

# SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 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, Cecilia Hendricks, Pani Mary  
Hendricks, Lance Remisoski, 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 Sunday – followed by Confessions

**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND. Tone 5

The Holy and Glorious Martyr Irene.

Our Venerable Father Nicephor, Hegumen of the Medikion Monastery (14th Century).

*8th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:11-18.*

Acts 16:16-34. John 9:1-38.

**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  
David W Reader: Erin H

*Thanksgiving for birth of Rosario David Barillas (5-4)*

*+Edward Moritz, from the Dalbo Family (5-1)*

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

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

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

**7:00pm Vespers**

**Monday, May 6, 2024**

The Holy and Just Job the Long-suffering.

Acts 17:1-15. John 11:47-57.

*7:00pm Byzantine Book Club - online: [meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia](https://meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia) (beginning new book!)*

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

**9:00pm Small Compline**

**Tuesday, May 7, 2024**

⊗ The Appearance of the Sign of the Cross in the heavens at the third hour of the day in Jerusalem, before the Emperor Constantius (357). The Holy Martyr Acacius (303).

Acts 17:19-28a. John 12:19-36a.

## Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Leave-taking of Pascha. ☩ The Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian.  
Our Venerable Father Arsenius the Great (448).

*Vespers:* 1 John 3:21-4:6 • 1 John 4:11-16 • 1 John 4:20-5:5.

*Matins Gospel:* John 21:15-25.

*for John:* 1 John 1:1-7. John 19: 25-27; 21:24-25. *for the day:* Acts 18:22-28. John 12:36-47.

**8:00am Matins &**

**9:00am Divine Liturgy** for the ☩ Holy Apostle John      Cantors: Mary R & Lance  
*for the health of Nancy Patterson, from the Richardson Family*

**6:00pm All-Night Vigil** (*Vespers & Matins*) for the ☩ Ascension of our Lord

Cantors (*Vespers*): Mary H, Cecilia, Mary R, Lance

Cantors (*Matins*): Mary W, Lance

## Thursday, May 9, 2024

☩ ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, GOD, & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

*Vespers Paramia:* Isaiah 2:2-3 • Isaiah 62:10-63:3, 7-9 • Zechariah 14:1, 4, 8-11.

*3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel:* Mark 16:9-20.

Acts 1:1-12. Luke 24:36-53.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy** for the ☩ Ascension of our Lord

Cantor: Lance

## Friday, May 10, 2024

Post-festive Day of Ascension. ✦ The Holy Apostle Simon the Zealot.

Rest of the Blessed Bishop Martyr Vasile Aftenie.

*Vespers:* 1 John 3:21-4:6 • 1 John 4:11-16 • 1 John 4:20-5:5.

*Matins Gospel:* John 21:15-25.

*for Simon:* 1 Corinthians 4:9-16. Matthew 13:54-58.

*for the day:* Acts 19:1-8. John 14:1-11a.

6:30pm Confessions

**7:00pm Great Vespers** for ☩ Our Holy Fathers Cyril and Methodius

# Saturday, May 11, 2024

Post-festive Day of Ascension. The Foundation of Constantinople (330).

The Holy Priest-Martyr Mocius (250).

✠ Our Holy Fathers Cyril and Methodius, Apostles of the Slavs (9th Century).

The Blessed Martyr Basil (Hopko), Bishop of Midila (1976).

*Vespers Paramia:* Proverbs 10:7, 6; 3:13-16; 8:6, 34-35, 4, 12, 14, 17, 5-9; 1:23; 15:4

• Proverbs 10:31-11:12 • Wisdom 4: 7-15.

*Matins Gospel:* John 10:1-9.

*for Cyril & Methodius:* Hebrews 13:17-21. John 10:9-16.

*for the day:* Acts 20:7-12. John 14:10b-21.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy** for ✠ *Holy Fathers Cyril & Methodius* Cantor: Lance  
*for Malina & John Michael Patrick, from Sarah Marron*

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

## Sunday, May 12, 2024

*Mother's Day*

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS AT THE 1ST NICEAN COUNCIL. Tone 6

Holy Frs. Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus (403) & Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople (740).

