

# SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

February 16<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/>



## **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, February 16, 2025

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. Tone 6

The Holy Martyrs, the Presbyter Pamphilius, Porphyry, and their Companions (309).

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

1 Corinthians 6:12-20. Luke 15:11-32.

**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: Mary R

*+intention of Dennis Materniak, from Mary Ann Osmond (2-12)*

*+Josefa & +Melvyn, from Sarah Marron (2-15)*

*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 17, 2025

Meatfare Monday. ☩ The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit (306).

1 John 2:18-3:10a. Mark 11:1-11.

*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, February 18, 2025

Meatfare Tuesday. Our Holy Father Leo, Pope of Rome (461).

1 John 3:10b-20. Mark 14:10-42.

## Wednesday, February 19, 2025



Meatfare Wednesday. The Holy Apostle Archippus.

1 John 3:21-4:6. Mark 14:43-15:1.

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

*6:00pm Confessions*

**6:30pm Vespers &**

**7:00pm Divine Liturgy for Thursday**

*In thanksgiving for the safe delivery*

*of Theodore Martin & Henrietta Ora Barillas, from Alice Barillas*

## Thursday, February 20, 2025

Meatfare Thursday. Our Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania (c. 787).

Our Holy Father Agathon, Pope of Rome.

1 John 4:20-5:21. Mark 15:1-15.

## Friday, February 21, 2025



Meatfare Friday. Our Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola (795).

Our Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch (c. 338).

2 John 1:1-13. Mark 15:22, 25, 33-41.

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

*6:30pm Confessions*

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

## Saturday, February 22, 2025

Meatfare Saturday. Saturday of Souls. The Venerable Relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia.

1 Corinthians 10:23-28 *and for the departed*: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36 *and for the departed*: John 5:24-30.

**10:00am Divine Liturgy followed by a Panachida for All Souls**

*+Joann Humenik, from Jane & Bob Semak*

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

# Sunday, February 23, 2025

MEATFARE SUNDAY. The Sunday of the Last Judgment. Tone 7  
The Holy Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (c. 155).

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

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2. Matthew 25:31-46.

**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: Erin

*thanksgiving for safe delivery of Theodore & Henrietta (2-19)*

*+Joann Humenik, from Jane & Bob Semak (2-22)*

*After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. Welcome Fr. Mychail Solianyuk! ECF classes.*

**7:00pm Vespers** – *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, James Chroman, Phyllis Croskey, Lawrence Thomas Dion, Maria Frendo, Julia Frendo, Gregory Hendricks, Fr. Deacon Lawrence Hendricks, Chris Lauffer, Brandon Macias, John Marron, Shirley Mead, Kathy Mykeloff, Michael Mykeloff, Judith Ng, Ron Ostrowsky, Edith Santo, Rex Stein, Debra Warila, Helen Wood

# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Normal Fast Week <b>FEBRUARY 16th</b>	 <b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare <b>FEBRUARY 23rd</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <b>The Last Judgement</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare <b>MARCH 2nd</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 9th</b>	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 16th</b>	 <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 23rd</b>	 <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 30th</b>	 <b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 6th</b>	 <b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! <b>APRIL 13th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <b>APRIL 18th</b>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! <b>APRIL 20th</b> NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

## 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](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).

## 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](http://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](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.

## 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](mailto: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

**The Stewardship Appeal helps cover the costs of a variety of programs in the Eparchy including the support of parishes and missions.** For the good of the faithful, we will examine all regions of the Eparchy and determine the way forward. 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. We will provide consultation in financials, capital improvements, and human resources. We will assess the vitality of parishes and determine the establishment of new parishes as we stabilize ourselves as a community first.

If you have not already made your gift, please visit <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> and consider a donation to the Eparchy to help financially with the many needs we face. 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

2025 opening deposit for the Building Fund:     \$32,710

February 2025 Building Fund donations so far:     \$100

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

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on February 9<sup>th</sup> was **63**. 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 February 9<sup>th</sup> was **\$2,393.36**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,096.47**

Sunday: \$1806; Online: \$463.36; Candles: \$24; Initial Offering: \$10; Fuel: \$90

“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