



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

April 6th, 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 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)

+Irene Durisin

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

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

Monday, April 7, 2025



Our Venerable Father George, Bishop of Mitylene (816).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 48:17-49:4. *Vespers:* Genesis 27:1-41 • Proverbs 19:16-25.

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

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

Tuesday, April 8, 2025



The Holy Apostles Herodian, Agabus, Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon, and Hermes.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 49:6-10. *Vespers:* Genesis 31:3-16 • Proverbs 21:3-21.

Wednesday, April 9, 2025



The Holy Martyr Euppsychius (c. 362).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 58:1-11. *Vespers:* Gen 43:26-31; 45:1-16 • Proverbs 21:23-22:4.

7:00am First, Third, & Sixth Hour

4-6pm Pysanky Class in the Small Hall

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantors: Mary R, Mary W

+John & +Maria and +John & +Mary, from Maryalice Lukas

Thursday, April 10, 2025



The Holy Martyrs Terence, Pompey, and their Companions (250).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 65:8-16. *Vespers:* Genesis 46:1-7 • Proverbs 23:15-24:5.

7:00pm Office of Holy Repentance

Friday, April 11, 2025



The Holy Martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum in Asia (c. 92).

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 66:10-24. *Vespers:* Genesis 49:33-50:26 • Proverbs 31:8-32.

7:00am First, Third, & Sixth Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron

Saturday, April 12, 2025



LAZARUS SATURDAY.

Hebrews 12:28-13:8. John 11:1-45.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary R

+Irene Durisin, from Louise Dalbo

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

Sunday, April 13, 2025



PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY. Tone 6

The Holy Priest-Martyr Artemon and his Companions (303).

Vespers: Genesis 49:1-2, 8-12 • Zephaniah 3:14-19 • Zachariah 9:9-15.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11, 15-17.

Philippians 4:4-9. John 12:1-18.

8:15am Matins with the blessing of Palms and Pussywillows* *for Palm Sunday*

9:30am Procession with the Palms and Pussywillows[†]

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

Cantors: Mary H & Cecilia

Reader: Erin H

for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron (4-11)

+John & +Maria and +John & +Mary, from Maryalice Lukas (4-9)

+Irene Durisin, from Louise Dalbo (4-12)

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. Pick up Paskas & Butter Lambs. ECF Classes & Rehearsal.

4:00pm Vespers *at St. Michael, Flushing*

Monday, April 14, 2025



GREAT & HOLY MONDAY.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 21:18-43.

Third Hour: Matthew 1:1-16:12. *Sixth Hour:* Ezekiel 1:1-20 • Matthew 16:13-28:20.

Ninth Hour: Mark 1:1-9:16.

Vespers: Exodus 1:1-20 • Job 1:1-12. *Presanctified Liturgy:* Matthew 24:3-35.

7:00am Bridegroom Matins

Cantor: Mary R

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary H

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

* "Palms and pussywillows... [are] held by the faithful during [the] celebration as a symbol of the people who welcomed our Lord into Jerusalem as their King." (*Annual Typicon*).

† "A procession with the priest and faithful carrying the newly blessed palms and willows may take place after Matins and before the Liturgy. The priest, preceded by candles and incense, processes through the Northern Door of the icon screen. The procession then proceeds around the church, with the singing of the Palm Sunday Troparion, Kontakion, [and Stichera]. The Divine Liturgy begins immediately following the procession." (*Annual Typicon*).

Tuesday, April 15, 2025



GREAT & HOLY TUESDAY.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 22:15-23:39.

Third Hour: Mark 9:17-16:20. *Sixth Hour:* Ezekiel 1:21-2:1 • Luke 1:1-8:39.

Ninth Hour: Luke 8:40-16:18.

Vespers: Exodus 2:5-10 • Job 1:13-22 *Presanctified Liturgy:* Matthew 24:36-26:2.

7:00am Bridegroom Matins

Cantor: Mary R

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary R

+Melvyn & +Josefa, from Sarah Marron

Wednesday, April 16, 2025



GREAT & HOLY WEDNESDAY.

Matins Gospel: John 12:17-50.

Third Hour: Luke 16:19-24:53. *Sixth Hour:* Ezekiel 2:3-3:3 • John 1:1-7:36.

Ninth Hour: John 7:37-13:32.

Vespers: Exodus 2:11-22 • Job 2:1-10. *Presanctified Liturgy:* Matthew 26:6-16.

7:00am Bridegroom Matins

Cantor: Mary R

6:00pm Confessions

**6:30pm Office of Holy Oil for the Anointing of the Sick &
Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

Cantors: Mary H,

Cecilia, Mary R, Mary W

descendants of Melvyn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron

Readers: Mary W, Mary H

Thursday, April 17, 2025



GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY.

Matins Gospel: Luke 22:1-39. *First Hour:* Jeremiah 11:18-12:5, 9-11, 14-15.

Vespers: Exodus 19:10-19 • Job 38:1-23; 42:1-5 • Isaiah 50:4-11. 1 Corinthians 11:23-32.

Composite Gospel: Matt 26:1-20; Jn 13:3-17; Mt 26:21-39; Lk 22:43-45; Mt 26:40-27:2.

6:00am Matins for Great & Holy Thursday

Cantor: TBD

7:00pm Vespersal Divine Liturgy for Holy Thursday

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia

for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron

Friday, April 18, 2025



GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY.

