

# SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI      February 11th, 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



**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 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)*

*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** 🏠 *1<sup>st</sup> 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 meet-up on Zoom:*

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

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

## Wednesday, February 14, 2024 *St. Valentine's Day*

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:* Is. 2:3-11. *Vespers:* Gen. 1:24-2:3 • Prov. 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: David W

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

## Thursday, February 15, 2024

The Holy Apostle Onesimus.

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 2:11-21. *Vespers:* Genesis 2:4-19 • Proverbs 3:1-18.

6:30pm *Councils Meeting*

**8:00pm Great Compline** *with the Great Canon*

## Friday, February 16, 2024

The Holy Martyrs, the Presbyter Pamphilius, Porphyry, and their Companions (309).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 3:1-14. *Vespers:* Genesis 2:20-3:20 • Proverbs 3:19-34.

6:30pm *Confessions*

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

*+Ernest Semak, from Bob & Jane Semak*

## Saturday, February 17, 2024

First Saturday of the Great Fast. The Miracle of St. Theodore the Recruit. ☩ The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit (306).

Hebrews 1:1-12 & *for Theodore:* 2 Timothy 2:1-10.

Mark 2:23-3:5 & *for Theodore:* John 15:17-16:2.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

Cantor: TBD

*for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron*

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

## Sunday, February 18, 2024 🍷

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. Tone 5

Our Holy Father Leo, Pope of Rome (461).

*5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:12-35.*

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2a. John 1:43-51.

**8:15am Matins** *for Sunday of Orthodoxy*

**9:30am Procession with Icons & Synodikon of Orthodoxy**

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

*for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron (2-17)*

*+Stella Danko, from Charolet Bonacor & Cecelia Burja (2-14)*

*+Ernest Semak, from Bob and Jane Semak (2-16)*

*After Liturgy:*

*Fellowship & Meatless Potluck in hall; Guild Meeting in small hall; ECF Classes & Adult Catechesis*

**4:00pm Vespers** *at St. Nicholas in Clinton Township*

## Monday, February 19, 2024 🍷

The Holy Apostle Archippus.

*Sixth Hour: Isaiah 4:2-5:6. Vespers: Genesis 3:21-4:7 • Proverbs 3:34-4:22.*

*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, February 20, 2024 🍷

Our Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania (c. 787). Holy Father Agathon, Pope of Rome.

*Sixth Hour: Isaiah 5:7-16. Vespers: Genesis 4:8-15 • Proverbs 5:1-15.*

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83054002720?pwd=QzZNMNS9GUE9KTIkxU01DdVdCeTRLZz09>

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

# Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Our Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola (795).

Our Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch (c. 338).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 5:16-25. *Vespers:* Genesis 4:16-26 • Proverbs 5:15-6:3.

6:30pm *Confessions*





**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

Cantor: David W

+*Stella Danko, from Bob & Jane Semak*

## 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)

## 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

## 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 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 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

## 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)

# 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:

**Cheesefare**  
**FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
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.

**1<sup>ST</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>**



*GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS*  
**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<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>**



**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<sup>RD</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>**



**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!

**4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>**



**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<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>**



**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<sup>TH</sup>**  
GREAT WEEK BEGINS



*GREAT AND HOLY WEEK*  
**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<sup>TH</sup>**



**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 31<sup>ST</sup>**  
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!

## **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 Thursdays at 7pm

Join us next on Thurs., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89868111655?pwd=a8EeyCdUVW2zo6PIBoLflPw8vutasO.1>

Meeting ID: 898 6811 1655

Passcode: 564524

### **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 (Otdaniije) 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).



## Upcoming Retreat Opportunities

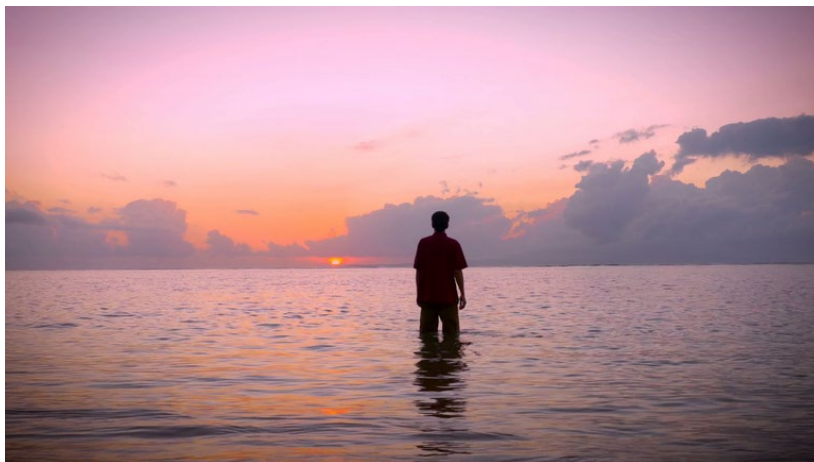
We encourage you to check for more opportunities!

<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 Jiompkowski 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)**

## **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. Thank you to Phyllis, Ceil, & Char for cleaning last week.

## **Annual Stewardship Appeal**

During this first week of the Great Fast, we consider ways in which we can share our faith in Christ for all to see. One way to do that is by contributing to the needs supported by the Stewardship Appeal. Have you made your pledge or payment yet? If so, thank you! If not, there is still time! Visit us online at [parma.org](http://parma.org) to submit your one-time or monthly donation.

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 February 4<sup>th</sup> was **61**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **60**

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 February 4<sup>th</sup> was **\$901** Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,108.17**

Sunday: \$676; Holy Day: \$100; Online: \$225; Candles: \$31; Flowers: \$20; Fuel: \$20; Initial Offering: \$30

“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