



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

February 4th, 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



Glory to Jesus Christ! 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, 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 (2-2)

+Stella Danko, from Louise Dalbo (1-31)

+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:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89868111655?pwd=a8EeyCdUVW2zo6PIBoLlPw8vutasO.1>

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

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

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

Tuesday, February 6, 2024



Cheesefare Tuesday. Postfeast of the Meeting. Venerable Fr. Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna
The Holy Martyr Silvanus, Bishop of Emesa, and his Companions (313).

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople.

Jude 1-10. Luke 22:39-42, 45b-23:1.

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83054002720?pwd=QzZNM59GUE9KTIkxU01DdVdCeTRLZz09>

9:30am Third & Sixth Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary R

for the health of Ritchie Maire, from the Richardson Family

Wednesday, February 7, 2024



Day of Alleluia. Cheesefare Wednesday. Post-festive Day of the Meeting.

Our Venerable Father Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus (318). Priestmartyr Peter Verhun.

6th Hour: Joel 2:12-26. Vespers: Joel 4:12-21.

7:00am Matins

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for Thursday

Cantor: Daniel

+Ernest Semak, from Bob and Jane Semak

Thursday, February 8, 2024



Cheesefare Thursday. Ⓔ Post-festive Day of the Meeting.

The Holy Great Martyr Theodore. The Holy Prophet Zechariah.

Jude 1:11-25. Luke 23:2-34, 44-56.

Friday, February 9, 2024



Day of Alleluia. Cheesefare Friday. Leave-taking of the Meeting. Holy Martyr Nicephor.

6th Hour: Zachariah 8:7-17. Vespers: Zachariah 8:19-23.

7:00am First & Third Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Cheesefare Saturday. Commemoration of Holy Ascetics. The Holy Martyr Charalampas.

Romans 14:19-23; 16:25-27 & *for the Holy Ascetics*: Galatians 5:22-6:2.

Matthew 6:1-13 & *for the Holy Ascetics*: Matthew 11:27-30.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: TBD

for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, February 11, 2024

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. The Sunday of Forgiveness. Tone 4

The Holy Martyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste (316).

Vespers Paramia: Isaiah 40:1-3, 9; 41:17-18; 45:8; 48:20-21; 54:1 •

Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:2; Malachi 3:1-3, 5-7, 12, 18, 17; 4:4-6 • Wisdom 4:7, 16-17, 19-5:7

4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:1-12.

Romans 13:11b-14:4. Matthew 6:14-21.

8:15am Matins *for Cheesefare 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 H, Cecilia

Reader: Debra

for the health of Ritchie Maire, from the Richardson Family (2-6)

for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (2-10)

+Ernest Semak, from Bob and Jane Semak (2-7)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Meatless Potluck in the hall. No Classes

12:15pm Forgiveness Vespers *to begin the Great Fast* Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

Monday, February 12, 2024 *1st day of the Great Fast*

CLEAN MONDAY. Our Holy Father Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch (381).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 1:1-20. *Vespers*: Genesis 1:1-13 • Proverbs 1:1-20.

7:00pm Great Compline *with the Great Canon*

Tuesday, February 13, 2024



Our Venerable Father Martinian (c. 398).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 1:19-2:3. *Vespers:* Genesis 1:14-23 • Proverbs 1:20-33.

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83054002720?pwd=QzZNMS9GUE9KTIkxU01DdVdCeTRLZz09>

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour – *with prostrations*

Wednesday, February 14, 2024



Our Venerable Father Auxentius (5th Century).

✦ Passing of Venerable Fr. Constantine, whose monastic name is Cyril, Apostle of the Slavs.
The Venerable Maron, Hermit and Wonder-worker (c. 423).

Vespers Paramia: Wisdom 5:15-6:3 • Wisdom 3:1-9 • Wisdom 4:7, 16-17, 19-5:7.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 2:3-11. *Vespers:* Genesis 1:24-2:3 • Proverbs 2:1-22.

Matins Gospel: John 10:1-9.

for Cyril: Hebrews 7:26-8:2. John 10:9-16.

6:30pm *Confessions*

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Cecilia

+*Stella Danko, from Charolet Bonacor & Cecelia Burja*

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)

The Holy & Great Fast

“All days of the Great Fast are Days of Alleluia, unless otherwise noted. On each day, the schedule of services begins with Matins in the morning to Vespers on the evening of the day itself. However, the commemoration of the saint is anticipated as usual.... Vespers and Matins during the Great Fast, beginning on Sunday evening, and concluding on Friday evening, end with the Troparia and prostrations, as given in the service books....

