



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

March 17th, 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, March 17, 2024 

SUNDAY OF OUR VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT. Tone 1

Our Venerable Father Alexis, Man of God (411). Holy Father Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland.

9th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:19-31.

Hebrews 9:11-14 & *for St. Mary:* Galatians 3:23-29.

Mark 10:32b-45 & *for St. Mary:* Luke 7:36-50.

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
the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (3-16) Reader: Daniel B
+Fr. Emmanuel, from Bob & Jane Semak (3-15)

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

4:00pm Vespers – *at Sacred Heart (29125 Six Mile Rd, Livonia, MI 48152)*

Monday, March 18, 2024 

Our Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem (386).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 48:17-49:4. *Vespers:* Genesis 27:1-41 • Proverbs 19:16-25.

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83054002720?pwd=QzZNMNS9GUE9KTlkxU01DdVdCeTRLZz09>

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

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

9:00pm Great Compline

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 

The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria (c. 253).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 49:6-10. *Vespers:* Genesis 31:3-16 • Proverbs 21:3-21.

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Our Venerable Fathers of the Saint Sabbas Monastery, killed by Saracens (796).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 58:1-11. *Vespers:* Gen 43:26-31; 45:1-16 • Proverbs 21:23-22:4.

7:00am Matins

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Victor A

health of Fr. Wayne, from George & Irene Durisin

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Our Venerable Father and Confessor James, Bishop of Catania (8th Century).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 65:8-16. *Vespers:* Genesis 46:1-7 • Proverbs 23:15-24:5.

7pm Final Discussion of the Book of Revelation via Zoom:

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

Friday, March 22, 2024

The Holy Martyr Basilides, Priest of Ancyra (363).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 66:10-24. *Vespers:* Genesis 49:33-50:26 • Proverbs 31:8-32.

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

+Robert Hickson, from Harry Veryser

Cantor: Mary H

Reader: Mary W

Saturday, March 23, 2024

LAZARUS SATURDAY.

Holy Venerable-Martyr Nikon and his Students martyred with him. Our Holy Mother Rafka.

Hebrews 12:28-13:8. John 11:1-45.

10:00am Divine Liturgy – for Lazarus Saturday

+Eugene & +Angeline Dalbo, from Louise Dalbo

Cantor: Mary R

4:00pm Great Vespers – for Flowery Sunday

– followed by Confessions

Sunday, March 24, 2024



PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY. Tone 2

⊕ Pre-festive Day of the Annunciation. Our Venerable Father Zachary.

Our Holy Father Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia.

Our Holy Father Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador.

Vespers: Genesis 49:1-2, 8-12 • Zephaniah 3:14-19 • Zachariah 9:9-15.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11, 15-17.

Philippians 4:4-9. John 12:1-18.

8:15am Matins *for Sunday*

9:30am Procession with the Palms and Pussywillows

10:00am Divine Liturgy – *for the people of the parish*

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

Reader: Mary H

health of Fr. Wayne, from George & Irene Durisin (3-20)

+Robert Hickson, from Harry Veryser (3-22)

+Eugene & +Angeline Dalbo, from Louise Dalbo (3-23)

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

4:00pm Vespers *at St. George (204 N Van Buren St, Bay City, MI 48708)*

Monday, March 25, 2024



GREAT & HOLY MONDAY.

⊕ THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY.

Vespers: Genesis 28:10-17 • Ezekiel 43:27 – 44:4 • Proverbs 9:1-11

Matins Gospel: Luke 1:39-49, 56.

3rd Hour: Matthew 1:1-16:12. 6th Hour: Matthew 16:13-28:20. 9th Hour: Mark 1:1-9:16.

