



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI *Pascha!* March 31st, 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



Christ is risen! 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 Paschal Vigil with Baptisms & Chrismations Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

Mary R, Katie

Readers: Mary W, Victor J, Liz E

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

Monday, April 1, 2024

BRIGHT MONDAY. Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt (c. 530).

Agape Vespers Gospel: John 20:19-25. Acts 1:12-17, 21-26. John 1:18-28.

10:00am Paschal Hour & Divine Liturgy for Bright Monday – with procession

+Fr. Frank Korba, from George & Irene Durisin Cantor: Mary R

7:00pm Byzantine Book Club - online: meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia (finishing Poustinia)

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

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

BRIGHT TUESDAY. Our Venerable Father Titus the Wonder-worker (9th Century).

Acts 2:14-21. Luke 24:12-35.

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 *no fasting!*

BRIGHT WEDNESDAY. Venerable Fr. and Confessor Nicetas, Hegumen of Medikion (824).
Acts 2:22-36. John 1:35-51.

7:00am Resurrection Matins *for Bright Wednesday*

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Agape Vespers

7:00pm Divine Liturgy *for Bright Thursday*

Cantor: Mary R

+Glenna Semak, from Bob & Jane Semak

Thursday, April 4, 2024

BRIGHT THURSDAY. Venerable Frs., Joseph the Hymnographer & George of Maleon.
Acts 2:38-43. John 3:1-15.

7:00am Coffee with Fr. John – a casual meetup on Zoom (now on Thursdays!)

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

Friday, April 5, 2024 *no fasting!*

BRIGHT FRIDAY. Holy Martyrs Theodulus and Agathopodes and their Companions (303).
Acts 3:1-8. John 2:12-22.

8:00am Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy *for Bright Friday* Cantor: Victor A
+Vivian Carmody, from Harry Veryser

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Agape Vespers

Saturday, April 6, 2024

BRIGHT SATURDAY. Our Holy Father Eutyches, Archbishop of Constantinople (582).
✦ The Passing of our Holy Father Methodius, Teacher of the Slavs (885).

Acts 3:11-16. John 3:22-33.

10:00am Paschal Hour & Divine Liturgy *for Bright Saturday*

Cantor: Katie

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron

4:00pm Great Vespers *for Thomas Sunday – followed by Confessions* Cantor: Mary R

Sunday, April 7, 2024

THOMAS SUNDAY. Our Venerable Father George, Bishop of Mitylene (816).

1st Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20. Acts 5:12-20. John 20:19-31.

8:15am Matins for Sunday

9:30am Akathist – Reader Service; Confessions – in Sacristy

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

Cantor: Mary H

Reader: Dan L

+Fr. Frank Korba, from George & Irene Durisin (4-1)

+Glenna Semak, from Bob & Jane Semak (4-3)

+Vivian Carmody, from Harry Veryser (4-5)

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (4-6)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall with the Artos. Easter Egg Hunt!

ECF Classes & Adult Catechesis resume

5pm Discussion of Joseph and his brothers in Genesis via Zoom:

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

7:00pm Vespers

LEGEND

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|---|---|--|
| ⊕ | 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 | |

Meal Support for the Azcuys

Agustin Azcuy is still in the neonatal unit at the hospital and his parents still benefit from our support. It seems that gift cards to restaurants are the best way to go. Their suggestions are: Fresh food with low carbs or Restaurant gift cards from: Chili's, Logan's, Red Robin, BJ's restaurant and Brewhouse, Red Lobster, Longhorn, Outback. People may also bring meals to them: 13108 Peach Street Southgate MI or put meals in the fridge at the church hall (and, of course, let them know the food is there). For contact information for Victor, please see Mary Hendricks.

Bible Discussion Group

We are beginning a new Bible discussion on Thomas Sunday. The discussion will focus on two biblical figures of the same name: Joseph, one of Jacob's twelve sons (Genesis 37—50), and Joseph, husband of Mary (Matthew 1—2). We will look closely at each man's life and explore the connections between them. Their stories provoke reflection on many aspects of life as we all experience it: conflicts within the family, parental favoritism, sibling envy, compassion and reconciliation, acceptance of God's plans, trust and obedience, and the personal vocation.

Everyone is welcome to join in the reading and discussion. The meetings will now take place on Sunday evenings at five o'clock on Zoom. We will begin next Sunday—Thomas Sunday, 7 April.

We will be using a short book in the Six Weeks with the Bible series: *Genesis 37—50: Joseph the Dreamer*, as well as a portion of a book on St. Joseph. Ask Kevin Perrotta for a free copy of *Joseph the Dreamer* if you're interested in taking part.

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

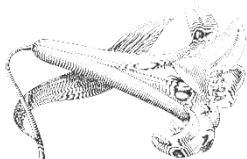


Registration Fee: \$200/couple

*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 Jiompkowski (313-930-0801 / v.jiompkowski1111@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 Jiompkowski 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 Betty and LeAnn for cleaning this week!

Annual Stewardship Appeal

Christ is Risen! Thank you to everyone who participated in the Annual Stewardship Appeal to date. Your generosity is deeply appreciated! A blessed Pascha to all!

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 24th was **72**. 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 24th was **\$1,936.17**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,167.21**

Sunday: \$1051; Easter: \$93; Holy Day: \$245; Online: \$502.17; Candles: \$39; Flowers: \$6

“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