



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

February 2nd, 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/>



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 & ☩ the Meeting – followed by Confessions

Sunday, February 2, 2025

THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHEUS. THIRTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 4

☩ MEETING OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST WITH SIMEON & ANNA

Vespers Paramia: (1) Ex 12:51, 13:1-3, 10-16, 22:29; Num. 8:16; Lev. 12:1-4, 12:6, 8; Num. 8:16-17

• (2) Isaiah 6:1-12 • (3) Isaiah 19:1-5, 12, 16, 19-21. Matins Gospel: Luke 2:25-32.

4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke 24:1-12.

1 Timothy 4:9-15 & for the Meeting: Hebrews 7:7-17.

Luke 19:1-10 & for the Meeting: Luke 2:22b-40.

8:15am Matins for Sunday & ☩ the Meeting

9:30am Akathist – Reader Service

Confessions – in the Sacristy

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

Cantor: Mary H & Cecilia

Reader: Dan Lauffer

for the health of Richard Stros, from the Richardson Family (1-29)

for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (2-1)

+Charles Cuthbertson, for Guillermo & Christine Barillas

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

5:00pm Bible Discussion – Gospel of John – via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84569257502?pwd=UVEGgiYPLjE5FsqNitcgE72LHB4bxP.1>

Meeting ID: 845 6925 7502 Passcode: 025083

7:00pm Vespers for Monday

Monday, February 3, 2025

⊗ The Synaxis of the Holy Prophet Simeon and the Prophetess Anna.

for Simeon & Anna: Hebrews 9:11-14. Luke 2:25-38.

for the day (not read at Liturgy): 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, February 4, 2025

Post-festive Day of the Meeting. Our Venerable Father Isidore of Pelusium (c. 450).
1 Peter 3:10-22. Mark 12:18-27.

Wednesday, February 5, 2025



Post-festive Day of the Meeting. The Holy Martyr Agatha (250).
1 Peter 4:1-11. Mark 12:28-37.

9:30am Third Hour & Sixth Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

for the health and recovery of Dan Letinski, from Jane & Bob Semak

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers *for Thursday*

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Post-festive Day of the Meeting. Our Venerable Fr. Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna (2nd Century).
The Holy Martyr Silvanus, Bishop of Emesa, and his Companions (313).
Our Venerable Father and Confessor Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople.
1 Peter 4:12-5:5. Mark 12:38-44.

Friday, February 7, 2025



Post-festive Day of the Meeting. Our Venerable Fr. Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus (318).
The Passing of the Martyr and Priest Peter Verhun (1957).
2 Peter 1:1-10a. Mark 13:1-8.

7:00am First & Third Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers *for Saturday*

Saturday, February 8, 2025

⊗ Postfeast of the Meeting. Holy Great Martyr Theodore (318). Holy Prophet Zechariah.
2 Timothy 2:11-19. Luke 18:2-8a.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, February 9, 2025

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE. Tone 5
Leave-taking of the Meeting. The Holy Martyr Nicephor (260).

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

2 Timothy 3:10-15. Luke 18:10-14.

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*

Cantor: Mary H & Cecilia

Reader: Debra

*for the health and recovery of Dan Letinski, from Jane & Bob Semak (2-5)
for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron (2-8)*

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. Guild Meeting. Evangelism Meeting.

ECF classes. Adult Catechesis – Becoming Byzantine

5:00pm Bible Discussion – Gospel of John – via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84569257502?pwd=UVEGgiYPLjE5FsqNitcgE72LHB4bxP.1>

Meeting ID: 845 6925 7502 Passcode: 025083

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

Prayer List

Pray for the healing of Anonymous, John Aral, Barb Barnes, Don & Theresa Butella, Pat Carlson, Phyllis Croskey, 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

Why We Evangelize

from Carson Daniel Lauffer

We will have events in the coming year designed to bring God through our Lord Jesus Christ to as many people as possible and to encourage and pray for the Holy Spirit to draw the people to the Lord. As such, prayer must undergird everything we do. St. Paul wrote in Romans 8:26, “The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.” We aren’t the creators of our prayers. God, the Holy Spirit, is the one who creates them. He quickens our hearts in liturgical services and through every breath we take, even when we can’t come up with words. He then takes those prayers to the throne of God. When we participate in the service, look up to the Pantocrator, and pray to the very one seated on the Throne. The King of all kings will hear our prayer and hear the cries of those who need salvation.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Brothers and Sisters,

We are entering our 70th year of serving Allen Park. God has given us a wonderful Church with a fine priest and family, and He wishes us to share our blessings with others.

