



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

May 25th, 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 Catholic Eparchy of Parma (Ruthenian). Bishop Robert (Pipta) is our Bishop. Archbishop William (Skurla) of Pittsburgh is our Metropolitan. We are in communion with our Holy Father Leo XIV, Pope of Rome.

"We are not intent on emulating the Eastern Orthodox to prove that we are Eastern, nor are we intent on emulating the Latin Rite Catholics to prove our Catholicity. In the true Church of Jesus Christ, neither Catholicity nor Orthodoxy need to be emphasized or minimized, for one can be completely Eastern and still be truly Catholic." +Emil J. Mihalik, 1st Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma, 1970

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 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: 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*

Monday, May 26, 2025

The Holy Apostle Carpus, one of the Seventy.

Our Holy Father Augustine of Canterbury, Enlightener of England.

Acts 17:1-15. John 11:47-57.

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

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

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

The Holy Bishop-Martyr Therapont (259).

Acts 17:19-28a. John 12:19-36a.

Wednesday, May 28, 2025



Leave-taking of Pascha. Our Venerable Father Nicetas, Bishop of Chalcedon (836).

Acts 18:22-28. John 12:36-47.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm All-Night Vigil for ☩ Ascension Thursday

Cantors: Mary R & Lance

Thursday, May 29, 2025

☩ ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, GOD, & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. The Holy Venerable Martyr and Virgin Theodosia (730).

Vespers Paramia: Isaiah 2:2-3 • Isaiah 62:10-63:3, 7-9 • Zachariah 14:1, 4, 8-11.

3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark 16:9-20.

Acts 1:1-12. Luke 24:36-53.

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

Cantor: Mary R

Friday, May 30, 2025



Postfeast of Ascension. Venerable Fr. Isaac, Hegumen of the Dalmatian Monastery (383).

Acts 19:1-8. John 14:1-11a.

7:00am First and Third Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers for Saturday

Saturday, May 31, 2025

Post-festive Day of Ascension. The Holy Apostle Hermes. The Holy Martyr Hermeas (c. 160).

Acts 20:7-12. John 14:10b-21.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary R

+Irene Durisin, from Maryalice Lukas

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

Cantor: Mary R

Sunday, June 1, 2025

SUN. OF THE FATHERS AT THE 1ST NICEAN COUNCIL. Postfeast of Ascension. Tone 6
The Holy Martyr Justin the Philosopher and his Companions (167).

Vespers Paramia: Genesis 14:14-20 • Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • Deut. 10:14-21.

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

Acts 20:16-18a, 28-36. John 17:1-13.

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: Erin

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

7:00pm Vespers for Monday – at St. Francis of Assisi in Ann Arbor

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, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, and oil are permitted (no meat)
⊗	Feast with Six Stichera at Vespers		

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, George Durisin, 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

Presentation by
His Grace, the Most Reverend

**ROBERT M.
PIPTA**



Saint Stephen

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

70TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebration

In Celebration of 70 years of serving Allen Park, join us at St. Stephen's for a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Grace, the Most Reverend Robert M. Pipta, Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma Followed by a Celebratory Banquet in our Crystal Ballroom featuring The Woods Family Singers and A Presentation by His Grace, the Most Reverend Robert M. Pipta



Catering to be provided by Veronica's Catering
(DIETARY ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST!)

Sunday, September **21ST** | Liturgy **2:00 PM**
Banquet **4:30 PM**



TICKET PRICES

\$30 - ADULTS

\$12 - CHILDREN 12 & UNDER

FREE FOR BABIES!

WHERE TO PURCHASE:

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://SAINTSTEPHENBYZANTINE.CHURCH](https://saintstephenbyzantine.church)

PHONE: 313-382-5901 / 313-930-0801

**ST. STEPHEN BYZANTINE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

4141 LAURENCE AVENUE
ALLEN PARK, MICHIGAN 48101

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!**



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!

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.

Christ God, our Hope

A teaching from Bishop Robert Pipta

I would struggle to think of even one liturgical service of the Byzantine Catholic tradition served by a priest that does not conclude with his chanting “Glory to You, O Christ God, our hope, glory to You.” We conclude our divine services calling Christ Jesus “our hope” – the very words the Holy Apostle Paul uses when greeting the young Timothy at the beginning of his first letter to him. Indeed, our Lord Jesus Christ is our hope and to Him we commit our whole life and hope.

All Divine Liturgies that we celebrate send us forth in peace “in the name of the Lord” as we acknowledge our partaking of the incomparable gifts of the Divine Eucharist. For those who love the beauty of the house of God we pray to the Lord, “Glorify them in return by your divine power, and do not forsake us who hope in you.”

To keep this hope alive in our Catholic Church we need ordained priests. As a bishop desiring the spiritual nourishment of all our faithful throughout the twelve states of the American heartland, I’m blessed by and want to steward well the gifts of those priests called to parochial ministry. My first several months as the Bishop of Parma have taught me that priests have other gifts as well – those focused on media, formation, liturgy, academia, chaplaincy, and other areas. Some priests find a need to live a more monastic life, either formally or in an idiorhythmic manner. I’m pleased to see how our retired priests, with fragilities due to health and age, continue to serve the Church in prayer and varying degrees of solitude.

Our clergy are a sign of hope for our Eparchy. Those discerning a commitment to the monastic life or ordained ministry are likewise a sign of a “future of hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11) My episcopal hope is that, come 2030, our Eparchy will begin witnessing a regular flow of ordinations to the diaconate and priesthood. In the meantime, our hope is for a few new priests and deacons, both from within and outside the Eparchy. Perceiving a future of hope is only possible when we find peace amid movement and change, understanding that being pushed outside our comfort zone does not equate to abandonment by God.

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He must increase, I must decrease

In August of 2024 I wrote about the move of our Cathedral to a new location in the city of Parma and of the subsequent liquidation of the former Cathedral property. I reminded us:

“He must increase; I must decrease (John 3:30),” the holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John says as he gives humble witness to Christ the Bridegroom. Through the prayers of our eparchial patron, Saint John the Baptist, and with a view of decreasing eparchial real estate for the sake of increasing our Church’s potential for missionary discipleship, I support efforts like those in Parma and Cleveland to enhance worship, fellowship, and stewardship by calling our faithful of different churches to work together.

With thanksgiving to God, I’m beginning to increasingly witness how our lay faithful motivate me to act as a good steward with hopes of increased faith-filled vibrancy in Parma and Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, and in the farther reaches of our Eparchy. I’m assisted in discerning how to best steward human (clergy and laity) and material (property and monetary) resources for the benefit of new and potential outreach communities.

I see the faith and sacrifices of those who have gone before us in the Byzantine Catholic Church in America’s heartland as a hope-filled commitment to increasing the Kingdom of God on earth with a proper assessment of changing demographics. This means that we should continue to see some degree of decrease in the number of priests serving near our largest cities while their presence in states without any presence increases.

As priests venture out to new areas, we are reminded that their ministry is not for the maintenance of a parish community but for each to thrive. The Divine Renovation Ministry is to be the focus of our Eparchial Conference this coming Spring. Through the presentations at the conference to our clergy I’m eager to see our parish leaders equipped with new ways of moving their communities from maintenance mode to communities alive in hope.

Read the rest of this teaching: [Christ God, our Hope](#)

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.

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.

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.

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!

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: \$160

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on May 18th was **61**. Average Sunday attendance \approx **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 18th was **\$1,357.36** Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,968.65**

Sunday: \$546; Holy Day: \$50; Online: \$558.36; Candles: \$48; Fuel: \$155

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).

