



# SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI  
ststephen@parma.org 313-382-5901

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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/>



## **Christ is baptized! 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, January 12, 2025

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Tone 1

The Holy Martyr Tatiana (c. 227).

*1st Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20.*

*for the Sunday after Theophany: Ephesians 4:7-13. Matthew 4:12-17.*

**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: Erin Holmes

*for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron (1-11)*

*+Joann Humenik, from Mary & Regina Camilleri (1-8)*

*After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. Guild Meeting. ECF classes. Adult Catechesis*

**7:00pm Vespers** at St. Francis in Ann Arbor

Cantor: Mary H

## Monday, January 13, 2025

Post-festive Day of the Theophany. The Holy Martyrs Hermylaus and Stratonicus (c. 309).

Our Venerable Father Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.

Hebrews 8:7-13. Mark 8:11-21.

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

## Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Leave-taking of the Theophany. Venerable Frs. martyred by Arabs in Sinai and Raitho (312).

Passing of the holy Equal-to-the-apostles Nina, Enlightener of the Georgians.

Hebrews 9:8-10, 15-23. Mark 8:22-26.

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 

⊗ Our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes (c. 345) and John the Hut-dweller (5th Century).  
Hebrews 10:1-18. Mark 8:30-34.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

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

*6:30pm Confessions*

**7:00pm Vespers**

Thursday, January 16, 2025

⊗ The Veneration of the Chains of the Holy Apostle Peter.  
Hebrews 10:35-11:7. Mark 9:10-16.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy & Panachida**

Cantor: Mary R

*for +Anne Stein on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of her passing*

Friday, January 17, 2025 

⊕ Our Venerable Father Anthony the Great (356).

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

*Matins Gospel: Matthew 11:27-30.*

*for Anthony: Hebrews 13: 17-21. Luke 6:17-23.*

*for the day (not read at Liturgy): Hebrews 11:8, 11-16. Mark 9:33-41.*

**7:00am First & Third Hour**

*6:30pm Confessions*

**7:00pm Vespers** *for Saturday*

Saturday, January 18, 2025

⊗ Our Holy Fathers Athanasius (373) and Cyril of Alexandria (444).  
Ephesians 5:1-8. Luke 14:1-11.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

Cantor: Mary R

*for health of Nancy Patterson, from the Richardson Family*

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

# Sunday, January 19, 2025

THIRTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 2

⊗ Our Venerable Father Macarius of Egypt (390).

*2nd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark 16:1-8.*

Colossians 3:12-16. Luke 18:18-27.

**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: Debra**

*for health of Nancy Patterson, from the Richardson Family (1-18)*

*+Sidney, +Bennie, +Mary, & +John Thomas, from Mary Ann Osmond (1-15)*

*+Anne Stein (1-16)*

*After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. ECF classes. Adult Catechesis – Becoming Byzantine*

**7:00pm Great Vespers** *for ⊕ Our Venerable Fr. Euthymius the Great*

# Monday, January 20, 2025

⊕ Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Euthymius the Great (473).

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

*Matins Gospel: Matthew 11:27-30.*

*for Euthymius: Hebrews 13: 17-21. Luke 6:17-23.*

*for the day (not read at Liturgy): Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31. Mark 9:42-10:1.*

**10:00am Divine Liturgy & Panachida**

**Cantor: Mary R**

*for +Joann Humenik on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of her passing*

## 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)

## Theophany House Blessings

House Blessings began on Theophany (January 6th) and would ideally finish before it's leave-taking on January 14th. Please let Fr. John know what date(s) would be best for him to come to your home for this annual blessing. He can come after January 14th if there are no times prior to that that work for you, but he asks that the blessings conclude before the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, which this year is February 9th.

There are envelopes for this purpose in your boxes for 2025.

Or you can sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

I am looking forward to blessing 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 Easter Baskets for Pascha, turkey for Thanksgiving, or gift-giving for Christmas, don't skip the house blessing for Theophany!

For the Blessing of Homes, there is no suggested amount for a freewill offering to the priest, but we may offer whatever amount we wish.

## 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](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).

## CHRIST IS BAPTIZED!

by Fr. David Petras.

