

St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church



**4141 Laurence
Allen Park, Michigan**

**St. Stephen
Allen Park, Michigan
Parish History**

May 29, 1941 - permission was given for a new church and charter - On August 31, 1941, the first pastor arrives, Rev. Stephen J. Kocisko, and the church property on 8345 Thaddeus St. in Detroit, Michigan was purchased.

March 15, 1947 - a new pastor arrives, Rev Nicholas Repko, and the rectory was purchased on 8337 Thadeus St.

November 6, 1951 - a new pastor, Rev. John Kurty, arrives - 4 1/2 acres of property is purchased 6 miles away in Allen Park, Michigan.

September 19, 1954 - there was ground-breaking for a new parish plant, church, rectory, garage, hall, on 4141 Laurence, Allen Park, Michigan.

November 21, 1954 - the cornerstone blessing took place.

August 14, 1955 - the church was Dedicated by Bishop Nickolas T. Elko at a cost of \$175,000.00.

February 1, 1956 - a new pastor, Rev. Michael Miyo, was appointed.

May 11, 1956 - a new pastor, Rev. Emil Masich, arrives and the parish grows to 9 1/2 acres.

June 14, 1959 - the parish family Burns the Mortgage.

February 12, 1964 - it's Ground-breaking Day for new school, hall, and kitchen facilities.

June 13, 1965 - it's Dedication Day and the new \$225,000.00 facilities are blessed. The parish is free of debt. Stephen Balog spends the summer as the parish deacon.

April 6, 1966 - Rev. Frank Korba arrives as the first associate pastor.

October 9, 1966 - Ground-breaking for the new rectory-office wing begins.

October 23, 1966 Parish Silver Jubilee Liturgy and dinner/dance.

April 23, 1967 - Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of parish son Fr. Stephen Veselenak, OSB, - his first solemn celebration of the liturgy on April 30.

September 15, 1967 - Rev. John Repasky arrives as associate pastor - the new rectory facilities are completed and blessed.

March 1, 1970 - Renovation and Remodeling Program is started - new heating/cooling, carpeting, and pews. Also an Iconostas and Baptismal Font totaling \$112,000.00 - Mortgage of \$60,000.00.

May 17, 1970 - Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of parish son, Rev. Dennis Hrubciak.

April 20, 1971 - Rev. Constantine Guinness arrives as weekend associate pastor.

June, 1977 - a young deacon from the seminary, Stephen Wasko, spends the summer.

Summer, 1981 - a new pastor arrives, Rev. Joseph Radvansky.

Fall, 1981 - new carpeting and furniture for the rectory are purchased.

September, 1984 - the school building was rented to Montessori.

July 7, 1986 - a new temporary administrator was assigned to the parish, Rev. Kenneth Walsh.

July 1986 - 2 area parishes were closed - Christ the King Parish, Taylor, Michigan and St. John Parish, Detroit, Michigan. All church members were invited to join St. Stephen's. Some did.

August 4, 1987 - a new pastor was assigned to the parish - Rev. Cyril Attak.

April, 1988 - renovation project for the entire parish complex was started. new holy water font was purchased - water main, sidewalks, and roof over school, gym, kitchen, and garage were completed.

1989 - Gold anodized icon screen was purchased. new vacuum cleaner - vestibule of church was carpeted - interior church renovation of insulation, heating/cooling system, closing of windows - bricking in of courtyard and office wing - new roof over church and small hall.

1990 - electric redone in church cry room - insulated rectory apartment and installed new furnace, duct work and insulation in office wing of the building - air conditioner removed from roof - installed 18 foot stainless steel cross in front of church - new school windows - new tabernacle on altar - new baptismal font - painted, and carpeted office wing.

1991 - new church doors - new office wing roof - new upper level rectory roof - new tractor - drywalled, painted, and got new verticals for rectory living room - sided rectory - new meat slicer purchased - sacristy redone with paneling and new cabinets - new conventional oven purchased - air-conditioning for rectory upstairs purchased - new cross and fans for behind altar purchased.

October 4, 1991 - Parish 50th Anniversary Celebration with Liturgy and dinner/dance.

1992 - new vertical blinds in office wing and rectory - rectory upstairs painted - removed school boiler - installed 7 furnaces and 16 ton air-conditioning for school and large hall - new verticals and carpeting for school elementary - school bathrooms completely redone with new tile, sinks, floor and doors - purchased 6 - 8 foot portable stages for hall - new 20 gallon hot water tank for rectory kitchen - new gas line installed.

