

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

March 2nd, 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 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)

+ Joann Humenik, from Phyllis Humenik (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

Monday, March 3, 2025



CLEAN MONDAY.

The Holy Martyr Eutropius and his Companions, Cleonicus and Basiliscus (308).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 1:1-20. *Vespers:* Genesis 1:1-13 • Proverbs 1:1-20.

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Great Compline with the Great Canon

Cantor: Mary H

Tuesday, March 4, 2025



Our Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan (475).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 1:19-2:3. *Vespers:* Genesis 1:14-23 • Proverbs 1:20-33.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025



The Holy Martyr Conon (251).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 2:3-11. *Vespers:* Genesis 1:24-2:3 • Proverbs 2:1-22.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantors: Cecilia, Mary R, David W

for the healing of Maria, from Kathleen Mykeloff

Reader: Mary W

Thursday, March 6, 2025



The Holy Forty-two Martyrs of Ammorium (848).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 2:11-21. *Vespers:* Genesis 2:4-19 • Proverbs 3:1-18.

Friday, March 7, 2025



Holy Martyrs and Bishops of Cherson: Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius and others.
Our Venerable Father Paul the Simple. The Martyr & Priest-Exarch Leonid Feodorov (1935).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 3:1-14. *Vespers:* Genesis 2:20-3:20 • Proverbs 3:19-34.

7:00am First & Third Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary H

+ Joann Humenik from Mary Ann Osmond

Saturday, March 8, 2025



First Saturday of the Great Fast. The Miracle of St. Theodore the Recruit.
Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophylact (845).

Hebrews 1:1-12 & *for Theodore:* 2 Timothy 2:1-10.

Mark 2:23-3:5 & *for Theodore:* John 15:17-16:2.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary R

+Eugene & +Angeline Dalbo, from Louise Dalbo

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

Sunday, March 9, 2025



FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. Tone 1

+ The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste (320).

The Holy Martyr Urpasianus of Nicomedia.

Vespers Paramia: Isaiah 43:9-14 • Wisdom 3:1-9 • Wisdom 5:15-6:3.

9th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:19-31.

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2a. John 1:43-51.

8:15am Matins *for Sunday*

9:30am Procession with the Holy Icons and the Synodikon of Orthodoxy

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

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

Reader: Lance

for the healing of Maria, from Kathleen Mykeloff (3-5)

+ Joann Humenik from Mary Ann Osmond (3-7)

+Eugene & +Angeline Dalbo, from Louise Dalbo (3-8)

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

4:00pm Vespers – *with the people of the Great Lakes*

Cantor: Mary H

followed by a Simple Lenten Meal in the hall

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)

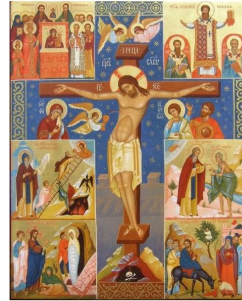
Prayer List

Pray for the healing of Anonymous, John Aral, Barb Barnes, Don & Theresa Butella, Pat Carlson, James Chroman, Phyllis Croskey, Lawrence Thomas Dion, Peter Evanuk, 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

Great Lakes Protopresbyterate

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma

*Come and celebrate the Great Vespers with your
brothers and sisters in Christ!
Every Sunday of the Great Fast in a different
parish. Beginning at 4pm.
Priests are available for the confession!*



March 2, Sunday of Cheesefare
Each parish may have its own Forgiveness Vespers

March 9, Sunday of Orthodoxy
St. Stephen, Allen Park
(Fr. Mykhail Rozmarynowycz)



March 16, Sunday of our Holy Fr. Gregory Palamas
St. Nicholas, Clinton Township
(Fr. Chuck Works)

March 23, Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross
Sacred Heart, Livonia
HEALING SERVICE / ANOINTING OF THE SICK
(Fr. James Batcha)



March 30, Sunday of our Holy Fr. John Climacus
St. Michael, Oregon
(Fr. Mykhailo Solianyky)

April 6, Sunday of our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt
St. Basil, Sterling Heights
(Fr. Joseph Marquis)

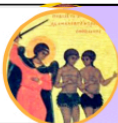










April 13, Palm Sunday / Flowery Sunday
St. Michael, Flushing
(Fr. John Russell)



OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

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

The Holy & Great Fast

“All days of the Great Fast are Days of Alleluia, unless otherwise noted. On each day, the schedule of services begins with Matins in the morning to Vespers on the evening of the day itself. However, the commemoration of the saint is anticipated as usual.... Vespers and Matins during the Great Fast, beginning on Sunday evening, and concluding on Friday evening, end with the Troparia and prostrations, as given in the service books....

“The Great Fast is our penitential preparation for the great feast of Pascha (Passover). As such, it is one of the most ancient parts of the liturgical year. Its forty days symbolizes the forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert, while the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is the fulfillment of the promise of the manna, as St. John wrote, ‘So Jesus said to them, ‘Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave bread from heaven; my Father give you the true bread from heaven’ (John 6:32). In the Great Fast, we imitate Jesus our Lord, who fasted for forty days in the desert following his baptism. The Feast of Pascha was also the time for baptisms, and so the Great Fast was a time of preparation for baptism. Our observance of the Great Fast, therefore, is our renewal of our baptismal fervor....

“In the Great Fast, abstinence from meat, fish, dairy products, alcohol, and foods cooked in oil was prescribed for all days, except days of mitigation. All Saturdays and Sundays, February 24, March 9, Wednesday to Friday of the Fifth Week, the Prefestive Day and Leave-taking (Otdanije) of Annunciation were mitigations for wine and oil. The Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday were general mitigations [fish days]. The Ruthenian Metropolia prescribes strict abstinence (from meat and dairy products) on the First Monday of the Great Fast and Good Friday, and abstinence from meat on all Wednesdays and Fridays” (*Annual Typikon*, p. 15).

Traditional fasting for the Great Fast

from Abbot Moses of Holy Resurrection Monastery:

Here’s the tradition. Do what you can with the idea of working towards to the whole deal.

No meat from the Sunday of Meatfare until PASCHA;

No dairy or eggs from the Sunday of Cheesefare;

No fish from the Sunday of Cheesefare with the exception of Palm Sunday and Annunciation

One meal a day after the 9th hour, Monday thru Friday

No wine (alcohol) or olive oil on Monday thru Friday. They are permitted on the weekends and on feast days that the typicon allows.

2 meals on weekends and feasts.

Shellfish, nuts, honey are all permitted every day of the year.

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.

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

During this first week of the Great Fast, we consider ways in which we can share our faith in Christ for all to see. One way to do that is by contributing to the needs supported by the Stewardship Appeal. Have you made your gift yet? If so, thank you! If not, there is still time! Visit us online at <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> to submit your one-time or monthly donation.

St. Stephen's goal is \$10,650. So far, 17 households have contributed \$5,704. 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: \$190

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on February 23rd was **74**. 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 23rd was **\$1,501.36**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,069.23**

Sunday: \$1082; Online: \$338.36; Candles: \$46; Fuel: \$35

“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