It has become a widespread practice to give the greeting "Christ is baptized" during the Theophany Feast from January 6-14.

It certainly was a mark of the Christian piety of the Carpatho-Rusyn people to share their faith in their daily lives. The common greeting they gave to one another was "Glory to Jesus Christ," to which the one who was being greeted would respond, "Now and forever." For two high feasts there were special greetings, for Pascha, "Christ is risen! With the response "Indeed, he is risen!" For Christmas, from December 25-31, the greeting was "Christ is born! Glorify him!" These were actually the first two words from the Matins Canon on Christmas, well-known to the faithful. These words, in turn were taken from Homily 38 by St. Gregory the Theologian. In recent times, there has been a reasoning that the Feast of Theophany, the Baptism of Christ, was a feast equal in dignity to Christmas, but there was no special greeting. Perhaps a greeting could be created. I guess that this happened in the 1980's. I don't remember this being used earlier, though I would welcome any information on earlier use. Around that time, I saw it written down for the first time, and a greeting was created that corresponded to Christmas: "Christ is baptized! Glorify him!"

Not too long afterward, another version was heard, "Christ is baptized! To which one responded, "In the Jordan!" This made the Theophany greeting different from Christmas. It had no liturgical or patristic sources. When I was pastor of Dormition Church in Akron, in the 1980's, I remember a woman explaining to me the "correct" Christmas greeting. She said, "It should be, "Christ is born!" with the response, "In Bethlehem of Judea." I was fascinated by her explanation and did a little research about this, and found it was actually a common Polish Catholic custom. This may explain the Theophany change, someone who knew the Polish Christmas tradition, simply applied it to Theophany, and proposed the response, "In the Jordan!" Of course, this may simply be a quibble about piety, and certainly not a dogmatic question. Perhaps the original response, "Glorify him," is better, since the greeter would proclaim a reality of faith, and the responder would answer with what we should do about that reality. This, of course, also applies to the other greetings, "Christ is risen!" – this is the reality of our faith and should be the spirit of our life. "Christ is among us!" "He is and will be." We should see Christ in each of our neighbors, he is among us. "Christ is born!" "Christ is baptized!" these are wondrous deeds God has done for us, and we should respond by giving him glory and thanksgiving and living according to his teachings.

Another issue with the greetings was a problem that many people saw about the greeting "Glory to Jesus Christ!" I have met people who complained about it, saying that we cannot give glory to God, all glory is already God's, and we humble human beings cannot add to that glory. They proposed the alternate "Praised be Jesus Christ!" Of course, the tradition is "Glory," in Slavonic "Slava." The answer is, of course, that we, as limited and unworthy human beings, cannot add to God's glory, but that is not the issue, we are simply proclaiming that truly all glory belongs to God, and that we are simply acknowledging that glory, not adding to it. We can only "glorify God" by being the kind of person God, in his glory, has created us to be. It is as St. Irenaeus, as early as the second century, wrote: "For the glory of God is the living man, and the life of man is the vision of God." (*Against heresies*, IV, 20 ,7).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](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>

## 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*

### *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*



### **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!

## Annual Stewardship Appeal

**As the Stewardship appeal completes its second month**, please consider making a sacrificial gift to this year's Appeal that reflects the importance of the Church in your life and in the lives of those close to you. The Eparchy needs your support. Your gift will make a positive difference. Remember that Bishop Robert Pipta is requesting a \$150 gift per household to meet the established Eparchial goals.

Visit us online at <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> to submit your one-time or monthly donation to the Stewardship Appeal. Our Goal is \$10,650. 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

## Charitable Giving

### *from St. Stephen Parish*

*\$1000 was donated to our St. Nicholas Apostolate this last week.*

*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 Peter's Pence, we have collected \$10

## Building Fund

Building Expenses Running Total: \$53,398.27

Building Fund Running Total: \$6,013.60

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

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on January 5<sup>th</sup> was **66**. 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 January 5<sup>th</sup> was **\$2,277.62**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,146.26**

Sun: \$1262; Holy Day: \$185; Online: \$659.12; Building: \$50; Candles: \$31.50; Fuel: \$10; Initial: \$80

“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