“The Great Fast is our penitential preparation for the great feast of Pascha (Passover). As such, it is one of the most ancient parts of the liturgical year. Its forty days symbolizes the forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert, while the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is the fulfillment of the promise of the manna, as St. John wrote, ‘So Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave bread from heaven; my Father give you the true bread from heaven” (John 6:32). In the Great Fast, we imitate Jesus our Lord, who fasted for forty days in the desert following his baptism. The Feast of Pascha was also the time for baptisms, and so the Great Fast was a time of preparation for baptism. Our observance of the Great Fast, therefore, is our renewal of our baptismal fervor....

“In the Great Fast, abstinence from meat, fish, dairy products, alcohol, and foods cooked in oil was prescribed for all days, except days of mitigation. All Saturdays and Sundays, February 24, March 9, Wednesday to Friday of the Fifth Week, the Prefestive Day and Leave-taking (Otdanije) of Annunciation were mitigations for wine and oil. The Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday were general mitigations [fish days]. The Ruthenian Metropolia prescribes strict abstinence (from meat and dairy products) on the First Monday of the Great Fast and Good Friday, and abstinence from meat on all Wednesdays and Fridays” (*Annual Typikon*, p. 15).

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:**

February 4. Thereafter on Thursdays at 7pm

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

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

Stational Vespers

on the Sunday Evenings of the Great Fast

for the Great Lakes Protoperbyterate

On each Sunday evening of the Great Fast at 4:00 pm, we will celebrate Vespers at a different parish of the Great Lakes Protoperbyterate. 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

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:
Meatfare FEBRUARY 4TH 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 11TH FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1ST Sunday of Lent FEBRUARY 18TH	 SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2ND Sunday of Lent FEBRUARY 25TH	 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.
3RD Sunday of Lent MARCH 3RD	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! 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!
4TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 10TH	 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!
5TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 17TH	 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 24TH GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 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 29TH	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MARCH 31ST NO FASTING!	 BRIGHT WEEK HOLY PASCHA! (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

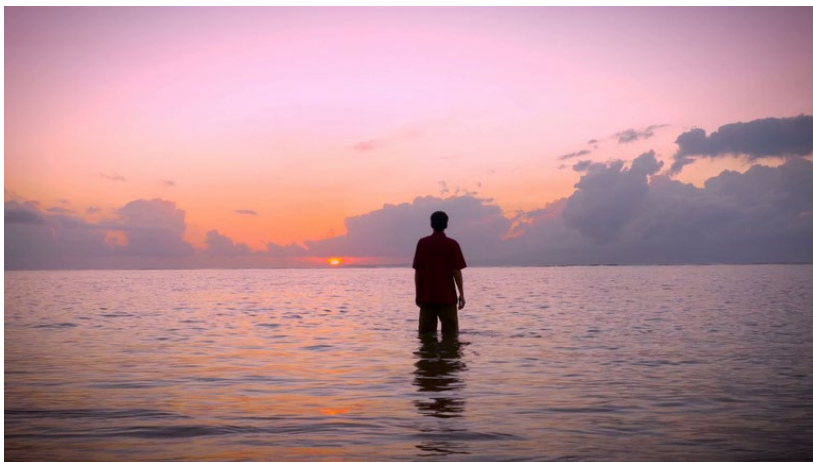
We encourage you to check for more opportunities!

<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 with any questions.

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.

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. Phyllis, Ceil, & Char have signed up to clean this week.

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

Annual Stewardship Appeal

We are reminded of how fortunate we are and of the gifts we have received from God. Of course, the most important gift is that of salvation in Jesus Christ. This salvation requires our response with sacrifice, dedication, and a sense of shared responsibility for the life of the Church and its mission on earth. Each of us has been given other great gifts – individual gifts such as our time, talents, and treasure. Our Lord Jesus Christ asks us to use our gifts for the glory of God. This is the essence of Stewardship: an awareness that everything comes from God and ultimately belongs to God.

Please consider supporting the Stewardship Appeal today! Visit us online at parma.org to submit your monthly or one-time donation. 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.

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 28th was **47**. 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 28th was **\$2,326.47** Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,130.60**

Sunday: \$1794.80; Holy Day: \$5; Online: \$477.17; Candles: \$34.50; Fuel: \$15

“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