



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI February 23rd, 2025

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, 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 Great Vespers – *for St. John the Forerunner*

Monday, February 24, 2025



Cheesefare Monday.

✦ The First & Second Finding of the Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John.

for the Forerunner: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15. Matthew 11:2-15.

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

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

Tuesday, February 25, 2025



Cheesefare Tuesday. Our Holy Father Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople (806).

Jude 1-10. Luke 22:39-42, 45b-23:1.

Wednesday, February 26, 2025



Day of Alleluia

Cheesefare Wednesday. Our Holy Father Porphyry, Bishop of Gaza (421).
The Holy Great Martyr Photina the Samaritan.

6th Hour: Joel 2:12-26. Vespers: Joel 4:12-21.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour – *with prostrations, prokeimena, and reading*

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers &

7:00pm Divine Liturgy for Cheesefare Thursday

intention of Mary Ann Osmond, from Richardson Family

Thursday, February 27, 2025



Cheesefare Thursday. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite (741).
Our Holy Father Gregory of Narek.

Jude 1:11-25. Luke 23:2-34, 44-56.

Friday, February 28, 2025



Day of Alleluia

Cheesefare Friday. Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Fellow Ascetic of Procopius (741).

6th Hour: Zachariah 8:7-17. Vespers: Zachariah 8:19-23.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour – *with prostrations, prokeimena, and reading*

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers for Cheesfare Saturday – *Holy Ascetics*

Saturday, March 1, 2025



Cheesefare Saturday. Commemoration of Holy Ascetics. Venerable Martyr Eudoxia (2nd C.).
Our Holy Father David, Enlightener of Wales.

Romans 14:19-23; 16:25-27 & for the Holy Ascetics: Galatians 5:22-6:2.

Matthew 6:1-13 & for the Holy Ascetics: Matthew 11:27-30.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, March 2, 2025



CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. The Sunday of Forgiveness. Tone 8
The Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrene (302).

Vespers Paramia: Isaiah 40:1-3, 9; 41:17-18; 45:8; 48:20-21; 54:1 •

Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:2; Malachi 3:1-3, 5-7, 12, 18, 17; 4:4-6 • Wisdom 4:7, 16-17, 19-5:7

8th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:11-18.

Romans 13:11b-14:4. Matthew 6:14-21.

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

with the baptisms of Theodore & Henrietta

Reader: Rinju

intention of Mary Ann Osmond, from Richardson Family (2-26)

for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron (3-1)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. No Classes – Forgiveness Vespers Cantor: Mary H

12:30pm Forgiveness Vespers – *to begin the Great Fast*

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

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, Maryalice Lukas, Brandon Macias, John Marron, Shirley Mead, Kathy Mykeloff, Michael Mykeloff, Judith Ng, Ron Ostrowsky, Edith Santo, Rex Stein, Debra Warila, Helen Wood

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.

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Meatfare FEBRUARY 23rd FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement 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 MARCH 2nd FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY 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 MARCH 9th	 SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY 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 MARCH 16th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS 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 MARCH 23rd	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! 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 MARCH 30th	 ST JOHN of the LADDER 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 APRIL 6th	 ST MARY of EGYPT 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! APRIL 13th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM 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 APRIL 18th	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 20th NO FASTING!	 HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

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.

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!

Annual Stewardship Appeal

As our minds look to the Great Fast with today's celebration of Meat-fare, let us remember how Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us. How can we repay Him? What can we do to strengthen His Church on earth? The Stewardship Appeal is just one of ways we can give back and show our appreciation. Please also consider the ways that you can help at your local parish to strengthen and build up your community.

Visit <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> for more information and to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through our website. Thank you for your past support and for your continued generosity with this year's campaign.

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: \$150

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on February 16th was **28**. 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 16th was **\$609.86**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,083.92**

Sunday: \$100; Online: \$488.36; Candles: \$21.50

“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