



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI December 1st, 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, 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

Monday, December 2, 2024



Day of Alleluia

The Holy Prophet Habakkuk.

Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19. Luke 20:27-44.

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, December 3, 2024



Day of Alleluia

The Holy Prophet Zephaniah.

Hebrews 4:1-13. Luke 21:12-19.

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

⊗ The Holy Great Martyr Barbara (306). Our Venerable Father John of Damascus (749)
Hebrews 5:11-6:8. Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour & Typika

5:30pm Confessions

6:00pm Great Vespers &

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for St. Sabbas

for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron

Thursday, December 5, 2024

⊕ Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Sabbas the Sanctified (532).

Vespers Paramia: Wisdom 3:1-9 • Wisdom 5:15-6:3 • Wisdom 4:7-15.

Matins Gospel: Luke 6:17-23.

for Sabbas: Galatians 5:22-6:2. Matthew 11:27-30.

for the day (not read at Liturgy): Hebrews 7:1-6. Luke 21:28-33.

6:00pm Great Vespers &

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas

for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron

Friday, December 6, 2024

⊕ HOLY FR. NICHOLAS THE WONDER-WORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA.

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

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

Matins Gospel: John 10:9-16.

for Nicholas: Hebrews 13:17-21. Luke 6:17-23a.

for the day (not read at Liturgy): Hebrews 7:18-25. Luke 21:37-22:8.

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers for Saturday

Saturday, December 7, 2024 Saturday of Alleluia

Our Holy Father Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (397).

Ephesians 2:11-13. Luke 13:18-29.

10:00am Divine Liturgy for Saturday

+John & +Elizabeth Sabo, from Kathy Mykeloff

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

Sunday, December 8, 2024



TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 4

Pre-festive Day of the Maternity. Our Venerable Father Patapius.

7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:1-10.

Colossians 3:4-11. Luke 17:12-19.

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: Daniel B

for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (12-4)

for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron (12-5)

+John & +Elizabeth Sabo, from Kathy Mykeloff (12-7)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall and

St. Nicholas Celebration!

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 Great Vespers for the Maternity of the Holy Anna

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)

Saint Nicholas Celebration!

St. Nicholas is coming to visit us at St. Stephen on Sunday **December 8th**, just after his feast day! He will join us in the hall after the Divine Liturgy. Everyone, please come to the hall and greet him with our hymn to St. Nicholas! Then, I think he may bring something good for our children. Meanwhile, we will be inspired by his charity and we will hear about the Fish and Loaves charity that we support. Don't forget to come to church for St. Nicholas Day!

On the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 5th:

- Great Vespers & Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas!

Then, on Sunday, December 8th:

- A celebration after Liturgy including:
 - A visit from St. Nicholas & the hymn to St. Nicholas!
 - A presentation on the Fish and Loaves charity, which we support.

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.

Adopt a Family

Thank you to all who took an ornament with a gift request for the family in need. Please 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.

Bible Discussion Group – Galatians – Free in Christ

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

Byzantine Book Club

The Byzantine Book Club is reading *Theotokos - Mary, Mother of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ* by Archbishop Joseph Raya

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.



BYZANTINE ASSEMBLY 2025

Come Let Us Worship & Bow Before Christ

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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, to be held July 16-20, 2025, at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, Indiana.

Proposals should focus on the current state and future directions of worship and spirituality in the Church. Presenters will receive a stipend of \$250 and their Assembly registration will be covered.

IMPORTANT DATES

15 JANUARY	1 FEBRUARY	1 APRIL	1 MAY	16-20 JULY
Proposal Submission Deadline	Committee Reviews Submissions	Presenters Notified	Full Schedule Announced	Assembly Date

www.byzantineassembly.org

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 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>



**BYZANTINE CATHOLIC
EPARCHY OF PARMA**
FOUNDATION

5000 ROCKSIDE RD, SUITE 310
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
216.741.8773
PARMA.ORG

November 2024

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Eparchial mission is to make present in America's heartland the salvific grace of our Lord Jesus Christ by embracing our citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven, by committing to friendship with God and utmost respect for all human life, and by bearing witness to the riches of our Byzantine Catholic Church through missionary discipleship, Godly fellowship, authentic worship, and sacrificial stewardship.

