



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

February 25th, 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 Sunday – followed by Confessions

Sunday, February 25, 2024 🍷

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. ST. GREGORY PALAMAS. Tone 6

Our Holy Father Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople (806).

6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:36-53.

Hebrews 1:10-2:3 & for St Gregory: Hebrews 7:26-8:2.

Mark 2:1-12 & for St Gregory: John 10:9-16.

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: Cecilia

+Stella Danko, from Bob & Jane Semak (2-21)

+James Buffet, from Harry (2-23)

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (2-25)

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

4:00pm Vespers at St. Stephen, Allen Park

Cantor: Mary H

Monday, February 26, 2024 🍷

Our Holy Father Porphyry, Bishop of Gaza (421). Holy Great Martyr Photina the Samaritan.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 8:13-9:7. *Vespers:* Genesis 6:9-22 • Proverbs 8:1-21.

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

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

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 🍷

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite (741).

Our Holy Father Gregory of Narek.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 9:9-10:4. *Vespers:* Genesis 7:1-5 • Proverbs 8:32-9:11.

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 28, 2024

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Fellow Ascetic of Procopius (741).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 10:12-20. *Vespers:* Genesis 7:6-9 • Proverbs 9:12-18.

7:00am Matins

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

+Fr. Pat Egan, from Harry

Cantor: David W

Reader: Mary W

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Our Venerable Father Cassian (c. 453).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 11:10-12:2. *Vespers:* Genesis 7:11-8:4 • Proverbs 10:1-22.

7pm Discussion of the Book of Revelation via Zoom:

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

Friday, March 1, 2024

The Venerable Martyr Eudoxia (2nd Century). Our Holy Father David, Enlightener of Wales.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 13:2-13. *Vespers:* Genesis 8:4-21 • Proverbs 10:31-11:12.

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

+Gale Taylor, Sr., from Harry

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

followed by Parastas for All Souls

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Soul Saturday. The Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrene (302).

Hebrews 10:32-38a & *for the departed:* 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Mark 2:14-17 & *for the departed:* John 5:24-30.

10:00am Akathist for the Faithful Departed & Typika – Reader Service

4:00pm Great Vespers *with His Grace, Bishop Robert – for Sunday* Cantor: Mary R
– followed by Confessions

Sunday, March 3, 2024



THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Tone 7
The Holy Martyr Eutropius and his Companions, Cleonicus and Basiliscus (308).

7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:1-10.

Hebrews 4:14-5:6. Mark 8:34b-9:1.

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

+Fr. Pat Egan, *from Harry* (2-28)

Reader: Erin H

+Gale Taylor, Sr., *from Harry* (3-1)

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

4:00pm Vespers *with His Grace, Bishop Robert* – *at St. Basil, Sterling Heights*

Monday, March 4, 2024



Our Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan (475).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 14:24-32. Vespers: Genesis 8:21-9:7 • Proverbs 11:19-12:6.

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

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

Tuesday, March 5, 2024



The Holy Martyr Conon (251).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 25:1-9. Vespers: Genesis 9:8-17 • Proverbs 12:8-22.

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, March 6, 2024



Mid-Lent. The Holy Forty-two Martyrs of Ammorium (848).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 26:21-27:9. Vespers: Genesis 9:18-10:1 • Proverbs 12:23-13:9.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour

– *with Students from Gabriel Richard Catholic High School*

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantor: David W

+Ernest Semak, *from Bob & Jane Semak*

LEGEND

⊕	Great Feast	🍷	by tradition, a strict fast day (no meat, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, or oil)
⊕	Feast with an All-night Vigil	🍷	by tradition, wine and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, eggs, or fish)
✝	Feast with the Polyeleos at Matins	🍷	by tradition, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, or eggs)
⊗	Feast with the Great Doxology at Matins	🍷	by tradition, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat)
⊗	Feast with Six Stichera at Vespers		

Stational Vespers

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

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

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 most 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

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** on Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 898 6811 1655

Passcode: 564524



Pysanky Decorating

Decorate Pysanky with Pani Katie! We will meet in the small hall on **Saturday March 16th from 1-3pm**. Come practice the ancient craft of Pysanky. Ukrainian and Carpatho-Rusyn egg decorating examples will be available for your inspiration. We supply the eggs, and all other tools necessary, you supply the patience and creativity! The dyes used to create traditional pysanky are not edible. Never decorated pysanky before? Don't worry, we will share our tips and tricks with you. Come ready to be creative.

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:
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 PASCHA!</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 9:13-20 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 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!

Prayer List

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

The Holy & Great Fast

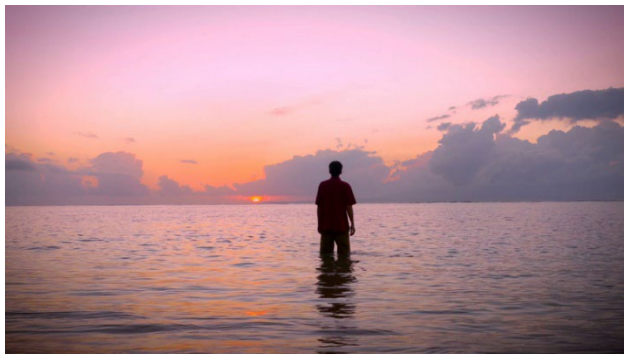
“All days of the Great Fast are Days of Alleluia, unless otherwise noted. On each day, the schedule of services begins with Matins in the morning to Vespers on the evening of the day itself. However, the commemoration of the saint is anticipated as usual.... Vespers and Matins during the Great Fast, 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 (Otdaniye) 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).

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.*

Paskas and Butter Lambs!

St. Stephen's Guild is baking Paskas (Easter Breads) and making Butter Lambs this year for your Easter Baskets!



Pick up will begin after Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday, March 24th. You can pick up your paskas and butter lambs in the hall at that time, or arrange to pick them up at the parish office during Holy Week.

Paskas may be ordered with or without raisins and are \$15.00 each.

Butter lambs are \$5.00 each.

Orders will be taken until Sunday, March 17.

Contact Louise Dalbo (313-382-6788 or louisedalbo@gmail.com) or reply to this email to place your order.

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 the Image of God Pregnancy Center and 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 "give to the one who asks" (Matt 5:42) is through monetary donations. A donation box next to an icon of St. Nicholas has been 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. We also hope to organize volunteer opportunities 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.

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.

Annual Stewardship Appeal

During this Lenten season, please consider the blessings that our Lord has bestowed upon you and your family. Consider the ways you may give back to God and His Church through assisting at your parish, and by pledging to the Stewardship Appeal. Please be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in sharing your gifts through your time, talent, and treasure. Please visit parma.org to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through our website.

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 \$105.

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.

An Easy Way to help Fish and Loaves

Google the Fish and Loaves Community Food Pantry
Click on Instructions on linking your Kroger Card to Fish and Loaves
A portion of your total will go to Fish and Loaves at NO cost to you.
You can also click on Meijer Simply Give and help that way as well.

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on February 18th was **55**. 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 February 18th was **\$2,279.62** Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,100.86**

Sunday: \$1592; Holy Day: \$10; Online: \$639.62; Candles: \$38

“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