

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI December 29th, 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*

Cantor: Mary R

Sunday, December 29, 2024

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY. Tone 7

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY AND JUST JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF GOD. The Holy Innocents killed by Herod in Bethlehem. Our Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Akimetes (486).

10th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 21:1-14.

Galatians 1:11-19. Matthew 2:13-23.

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: Lance

+Stephen Kastura, from Kathleen Johnston (12-26)

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (12-28)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall, No Classes – Christmas Break

7:00pm Vespers *for Monday*

Monday, December 30, 2024

Post-festive Day of the Nativity. The Holy Martyr Anysia (406).

The Venerable Zoticus, Priest and Protector of Orphans (4th Century).

1 Peter 2:21b-3:9. Mark 12:13-17.

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

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

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

Leave-taking of the Nativity. Our Venerable Mother Melany of Rome (438).

1 Peter 3:10-22. Mark 12:18-27.

10:00am Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

intention of the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron

7:00pm All-Night Vigil for ☩ the Circumcision & St. Basi.

Cantor: Mary R

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

☩ THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

HOLY FR. BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA (379).

Vespers Paramia: Genesis 17:1-7, 9-12, 14 • Proverbs 8:22-30 • Proverbs 10:31-11:12.

Matins Gospel: John 10:9-16.

for the Circumcision: Colossians 2:8-12 & *for Basil:* Hebrews 7:26-8:2.

for the Circumcision: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52 & *for Basil:* Luke 6:17-23a.

12:30am Moleben of Thanksgiving

12:00noon Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for ☩ the Circumcision & St. Basil

Cantor: Mary R

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers for Thursday

Thursday, January 2, 2025

Pre-festive Day of the Theophany. Our Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome (335).

Our Venerable & God-bearing Father Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov.

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

Friday, January 3, 2025



Pre-festive Day of the Theophany. The Holy Prophet Malachi.

The Holy Martyr Gordius (304). Venerable Mother Genevieve of Paris.

1st Hour: Isaiah 35:1-10 • Acts 13:25-33a • Matthew 3:1-11

3rd Hour: Isaiah 1:16-20 • Acts 19:1-8 • Mark 1:1-8

6th Hour: Isaiah 12:3-6 • Romans 6:3-11 • Mark 1:9-15

9th Hour: Isaiah 49:8-15 • Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 • Matthew 3:13-17

10:00am Royal Hours for Theophany

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers for the Saturday before Theophany

Saturday, January 4, 2025

Saturday before Theophany. The Synaxis of the Holy Seventy Apostles.
Our Venerable Father Theoctist, Hegumen at Cuomo in Sicily (800).

1 Timothy 3:14-4:5. Matthew 3:1-11.

10:00am Divine Liturgy for Saturday

+Robert Dubensky, from Sarah & Oscar Dubensky-Obando

4:00pm Great Vespers for Sunday

Cantors: Mary H & Mary R

followed by the Great Lakes Christmas Party!

Sunday, January 5, 2025

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY. Tone 8

Vigil of the Theophany. The Holy Martyrs Theopempt and Theona (c. 350).

Our Venerable Mother Syncletica (4th Century). The Holy Prophet Micah.

11th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 21:15-25.

2 Timothy 4:5-8. Mark 1:1-8.

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: Mary R

+Stephen Kastura, from Kathleen Johnston (12-26)

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (12-28)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall, No Classes – Christmas Break

12:30pm Great Vespers for Theophany – with the Great Blessing of Water

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

7:00pm All-Night Vigil (Great Compline & Matins) for Theophany

Monday, January 6, 2025

⊕ THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.





