



# SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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



## **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

Cantor: Mary R

## 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: Guillermo

+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. Guild Meeting in small hall. ECF Classes. Adult Catechesis.*

*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-eiwo-sia](https://meet.google.com/xuc-eiwo-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 (not read at liturgy):* 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

## Thursday, January 18, 2024

⊗ Our Holy Fathers Athanasius (373) and Cyril of Alexandria (444).

1 Peter 4:12-5:5. Mark 12:38-44.

## Friday, January 19, 2024

⊗ Our Venerable Father Macarius of Egypt (390).

2 Peter 1:1-10a. Mark 13:1-8.

**9:30am Third & Sixth Hour**

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

Cantor: Mary R

*for the health of Richard Stros, from the Richardson Family*

*6:30pm Confessions*

**7:00pm Great Vespers**

## Saturday, January 20, 2024

✙ Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Euthymius the Great (473).

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

*Matins Gospel:* Matthew 11:27-30.

*for Euthymius:* Hebrews 13: 17-21. Luke 6:17-23.

*for the day (not read at Liturgy):* 2 Timothy 2:11-19. Luke 18:2-8a.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

Cantor: Guillermo

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

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

Sunday, January 21, 2024

*no fasting this week*

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE. Tone 1

Our Venerable Father Maximus the Confessor (c. 620). The Holy Martyr Neophyte (4th C).

Holy Martyrs Eugene, Candidus, Valerian, & Aquila. Holy Virgin Martyr Agnes of Rome.

*1st Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20.*

*2 Timothy 3:10-15. Luke 18:10-14.*

**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*

**Cantor: Mary W**

**Reader: Lance**

*for the health of Richard Stros, from the Richardson Family (1-19)*

*for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (1-20)*

*+Sidney, +Bennie, +Mary, & +John Thomas, from Mary Ann Osmond (1-17)*

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

*5pm Discussion of the Book of Revelation via Zoom*

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

Monday, January 22, 2024

The Holy Apostle Timothy. The Holy Venerable-Martyr Anastasius the Persian (628).

*2 Peter 1:20-2:9. Mark 13:9-13.*

*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, January 23, 2024

The Holy Martyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra (c. 296). The Holy Martyr Agathangel (c. 296).

Commemoration of the Sixth Ecumenical Council.

*2 Peter 2:9-22. Mark 13:14-23.*

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

**10:00am Third & Sixth Hour**

# Wednesday, January 24, 2024 *no fasting*





Our Venerable Mother Xenia of Rome. Our Holy Mother Xenia of St. Petersburg.  
The Holy Martyrs in Pidlashia, the Blessed Vincent Lewoniuk and his companions.

2 Peter 3:1-18. Mark 13:24-31.

## 7:00am Matins

- ⊕ 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)

## Some Parish Data

St. Stephen Parish has 112 parishioners living in 63 households.

We currently have 11 children enrolled in our Eastern Christian Formation Program.

In 2023, we celebrated 6 baptisms, 5 chrismations, 3 weddings, and 5 funerals.

Our average Sunday attendance is about 59, which is about 53% of our parishioners.

St. Stephen receives an average of \$2,098.03 in donations each week.

Based on Wayne County averages, we can estimate that our households may be donating, on average, about 3% of their income to the parish.

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

[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>

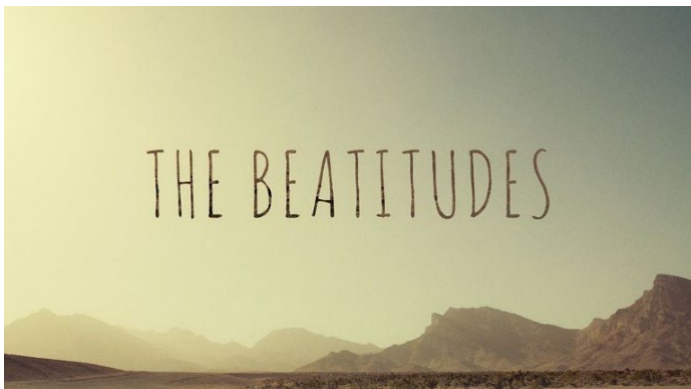
Meeting ID: 830 5400 2720

Passcode: 389460

## Upcoming Retreat Opportunities

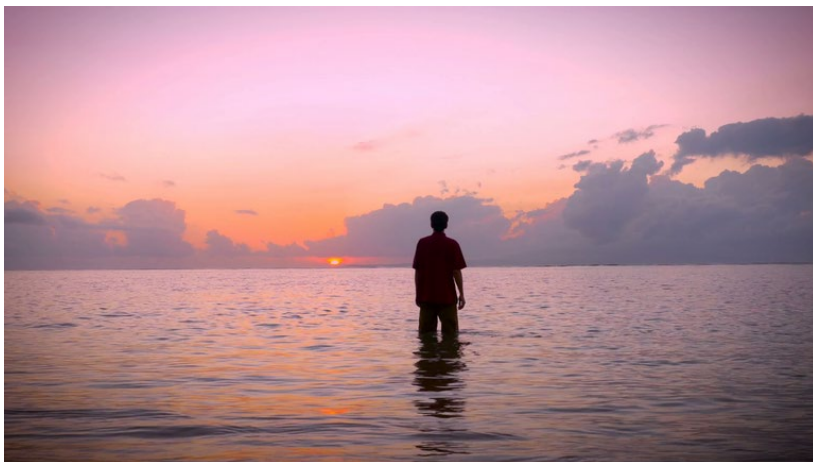
We encourage you to check for more opportunities!

<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 Apatheia: 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](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](mailto:ststephen@parma.org)**

## **Annual Stewardship Appeal**

The Stewardship Appeal is in its fourth month, and we have just a few more months to reach this year's goal! 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. Have you made your contribution yet? Visit us online at [parma.org](http://parma.org) to submit your donation. As we profess our faith through the Nicene Creed, let us also profess it with our actions and our gifts of time, talent, and treasure! Thank you for your generosity!

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](mailto: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.

# Prayer List

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

## **Meal support for Victor and Dominique Azcuy**

Victor and Dominique's son, Agustin, was born prematurely. He is still in the hospital; Dom is home, but they are going back and forth to the hospital every day to visit him and care for him. They need help with meals to make life easier for them. We have set up an online page called Meal Train to help with this. Meal Train is a way to provide support for people who need various forms of support during stressful times (new baby, illness, etc.) You can sign up to provide them a meal or a gift card to one of their favorite restaurants. Here is the email link to the Meal Train for Victor and Dominique: <https://mealtrain.com/71m729>

Food may be brought to church (especially for Sunday meals) and left on our side of the refrigerator with their name on the container. Please let them know if you're doing this so they know to come pick up the food. Please use disposable containers so they don't have to keep track of your containers and try to return them. Thanks.

You may contact Mary Hendricks ([mghendricks@gmail.com](mailto:mghendricks@gmail.com) or 734-255-4185) with any questions.

## **CHARITABLE GIVING**

*from St. Stephen Parish*

*Through the St. Nicholas Apostolate, we donate \$50 per month  
to Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry  
and to the Image of God Pregnancy Center (4151 Seminole St., Detroit).*

*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.

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

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on January 7<sup>th</sup> was **43**. 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 January 7<sup>th</sup> was **\$2,146.92** Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,098.03**

Sunday: \$794; Holy Day: \$220; Online: \$977.17; Candles: \$45.75; Initial Offering: \$110

“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