As such, the Holy Spirit has drawn us to invite you to join us in this effort. Please consider joining us in this adventure.

On Sunday, February 9, we will gather immediately after Liturgy for a meeting concerning our evangelization efforts. Victor Jiomkowski and Carson Daniel Lauffer will share what God has shared with us. You will be given job descriptions for everything planned and invited to sign up for what you sense is your calling.

In preparation, please think of people and families God has placed on your heart to pray for and care for. These people may be neighbors, fellow workers, teachers, or fellow students. Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself, and ask for His help before every task.

Join us after liturgy on Sunday, February 9.

Discussion of the Gospel of John

St. Stephen's ongoing Bible discussion is an opportunity to explore Scripture in the company of the parish priest and fellow parishioners. This winter and spring we are reading and talking about the Gospel of John.

John's is the most profound of the gospel portraits of Jesus, but it is written so as to enable all of us to encounter Jesus. "These things are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). Nourish your own faith by joining us for prayer, reading, questioning, and sharing.

We will be using a short guide for study, reflection, and discussion in the Six Weeks with the Bible series from Loyola Press. Get your free copy from Father John and drop in! We meet most Sunday afternoons (see the Bulletin each week) at five o'clock online. Here is the link to the Zoom meeting:

<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.

Metropolitan Assembly of 2025 - Save the Date!



The 4th Metropolitan Assembly will take place July 16-20, 2025 at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, Indiana. The theme for this event is "Come let us worship and bow before Christ. If you're interested in participating, keep an eye on the official website for further details as they become available:

www.byzantineassembly.org

May this assembly be a time of inspiration, fellowship, and deepening faith for all who attend!

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.

Annual Stewardship Appeal

The Stewardship Appeal helps cover the costs of a variety of programs in the Eparchy including the Works of the Apostolate. We will evangelize the Word of God, teach the Faith to children and adults with catechesis and increase the ministries with the children and youth of our Eparchy, support pro-life ministries and provide help for the poor. Our young people face an ever more difficult challenge to live out our Byzantine Catholic faith in the current culture. Your contributions to the Stewardship Appeal help facilitate the development and implementation of dynamic programming, retreats, camps, and gatherings designed to deepen the faith of our young people.

If you have not already made your gift, please visit <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> and consider a donation to the Eparchy to help with the goals of the Eparchy. Thank you for your generosity!

St. Stephen's goal is \$10,650. So far, 11 households have contributed \$3,804. Let's make that all 71 households! Give what you can. 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

*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

We are establishing a separate account with the Parishes Together Fund which will hold all donations to the Building Fund received beginning in 2025. Additionally, we will be depositing 10% of our monthly rental income from the school into this account. Additionally, we are closing one of our savings accounts, which has a very poor interest rate (0.11%), and depositing most of its funds into this new Building Fund, which has a better interest rate (2.75%). These funds (\$30,000), which were previously for undesignated use, will be designated for the needs of the building.

In 2024, \$5,963.60 was donated to the Building Fund. Thank you! Meanwhile, in 2024, we spent \$53,398.27 on needed building repairs, using all the donated funds and considerably more.

So far in 2025, \$2,200 have been donated to the Building Fund. Thank you! We are facing many more expensive building projects this year, including most urgently the reopening of fire exits – one in the rectory and one on the southeast of the church building.

Our opening deposit for the Building Fund is: \$32,710

- One time deposit from the closed savings account: \$30,000
- January 2025 donations to the Building Fund: \$2,200
- 10% of our Jan. 2025 rental income from the school: \$510

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. 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!

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on January 26th was **59**. 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 26th was **\$917.17**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,139.08**

Sunday: \$531.50; Holy Day: \$120; Online: \$154.17; Candles: \$41.50; Fuel: \$70

“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