*Vespers Paramia:* Genesis 14:14-20 • Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • Deut. 10:14-21.

*10th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:* John 21:1-14.

Acts 20:16-18a, 28-36. John 17:1-13.

**8:15am Matins** for Sunday

**9:30am Moleben** for Mothers

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

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia  
Reader: Mary R

*for the health of Nancy Patterson, from the Richardson Family (5-8)*

*for Malina & John Michael Patrick, from Sarah Marron (5-11)*





*After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the 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, Mary Novak, Judith Ng,  
Ron Ostrowsky, & Edith Santo

## The Apostle's Fast

The Apostle's Fast begins after the Sunday of All Saints (which this year falls on May 26<sup>th</sup>) and ends with the Great Feast of the Holy Preeminent Apostles Peter and Paul (which is always on June 29<sup>th</sup>). The Typikon prescribes strict abstinence from meat, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, and oil on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with a mitigated abstinence permitting wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Metropolia of Pittsburgh has identified this period as a penitential season (canon 880, 2). This Fast may be observed voluntarily.

### Raffle Baskets for the Mariapoch Gala.

The Guild is collecting items for Raffle Baskets for the Mariapoch Gala. There is be a box in the narthex for these donations. Donate items that will fetch a high bid by May 12<sup>th</sup>!



# 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](http://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.*

## **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](mailto:danbar@zohomail.com) or in person at the parish to be added to the communication list for the next workday.

## **Bible Discussion Group**

Our Bible discussion is focusing 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 are now taking place on Sunday evenings at five o'clock on Zoom:

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

The Book Club is beginning a new book!

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

Meet online: [meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia](https://meet.google.com/xuc-eiuo-sia)

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

Contact Fr. Deacon Lawrence with any questions  
at (734) 255-4099 or [frdeaconlawrence@yahoo.com](mailto:frdeaconlawrence@yahoo.com).

*“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

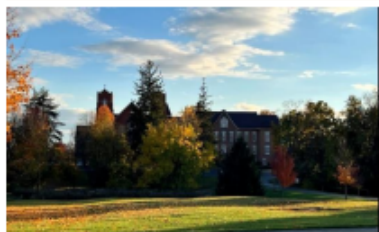
@ 216-337-2673 or

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:

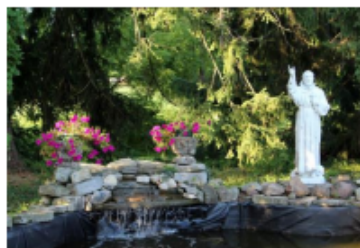
**@Kim Kocuba**



**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](http://myfranciscan.org)),  
and at Epiphany Byzantine Catholic  
Mission in Gaithersburg, MD.





## Eparchial Events 2024

Pre-Cana Weekend – May 4-5, 2024 – St. John the Baptist, Solon, Ohio

ByzanTEEN Youth Rally – June 27-29, 2024 – San Diego, California

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual NW Indiana Bishop's Golf Classic – August 5, 2024 – Lost Marsh Golf Course, Hammond, Indiana

**Family and Cantor Camp 2024: Liturgy and Life.** Join Byzantine Catholic families from across the Eparchy of Parma from August 11th through August 16th in Cedar Lakes, IN to have some faith-focused, family-friendly fun! This year's camp will feature Fr. Andrew Summerson and special guests, who will lead a Cantor Camp for both children and adults. Cantor Camp will bring families together to build up our rich tradition of Byzantine Catholic worship and enrich the spiritual lives of our families through singing. Alongside Cantor Camp, there will be daily Liturgy and community prayer, as well as plenty of outdoor activities. This year's camp will be hosted at Cedar Lakes Ministries, which has an abundance of on-site facilities for families to have fun together outdoors, including a private beach, playground, campfire sites, and multiple fields and courts for sports. Find out more and register at <https://parma.org/family-camp>.

