

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

March 24th, 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 Flowery Sunday*
– *followed by Confessions*

Cantor: Mary R

Sunday, March 24, 2024

PALM SUNDAY. 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  • Zachariah 9:9-15.

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

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

8:15am Matins with the blessing of Palms and Pussywillows* *for Palm*

Sunday

9:30am Procession with the Palms and Pussywillows†

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

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

Reader: Cecilia

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 & Potluck in the hall. Pick up Paskas & Butter Lambs. ECF Classes & Rehearsal.

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

* “Palms and pussywillows... [are] held by the faithful during [the] celebration as a symbol of the people who welcomed our Lord into Jerusalem as their King.” (*Annual Typicon*).

† “A procession with the priest and faithful carrying the newly blessed palms and willows may take place after Matins and before the Liturgy. The priest, preceded by candles and incense, processes through the Northern Door of the icon screen. The procession then proceeds around the church, with the singing of the Palm Sunday Troparion, Kontakion, [and Stichera]. The Divine Liturgy begins immediately following the procession.” (*Annual Typicon*).

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 Vespereal Divine Liturgy for ⊕ *the Annunciation* Cantor: Mary H & Cecilia

+Mike, +Irene, & +Ronald Hrubciak, from Jane & Bernie Paul Readers: Debra,
Mary W, Vic J

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



strict abstinence is canonically prescribed

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 *abstinence is until midnight*

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 all night

4:00pm Paschal Vigil with Baptisms & Chrismations

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia
Mary R, Katie
Readers: Mary W, Victor J

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 Protopresbyterate

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 24, 2024	Palm Sunday Flowery Sunday	St. George, Bay City

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024		
<i>Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)</i>	<i>Adapted by Fr Vitalii Stashkevych (BCC) for the Gregorian Calendar</i>	
SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24TH <small>GREAT WEEK BEGINS</small> 	<small>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</small> 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!
<small>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</small> MARCH 29TH 	<small>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</small> <small>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</small> 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 <small>NO FASTING!</small> 	<small>BRIGHT WEEK</small> 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!

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. There are some extras, if you forgot to place your order.

Bible Discussion Group

The Bible discussion is moving to Sunday evening at five o'clock on Zoom. The current participants are talking about what portion of Scripture to focus on next. They would like to hear from anyone else in the parish who might consider joining the discussion. The three possibilities being focused on are the letter of James, a section of the book of Isaiah, and the story of Joseph and his brothers in the book of Genesis. Anyone who has a preference and an interest in taking part is invited to communicate with Father John, Father Deacon Lawrence, or Kevin Perrotta. Thank you!

Invitation to Byzantine Book Club

We have almost completed reading and discussing *Poustinia: Encountering God in Silence, Solitude, and Prayer* by +Catherine Doherty. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed reading and discussing this wonderful book.

We are taking suggestions for the next book to read and discuss.

Some possible books:

It is the Day of Resurrection: the Forty Days of Pascha by Jack Custer

Praying the Psalms in the Byzantine Church: an Introduction to the Psalter by Jack Custer

Or, for the ongoing Year of the Eucharist:

Eucharist, Bishop, Church: The Unity of the Church in the Divine Eucharist and the Bishop During the First Three Centuries by John Zizioulas

The Eucharist: Sacrament of the Kingdom by Alexander Schmemmann

To offer your suggestion or ask questions, contact Fr. Deacon Lawrence at (734) 255-4099 or frdeaconlawrence@yahoo.com.

Pre Cana Weekend

Preparation for marriage according to the Byzantine Rite

Sat. & Sun. May 4 & 5, 2024
12:30pm - 5:00pm

St. John Byzantine Catholic Church
36125 Aurora Rd - Solon, OH 44139



Ways to register:

On-line at taborlife.org

Scan the QR with your mobile device

Call Catherine at 708-653-8344

Email us at infotaborlife@gmail.com

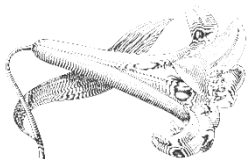


Registration Fee: \$200/couple

*Sponsored by the Marriage and Family ministry of the Ruthenian Eparchy of Parma
in cooperation with the Tabor Life Institute*

Prayer List

Pray for the healing of John Aral, Agustin Azcuy, Barb Barnes,
Don & Theresa Butella, 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
Pamela Gabany
Jackie Gabany
Eugene Gabany
John Grega
Bertha Grega
Mike Grega
Helen Humenik
Peter Humenik
Joseph Humenik
Ruth Humenik
Jim Humenik Sr.

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. Thank you to Phyllis, Char, and Ceil for cleaning this week! Betty and LeAnn are signed up to clean this week.

Annual Stewardship Appeal

How are we using our gifts to build up the Kingdom of God? What treasure do we have stored here on earth that could be offered for the Kingdom? Thankfully, we have an opportunity this Holy Week to help build the Kingdom of God in a particular way: by supporting the Eparchy's Stewardship Appeal. The Stewardship Appeal provides critical support for God's Church in four ways: 1) supporting parishes and missions; 2) evangelization and ministries; 3) caring for retired priests; and 4) vocations and seminarian education. Please contribute to the Appeal today. You may visit parma.org to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through the website

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 17th 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 March 17th was **\$3,020.67**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,157.72**

Sunday: \$2024; Online: \$622.17; Special Donation: \$200; Candles: \$114.50; Flowers: \$50; Initial Offering: \$10

“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