The past year has gifted me with opportunities to see what the living-out of this mission looks like in our Eparchy. I have appreciated each occasion for visiting the parishes, missions, outreaches, and other communities of the Eparchy. I have been blessed with time in getting to know our parish priests, deacons, monastics, lay faithful, and school students, along with brief but prayerful experiences in our cemeteries and our hospitality house. I have been strongly supported by our able Chancery staff and curia. I give thanks to God that our eparchial communities are filled with faithful who live a Christian authenticity that can draw people into the Church. This is really what missionary discipleship is all about.

The Eparchy of Parma has specific plans for carrying out our mission this year. From the 15th of November 2024 through the 15th of May 2025, I am calling upon each and every household of our Eparchy and our other generous benefactors to assist the Eparchy of Parma Foundation in raising the needed \$320,000 toward the accomplishment of our mission.

The Foundation exists to support the development of eparchial mission and outreach communities, to support works of the apostolate such as evangelization and Eastern Catholic Formation, to support our active and retired priests, and to fund our costs related to the nurturing of vocations for service to the Church. Specifically, this year we give focus to our Mission in Dayton and our Outreach in Iowa and the needed worship and fellowship that become key to thriving parishes. Our plan cultivates missionary discipleship in its support of family camp and retreats and other gatherings for all ages. Ever-increasing costs related to health insurance and Medicare for our active and retired clergy must remain a significant part of our goal. Exceeding our goal will allow additional monies in our Benevolence Fund which supports active priests who are faced with expenses not afforded by their usual compensation.

My hopeful expectation is that each household of our Eparchy will contribute something toward this stewardship appeal. While the goal of each parish and mission is based on \$150 per household, I understand that some households will be able to contribute more and some less. Our ultimate goal is 100% participation.

This year's appeal offers a unique opportunity for parishes to benefit directly from their fundraising success. When a parish raises funds toward its designated goal, 10% of the amount raised will be returned to the parish as a rebate, while the remaining 90% will support the Eparchy of Parma Foundation. If a parish exceeds its goal, 90% of the surplus funds will be returned directly to the parish, and the remaining 10% of the surplus will contribute to the continued mission of the Eparchy of Parma Foundation.

The degree to which we can accomplish our ambitious goals will be dependent on God's blessings as manifest in the participation of each eparchial household. Let us work together to meet and exceed our goals for the benefit of all. Thank you for being a good steward of God's gifts to you.

