



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

May 18th, 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/>



Christ is risen! 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.

“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 – followed by Confessions*

Cantor: Mary R

Sunday, May 18, 2025

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN. Post-festive Day of Mid-Pentecost. Tone 4

The Holy Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra (303).

The Holy Martyrs Peter, Denis, and their Companions (250). The Holy Seven Virgins.

7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:1-10. Acts 11:19-26, 29-30. John 4:5-42.

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: Debra

intention of descendants of Melyvn & Sarah, from Sarah Marron (5-17)

+Sidney, +Bennie, +Mary, & +John Thomas, from Mary Ann Osmond (5-14)

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

7:00pm Vespers *for Monday*

Monday, May 19, 2025

Postfeast of Mid-Pentecost. Holy Martyr Patrick, Bishop of Prussia & Companions (c. 362).

Acts 12:12-17. John 8:42-51.

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

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

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Post-festive Day of Mid-Pentecost. The Holy Martyr Thaleleus (284).

Acts 12:25-13:12. John 8:51-59.

Wednesday, May 21, 2025



Leave-taking of Mid-Pentecost.

✙ The Holy Emperor Constantine (337) and his Mother Helen (327), Equals to the Apostles.

Vespers: 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30 • Isaiah 61:10-62:5 • Isaiah 60:1-16.

Matins Gospel: John 10:1-9.

for Constantine & Helen: Acts 26:1-5, 12-20. John 9:39-10:9.

for the day (not read at Liturgy): Acts 13:13-24. John 6:5-14.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers & Divine Liturgy *for Thursday*

Cantor: Mary R

intention of John Stros, from the Richardson Family

Thursday, May 22, 2025

The Holy Martyr Basiliscus (308). The Holy and Righteous Melchizedek, King of Salem.

Commemoration of 2nd Ecumenical Council of Constantinople. Holy Mother Rita of Cascia.

Acts 14:20b-27. John 9:39-10:9.

Friday, May 23, 2025



Our Venerable Father and Confessor Michael, Bishop of Synnada (818).

Venerable Euphrosyne, Hegumena of the Monastery of our Holy Savior in Polotsk (1173).

Acts 15:5-34. John 10:17-28.

7:00am First and Third Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers *for Saturday*

Vespers and Vodka – Young Adult Event

Saturday, May 24, 2025

⌘ Our Venerable Father Simeon of the Wondrous Mountain (596).

⌘. Our Venerable Father Nicetas the Stylite, the Wonder-worker of Perejaslav.

Acts 15:35-41. John 10:27-38.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary R

for Malina & John Michael, from Sarah Marron

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

Cantor: Mary R

Sunday, May 25, 2025

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND. Tone 5

✙ The Third Finding of the Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

8th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John 20:11-18.

for the day (not read at Liturgy): Acts 16:16-34. John 9:1-38.

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: Dan Lauffer

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

7:00pm Parastas *for Memorial Day*

LEGEND

⊕	Great Feast		by tradition, a strict fast day (no meat, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, or oil)
⊕	Feast with an All-night Vigil		by tradition, wine and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, eggs, or fish)
✙	Feast with the Polyeleos at Matins		by tradition, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, or eggs)
⊗	Feast with the Great Doxology at Matins		by tradition, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat, dairy, or eggs)
⊗	Feast with Six Stichera at Vespers		by tradition, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat)

Prayer List

Pray for the repose of +Carl Czupinski

Pray for the healing of John Aral, Betty Baise, 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, Sarah Marron, Shirley Mead, Kathy Mykeloff, Michael Mykeloff, Judith Ng, Ron Ostrowsky, Edith Santo, Rex Stein, Debra Warila, Helen Wood

Byzantine Book Club

The Book Club is reading *Bogoroditza* by Catherine Doherty

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.

Vespers & Vodka - Young Adult Event

A time of prayer, edification, and fellowship,
with a focus on the Byzantine Christian tradition.

Friday, May 23rd beginning at 7pm. Ages 21-35.

Vespers, followed by a brief talk in the hall, and then open fellowship time with food, drinks, and board games.

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!

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.

We have a new Pope!

AND THE VATICAN WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Caring for the Eastern Catholic Churches was actually one of the TOP QUESTIONS raised by bishops worldwide during the Vatican Synod on Synodality.

Seize this **historic and unprecedented** opportunity to bear witness and make your voice heard before the representatives of **our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV** himself!

