



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

March 23rd, 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 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 with the Veneration of the Holy Cross

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



Monday, March 24, 2025

⊗ Pre-festive Day of the Annunciation. Our Venerable Father Zachary.

Holy Fr. Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia. Holy Fr. Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador.

Vespers Paramia: Genesis 28:10-14 • Ezekiel 43:27-44 • Proverbs 9:1-11.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 14:24-32. Vespers: Genesis 8:21-9:7 • Proverbs 11:19-12:6.

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

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

Tuesday, March 25, 2025



⊕ THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY.

Vespers Paramia: Exodus 3:1-8 • Proverbs 8:22-31.

Matins Gospel: Luke 1:39-49, 56.

for the Annunciation: Hebrews 2:11-18. Luke 1:24-38.

7:00am Matins *for the Annunciation*

7:00pm Vespersal Divine Liturgy *for the Annunciation*

Cantor: Mary H

for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron

Wednesday, March 26, 2025



Mid-Lent. Leave-taking of the Annunciation.

⊗ The Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 26:21-27:9. *Vespers:* Genesis 9:18-10:1 • Proverbs 12:23-13:9.

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantors: Mary R, David W

the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron

Thursday, March 27, 2025



Our Venerable Mother Matrona of Thessalonica (c. 350).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 28:14-22. *Vespers:* Genesis 10:32-11:9 • Proverb 13:20-14:6.

7:00pm Bible Discussion – Gospel of John – via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84569257502?pwd=UVeGgiYPLjE5FsqNitcgE72LHB4bxP.1>

Meeting ID: 845 6925 7502 Passcode: 025083

Friday, March 28, 2025



Our Venerable Father Hilary the Younger (754). The Holy Stephen the Wonder-worker.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 29:13-23. *Vespers:* Genesis 12:1-7 • Proverbs 14:15-26.

7:00am First, Third, & Sixth Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary H

+Joann Humenik, from Jane & Bob Semak

Reader: Mary W

followed by Parastas for All Souls

Saturday, March 29, 2025



Fourth Saturday of the Great Fast. All Souls Saturday. Venerable Fr. Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, the Deacon Cyril, & Others who suffered martyrdom under Julian the Apostate.

Hebrews 6:9-12 & for the departed: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Mark 7:31-37 & for the departed: John 5:24-30.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary R

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron

7:00pm Great Vespers for the Sunday of St. John Climacus – followed by Confessions

Sunday, March 30, 2025



4th SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. OUR HOLY FR. JOHN CLIMACUS. Tone 4

Our Venerable Father John Climacus, Author of “The Ladder” (649).

1st Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20.

Hebrews 6:13-20 & for St. John: Ephesians 5:8b-19.

Mark 9:17-31 & for St. John: Matthew 4:25-5:12a.

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: Lance

for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron (3-25)

for the descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (3-26)

+Joann Humenik, from Jane & Bob Semak (3-28)

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron (3-29)

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

4:00pm Vespers at St. Michael, Oregon, Ohio

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

Pascha Bread Orders!

The Guild will be baking Paska Bread and making Butter Lambs for Easter. Paska bread (both plain and with raisin) will be \$15.00 and Butter Lambs will be \$5.00 each. Please place your orders with Louise Dalbo in person, by phone 313-382-6788, or email at louisedalbo@gmail.com by Sunday, April 6. Pick up will Sunday, April 13 after liturgy.

Pysanky Decorating!

Decorate Pysanky with Pani Katie! We will meet in the small hall on Wednesday April 9th from 4-6pm.

Come practice the ancient craft of Pysanky. Ukrainian and Carpatho-Rusyn egg decorating examples will be available for your inspiration. We supply the eggs, and all other tools necessary, you supply patience and creativity! The dyes used to create traditional pysanky are not edible. Never decorated pysanky before? Don't worry, we will share our tips and tricks with you. Come ready to be creative.



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 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)*



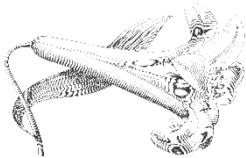
*April 13, Palm Sunday / Flowery Sunday
St. Michael, Flushing
(Fr. John Russell)*



OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 23rd	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <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 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	 GREAT AND HOLY WEEK 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 <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! APRIL 20th NO FASTING!	 BRIGHT WEEK 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!



Paschal Flowers have been offered in memory of

+Bertha Grega
 +John Grega
 +Joseph Humenik
 +Helen Kowalchik
 +Russell Kowalchik

+Mary Polifko
 +Andrew Yatcko
 +Helen Yatcko

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

Dr. Kevin Clarke the Dean of the Institute for Lay Ministry and Associate Professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary will visit the Byzantine Book Club on **Monday, March 24, 2025**. Dr. Clarke will be answering questions that came up while we were reading *Theotokos; Mary, Mother of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ* by Archbishop Joseph Raya

The Book Club will conclude its reading of *Theotokos* on Monday, March 31, 2025 and begin reading *Bogoroditza* by Catherine Doherty, on Monday, April 7, 2025.

Catherine Doherty presents Mary as someone close to us, more able than anyone to teach us about her Son. Spouse of the Holy Spirit, mother of Jesus and of all men and women, she is both ordinary and sublime, someone we can emulate and one whose praises we sing. She shows us what it is to be fully human. Just as God came to us through her, she opens for us the way that is Jesus, back to the Father.

All are welcome to join the Byzantine Book Club
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.



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!

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

When you walk in faith you continue the work of God. The Eparchy's future is marked by one thing above all: hope. This is said with certainty because the Eparchy's future has the same foundation as its past: Jesus Christ. What better foundation is there?

Thankfully, we have an opportunity to help build the Kingdom of God in a particular way: by supporting the Eparchy's Stewardship Appeal. Won't you please show your support with a gift today? Visit us online at <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> to submit your donation.

St. Stephen's goal is \$10,650. So far, 21 households have contributed \$6,136. Let's make that all 71 households! Due to the generosity of those who have given so far, the remaining 50 households need to give an average of \$91 each for us to reach our goal. Each household should be able to give something. 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)

We donated \$270 for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe

Since our last contributions,

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

Building Fund Balance: \$33,410

March 2025 Building Fund Donations: \$150

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on March 16th was **57**. 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 16th was **\$1,726.36**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,078.45**

Sunday: \$1,746; Online: \$348.36; Candles: \$15.50; Flowers: \$135

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