



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

May 19th, 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



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 Pentecost Sunday – followed by Confessions

Sunday, May 19, 2024

⊕ PENTECOST SUNDAY. Tone 7

The Holy Martyr Patrick, Bishop of Prussia and his Companions (c. 362).

Vespers Paramia: Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29 • Joel 2:23-32 • Ezekiel 36:24-28.

Matins Gospel: John 20:19-23.

Acts 2:1-11. John 7:37-52; 8:12.

8:00am Matins for Pentecost Sunday

followed by **Baptism** – in the Chapel – Cantor & Reader: Mary W

9:30am First & Third Hour – Reader Service;

10:00am Divine Liturgy – for the people of the parish Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia, David W
Reader: Daniel B

for Don & Theresa Butella, from Sarah Marron (5-18)

+Aaron David Attebery, from Daniel Barillas (5-13)

+Sidney, +Bennie, +Mary, & +John Thomas, from Mary Ann Osmond (5-15)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall.

12:15pm Vespers for Pentecost Monday

Monday, May 20, 2024

PENTECOST MONDAY. The Holy Martyr Thaleleus (284).

Ephesians 5:8b-19. Matthew 18:10-20.

9:00am Divine Liturgy for Pentecost Monday – with procession Cantor: Mary R

for the health of Ritchie Maire, from the Richardson Family

6:30pm Parastas for Mary Novak

Cantor: Mary H

– Voran Funeral Home, 5900 Allen Rd, Allen Park, MI 48101

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Pentecost Tuesday.

✦ The Holy Emperor Constantine (337) and his Mother Helen (327), Equals to the Apostles.

Vespers: 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30 • Isaiah 61:10-62:5 • Isaiah 60:1-16.

Matins Gospel: John 10:1-9.

for Constantine & Helen: Acts 26:1-5, 12-20. John 9:39-10:9.

for the day: Rom 1:1-7, 13-17. Matthew 4:25-5:12a.

10:00am Funeral for Mary Novak

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 *no fasting – Pentecost Week*

Pentecost Wednesday. Holy Martyr Basiliscus. Holy & Righteous Melchizedek, King of Salem.

Commemoration of the 2nd Ecumenical Council of Constantinople. Holy Mother Rita of Cascia.

Romans 1:18-27. Matthew 5:20-26.

7:00am First & Third Hour

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers &

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for Thursday

Cantors: Lance & Mary R

+Prince Constantine, from Harry Veryser

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Pentecost Thursday. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Michael, Bishop of Synnada (818).

Venerable Euphrosyne, Hegumena of the Monastery of our Holy Savior in Polotsk (1173).

Romans 1:28-2:9. Matthew 5:27-32.

Friday, May 24, 2024 *no fasting – Pentecost Week*

Pentecost Friday. ☩ Our Venerable Father Simeon of the Wondrous Mountain (596).

☩. Our Venerable Father Nicetas the Stylite, the Wonder-worker of Perejaslav.

Romans 2:14-29. Matthew 5:33-41.

7:00am First & Third Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers for the Leave-taking of Pentecost

Saturday, May 25, 2024

Leave-taking of Pentecost.

✦ The Third Finding of the Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

for the 3rd finding: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15. Matthew 11:2-15.

for the day (not at Liturgy): Romans 1:7b-12. Matthew 5:42-48.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantors: Lance & Mary R

+Melvyn & Josefa, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, May 26, 2024

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS. Tone 8

Holy Apostle Carpus, one of the 70. Holy Fr. Augustine of Canterbury, Enlightener of England.

Vespers Paramia: Isaiah 43:9-14a • Wisdom 3:1-9 • Wisdom 5:15-6:3.

1st Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20.

Hebrews 11:33-12:2a. Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30.

8:15am Matins for Sunday

9:30am First & Third Hour – Reader Service; Confessions – in the Sacristy

10:00am Divine Liturgy – for the people of the parish Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia, David W
Reader: Cecilia

for the health of Ritchie Maire, from the Richardson Family (5-20)

+Prince Constantine, from Harry Veryser (5-22)

+Melvyn & Josefa, from Sarah Marron (5-25)

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

5:00pm – Bible Discussion Group – Joseph – via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89868111655?pwd=a8EeyCdUVW2zo6PIBoLflPw8vutas0.1>

7:00pm Vespers – followed by a Panachida for Memorial Day

LEGEND

⊕ Great Feast

⊕ Feast with an All-night Vigil

✦ Feast with the Polyelos 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)

Stay Connected with Our Weekly E-Newsletter!

Did you know that our eparchy offers a weekly e-blast—a convenient way to stay informed about upcoming events, spiritual reflections, and community news? Whether you're a long-time member or new to our parish, we encourage you to sign up via our homepage at www.parma.org.

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>

Meeting ID: 898 6811 1655

Passcode: 564524

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.

Class Dates: 26 May, 2 June, 16 June, 23 June, 30 June, 7 July, 14 July, 21 July

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

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

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

The Apostle's Fast

The Apostle's Fast begins after the Sunday of All Saints (which this year falls on May 26th) and ends with the Great Feast of the Holy Preeminent Apostles Peter and Paul (which is always on June 29th). 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.



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.*

*“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

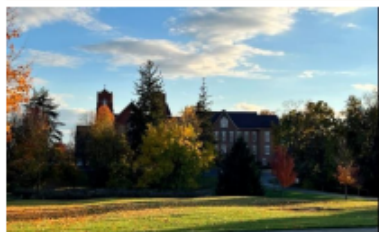
@ 216-337-2673 or

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:

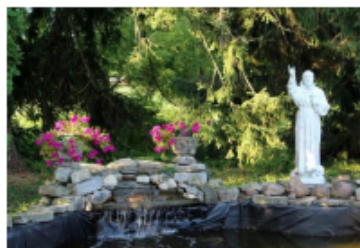
@Kim_Kocuba



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.



Eparchial Events 2024

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

2nd 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>.

4th 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) 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 31st, 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 31st, 2019, that total was \$791,459.03 and on August 31st, 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

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

Pray for the repose of Mary Novak

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 Betty and LeAnn and David for cleaning this week!

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 \$205.

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 May 12th was **55**. 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 May 12th was **\$2,729.67**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,247.62**

Sunday: \$1923; Online: \$377.17; Holy Day: \$125; Candles: \$44.75; Building Fund: \$525

“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