1993 - Chandilier and lights purchased for large hall - redesigned 2 roof sections - large hall completely rewired for banquet room - purchased 40 round tables for large hall - large hall/lobby completely insulated, dry-walled and painted - parquet dance floor installed - wall paper installed - large hall and lobby carpeted - 2 folding doors installed on stage - new oak stairs to choir loft with carpeting.

1994 - purchased rebuilt rug shampooer - suspended ceiling on stage and installed new lights - purchased new copier for office - 4 new windows in rectory apartment - purchased new tractor - new parking lot and road around building - berms installed - church roof resingled - new cement sidewalks at circle, church and school.

September, 1994 - after 7 years of hard work, total renovation of parish complex was completed at a cost of \$728,465.85.

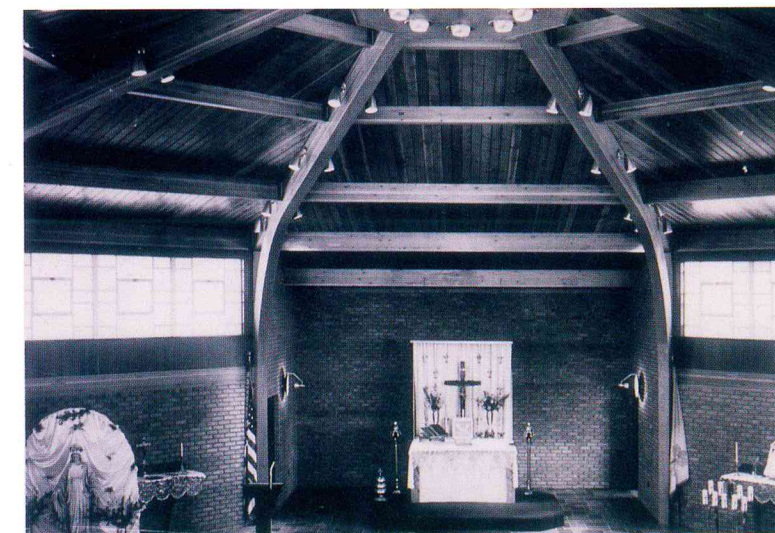
October 30, 1994 - SOLEMN CONSECRATION by Bishop Andrew Pataki, D.D. followed by parish dinner/dance.

1995 - new throne purchased - new grave for Easter purchased - new censor and gospel book donated - new Icon Screen and icons in chapel - 3 domes were erected on roof of church - parish parking was resurfaced - awnings for storage garage and parish office were installed - old chimney was removed - insulated and paneled first school classroom - new windows in parish office wing were installed - new chalice set was donated

May 30, 1996 - former pastor and retired priest Msgr. John Kurty makes his home here at St. Stephen

Spring 1996 - present - 5 sets of priest vestments were purchased for the church - rectory kitchen was completely remodeled - new stove, dishwasher, microwave, table and chairs were purchased - new cement floor was installed in rectory garage - parish rectory was vinyl sided - upper rectory bathroom remodeled - electrical work was done on domes - they now light up at night - new air-conditioning installed in parish living room and hall kitchen - new cement poured in front of the school building to help solve water problem - new parish sign installed on the corner of Morris and Laurence sign lights up - dry well dug out in back of building to drain water from the building footings new ice machine purchased - new parish directory published 1st one since 1987

Our Church - Old and New



Original Interior



Present Interior



First Remodeling



Old Exterior



New Exterior

Consecration of the Church



Procession to the Church



Bishop Andrew, with the Clergy, begins the Consecration



With Holy Water the Bishop blesses the outside of the Church



Bishop Andrew Pataki, D.D., enters the Church



Fr. Pastor Sanctifies the Church with Holy Incense



Bishop Andrew reads the Holy Gospel



Fr. Cyril and Caesar



Our Newest Baptism



E. C. F. Teachers

Spiritual Life of Our Parish



Fr. Pastor Blesses the Easter Baskets



The Young Men of the Parish assisting at the Altar



E. C. F. Students

Administrative Staff



Phyllis Humenik - Jackie Skira
Social Activities



Members of the Parish Council
"Hard at Work"



Finance Committee of the Parish



Rita Wilson - Parish Secretary



Good Friday



Lucille Parr - Sacristan

Fellowship



Fr. Cyril Baby Sitting



Socializing



Children with their friend Caeser



New Domes Arrive



Blessing of the Cars
"Feast of St. Elias"



Setting New Domes in Place