parma.org    313-382-5901  
*website: saintstephenbyzantine.church*

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

**7:00pm Great Vespers** for Sunday – followed by Confessions

## Sunday, November 12, 2023

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 7

Our Venerable Father John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria. Venerable Father Nilus.

✙ The Holy Martyr Josaphat, Archbishop of Polotsk (1623).

*Matins Gospel:* John 10:1-9.

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

Ephesians 2:14-22. Luke 10:25-37.

**8:15am Matins** for Sunday

Cantor: Victor A

**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: Debra

+Mary Muntz, from Sarah Marron (11-11)

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

*Guild Meeting in Small Hall immediately after Divine Liturgy.*

*Presentation on the Development of the Old Testament Canon – 12:15 in small hall*

**7:00pm Great Vespers** for ✙ Our Holy Father John Chrysostom

## Monday, November 13, 2023

✙ Our Holy Father John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (407).

*Matins Gospel:* John 10:1-9.

*for Chrysostom:* Hebrews 7:26-8:2. John 10:9-16.

*for the day:* 2 Thessalonians 1:1-10. Luke 14:1, 12-15.

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, November 14, 2023

✦ Holy & Illustrious Apostle Philip. Holy Fr. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica.

*Vespers:* 1 Peter 1:1-6 • 1 Peter 2:21-3:9 • 1 Peter 4:1-11.

*Matins Gospel:* John 21:15-25.

*for Philip:* 1 Corinthians 4:9-16. John 1:43-51.

*for the day:* 2 Thessalonians 1:10b-2:2. Luke 14:25-35.

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

### 10:00am Third & Sixth Hour

## Wednesday, November 15, 2023 1st Day of the Phillip's Fast

The Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Habib (322).

*Day of Alleluia*

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. Luke 15:1-10.

### 7:00am Matins

### 6:15pm Great Vespers &

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for ✦ Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew. Cantor: Mary R

+Michael Camilleri, from Charolet Bonacor

## Thursday, November 16, 2023

✦ The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew.

*Vespers:* 1 Peter 1:1-6 • 1 Peter 2:21-3:9 • 1 Peter 4:1-11.

*Matins Gospel:* John 21:15-25.

*for Matthew:* 1 Corinthians 4:9-16. Matthew 9:9-13.

*for the day:* 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5. Luke 16:1-9.

## Friday, November 17, 2023

Our Holy Father Gregory the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Neocaesarea (270).

2 Thessalonians 3:6-18. Luke 16:15-18; 17:1-4.

### 7:00am First Hour & Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Victor A

+Anna O'Connor

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers for Saturday

## Saturday, November 18, 2023

The Holy Martyrs Plato and Romanus (303).

Galatians 1:3-10. Luke 9:57-62.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

Cantor: Victor A

*for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron*

**7:00pm Great Vespers** *for Sunday – followed by Confessions*

## Sunday, November 19, 2023

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 8

The Holy Prophet Obadiah. The Holy Martyr Barlaam (304).

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

Ephesians 4:1-6. Luke 12:16-21.

**8:15am Matins** *for Sunday*

Cantor: Victor A

**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: Zac

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

**7:00pm Vespers** *for Monday*

## Monday, November 20, 2023

Pre-festive Day of the Entrance. Our Venerable Fr. Gregory the Decapolite (9th Century).

Our Holy Father Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople (446).

1 Timothy 1:1-7. Luke 17:20-25.

**6:00pm All-Night Vigil** *for ☩ the Entrance of the Theotokos*

Cantors: Mary H,  
Cecilia, Victor A

## Tuesday, November 21, 2023

☩ ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY INTO THE TEMPLE.

*Vespers: Exodus 40:1-5, 9, 10, 16, 34-35 • 1[3] Kings 7:51-8:1, 3-7, 9-11 • Ez. 43:27-44:4.*

*Matins Gospel: Luke 1:39-49, 56.*

*for the Entrance: Hebrews 9:1-7. Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.*

*for the day: 1 Timothy 1:8-14. Luke 17:26-37.*





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

**10:00am Divine Liturgy** *for ☩ the Entrance of the Theotokos*

Cantor: Mary R

- ⊕ 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)



## PUMPKIN PIES!

The Guild will be baking and selling pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving! These will be 9 inch pies and sell for \$15 per pie. Please place your orders with Louise Dalbo (313-382-6788 *or* [louisedalbo@gmail.com](mailto:louisedalbo@gmail.com)).

**Today – Sun., November 12<sup>th</sup>** – is the last chance to order!

The Guild will bake the pies **November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>**. Contact Kathy Sabula (734-308-3169) to let her you know you can come and help with the baking, boxing, & cleaning. You don't have to be a member of the Guild to help! Pies can be picked up in the hall on **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>** after Liturgy. They will be fresh and great for Thanksgiving. Buy two or more and freeze some for Christmas!

