



# SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 of St. Gregory Palamas – followed by Confessions

**Sunday, March 16, 2025**



SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. ST. GREGORY PALAMAS. Tone 2  
The Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Pappas (287).

*10th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 21:1-14.*

*Hebrews 1:10-2:3 & for St Gregory: Hebrews 7:26-8:2.*

*Mark 2:1-12 & for St Gregory: John 10:9-16.*

**8:15am Matins** for Sunday

**9:30am First & Third Hour** – Reader Service

Cantors: Mary H & Mary R

**Confessions** – in the Sacristy

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

Cantors: Mary H, Mary R  
Reader: Debra

*for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron (3-12)*

*+Charles Cuthbertson, from Christine Barillas (3-11)*

*+Mary Novak, from Jane & Bob Semak (3-14)*

*+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (3-15)*

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

**4:00pm Vespers** at St. Nicholas, Clinton Township

**Monday, March 17, 2025**



Our Venerable Father Alexis, Man of God (411). Holy Father Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland.

*Sixth Hour: Isaiah 8:13-9:7. Vespers: Genesis 6:9-22 • Proverbs 8:1-21.*

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, March 18, 2025**



Our Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem (386).

*Sixth Hour: Isaiah 9:9-10:4. Vespers: Genesis 7:1-5 • Proverbs 8:32-9:11.*

## Wednesday, March 19, 2025

The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria (c. 253).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 10:12-20. *Vespers:* Genesis 7:6-9 • Proverbs 9:12-18.

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

*6:30pm Confessions*

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

Cantors: Mary W, Mary R

*+Janice Draft Campbell, from Jane & Bob Semak*

## Thursday, March 20, 2025

Our Venerable Fathers of the Saint Sabbas Monastery, killed by Saracens (796).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 11:10-12:2. *Vespers:* Genesis 7:11-8:4 • Proverbs 10:1-22.

## Friday, March 21, 2025

Our Venerable Father and Confessor James, Bishop of Catania (8th Century).

*Sixth Hour:* Isaiah 13:2-13. *Vespers:* Genesis 8:4-21 • Proverbs 10:31-11:12.

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

*6:30pm Confessions*

**7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

*+Joann Helen Humenik, from Phyllis Humenik*

*followed by Parastas for All Souls*

Cantor: Mary H

## Saturday, March 22, 2025

Third Saturday of the Great Fast. All Souls Saturday. Holy Martyr Basilides, Priest of Ancyra.

Hebrews 10:32-38a & *for the departed:* 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Mark 2:14-17 & *for the departed:* John 5:24-30.

**10:00am Akathist for the Faithful Departed**

Cantor: Mary R

**7:00pm Great Vespers** *for Veneration of the Holy Cross – followed by Confessions*

# Sunday, March 23, 2025



THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Tone 3  
Holy Venerable-Martyr Nikon and his Students martyred with him. Our Holy Mother Rafka.

*11th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 21:15-25.*

Hebrews 4:14-5:6. Mark 8:34b-9:1.

**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: Cecilia

*+Janice Draft Campbell, from Jane & Bob Semak (3-19)*

*+Joann Helen Humenik, from Phyllis Humenik (3-21)*

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

**4:00pm Office of Holy Oil for the Anointing of the Sick** – *at Sacred Heart, Livonia*

## 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* 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 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 Solianyuk)*

*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:
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	 <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!	 <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!

## 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! During the Great Fast, we're meeting on Thursday Evenings (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).





# YOUNG-ADULTS Pilgrimage of Hope



**"For we walk by faith, not by sight" 2**  
**Corinthians 5:7**

**10:30 am** – Snacks  
**11:00 am** – Akathistos  
**12:00 pm** – Relic Tour  
**1:30 pm** – D. Liturgy  
**3:00 pm** – Dinner & Social

**Saturday, April 5th**

⇒ **SACRED HEART,  
BYZANTINE  
CATHOLIC  
CHURCH** *LIVONIA, MI*



## Relic Tour

We will be given a special tour of the All Saints Shrine located at the parish!



## Prayer

We will pray the Akathist and celebrate Liturgy as a group!



## Food

Snacks and dinner will be provided!

**REGISTER TODAY!**

To register, or for more info visit [byzantineyoungadults.com](http://byzantineyoungadults.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](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 Jiomkowski (313-930-0801 / [v.jiomkowski1111@att.net](mailto: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

We are reminded of how fortunate we are and of the gifts we have received from God. Of course, the most important gift is that of salvation in Jesus Christ. This salvation requires our response with sacrifice, dedication, and a sense of shared responsibility for the life of the Church and its mission on earth. Each of us has been given other great gifts – individual gifts such as our time, talents, and treasure. Our Lord Jesus Christ asks us to use our gifts for the glory of God. This is the essence of Stewardship: an awareness that everything comes from God and ultimately belongs to God.

Please consider supporting the Stewardship Appeal today! Visit us online at <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> to submit your monthly or one-time donation. Thank you for your generosity!

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.

**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 \$270.

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

February 2025 Building Fund Deposit: \$700 (\$510 + \$190 donated)

Building Fund Balance: \$33,410

March 2025 Building Fund Donations: \$100

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

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on March 9<sup>th</sup> was **72**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **61**

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 March 9<sup>th</sup> was **\$1,726.36**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,078.45**

Sunday: \$1192; Online: \$473.36; Candles: \$51; Initial Offering: \$10

**Our weekly operating expenses average out to about \$3,500.**

“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