



# SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI November 24<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 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

Cantor: Mary H

**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

**Monday, November 25, 2024**



Leave-taking of the Entrance.

Holy Fathers and Martyrs Clement, Pope of Rome and Peter, Bishop of Alexandria.

*2 Timothy 2:20-26. Luke 19:37-44.*

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

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

**9:00pm Compline**

**Tuesday, November 26, 2024**



*Day of Alleluia*

Our Venerable Father Alypius the Stylite (640).

Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Holy Great Martyr George in Kiev.

*2 Timothy 3:16-4:4. Luke 19:45-48.*

## Wednesday, November 27, 2024

The Holy Martyr James the Persian (400). Our Venerable Father Palladius (c. 600).  
The Holy Icon of the Theotokos called "the Sign."

2 Timothy 4:9-22. Luke 20:1-8.

**10:00am Third & Sixth Hour & Typika**

*5:30pm Confessions*

**6:00pm Great Vespers &**

**7:00pm Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving Day**

*for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron*

## Thursday, November 28, 2024 Thanksgiving Day

⊗ Holy Venerable Martyr Stephen the Younger (767). Holy Martyr Irenarchus (4th Century).

Titus 1:5-2:1. Luke 20:9-18.

## Friday, November 29, 2024 Day of Alleluia

The Holy Martyr Paramon (250). The Holy Martyr Philemon.  
Our Venerable Father Acacius, mentioned in "The Ladder."

Titus 1:15-2:10. Luke 20:19-26.

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

*6:30pm Confessions*

**7:00pm Vespers for Saturday**

## Saturday, November 30, 2024

+ The Holy and Glorious Apostle Andrew the First-called.

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

*Matins Gospel:* Matthew 4:18-23.

*for Andrew:* 1 Corinthians 4:9-16. John 1:35-51.

*for the day (not read at Liturgy): Ephesians 1:16-23. Luke 12:32-40.*

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

*+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron*

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

# Sunday, December 1, 2024



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 3

The Holy Prophet Nahum. Our Holy Father Philaret the Merciful.

6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:36-53.

Colossians 1:12-18. Luke 14:16-24.

**8:15am Matins** for Sunday

**9:30am Akathist** – Reader Service

Cantor: Mary H

**Confessions** – in the Sacristy

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

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia  
Reader: Debra

*for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron (11-27)*

*+Melvyn & Josefa, from Sarah Marron (11-30)*

*After Liturgy: Guild Meeting. Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. No Classes – Thanksgiving Break*

*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** – with prostrations – for Monday – at St. Francis in Ann Arbor

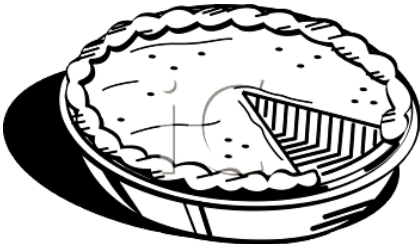
## LEGEND

- ⊕ 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 is selling pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving! They for \$15 per pie. Pick up your orders **today, Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>** in the hall after Liturgy. They will be fresh and great for Thanksgiving.



## **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 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](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

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# 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 of 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**

## **The Reason for the Season**

*by Fr. Paul Varchola-West*

Emmanuel, God with us, is the so-called “reason” for the “season.” I often chuckle when I see signs and bumper stickers exclaiming that yes, indeed, “Jesus is the reason for the season!” While I understand the sentiment behind the quaint phrase, I have to say that it bothers me a bit. What bothers me about it is not what it says, but rather, what it doesn’t say.

While yes, it is a seemingly polite way to remind the more mainstream/commercial world of why Christmas is celebrated, this phrase may also create some confusion. During exactly what season is Jesus the reason? Is it the commercial Christmas shopping season from the day after Thanksgiving until December 24? Or is it from Filipovka until December 25? Or until Theophany? Does Jesus’ reason for the season coincide with the Roman Catholic season of Advent? I think you get the idea.

Saying that Jesus is the “reason for the season” all but undercuts the entire liturgical life of the Church and presupposes that the “commercial calendar” is the standard timeframe of the “Christmas Season” and Jesus is supposed “fit into” that timeframe, ultimately giving the impression that, to the chagrin of Charlie Brown, commercialism won out in the great debate of “what Christmas is all about.” What came from the good intention of defending the faith ends up having the exact opposite effect. Furthermore, it almost seems like Jesus has been reduced to a seasonal item; just another decoration to be taken out of the attic, dusted off, and put on display only to be put away in a few short weeks until next year.

If we truly want to defend the faith, I firmly believe that we don’t need catchy phrases, or slogans, or any such thing. We need to look no further than the Church herself. If we want to defend the faith, pray. Follow the liturgical seasons. Fast when the Church asks us to Fast, Feast when she asks us to Feast. We need not exclaim Jesus to be the “reason for the season,” but rather the very reason for living every single day! Even further, we need not even exclaim it—we need to LIVE it! Let our actions speak for themselves.

Commercialism is indeed a problem, one that will not go away. We do not need to purchase signs to combat it. There is only one sign we need, and that is the Sign of Emmanuel, God with us! As we, a people of faith, prepare for Christmas—the Feast of the Nativity, the Winter Pascha—let us call to mind the words of the Prophet Isaiah:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11:1-3)

Let us search for wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, not in a sign, but in THE Sign. Let us never forget that this Sign is not an end — no, far from it. The Incarnation is, as is Christmas Day, not the end of a season. No. It is the beginning. The beginning of the fulfillment of the promise of eternal life in and with our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ!

## 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.



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

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla and the Council of Hierarchs invite presentation proposals for the 3rd Assembly of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh, scheduled for July 16-20, 2025, at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, Indiana. This assembly, continuing the synodal process begun in 2022, aims to deepen the appreciation of Byzantine Ruthenian worship and spirituality in North America. The event will feature two tracks: a clergy track from July 16-18 and a laity track from July 18-20, under the theme "Come let us worship and bow before Christ."

The assembly committee seeks proposals from clergy, religious, and lay individuals or teams, focusing on two main areas: the current state of worship and spirituality in the Church, and future directions for growth and evangelization. Presentations should combine personal experience and academic research.

Interested individuals are asked to submit a short paragraph outlining their topic, a five-minute video presentation, and a brief bio to Fr. Cyril Farmer at [byzantineassembly@gmail.com](mailto:byzantineassembly@gmail.com) by January 15, 2025. Selected presenters will be notified by April 1, 2025. Presenters will receive a stipend of \$250.00 and their Assembly registration will be covered. For more information, visit <https://byzantineassembly.org/callforpresentations>

## **Special Collections**

### **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.

Mark your calendars and plan accordingly for the following Special Collections in 2025.

Please see <https://parma.org/specialcollections> for more information.

**March 8-9, 2025** – The Church in Central & Eastern Europe

**April 19-20, 2025** – The Holy Land & Our Christian Brethren

**April 26-27, 2025** – The Catholic Home Missions

**May 31-June 1, 2025** – Catholic Communication Campaign

**June 28-29, 2025** – Peter's Pence

**December 13-14, 2025** – Retirement Fund for Religious

# 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: \$3,663.60

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

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on November 17<sup>th</sup> was **62**. 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 17<sup>th</sup> was **\$2,668.67**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,153.04**

Sun.: \$1836; Holy Day: \$30; Christmas: \$20; Online: \$607.17; Building: \$50; Candles: \$38.50; Flowers: \$20; Fuel: \$40; Horizons: \$27

“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