**GO TO WWW.BYZANTINEASSEMBLY.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION &
SIGN UP NOW!**



**2025
BYZANTINE
ASSEMBLY**

**JULY | 16-20 | 2025
WHITING, INDIANA**

**EARLY BIRD RATES
EXTENDED UNTIL 6/1!**

The 4th Metropolitan Assembly will take place July 16-20, 2025 at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, Indiana. The theme for this event is
“Come let us worship and bow before Christ.

Keep an eye on the official website www.byzantineassembly.org
for further details as they become available. May this assembly be a time
of inspiration, fellowship, and deepening faith for all who attend!

ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV
TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE JUBILEE OF ORIENTAL CHURCHES

Wednesday, 14 May 2025

...

The Church needs you. The contribution that the Christian East can offer us today is immense! We have great need to recover the sense of mystery that remains alive in your liturgies, liturgies that engage the human person in his or her entirety, that sing of the beauty of salvation and evoke a sense of wonder at how God's majesty embraces our human frailty! It is likewise important to rediscover, especially in the Christian West, a sense of the primacy of God, the importance of mystagogy and the values so typical of Eastern spirituality: constant intercession, penance, fasting, and weeping for one's own sins and for those of all humanity (*penthos*)! It is vital, then, that you preserve your traditions without attenuating them, for the sake perhaps of practicality or convenience, lest they be corrupted by the mentality of consumerism and utilitarianism.

Your traditions of spirituality, ancient yet ever new, are medicinal. In them, the drama of human misery is combined with wonder at God's mercy, so that our sinfulness does not lead to despair, but opens us to accepting the gracious gift of becoming creatures who are healed, divinized and raised to the heights of heaven. For this, we ought to give endless praise and thanks to the Lord. Together, we can pray with Saint Ephrem the Syrian and say to the Lord Jesus: "Glory to you, who laid your cross as a bridge over death... Glory to you who clothed yourself in the body of mortal man, and made it the source of life for all mortals" (*Homily on our Lord*, 9). We must ask, then, for the grace to see the certainty of Easter in every trial of life and not to lose heart, remembering, as another great Eastern Father wrote, that "the greatest sin is not to believe in the power of the Resurrection" (SAINT ISAAC OF NINEVEH, *Sermones ascetici*, I, 5).

...

[Read the entire address!](#)

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 the parish priest 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 Dcn. Lawrence (frdeaconlawrence@yahoo.com) for more information.

Updates on Clergy Assignments & Appointments

A number of important changes to pastoral assignments will soon be happening within the Eparchy of Parma. These updates reflect our commitment to serving our communities with dedication and spiritual guidance according to Bishop Robert's teachings and his strategic vision. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who have served faithfully and welcome those who will be taking on new roles.

- Fr. Michael Lee relieved of assignment to St. Luke in Sugar Creek, Missouri and appointed rector of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Parma, Ohio (Dormition Parish, Cleveland) effective 1 July 2025.
- Fr. John Russell relieved of assignment to St. Stephen in Allen Park, Michigan and appointed pastor of St. Luke in Sugar Creek, Missouri and its outreaches effective 1 July 2025.
- Fr. Marton Egressy appointed to be in residence at St. Stephen Church in Allen Park, Michigan and to serve the faithful of St. Stephen Church in Allen Park effective 1 July 2025 and the faithful of Sacred Heart in Livonia, Michigan effective 1 August 2025.
- Fr. Joseph Marquis relieved of assignment to Sacred Heart in Livonia, Michigan and granted retirement effective 1 August 2025 with sincere thanks for his active priestly ministry.

Please read Bishop Robert's Teaching: [Christ God, our Hope](#).

Annual Stewardship Appeal

This weekend marks the end of this year's Eparchial Stewardship Appeal. Thank you to everyone who participated with their ***time, talent, and treasure***. Your participation has allowed our Eparchy of Parma to continue to provide funds to support the following important needs in the Eparchy: Support of Mission & Outreach; Development of Parishes; Retreats, Renewals and Family Camp; Works of the Apostolate; Clergy Benevolence Fund; and Support of our Retired and Active Priests.

God Bless you!

St. Stephen's goal is \$10,650. So far, 29 of our 71 households have contributed \$9,227. 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.

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 \$154 to the Catholic Home Missions

Since our last contributions,

for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, we have collected \$138.

for Peter's Pence, we have collected \$10

for the Churches in Eastern Europe, we collected \$105

Building Fund

Building Fund Balance: \$34,090

April 2025 Building Fund Donations: \$160

May 2025 Building Fund Donations: \$110

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on May 11th was **85**. Average Sunday attendance ≈ **62**

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 May 11th was **\$1,070.36** Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,999.54**

Sunday: \$580; Online: \$428.36; Candles: \$62

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).

