

SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

March 30th, 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 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*

Monday, March 31, 2025



Our Venerable Father Hypatius, Bishop of Gangra (326).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 37:33-38:6. Vespers: Genesis 13:12-18 • Proverbs 14:27-15:4.

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

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

Tuesday, April 1, 2025



Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt (c. 530).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 40:18-31. Vespers: Genesis 15:1-15 • Proverbs 15:7-19.

Wednesday, April 2, 2025



Our Venerable Father Titus the Wonder-worker (9th Century).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 41:4-14. *Vespers:* Genesis 17:1-9 • Proverbs 15:20-16:9.

7:00am First, Third, & Sixth Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Cantors: Mary W & Mary R

Thursday, April 3, 2025



THE GREAT CANON OF OUR HOLY FATHER ANDREW OF CRETE.

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Nicetas, Hegumen of Medikion (824).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 42:5-16. *Vespers:* Genesis 18:20-33 • Proverbs 16:17-17:17.

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, April 4, 2025



Our Venerable Fathers, Joseph the Hymnographer (883) and George of Maleon (9th Century).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 45:11-17. *Vespers:* Genesis 22:1-18 • Proverbs 17:17-18:5.

7:00am First, Third, & Sixth Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary H & Cecilia

+Ernest Semak, from Jane & Bob Semak

Saturday, April 5, 2025



Fifth Saturday of the Great Fast. Akathistos Saturday.

The Holy Martyrs Theodulus and Agathopodes and their Companions (303).

Hebrews 9:24-28 & for *Akathistos:* Hebrews 9:1-7.

Mark 8:27-31 & for *Akathistos:* Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

9:30am Akathist to the Theotokos & Ever-Virgin Mary

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary R

+deceased members of the Marron & Alvarado Families, from Sarah Marron

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

Sunday, April 6, 2025



SUNDAY OF OUR VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT. Tone 5
Our Holy Father Eutyches, Archbishop of Constantinople (582).

+ The Passing of our Holy Father Methodius, Teacher of the Slavs (885).

2nd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark 16:1-8.

Hebrews 9:11-14 & for St. Mary: Galatians 3:23-29.

Mark 10:32b-45 & for St. Mary: Luke 7:36-50.

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
Reader: Dan Lauffer

+Ernest Semak, from Jane & Bob Semak (4-4)

+deceased members of the Marron & Alvoarado Families, from Sarah Marron (4-5)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck. Guild Meeting. ECF classes. Adult Catechesis

4:00pm Vespers *at St. Basil, Sterling Heights*

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 repose of +Peter Evanuiik

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

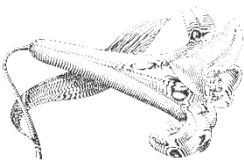
Pascha Bread Orders!

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.



Paschal Flowers have been offered in memory of

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

+Mary Polifko
+Andrew Yatcko
+Helen Yatcko

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



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








*April 13, Palm Sunday / Flowerly 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:
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 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!	 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!

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 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

Have you considered your gift to this year's Stewardship Appeal? The Eparchy of Parma relies on your continued support to provide for our various programs and outreaches. Please make your gift today! An online donation may be made at <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal>. Thank you for your generosity.

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: \$170

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on March 23rd 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 23rd was **\$1,034.36**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,035.72**

Sunday: \$454; Holy Day: \$155; Online: \$348.36; Candles: \$42; Flowers: \$35

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