



# SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

ststephen@parma.org 313-382-5901

website: <https://saintstephenbyzantine.church/>

- Priest: Rev. John R.P. Russell, M.Div.  
412-378-0308  
jrprussell@gmail.com
- Deacon: Rev. Deacon Lawrence Hendricks
- Cantors: Daniel Barillas, Guillermo Barillas, Cecilia  
Hendricks, Pani Mary Hendricks, Lance Remisoski,  
Pani Katie Russell, Mary Russell, David Woods,  
Mary Woods
- Hall Manager: Blaise Northop  
(313-637-4555 or 24crystalballroom@gmail.com)
- Hall Website: <https://www.thecrystalballroom.net/>

## **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

**7:00pm Great Vespers** *for Sunday – followed by Confessions*

**Sunday, November 10, 2024**

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 8

The Holy Apostles Erastus, Olympas, Rhodion, and their Companions.

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

Ephesians 4:1-6. Luke 10:25-37.

**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*

*with Baptism of Kristopher Rowan*

**Cantors:** Mary H, Cecilia

**Reader:** Lance

*for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron*

*+Msgr. Dan Trapp, from Harry Veryser*

*+Irene, Mike, & Ronald, from Fr. Dennis Hrubciak*

*After Liturgy: Guild Meeting. Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. Eastern Christian Formation Classes.*

*Adult Catechesis – Becoming Byzantine*

**7:00pm Vespers** *for Monday*

**Monday, November 11, 2024**

The Holy Martyrs Menas, Victor, and Vincent (304). The Holy Martyr Stephanis (304).

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore the Studite (826).

1 Timothy 1:1-7. Luke 14:1, 12-15.

**6:00pm Great Vespers &**

**7:00pm Divine Liturgy** *for ☩ the Holy Martyr Josaphat*

*+Dr. Manmohan Badhwar, from Bob & Jane Semak*

## Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Our Venerable Father John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria. Our Venerable Father Nilus.  
✙ The Holy Martyr Josaphat, Archbishop of Polotsk (1623).

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

*for Josaphat:* Hebrews 5:4-10. John 10:9-16.

*for the day (not read at Liturgy):* 1 Timothy 1:8-14. Luke 14:25-35.

## Wednesday, November 13, 2024

✙ Our Holy Father John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (407).

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

*for Chrysostom:* Hebrews 7:26-8:2. John 10:9-16.

*for the day (not read at Liturgy):* 1 Timothy 1:18-20; 2:8-15. Luke 15:1-10.

**10:00am Third Hour & Divine Liturgy** for ✙ Our Holy Fr. John Chrysostom  
+Mary Novak, from Michael Hudak

6:30pm Confessions

**7:00pm Great Vespers** for ✙ Holy & Illustrious Apostle Philip

## Thursday, November 14, 2024

✙ Holy & Illustrious Apostle Philip. Holy Fr. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica.


*Vespers:* 1 Peter 1:1-6 • 1 Peter 2:21-3:9 • 1 Peter 4:1-11.

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

*for Philip:* 1 Corinthians 4:9-16. John 1:43-51.

*for the day (not read at Liturgy):* 1 Timothy 3:1-13. Luke 16:1-9.

## Friday, November 15, 2024

 *The Nativity Fast Begins  
Day of Alleluia*

The Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Habib (322).

1 Timothy 4:4-8,16. Luke 16:15-18; 17:1-4.

**7:00am First & Third Hour** – *with prostrations*

6:30pm Confessions

**7:00pm Great Vespers** for ✙ The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

Saturday, November 16, 2024



✦ The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew.

*Vespers:* 1 Peter 1:1-6 • 1 Peter 2:21-3:9 • 1 Peter 4:1-11.

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

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

*for the day (not read at Liturgy):* Galatians 3:8-12. Luke 9:57-62.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron

**7:00pm Great Vespers for Sunday – followed by Confessions**

Sunday, November 17, 2024



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 1

Our Holy Father Gregory the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Neocaesarea (270).

*4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:* Luke 24:1-12.

Ephesians 5:8b-19. Luke 12:16-21.

