

# SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 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 Cantors: Mary W, David W,  
Mary R. 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.

*No Book Club Tonight*

**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*

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

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

Cantor: Mary R

*for the health of Wally Maire, from the Richardson Family*

## 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**

**6:15pm Great Vespers &**

**7:00pm Divine Liturgy** for *† Gregory the Theologian* Cantors: Mary R & Daniel B  
*+Msgr. Frank Korba, from Bob & Jane Semak*

## Thursday, January 25, 2024

† Our Holy Father Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople (389).

*Vespers Paramia:* Proverbs 10:7, 6; 3:13-16; 8:6, 32, 34, 4, 12, 14 17, 5-9; 1:23 •

Proverbs 10:31-11:12 • Wisdom 4: 7-15

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

*for Gregory:* 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. John 10:9-16.

*for the day (not read at liturgy):* 1 John 1:8-2:6. Mark 13:31-14:2.

## Friday, January 26, 2024 *no fasting*

Venerable Fr. Xenophon & his Wife Mary (520). Holy Fr. Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica.

1 John 2:7-17. Mark 14:3-9.

**7:00am First & Third Hour**

*6:30pm Confessions*

**7:00pm Great Vespers** for *† the Translation*

## Saturday, January 27, 2024

† The Translation of the Relics of our Holy Father John Chrysostom (438).

*Vespers Paramia:* Common 6

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

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

*for the day (not read at liturgy):* 2 Timothy 3:1-9. Luke 20:45-21:4.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

Cantor: Lance

*for Malina & John Michael Patrick, from Sarah Marron*

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

# Sunday, January 28, 2024

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. Tone 2

⊗ Our Venerable Father Ephrem the Syrian, Bishop of Nineveh (378).

Venerable Fr. Issac the Syrian, Bishop of Nineveh. Passing of our Venerable Mother Olympia Bida.

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

1 Corinthians 6:12-20. Luke 15:11-32.

**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: Dan L

*for the health of Wally Maire, from the Richardson Family (1-23)*

*for Malina & John Michael Patrick, from Sarah Marron (1-27)*

*+Msgr. Frank Korba, from Bob & Jane Semak (1-24)*

*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 29, 2024

⊗ Translation of the Relics of the Holy Bishop & Martyr Ignatius of Antioch. Meatfare Monday.

1 John 2:18-3:10a. Mark 11:1-11.

*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 30, 2024

⊕ THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS: BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM. The Holy Bishop-Martyr Hippolytus (235). Meatfare Tuesday.

*Vespers Paramia: Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • Deuteronomy 10:14-21 • Wis. 3:1-9.*

*Matins Gospel: John 10:9-16.*

*for the Hierarchs: Hebrews 13:7-16. Matthew 5:14-19.*

*for the day (not read at liturgy): 1 John 3:10b-20. Mark 14:10-42.*

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

# Wednesday, January 31, 2024

⊗ The Holy Wonder-workers and Unmercenary Healers Cyrus & John (311). Meatfare Wed.  
Our Holy Father the Priest Don Bosco.

1 John 3:21-4:6. Mark 14:43-15:1.

**7:00am First & Third Hour**

## 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)

## Stational Vespers

on the Sunday Evenings of the Great Fast  
for the Great Lakes Protopresbyterate

On Sunday evenings of the Great Fast, we will celebrate Vespers at various parishes of the Great Lakes Protopresbyterate. All our parishioners are encouraged to participate. In addition to being an opportunity for prayer and repentance during the Great Fast, this is also a chance for us to visit the other parishes of our region and for us to all be together and get to know each other better. Further details are forthcoming.

# 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 21, 28; February 4. Further dates TBD

## 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

# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

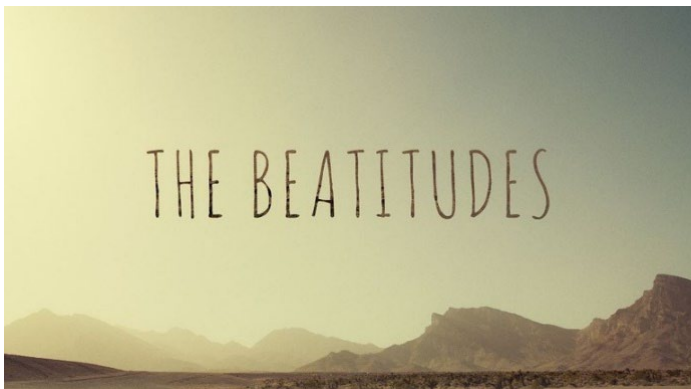
Adapted by Fr Vitalii Stashkevych (BCC) for the Gregorian Calendar

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
<b>Fast - Free Week</b> <b>JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup></b> 	<b>TRIODION WEEKS</b> <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
<b>Normal Fast Week</b> <b>JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup></b> 	<b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
<b>Meatfare</b> <b>FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup></b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY 	<b>The Last Judgement</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
<b>Cheesefare</b> <b>FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup></b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY 	<b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <b>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</b> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup></b> 	<b>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</b> <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup></b> 	<b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup></b> 	<b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <b>HALF WAY TO PASCHAI</b> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
<b>4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup></b> 	<b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
<b>5<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup></b> 	<b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup></b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS 	<b>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</b> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
<b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <b>MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup></b> 	<b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <b>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</b> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
<b>FEAST OF FEASTS!</b> <b>MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup></b> NO FASTING! 	<b>BRIGHT WEEK</b> <b>HOLY PASCHAI! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

## Upcoming Retreat Opportunities

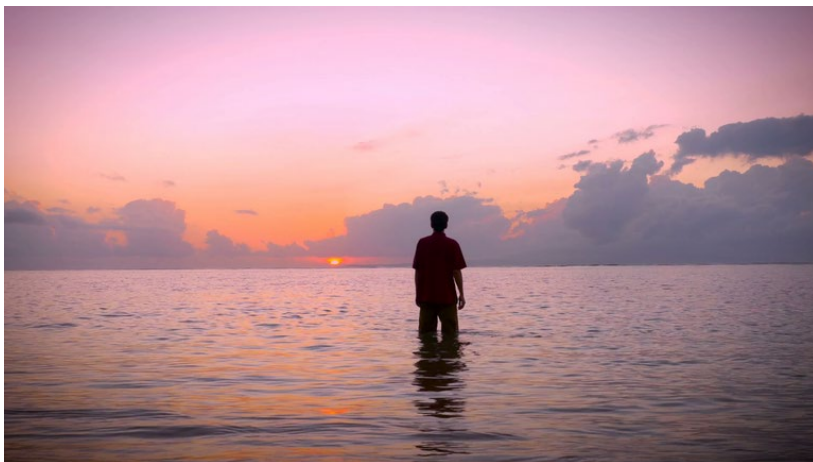
We encourage you to check for more opportunities!

<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](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**

When you walk in faith you continue the work of God. The Eparchy's future is marked by one thing above all: hope. This is said with certainty because the Eparchy's future has the same foundation as its past: Jesus Christ. What better foundation is there?

Thankfully, we have an opportunity to help build the Kingdom of God in a particular way: by supporting the Eparchy's Stewardship Appeal. Won't you please show your support with a gift today? Visit us online at [parma.org](http://parma.org) to submit your donation.

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 Jiomkowski (313-930-0801 / [v.jiomkowski1111@att.net](mailto:v.jiomkowski1111@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 Jiomkowski 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.

# 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**

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 14<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 14<sup>th</sup> was **\$968.67** Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,044.19**

Sunday: \$446; Online: \$402.17; Candles: \$35.50; Initial Offering: \$20; Fuel: \$65

“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