Vespers Paramia: (1) Genesis 1:1-13 • (2) Exodus 14:15-18, 21-23, 27-29a • (3) Exodus 15:22-16:1a • (4) Joshua 3:7-8, 15-17 • (5) IV [II] Kings 2:6-14 • (6) IV [II] Kings 5:9-14 • (7) Isaiah 1:16-20 • (8) Genesis 32:1-10a • (9) Exodus 2:5-10 • (10) Judges 6:36-40 • (11) III [I] Kings 18:30-39 • (12) IV [II] Kings 2:19-22 • (13) Isaiah 49:8-15

for the Vigil: 1 Corinthians 9:19-27. Luke 3:1-18. *Matins Gospel:* Mark 1:9-11
for Theophany: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7. Matthew 3:13-17

10:00am Divine Liturgy for Theophany

11:30am Great Blessing of the River *Ford Field Park, 22051 Cherry Hill St, Dearborn, MI 48124*

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, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat)
⊗	Feast with Six Stichera at Vespers		

Great Lakes Region

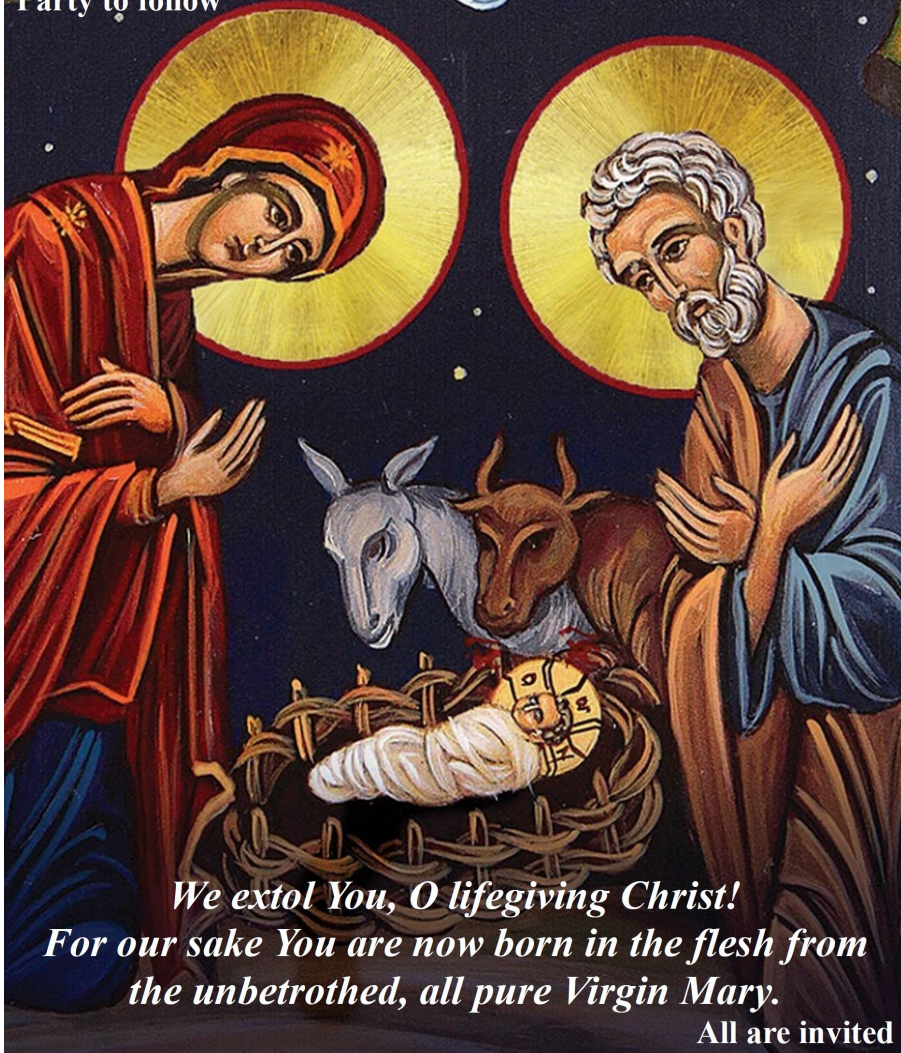
Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma

Christmas Party

St. Stephen Parish, Allen Park, MI

Saturday, January 4th, 2025

4pm-Great Vespers,
Party to follow



We extol You, O lifegiving Christ!