**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**

*with Baptism of Edmund Michael*

*& with the Ascription of James into the Catechumenate*

+Dr. Manmohan Badhwar, from Bob & Jane Semak (11-11)

+Mary Novak, from Michael Hudak (11-13)

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (11-16)

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

Reader: Cecilia

*After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. Eastern Christian Formation Classes.*

*Adult Catechesis – Becoming Byzantine*






*5:00pm Bible Discussion – Galatians – via Zoom:*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84569257502?pwd=UVeGgiYPLjE5FsqNitcgE72LHB4bxP.1>

Meeting ID: 845 6925 7502 Passcode: 025083

**7:00pm Vespers for Monday**

## 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, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, or eggs)
⊕	Feast with Six Stichera at Vespers		by tradition, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat)

Parish Statistic	2022	2023	2024
* Number of Infant Baptisms (up to age 7)	0	6	7
* Number of Minor Baptisms (ages 8 to 17)	0	0	0
* Number of Adult Baptisms (18 & older)	0	0	2
* Number Received into Full Communion	0	0	1
* Number of Chrismations	0	5	10
* Number of First Communion	0	5	10
* Number of Marriages	0	3	1
* Number of Registered Parishioner Households	66	63	68
* Estimated Number of Catholics	116	112	115
* Number of Deaths	5	5	1



## PUMPKIN PIES!

The Guild will be baking and selling pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving! These will sell for \$15 per pie. Please place your orders with Louise Dalbo (313-382-6788 or [lousedalbo@gmail.com](mailto:lousedalbo@gmail.com)).

**Place your orders by Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Pies can be picked up in the hall on **Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>** after Liturgy. They will be fresh and great for Thanksgiving. Buy two or more and freeze some for Christmas!

## Byzantine Book Club

The Book Club is reading

*The Light of His Eyes: Journeying from Self-Contempt to the Father's Delight*

By Mother Iliana

Meeting **Mondays at 7pm**

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).

## Bible Discussion Group

Deepen your faith in Christ by exploring St. Paul's letter to the Galatians! The parish Bible discussion group is reading and talking about this dynamite epistle **on Sundays at 5pm**. The biggest crisis in the early church came to a head in the Christian community in Galatia, and Paul confronted it in his letter to them--a letter that blazes with intensity and shines a bright light on the deepest level of life in Christ. Grasping Paul's message can be as life-changing today as it was in the first century.

No particular background in Scripture is needed to take part in the discussions, and everyone is able to make a positive contribution. The discussions take place online in Zoom on Sunday afternoons from five to six o'clock. Please join us!

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84569257502?pwd=UVeGgiYPLjE5FsqNitcgE72LHB4bxP.1>

Meeting ID: 845 6925 7502

Passcode: 025083

THE

# NATIVITY FAST

From November 15 to December 24, we hold the Nativity Fast (Slavonic: Filipovka) which is a 40-day period of fasting and penance as preparation for the Nativity of Jesus Christ. By fasting, we are opening up a "space" in our lives through asceticism and obedience, into which God may enter.



## Adopt a Family

The parish is adopting a family for Christmas. There will be a table in the lobby of the church starting next Sunday, November 17. The table will have paper ornaments on it with the ages of the children and the item they would like. Take the ornament of your choice, purchase the item, wrap it, and tape the ornament to the top. Return it to the table. There will also be boxes under the table for non-perishable food items ex. Can of corn, box of pasta, household items ex. Dish soap, Kleenex, or personal care items ex. Toothpaste, shampoo. Please have any items you would like to donate in church by Sunday, December 15. Thank you.

# Filipovka

by Fr. Basil Shereghy

## THE FAST BEFORE CHRISTMAS

The Church wishing to commemorate the fact that the pious patriarchs and the just men of the Old Testament awaited the arrival of the Messiah by fasting and prayer, prescribes a fast for her faithful. We are expected to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas by prayer and fasting.