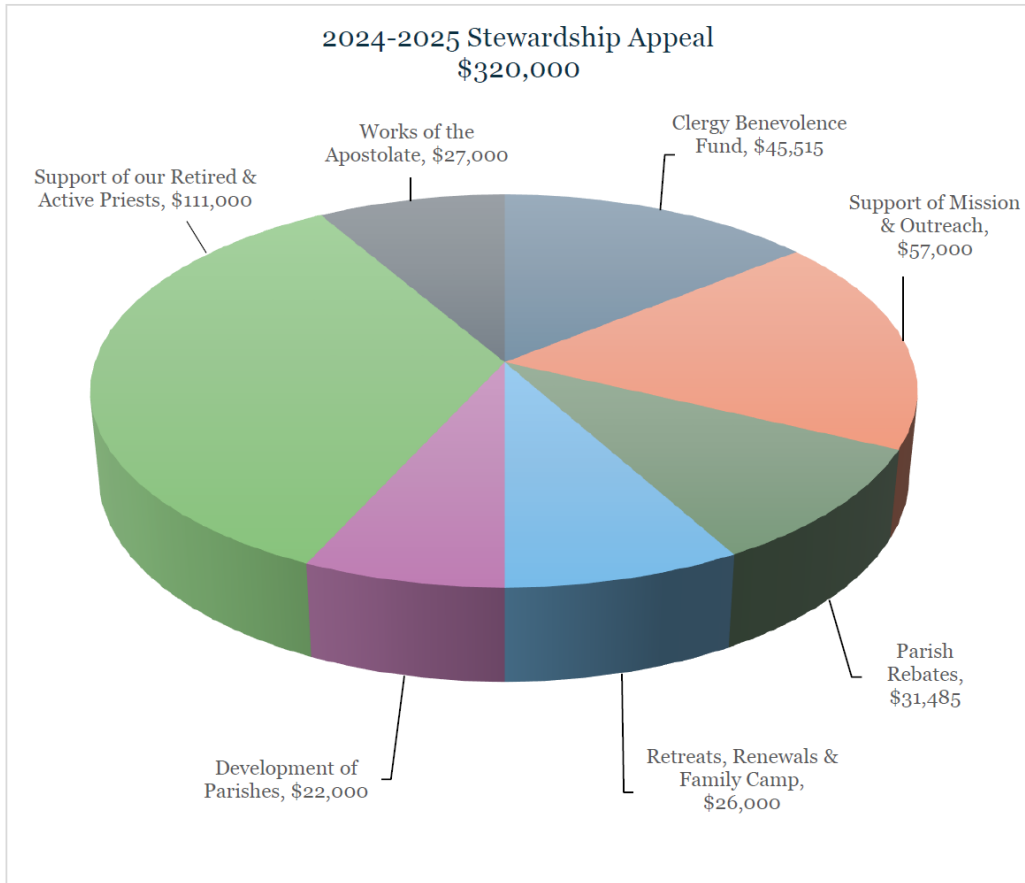
With an assurance of my prayers and blessings, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

+ Robert

The Most Reverend Robert M. Pipta
Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma

The **2024-2025 Stewardship Appeal** aims to raise \$320,000 to support critical ministries and initiatives across the Eparchy of Parma. The accompanying chart provides a clear breakdown of how these funds will be allocated to ensure their greatest impact.



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

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.



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.



Liturgical preparation for the Nativity

As the Philip's fast begins, there is no daily liturgical preparation for the feast of the Nativity. Instead, pre-festive prayers and hymns are added during the course of the fast.

The first announcement of the Nativity:

Beginning on November 21 (the feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple), the Canon of the Nativity is sung at Matins as *katavasia* (that is, the *irmosy* or theme song of the Nativity is sung at the end of each ode of the canon). This is the first liturgical announcement of the Nativity: "Christ is born! Glorify Him!"

On the feast of the holy apostle Andrew (November 30), at Vespers, we hear the first pre-festive hymns:

Isaiah, dance for joy: receive the word of God! Prophecy to the Virgin Mary that the bush burning with fire shall not be consumed by the radiance of our God. Let Bethlehem be prepared! Let the gates of Eden be opened! Let the Magi come forth to see, wrapped in swaddling clothes, in a manger of beasts, the salvation which the star has pointed out from above the cave: the life-giving Lord, who saves us all!

These hymns become more urgent when we come to the feast of the holy archbishop Nicholas the Wonder-worker (December 6):

O cave, prepare yourself to receive the Mother who bears Christ within her womb. O manger, receive the Word who destroyed the sins of all. O shepherds, keep watch and then bear witness to the awesome wonder. O magi, from Persia now come, and bring your gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the King. For the Lord has appeared from a Virgin Mother; yet she bowed to him as a servant and spoke to him in her bosom, saying: "How were you conceived in me? How did you grow in me, my God and Savior?"

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 24th was **56**. 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 24th was **\$890.17**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,125.97**

Sunday: \$290; Holy Day: \$160; Online: \$307.17; Building: \$50; Candles: \$18; Fuel: \$65

“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