



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

January 28th, 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 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

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.

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

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

6:00pm Confessions

7:00pm Liturgical Service(s) to be determined

Thursday, February 1, 2024

⊗ Pre-festive Day of the Meeting. The Holy Martyr Tryphon (250). Meatfare Thursday.

1 John 4:20-5:21. Mark 15:1-15.

6:00pm All Night Vigil (*Vespers & Matins*) for the ⊕ Meeting of our Lord with Simeon

Friday, February 2, 2024

⊕ MEETING OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST WITH SIMEON & ANNA.

Vespers Paramia: (1) Ex. 12:51, 13:1-3, 10-16, 22:29; Num. 8:16; Lev. 12:1-4, 12:6, 8; Num. 8:16-17

• (2) Isaiah 6:1-12 • (3) Isaiah 19:1-5, 12, 16, 19-21. *Matins Gospel:* Luke 2:25-32.

for the Meeting: Hebrews 7:7-17. Luke 2:22b-40.

for the day (not read at liturgy): 2 John 1:1-13. Mark 15:22, 25, 33-41.

10:00am Divine Liturgy for the ⊕ Meeting of our Lord with Simeon Cantors: Mary R; Mary H
for George and Irene Durisin, from Bob & Jane Semak

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers for Saturday

Saturday, February 3, 2024

Meatfare Saturday. Saturday of Souls.

☞ The Synaxis of the Holy Prophet Simeon and the Prophetess Anna.

1 Corinthians 10:23-28 *and for the departed*: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36 *and for the departed*: John 5:24-30.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Guillermo

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron

followed by the Panachida for All Souls

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

Sunday, February 4, 2024

MEATFARE SUNDAY. The Sunday of the Last Judgment. Tone 3

Post-festive Day of the Meeting. Our Venerable Father Isidore of Pelusium (c. 450).

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

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2. Matthew 25:31-46.

8:15am Matins *for Sunday*

9:30am Akathist – *Reader Service*; **Confessions** – *in Sacristy*

10:00am Divine Liturgy – *for the people of the parish* Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia
Reader: Victor J.

for George and Irene Durisin, from Bob & Jane Semak

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (2-3)

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

5pm Discussion of the Book of Revelation via Zoom

7:00pm Vespers – *at St. Francis in Ann Arbor – for Monday*

Monday, February 5, 2024

Cheesefare Monday. Post-festive Day of the Meeting. The Holy Martyr Agatha (250).





3 John 1:1-14. Luke 19:29-40; 22:7-39.

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

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

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 Protoperesbyterate

On each Sunday evening of the Great Fast at 4:00 pm, we will celebrate Vespers at a different parish of the Great Lakes Protoperesbyterate. A different priest will serve and preach a brief sermon at each Vespers after the Great Prokeimenon. The hosting parish will provide a simple meatless Lenten meal of soup and bread after Vespers. 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.

Date	Sunday of the Great Fast	Parish
Sunday, February 11, 2024	Sunday of Cheesefare	<i>each parish may have its own Forgiveness Vespers</i>
Sunday, February 18, 2024	Sunday of Orthodoxy	St. Nicholas, Clinton Township
Sunday, February 25, 2024	Sunday of our Holy Fr. Gregory Palamas	St. Stephen, Allen Park
Sunday, March 3, 2024	Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross	St. Basil, Sterling Heights
Sunday, March 10, 2024	Sunday of our Holy Fr. John Climacus	St. Michael, Oregon
Sunday, March 17, 2024	Sun. of our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt	Sacred Heart, Livonia
Sunday, March 24, 2024	Palm Sunday Flowery Sunday	St. George, Bay City

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.

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

January 28; February 4. Further dates TBD

Join us at 5pm on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89868111655?pwd=a8EeyCdUVW2zo6PIBoLfIPw8vutasO.1>

Meeting ID: 898 6811 1655

Passcode: 564524

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

[Join by phone](tel:+16625104431) (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=QzZNMS9GUE9KTIkxU01DdVdCeTRLZz09>


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:
Fast - Free Week JANUARY 21 ST	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee 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.
Normal Fast Week JANUARY 28 TH	 The Prodigal Son Returns! 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.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 4 TH FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement 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.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 11 TH FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1 ST Sunday of Lent FEBRUARY 18 TH	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2 ND Sunday of Lent FEBRUARY 25 TH	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS 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.
3 RD Sunday of Lent MARCH 3 RD	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHAI</i> 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!
4 TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 10 TH	 ST JOHN of the LADDER 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!
5 TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 17 TH	 ST MARY of EGYPT 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.
PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24 TH GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM 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!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY MARCH 29 TH	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MARCH 31 ST NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHAI! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) 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

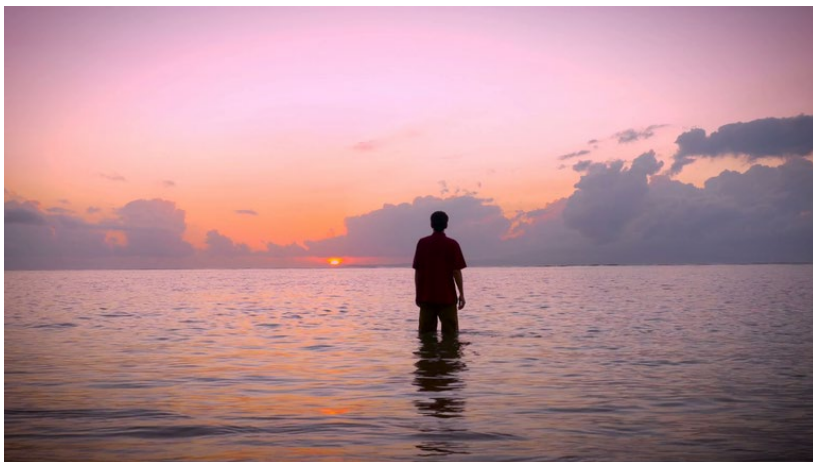
We encourage you to check for more opportunities!

<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) 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

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 or 734-255-4185) with any questions.

Prayer List

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

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) 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.

Annual Stewardship Appeal

Have you considered your pledge to this year's Stewardship Appeal? The Eparchy of Parma relies on your continued support to provide for our various programs and outreaches. Please make your pledge today! An online donation may be made at parma.org. 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.

Church Cleaning

Please sign up in the narthex to clean our church. Sign up for any week you're available to clean and clean the church on any day of that week.

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 21st was **63**. 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 21st was **\$4,056.17** Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,096.90**

Sun.: \$1847; Holy Day: \$24; Online: \$634.17; Special Donation: \$1400; Candles: \$24; Initial Offer.: \$10; Fuel: \$117

“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