*For our sake You are now born in the flesh from
the unbetrothed, all pure Virgin Mary.*

All are invited

Great Blessing of the Rouge River

On Theophany, Saturday January 6th at 11:30 a.m. Father John will bless the Rouge River in Dearborn. Location: FORD FIELD PARK, 22051 Cherry Hill St, Dearborn, MI 48124, two blocks north of Michigan Avenue. Access to parking lot off Monroe Avenue. Blessing will occur at the Duck Pond bend in the river. This is an ancient tradition observed on this Great Feast.

Theophany House Blessings

House Blessings will begin on Theophany (January 6th) and ideally finish before it's leave-taking on January 14th. It's not too soon to start thinking about what day would be best to invite the priest for this annual blessing. There are envelopes for this purpose in your boxes for 2024. Or you can sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

I am eager to bless your homes with the Jordan Water. This is an annual blessing and an important part of our celebration of Theophany. Just as you wouldn't skip gift-giving for Christmas, turkey for Thanksgiving, or Easter Baskets for Pascha, don't skip the house blessing for Theophany.

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.

Upcoming Retreat Opportunities

We encourage you to check for more opportunities!

<https://www.parma.org/retreats>

12th Annual Women's Retreat

March 7, 2025 - March 9, 2025

Location: [Our Lady of the Pines
Retreat Center - Fremont, OH](#)

Our Lord Jesus Christ -
The Path to the Father

Retreat Master: Fr. Jan Maturkanic

Contact Joan Washburn for further

information 865-696-7809 or stmarymbhdwomensretreat@gmail.com



4th Annual Men's Retreat



March 14, 2025 - March 16, 2025

Location: [Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center - Fremont, OH](#)

The Beatitudes: The Way of Life

Retreat Master: Fr. Lukas Mitro

Contact Karl Busam for further information 419-626-6811

or karl.busam.77@gmail.com

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.



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>

Christmas Flowers offered in memory of

*Anthony & Irene Bonacor, John Bonacor,
Charles & Mary Burja, Gabany Family,
John & Bertha Grega, Joseph Humenik,
Humenik Family, Stephanie Scalea,
Helen Yatcko, Andrew Yatcko*



Annual Stewardship Appeal

Giving is a way of opening ourselves to opportunity. When we choose to be God's opportunity of help and love for another person, we place ourselves in God's design for giving and receiving from one another. Let us stand in awe of the holiness of God today as we practice recognition of our Lord by giving back to him by supporting the Stewardship Appeal.

Visit us online at <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> to submit your one-time or monthly donation to the Stewardship Appeal.

Thank you for your generosity!

Special Collections

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

*Pray for the repose of Joann Humenik and for Ann Marie Stein
Pray also for the healing of Anonymous, John Aral, Barb Barnes,
Don & Theresa Butella, Pat Carlson, Phyllis Croskey, Elizabeth Czupinski,
Lawrence Thomas Dion, Maria Frendo, Julia Frendo, Gregory Hendricks,
Fr. Deacon Lawrence Hendricks, Chris Lauffer, John Marron, Shirley Mead,
Kathy Mykeloff, Michael Mykeloff, Judith Ng, Ron Ostrowsky, Edith Santo,
Rex 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 Jiompkowski (313-930-0801 / v.jiompkowski1111@att.net) so he can help make the arrangements. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Victor Jiompkowski 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)

Thank you to the GCU for donating \$500 to our St. Nicholas Apostolate!

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.

Building Fund

Building Expenses Running Total 2024: \$53,398.27

Building Fund Running Total 2024: \$5,913.60

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on December 22nd 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 December 22nd was **\$1,619.17**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,198.40**

Sunday: \$1035; Christmas: \$125; Holy Day: \$50; Online: \$307.17; Building: \$50; Candles: \$52

“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