



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

January 7th, 2024

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



Christ is baptized! 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 Robert (Pipta) is our bishop. 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*

Sunday, January 7, 2024

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Tone 7

⊗. The Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

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

for the Sunday after Theophany: Ephesians 4:7-13. Matthew 4:12-17.

8:15am Matins *for Sunday*

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: TBD

for the health of John Fedoush, from Mary Novak (12-27)

+Stephen L. Kastura, from Kathleen Johnston (12-26)

+Robert Dubensky, from Sarah & Oscar Dubensky-Obando (12-30)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. Classes Resume.

5pm Discussion of the Book of Revelation via Zoom

7:00pm Vespers *for Monday*

Monday, January 8, 2024

Post-festive Day of the Theophany. Our Venerable Father George the Chozebite (614).

Our Venerable Mother Dominica (474). Our Holy Father and Confessor Emilian (767).

James 2:14-26. Mark 10:46-52.

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

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

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Post-festive Day of the Theophany. The Holy Martyr Polyeuct (230).
James 3:1-10. Mark 11:11-23.

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

9:30am Third & Sixth Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Donna Mae Goodrich

Cantor: Mary R

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Post-festive Day of the Theophany. Our Holy Father Gregory of Nyssa (c. 395).
Venerable Dometian, Bishop of Melitene. Venerable Fr. Marcion, Priest & Econome of the Great Church.
Our Venerable Father Theophan the Recluse (1894).
James 3:11-4:6. Mark 11:22b-26.

7:00am Matins

6:15pm Great Vespers &

7:00pm Divine Liturgy *for Venerable Fr. Theodosius*

+Michael Camilleri, from Bob & Jane Semak

Cantor: Mary R

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Post-festive Day of the Theophany. + Venerable Fr. Theodosius, Founder of the common life.
for Theodosius: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15. Matthew 11:27-30.

for the day: James 4:7-5:9. Mark 11:27-33.

Friday, January 12, 2024

Post-festive Day of the Theophany. The Holy Martyr Tatiana (c. 227).
1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10. Mark 12:1-12.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour

6:30pm *Confessions*

7:00pm Vespers

Saturday, January 13, 2024

Saturday after Theophany. Post-festive Day of the Theophany.

Holy Martyrs Hermylaous and Stratonicus (c. 309). Venerable Fr. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.

for the Saturday after Theophany: Ephesians 6:10-17. Matthew 4:1-11.

for the day: 1 Thessalonians 5:14-23. Luke 17:3-10.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Guillermo

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, January 14, 2024

THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHEUS. Tone 8

Leave-taking of the Theophany. Venerable Frs. martyred by Arabs in Sinai and Raitho (312).

Passing of the holy Equal-to-the-apostles Nina, Enlightener of the Georgians.

11th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 21:15-25.

1 Timothy 4:9-15. Luke 19:1-10.

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: TBD

+Donna Mae Goodrich (1-9)

+Michael Camilleri, from Bob & Jane Semak (1-10)

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (1-13)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. ECF Classes.

5pm Discussion of the Book of Revelation via Zoom

7:00pm Vespers *for Monday*

Monday, January 15, 2024

☩ Our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes (c. 345) and John the Hut-dweller (5th Century).

1 Peter 2:21b-3:9. Mark 12:13-17.

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

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

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

⊗ The Veneration of the Chains of the Holy Apostle Peter.
1 Peter 3:10-22. Mark 12:18-27.

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

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

⊕ Our Venerable Father Anthony the Great (356).

Vespers Paramia: Wisdom 3:1-9 • Wisdom 5:15-6:3 • Wisdom 4:7-15.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 11:27-30.

for Anthony: Hebrews 13: 17-21. Luke 6:17-23.

for the day: 1 Peter 4:1-11. Mark 12:28-37.