Matins: The Twelve Passion Gospels: (1) John 13:31b-18:1 • (2) John 18:1-28 • (3) Matthew 26:57-75 • (4) John 18:28-19:16 • (5) Matthew 27:3-32 • (6) Mark 15:16-32a • (7) Matthew 27:33-54 • (8) Luke 23:32-49 • (9) John 19:25-37 • (10) Mark 15:43-47 • (11) John 19:38-42 • (12) Matthew 27:62-66

First Hour: Zachariah 11:10-13 • Galatians 6:14-18 • Matthew 27:1-56.

Third Hour: Isaiah 50:4-11 • Romans 5:6-11 • Mark 15:16-41.

Sixth Hour: Isaiah 52:13-54:1 • Hebrews 2:11-18 • Luke 23:32-49.

Ninth Hour: Jeremiah 11:18-12:5, 9-11, 14-15 • Hebrews 10:19-31 • John 18:28-19:37.

Vespers: Exodus 33:11-23 • Job 42:12-17 • Isaiah 52:13-54:1 •

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2

Composite Gospel: Mt 27:1-38; Lk 23:39-43; Mt 27:39-54; Jn 19:31-37; Mt 27:55-61.

6:00am Strati – Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels

Cantor: TBD

10:00am Royal Hours for Great and Holy Friday

Cantor: Mary R

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Burial Vespers for Great & Holy Friday

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia, Mary R

Guarding the Tomb all night

Saturday, April 19, 2025



GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY.

Matins: Ezekiel 37:1-14 • 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8, Galatians 3:13-14 • Matthew 27:62-66.

Vespers: (1) Genesis 1:1-13 • (2) Isaiah 60:1-16 • (3) Exodus 12:1-11 • (4) Jonah 1:1-4:11

• (5) Joshua 5:10-15 • (6) Ex 13:20-15:19 • (7) Zephaniah 3:8-15 • (8) 1 [3] Kings 17:8-24

• (9) Is 61:10b-62:5 • (10) Gen 22:1-18 • (11) Isaiah 61:1-10a • (12) 2 [4] Kings 4:8-37 •

(13) Isaiah 63:11-64:5 • (14) Jeremiah 31:31-34 • (15) Daniel 3:1-88 (LXX)

Romans 6:3-11. Matthew 28:1-20.

6:00am Jerusalem Matins for Great and Holy Saturday

Cantor: Mary W

4:00pm Paschal Vigil with Baptism & Chrismations

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia,
Mary R
Readers: Lance, Mary W

Sunday, April 20, 2025

⊕ PASCHA!

Acts 1:1-8. John 1:1-17.

9:00am Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy for Pascha!

Reader: Dan L

Cantors: Mary H, Cecilia, Mary W

followed by the blessing of Easter baskets in the hall and fellowship! (no classes)

7:00pm Agape Vespers

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 +Irene Durisin & +Peter Evanuk

Pray for the healing of 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

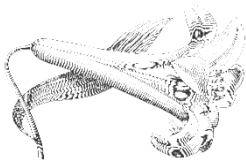
Pascha Bread Orders!

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

+Charles & +Mary Burja
+Burja & +Rosen Family
+Anthony, +Irene, & +Jack Bonacor
+Bertha Grega
+John Grega

+Joseph Humenik
+Helen Kowalchik
+Russell Kowalchik
+Mary Polifko
+Andrew Yatcko
+Helen Yatcko

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.

Jesus' parables and our call to evangelization

by Carson Daniel Lauffer

The parables of Jesus teach several lessons, but I wish to draw your attention to two: 1. God is building His Kingdom, and 2. He uses everyone who loves Him to do it.

St. John Chrysostom, perhaps the greatest preacher in Christian history, gave his most memorable sermon on the Laborers in the Vineyard found in Matthew 20:1-16. Please read both his Pascha Sermon and this parable in preparation for Pascha.

In both the sermon and Jesus' parable, we learn that God makes no mistake in calling people to us and us to people. No encounter is a mistake or even a happenstance. He calls laborers to His vineyard all the time, and we meet them every day of our lives.

Will you be ready to greet them? When visitors come to worship for the first time, will you welcome them? Will you ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in what you say to them? Will you listen not just to their words but to their hearts?

We are starting an experiment with several of our members that includes a way to record names and brief notes about those we meet. We are learning together how to pray for them every day,

We will tell you more details about this in the coming months, but you can start now by carrying a small notebook with you at all times, adding names and concerns, and praying for these people every day.

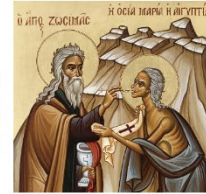
Church Cleaning

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!

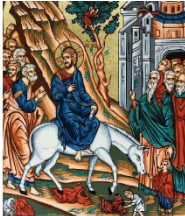
Great Lakes Protopresbyterate

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!*



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






***April 13, Palm Sunday / Flowering 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:
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!

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 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.

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 Jiompkowski (313-930-0801 / v.jiompkowski1111@att.net) so he can help make the arrangements. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Victor Jiompkowski or Father John.

Annual Stewardship Appeal

As we move closer to the Great Feast of Pascha, we continue in our process to identify the gifts given to us by God and ponder the ways in which we can respond to His generosity. Please remember the annual Stewardship Appeal as you prepare for the upcoming Feast of Pascha.

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, 26 households have contributed \$7,723. Let's make that all 71 households! 45 more households have yet to make their offering. 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 30th was **67**. 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 30th was **\$1,356.36**. Average Weekly Collection: **\$2,024.78**

Sunday: \$913; Holy Day: \$30; Online: \$348.36; Candles: \$40; Flowers: \$25

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