## How did we get the Bible?

### Part 1 - Development of the Old Testament Canon

**Today, Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a presentation in the small hall of the formation of the Old Testament Biblical canon (how books came to be included or excluded from a list of books considered to be inspired scripture).

## Byzantine Book Club

We are reading and discussing *Poustinia: Encountering God in Silence, Solitude, and Prayer* by Catherine Doherty. Meetings are most Mondays at 7pm.

You may join in person at the Hendricks Homestead  
(8461 Barrington Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48198)

or online through the link: [meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia](https://meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia)  
[Join by phone](tel:+16625104431) (US) +1 662-510-4431 PIN: 111 641 182#

## 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.

## 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=QzZNM59GUE9KTIkxU01DdVdCeTRLZz09>

Meeting ID: 830 5400 2720

Passcode: 389460

## Annual Stewardship Appeal

**As the Stewardship appeal completes its third month**, please consider making a sacrificial gift to this year's Appeal that reflects the importance of the Church in your life and in the lives of those close to you. The Eparchy needs your support. Your gift will make a positive difference.

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. So far, 10 contributors have donated \$904.

## 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.

Day House | Detroit Catholic Worker

# THURSDAY POTLUCK

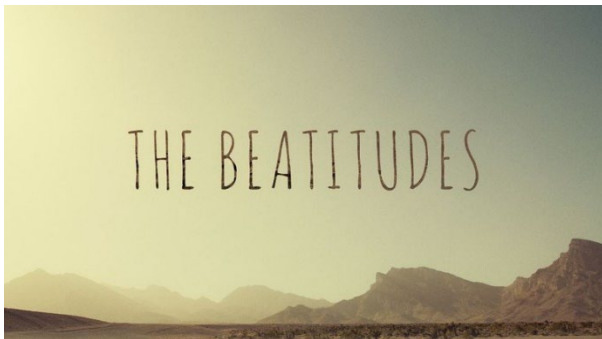
Thursdays at 6:30 PM  
All are welcome.  
Those who can are encouraged  
to bring something to share



2640 TRUMBULL ST.  
DETROIT, MI

## Upcoming Retreat Opportunities

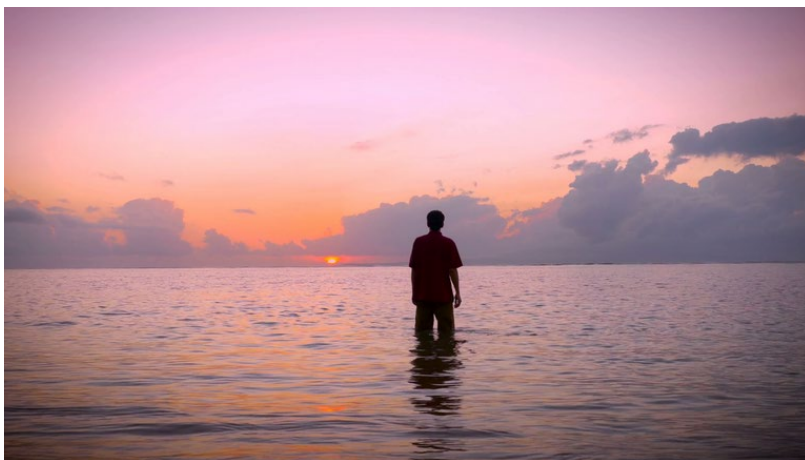
We encourage you to check for more opportunities! <https://www.parma.org/retreats>



**The 11th Annual Women's Retreat** will take place February 16-18, 2024, at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont, Ohio. The retreat master will be Fr. Lukas Mitro, administrator of the Holy Resurrection Church in Euclid, Ohio. The topic is The Beatitudes: The Way of Life. More information coming soon!

**The Third Annual Men's Retreat** will take place March 15-17, 2024, at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont, Ohio. The retreat master will be Father Thomas J. Loya, the pastor of the Annunciation of the Mother or God parish in Homer Glen, Illinois.

The topic is Fallen Passions to Apathia: Pursuing the Virtuous Life. More information coming soon.





## 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. Thank you to Phyllis for cleaning!

## 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* John Aral, Barb Barnes, Don & Theresa Butella,  
Dorothy Brooks, Pat Carlson, Louise Dalbo, Lawrence Thomas Dion,  
Chris Lauffer, Michael Mykeloff, Judith Ng, Ron Ostrowsky, Thomas Payeur,  
& Edith Santo

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

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on November 5<sup>th</sup> was **45**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **60**

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 November 5<sup>th</sup> was **\$2,786.17**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,109.75**

Sunday: \$2049; Online: \$705.17; Candles: \$20; Horizons: \$12

“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