7:00am Matins

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers &

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for Thursday

Cantor: Daniel B

+Sidney, +Bennie, +Mary, & +John Thomas, from Mary Ann Osmond

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)

House Blessings

House Blessings began on Theophany (January 6th) and would ideally finish before its leave-taking on January 15th. There are envelopes for this purpose in your boxes for 2024. Or you can sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Bible Discussion – Revelation: God’s Gift of Hope

St. Stephen Parish is studying and discussing the Book of Revelation. Biblical prophecy can be very difficult to understand; as a result, many people simply skip over the books dealing with biblical prophecy. The book we’ll be using, *Revelation: God’s Gift of Hope*, provides a helpful Catholic interpretation of perhaps the most mysterious book in the Scriptures. Through this study, participants will see the book of Revelation with new eyes and will grasp hold of its intended, hope-filled message.

To get started, follow this link to an introduction:

[Introduction to the book of Revelation K Perrotta Nov 2023](#)

<https://voicethread.com/myvoice/thread/25505738/151063639/136824465>

Our meetings are on the following **Sundays at 5:00pm**

January 7, 14, 21, 28; February 4, 25; March 3, 17, 24; April 7, 14, 21, 28

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-s-ia

[Join by phone](#) (US) +1 662-510-4431 PIN: 111 641 182#

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

Upcoming Retreat Opportunities

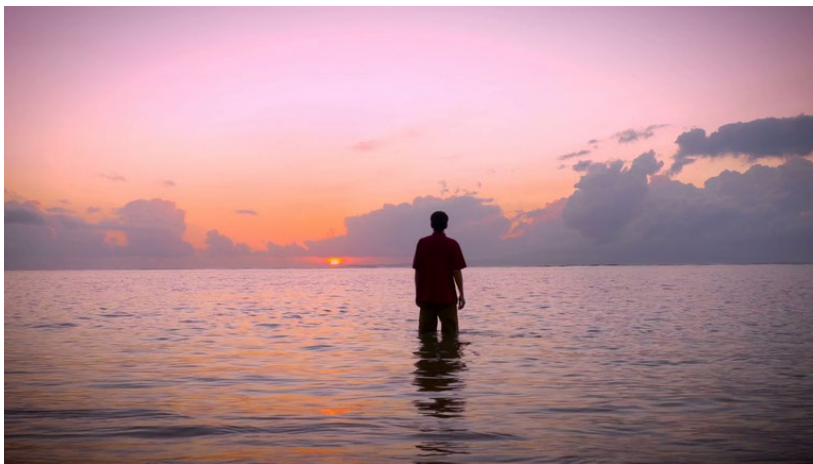
We encourage you to check for more opportunities!

<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.

Victor Jiomkowski is planning on going on the Men's Retreat. *He would be glad to take anyone to the event. You can carpool with him.*

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 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

Prayer List

Pray for the healing of John Aral, Barb Barnes, Don & Theresa Butella, Pat Carlson, Lawrence Thomas Dion, Chris Lauffer, Michael Mykeloff, Judith Ng, Ron Ostrowsky, Thomas Payeur, & Edith Santo

Christmas Flowers offered in memory of

*Members of
the Barrillas Family
Gene Gabbavy
Jackie Gabbavy
Jim Humeník
Joseph Humeník
Ruth Humeník*

*Pam Rowan
Helen Yatcko
Andy Yatcko
Members of
the Senga Family*



Annual Stewardship Appeal

The Stewardship Appeal helps cover the costs of a variety of programs in the Eparchy including evangelization and ministries, charity, retired priests, and parishes and missions. The Eparchy depends upon your support. Please respond with your pledge and payments today!

Visit parma.org for more information and to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through our website. Thank you for your past support and for your continued generosity with this year's campaign.

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

So far, 21 contributors have donated \$3650, which is about 50% of our goal.

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. We are 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 Betty and LeAnn for cleaning this week. Veronica has signed up to clean this 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 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.

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on December 31st was **56**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **59**

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 December 31st was **\$4,956.87** Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,120.09**

Sun: \$3,158; Christmas: \$350; Holy Day: \$45; Online: \$1,228.37; Candles: \$53.50; Fuel: \$10; Horizons: \$12; Special Donation: \$100

“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