Concerning the origin of this fast, the opinions vary and are even contradictory. According to W. Durandus, one of the most important medieval liturgical writers, (+1296), the fast was introduced by St. Peter the Apostle. (*Rationale Div. Officiorum* VI. C. 2). This, however, is highly improbable, since the feast of Christmas is of later origin. The first sound documents about the fast are recorded in the Acts of the Synod of Macon in 582. After this synod, the fast was introduced in the dioceses of France. In the same century it was accepted in Rome from which it spread throughout the entire Western Church. From the west, the fast was adopted in the Eastern Church but not before the 9th century. St. Theodore the Studite (+826) wrote extensively about the fasts in the Eastern Church, but he does not record the fast before Christmas at all. Baludianski, a well-known historian of Ruthenia, in his *Church History* (p. 284) makes mention that this fast was introduced in the 10th century by monks. At that time, almost every bishop was chosen from among the monks; therefore, the bishop made the fast obligatory for all faithful. The introduction of the fast in the 10th century is very probable. In the liturgical books of the Byzantine-Slavonic rite, which were mostly compiled in the 9th and the beginning of the 10th century, there is no mention made of this fast.

The fast before Christmas begins on the feast of St. Philip the Apostle, which falls on November 14th and for this reason it is popularly known as the Philippian fast. Sometimes it is also popularly called "forty days' fast" because it actually lasts for forty days (November 15 - December 24).

These yearly fasts are so distributed throughout the course of the year, that the law of abstinence is recalled to us in every season. Accordingly, we celebrate the fast of the season of spring during Lent, that of summer through St. Peter's fast, that of harvesting time through the fast before the Assumption, and that of winter through the fast before Christmas.





The Byzantine Catholic  
**Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh**

Office of the Archbishop  
66 Riverview Avenue Pittsburgh PA 15214  
(412)231-4000 Phone (412)231-1697 Fax

**Assembly 2025 – Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh**

July, 10, 2024

Preparations are underway for our Church – Bishops, Clergy, Monastics, Religious, and Laity - to come together in Assembly next year - from July 16-20, 2025. The gathering will convene at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, Indiana under the name and calling, “Come let us worship and bow before Christ”

Worship of the Lord includes our personal prayer and our liturgical prayer life. It is reflected in our relationships with each other and in the ways we live our faith as Byzantine Catholics of the Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh.

The goal of the Assembly is to together discern ways to live our worship of Christ today in a real and practical manner while learning from the past and looking to the future. The Assembly will include formal presentations, interviews, panel discussion and round table exercises.

Special emphasis will be given to the distinctive contributions Byzantine Catholic have made to their Metropolitan Church.

The Assembly is a time to celebrate the unique contributions of each region and Eparchy while at the same time acknowledging the unity of the Byzantine Catholic Church in North America.

More information will appear in your parish bulletins and online at the Assembly website: [byzantineassembly.org](http://byzantineassembly.org)

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

*+William C Skurla*

Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D. D.

*Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh*

# Special Collections 2024

## 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.

## Prayer List

*Pray for the healing of* Anonymous, John Aral, Barb Barnes, Don & Theresa Butella, Pat Carlson, Emily Czupinski, Elizabeth Czupinski, Virginia Dalbo, Lawrence Thomas Dion, Maria Frendo, Julia Frendo, Fr. Dcn. Lawrence Hendricks, Gregory Hendricks, JoAnn Humenik, Chris Lauffer, John Marron, Shirley Mead, Kathy Mykeloff, Michael Mykeloff, Judith Ng, Ron Ostrowsky, Edith Santo, Rex & Ann Marie Stein, Debra Warila, Helen Wood

## 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 all who clean!

## 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 \$225.  
for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, we have collected \$138.  
For Catholic Home Missions, we have collected \$100  
For the Retirement Fund for Religious: \$455

## Building Fund

Building Expenses Running Total 2024: \$53,398.27  
Building Fund Running Total 2024: \$3,563.60

**ATTENDANCE** – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on November 3<sup>rd</sup> was **55**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **59**

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 November 3<sup>rd</sup> was **\$2,390.77**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,169.33**

Sunday: \$680; Holy Day: \$30; Online: \$1,549.62; Building Fund: \$50; Candles: \$40.15; Fuel: \$5; Horizon: \$36

“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