Vespers: Exodus 1:1-20 • Job 1:1-12 & for the feast: Exodus 3:1-8 • Proverbs 8:22-31.

for the Annunciation: Hebrews 2:11-18. Luke 1:24-38 & for Holy Monday: Matt 24:3-35

7:00am Matins *for ⊕ the Annunciation*

Cantor: Victor A

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy *for ⊕ the Annunciation*

Cantor: Mary H & Cecilia

+Mike, +Irene, & +Ronald Hrubciak, from Jane & Bernie Paul

Reader: Debra

Tuesday, March 26, 2024



GREAT & HOLY TUESDAY.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 22:15-23:39.

3rd Hour: Mk 9:17-16:20. *6th Hour:* Ezekiel 1:21-2:1 • Lk 1:1-8:39. *9th Hour:* Lk 8:40-16:18.

Vespers: Exodus 2:5-10 • Job 1:13-22 *Presanctified Liturgy:* Matthew 24:36-26:2.

7:00am Bridegroom Matins

Cantor: Victor A

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantor: David W

+Michael Higgins, from Harry Veryser

Wednesday, March 27, 2024



GREAT & HOLY WEDNESDAY.

Matins Gospel: John 12:17-50.

3rd Hour: Luke 16:19-24:53. *6th Hour:* Ezekiel 2:3-3:3 • Jn 1:1-7:36. *9th Hour:* Jn 7:37-13:32.

Vespers: Exodus 2:11-22 • Job 2:1-10. *Presanctified Liturgy:* Matthew 26:6-16.

7:00am Bridegroom Matins

Cantor: Victor A

5:30pm Confessions

6:15pm Office of Holy Anointing

Reader: Mary W

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia, David W

+Sandy Duncan, from Harry Veryser

Thursday, March 28, 2024



GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY.

Matins Gospel: Luke 22:1-39.

First Hour: Jeremiah 11:18-12:5, 9-11, 14-15.

Vespers: Exodus 19:10-19 • Job 38:1-23; 42:1-5 • Isaiah 50:4-11.

1 Corinthians 11:23-32.

Composite Gospel: Mt 26:1-20; Jn 13:3-17; Mt 26:21-39; Lk 22:43-45; Mt 26:40-27:2.

7:00am Matins for Great & Holy Thursday

Cantor: Victor A

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy for Holy Thursday

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

+Stella Danko, from Phyllis Humenik

Reader: Mary W

10:00pm Strasti – Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels

Cantor: Victor A

Friday, March 29, 2024

GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY.

Matins: The Twelve Passion Gospels: (1) John 13:31b-18:1 • (2) John 18:1-28 • (3) Matthew 26:57-75 • (4) John 18:28-19:16 • (5) Matthew 27:3-32 • (6) Mark 15:16-32a • (7) Matthew 27:33-54 • (8) Luke 23:32-49 • (9) John 19:25-37 • (10) Mark 15:43-47 • (11) John 19:38-42 • (12) Matthew 27:62-66.

First Hour: Zachariah 11:10-13 • Galatians 6:14-18 • Matthew 27:1-56.

Third Hour: Isaiah 50:4-11 • Romans 5:6-11 • Mark 15:16-41.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 52:13-54:1 • Hebrews 2:11-18 • Luke 23:32-49.

Ninth Hour: Jeremiah 11:18-12:5, 9-11, 14-15 • Hebrews 10:19-31 • John 18:28-19:37.

Vespers: Exodus 33:11-23 • Job 42:12-17 • Isaiah 52:13-54:1 •

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2

Composite Gospel: Mt 27:1-38; Lk 23:39-43; Mt 27:39-54; Jn 19:31-37; Mt 27:55-61.

10:00am Royal Hours for Great and Holy Friday

Cantor: David W

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Burial Vespers for Great & Holy Friday

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia, Mary W

Guarding the Tomb all night

Saturday, March 30, 2024

GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY.

Matins: Ezekiel 37:1-14 • 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8, Galatians 3:13-14 • Matthew 27:62-66.

