



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

April 7th, 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



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 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 & Cecilia

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=a8EeyCdUVW2zo6PIBoLfiPw8vutasO.1>

7:00pm Vespers

Monday, April 8, 2024

The Holy Apostles Herodian, Agabus, Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon, and Hermes.

Acts 3:19-26. John 2:1-11.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Lance

for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron

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

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

9:00pm Compline

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

The Holy Martyr Eupychius (c. 362). Acts 4:1-10. John 3:16-21.

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

The Holy Martyrs Terence, Pompey, and their Companions (250).

Acts 4:13-22. John 5:17b-24.

7:00am Matins

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers &

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for Thursday

+David Penny, from Harry Veryser

Cantor: Mary R

Thursday, April 11, 2024

The Holy Martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum in Asia (c. 92).

Acts 4:23-31. John 5:24-30.

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

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

Friday, April 12, 2024

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Bishop of Parium (735).

Acts 5:1-11. John 5:30b-6:2.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers

Saturday, April 13, 2024

The Holy Priest-Martyr Artemon and his Companions (303).

Acts 5:21-33. John 6:14-27.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

+Michael Camilleri, from Mary Camilleri

Cantors: David W & Katie

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

Sunday, April 14, 2024

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN. Tone 2

Our Holy Father and Confessor Martin, Pope of Rome (665).

The Holy New Martyrs Anthony, John and Eustathius (1342).

3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark 16:9-20. Acts 6:1-7. Mark 15:43-16:8.

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: Victor J

for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (4-8)

+David Penny, from Harry Veryser (4-10)

+Michael Camilleri, from Mary Camilleri (4-13)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. Guild Meeting in the small hall.





ECF Classes & Adult Catechesis.

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

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

7:00pm Vespers

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		

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

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 on Thomas Sunday, 7 April.

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

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.



The Seventh MIRACLE OF MARIAPOCH GALA

SATURDAY, May 25, 2024

6-9:30 P.M. VENUE 81 ELEVEN

ST. JOSEPH BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

8111 BRECKSVILLE ROAD, BRECKSVILLE, OHIO

Small plate buffet; wine and beer included

Raffle baskets and silent auction

\$40 per person; \$220 table of six

Call (216) 272-6790, or order online at:

www.parma.org/shrine-of-mariapoch

Proceeds benefit capital improvements at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch, Burton, Ohio



*We are a center of prayer for peace in the world and in each life,
offering the healing refuge of Our Lady of Mariapoch.*

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.

*“Come to me, all
you who labor and
are burdened, and
I will give you
rest.”*

Annual Byzantine
Eparchial Women’s
Renewal



The Eparchy of Parma and
Dormition of the Mother of
God Byzantine Catholic
Church are proud to sponsor
a women’s renewal.

*A weekend of rest, prayer,
reflection, creation and
community.*

When:

October 25-27, 2024

*Reserve your space by
September 25, 2024 for
discounted rate.*

Early fee by Sept 25 = \$200

After Sept 25 fee = \$225

For questions:

Kim Kocuba

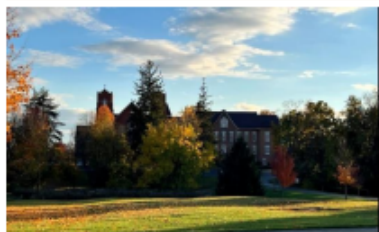
@ 216-337-2673 or

kimkocuba@ameritech.net

Where:

New location!

**St. Francis
Spirituality Center
200 St Francis Ave.
Tiffin, OH 44883**



Registration:

**Online registration form
available**

<https://www.parma.org/retreats>

Send registration and checks:

Women’s Renewal

4600 State Rd,

Cleveland, OH 44109

Make checks payable to:

Dormition of the Mother of God
Byzantine Catholic Church

Venmo link for online payment:

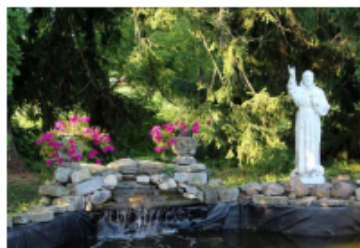
@Kim Kocuba



Spiritual Leader:

Rev. Jerome Wolbert, OFM

Fr Jerome Wolbert, OFM, is a
Byzantine Catholic priest,
Franciscan friar, and native of the
Eparchy of Parma (St Michael’s in
Flushing, MI). He is a National
Spiritual Assistant to the Secular
Franciscan Order in addition to
serving at the Franciscan Monastery
of the Holy Land in Washington, DC,
where he lives (myfranciscan.org),
and at Epiphany Byzantine Catholic
Mission in Gaithersburg, MD.



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*

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.

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.

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 Erin Holmes for cleaning this week!

Annual Stewardship Appeal

We are now in our final month for promoting the 2023-2024 Stewardship Appeal. This year's Annual Stewardship Appeal will support four important needs in the Eparchy: Development of Parishes; Vocations and Seminarian Education; Works of the Apostolate; and Retired Priests.

Your generosity is appreciated and thanks to everyone for their contributions. We hope to finish this year's campaign strong! If you have not pledged yet, please do so today! Visit us online at parma.org to make your monthly or one-time donation.

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

So far, 27 contributors have donated \$6,216, which is about 85% 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 31st was **77**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **61**

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 31st was **\$4,136.04**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,196.96**

Sunday: \$1253; Easter: \$1855; Holy Day: \$458; Online: \$427.17; Candles: \$102.87; Fuel: \$40

“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