



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI November 17th, 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 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

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

with Baptism of Edmund Michael

Reader: Woods

& 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)

+Hady James Johnson, from Franchesca Barillas

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

Monday, November 18, 2024



The Holy Martyrs Plato and Romanus (303).


1 Timothy 5:1-10. Luke 17:20-25.

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

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

9:00pm Compline

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

 *Day of Alleluia*

The Holy Prophet Obadiah. The Holy Martyr Barlaam (304).

1 Timothy 5:11-21. Luke 17:26-37.

Wednesday, November 20, 2024



Pre-festive Day of the Entrance. Our Venerable Father Gregory the Decapolite (9th Century).
Our Holy Father Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople (446).

1 Timothy 5:22-6:11a. Luke 18:15-17, 26-30.

10:00am Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

for John Stros, from the Richardson Family

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm All-Night Vigil for ⊕ Entrance of the Theotokos

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

Thursday, November 21, 2024



⊕ ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY INTO THE TEMPLE.

Vespers: Exodus 40:1-5, 9, 10, 16, 34-35 • 1[3] Kings 7:51-8:1, 3-7, 9-11 • Ez. 43:27-44:4.

Matins Gospel: Luke 1:39-49, 56.

for the Entrance: Hebrews 9:1-7. Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

for the day (not read at Liturgy): 1 Timothy 6:17-21. Luke 18:31-34.

10:00am Divine Liturgy for ⊕ The Entrance of the Theotokos

+Sidney, +Bennie, +Mary, & +John Thomas, from Mary Ann Osmond

Friday, November 22, 2024



Post-festive Day of the Entrance. The Holy Apostle Philemon and his Companions.

2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18. Luke 19:12-28.

7:00am First & Third Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers for Saturday

Saturday, November 23, 2024



Post-festive Day of the Entrance.

Our Holy Fathers Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium (395) and Gregory, Bishop of Agrigento.

Galatians 5:22-6:2. Luke 10:19-21.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, November 24, 2024



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 2

Postfeast of the Entrance. ☦ Holy Great Martyr Catherine. Holy Great Martyr Mercury.

5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:12-35.

Ephesians 6:10-17. Luke 13:10-17.

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

Reader: Cecilia

for John Stros, from the Richardson Family (11-20)

for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (11-23)

+Sidney, +Bennie, +Mary, & +John Thomas, from Mary Ann Osmond (11-21)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. Pick up your pies!

Eastern Christian Formation Classes. Adult Catechesis – Becoming Byzantine

7:00pm Vespers *for Monday*

LEGEND

⊕ Great Feast

⊕ Feast with an All-night Vigil

⊕ Feast with the Polyeleos 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)



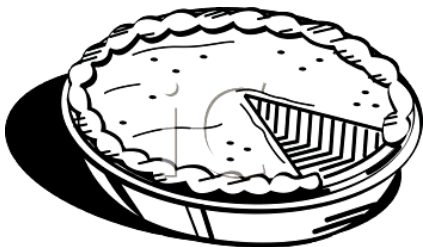
by tradition, wine and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, eggs, or fish)



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)



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 louisedalbo@gmail.com).

Place your orders by today, Sunday, November 17th!

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

Guild Cookie Sale

Sunday, December 15 the Guild will have their Cookie Sale after liturgy in the hall. The price is \$20.00 a container. In the past, many people in the parish helped by baking some cookies for the sale. We'd appreciate your help again this year. Thank you.

Byzantine Book Club

The Byzantine Book Club will finish reading *The Light of His Eyes* on Monday, November 18, 2024. We will begin reading *Theotokos - Mary, Mother of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ* by Archbishop Joseph Raya on Monday, November 25, 2024.

Meeting Mondays at 7pm

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.

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

adapted from "The Byzantine Catholic World"

November 15 begins the period of fasting in preparation for the feast of the Birth of our Lord. This penitential season is called in our tradition the Fast of Philip (*Filipovka*) because it begins the day after the feast of St. Philip and forty days before Christmas.

During this fast, no particular penitential acts are *required by law*, but the faithful are *encouraged* to embrace the traditions of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as a way of keeping this season holy. By tradition, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are observed more intensely than the other days of this fast.

Even if we find it very difficult to keep the traditional abstinence, the spirit of the fast is recommended. It is good for us to fast and to abstain from foods that are especially pleasing to the taste and from excessive eating. A period of penance, of course, means more than just abstaining from food. More time should be allowed for prayer, attending liturgical services, and for acts of charity to others.

The "Christmas Spirit" will have a special meaning for believers, especially if our celebration of Christ's birth marks a time of growth in spirit, a permanent improvement in our life of faith and love for others.

This holy season, moreover, should be a time of kindness and joy, marked by abstinence from hurting others, and from deceit, gossip, anger, quarrelling, and all other vices which arise from the tongue.

It is also the custom for the faithful to receive the Holy Mystery of Repentance during this Fast to purify themselves for the Great Feast.

It may seem very difficult to keep this fast today. The pre-Christmas time is a period of merriment and parties. Yet the Church points to a deeper spiritual meaning of Christmas, that on this day God the Son and Word emptied Himself to take flesh as a man. As St. Paul said, "he made himself poor though he was rich, so that you might become rich by his poverty." (1 Corinthians 8:9).

This penitential season, then, is an invitation by the Church to humble ourselves in some small way, in imitation of Christ so that we might receive on Christmas day God's greatest gift: His only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.



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

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) for more information.

Prayer List

We ask for your prayers for Fr. Deacon Lawrence Hendricks, who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Please pray also 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, 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: \$3,613.60

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on November 10th was **76**. 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 10th was **\$716.17**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,130.27**

Sunday: \$306; Online: \$307.17; Building Fund: \$50; Candles: \$53

“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