Vespers: (1) Genesis 1:1-13 • (2) Isaiah 60:1-16 • (3) Exodus 12:1-11 • (4) Jonah 1:1-4:11

• (5) Joshua 5:10-15 • (6) Exodus 13:20-15:19 • (7) Zephaniah 3:8-15 •

(8) 1 [3] Kings 17:8-24 • (9) Isaiah 61:10b-62:5 • (10) Genesis 22:1-18 •

(11) Isaiah 61:1-10a • (12) 2 [4] Kings 4:8-37 • (13) Isaiah 63:11-64:5 •

(14) Jeremiah 31:31-34 • (15) Daniel 3:1-88 (LXX)

Romans 6:3-11. Matthew 28:1-20 (*proclamation of the resurrection*).

1:00am Jerusalem Matins for Great and Holy Saturday

Cantor: Victor A

Guarding the Tomb

4:00pm Paschal Vigil with Baptisms & Chrismations

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

Reader: Mary W

11:30pm Midnight Office of Pascha

Sunday, March 31, 2024

⊕ PASCHA! The Resurrection of our Lord, God, & Savior Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:1-8. John 1:1-17.

9:00am Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy for Pascha!

Reader: Lance

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia, David W, Mary W.

followed by the blessing of Easter baskets in the hall and fellowship – no classes!

7:00pm Agape Vespers

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 ProtPRESbyterate

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

Date	Sunday of the Great Fast	Parish
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 Monday**. You can join with or without video.

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83054002720?pwd=QzZNMS9GUE9KTlkxU01DdVdCeTRLZz09>

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=a8EeyCdUVWZ2o6PIBoLlPw8vutasO.1>

Meeting ID: 898 6811 1655

Passcode: 564524

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:
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	 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 TH		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 ST 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!

The Holy & Great Fast

“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).

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.

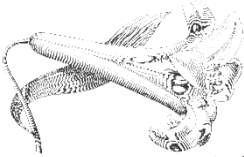
Butter lambs are \$5.00 each.

Orders will be taken until Sunday, March 17.

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

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



Paschal Flowers have been offered in memory of

John Barron
John, Anthony, & Irene Bonacor
Charles & Mary Burja
John Grega
Bertha Grega
Mike Grega
Helen Humenik
Peter Humenik
Joseph Humenik
Linda Jenner
Russell Kowalchik
Helen Kowalchik

Mary Lovera
Joseph Lovera
Bennie Materniak
Mary Materniak
John (Tom) Materniak
Sidney Osmond
Mary Polifko
Andrew & Helen Yatcko

& in honor of
Pani Katie Russell
Pani Mary Hendricks

St Stephen's needs our working men!

St Stephen's is your spiritual home. Just like your own home, the parish facility requires regular maintenance to glorify God and cultivate a place of worship and prayer for your parish family. The parish Maintenance Council has organized 1-3 hour work session on a Saturday morning once a month. Do not be discouraged if you are not a handyman! Many maintenance items require the expertise of professionals, which we will contract to perform, but there are many tasks that demand merely time, attention, and a helping hand. Please prayerfully consider joining the men of the parish for a workday at St Stephen's to support your parish, get to know your fellow parishioners, and spend time in holy work. It is an act of love.

Please contact Daniel Barillas at danbar@zohomail.com or in person at the parish to be added to the communication list for the next workday.

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. Phyllis, Char, and Ceil are signed up to clean this week

Annual Stewardship Appeal

As we move closer to the great Feast of Pascha, we continue in our process to identify the gifts given to us by God and ponder the ways in which we can respond to His generosity. Please remember the annual Stewardship Appeal as you prepare for the upcoming Feast of Pascha.

Visit parma.org for more information and to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through our website. Thank you for your past support and for your continued generosity with this year's campaign.

St. Stephen's goal this year is \$7,300.

So far, 25 contributors have donated \$5544, which is about 76% 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 March 10th 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 March 10th was **\$2,523.17** Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,122.69**

Sunday: \$1797; Easter: \$20; Holy Day: \$40; Online: \$527.17; Candles: \$59; Flowers: \$60; Fuel: \$20

“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