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Bishop's Golf Classic – August 12, 2024 - Sleepy Hollow Golf Course, Brecksville, Ohio

Pilgrimage to Shrine of Mariapoch, Burton, Ohio – August 17-18, 2024

New Horizons – September 28, 2024 – Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois

Jubilee Weekend Celebration of Metropolitan Church - October 12-13, 2024 – Washington DC and Annandale, Virginia

Evening of Hope - October 19, 2024 – Holiday Inn, Independence, Ohio

Eparchial Clergy and Staff Conference – October 21-25, 2024 – St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center, Detroit, Michigan

Eparchial Women's Renewal – October 25-27, 2024 – St. Francis Spirituality Center, Tiffin, Ohio

## Special Collections 2024

### **May 18-19, 2024 - Catholic Home Missions Appeal**

The Eparchy of Parma benefits from this USCCB Collection through the financial support of our Chancery, and Eparchial Offices' support for our parishes, missions, Shrine, and religious education programs.

### **June 29-30, 2024 - Peter's Pence**

This collection enables the Holy Father to respond with emergency financial assistance to requests to aid the neediest throughout the world – those who suffer as a result of war, oppression, and natural disasters.

### **September 14-15, 2024 - Catholic Communication Campaign**

The Eparchy of Parma directly benefits from this USCCB Collection as 50% of the funds collected in our churches remain in the Eparchy to support Horizons and other media communications of the Eparchy. The Eparchy of Parma also benefits from the other 50% that goes to the USCCB, as we receive grants from them which financially assist us in our communication efforts within the Eparchy.

### **December 7-8, 2024 – Retirement Fund for Religious**

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Uniontown benefit directly from this USCCB Collection for their retired nuns. As they were active and provided ministry to our Eparchy in the past, we wish to help them by participating in this collection. This collection is not for our retired priests but will only benefit the retired nuns of the community of St. Basil the Great.

## **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](mailto:frdeaconlawrence@yahoo.com)) for more information.

## **Fire Exits for St. Stephen Campus**

Dear Parishioners,

We need your financial help. St. Stephen's needs to update and/or re-install four fire exits. Two for the church, one for the nursery, and one for the rectory. One church fire exit and the nursery fire exit both exist but need modification to become be accessible and safe; A second church exit needs to be created to comply with the building code. The rectory does not have a fire exit so it is a high priority to create one there. We also need to create a fire exit for the rectory.

The parish *does* have the money to address these needs, however, we have been depleting these resources and need to replenish the funding to be prepared for other needs which are arising.

We are asking for your help and generosity. Please donate and designate the funding for of this appeal on the memo line of your check or on the envelope as "Building Fund."

Your contribution will help ensure the continuing viability of our parish community, as well as the future sustainability of our campus structures.

Thank you for your anticipated support!

### **Some Parish Financial Information**

As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 we had a total of \$693,143.02 in all of our accounts combined.

Since 2020, that total has fluctuated but remained between \$680,000 and \$725,000.

However, five years ago, on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, that total was \$791,459.03 and on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 (my first month here), that total was \$812,233.43.

The large depletion in 2019 was due to large capital projects (including a new drainage system, rectory floor replacement due to flood damage, and asbestos removal). Our total income from all sources has been enough to pay our operating costs, but there has not yet been enough to recover our losses in any substantial way.

We are now facing a new series of large capital projects, beginning with the re-installation of fire exits that were previously removed and needed improvement to other fire exits. Without additional funding, these capital projects will further deplete our total holdings.

-Fr. John

## 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.

## Annual Stewardship Appeal

**This weekend marks the end of the promotion for this year's Eparchial Stewardship Appeal.** Payments may continue to be made through the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2024. Visit [parma.org](http://parma.org) to make your donation. Thank you to everyone who participated with their ***time, talent, and treasure***. Your participation has allowed our Eparchy of Parma to continue to provide funds to support four important needs in the Eparchy: Development of Parishes; Vocations and Seminarian Education; Works of the Apostolate; and Retired Priests. God Bless you!

## CHARITABLE GIVING

### *from St. Stephen Parish*

*Through our 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 April 28<sup>th</sup> was **56**. 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 April 28<sup>th</sup> was **\$1,801.67**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,208.38**

Sunday: \$1125; Online: \$477.17; Fuel: \$160; Candles: \$39.50

“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