



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4141 Laurence Avenue, Allen Park, MI

June 1st, 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, 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 Cantor: Mary H

Monday, June 2, 2025

Post-festive Day of Ascension. Our Venerable Father Nicephor the Confessor (771).

Acts 21:8-14. John 14:27b-15:7.

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

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

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Post-festive Day of Ascension. The Holy Martyr Lucillian and his Companions (273).

Acts 21:26-32. John 16:2b-13a.

Wednesday, June 4, 2025



Post-festive Day of Ascension. Our Holy Fr. Metrophane, Patriarch of Constantinople (325).
The Holy Myrrh-bearers Martha and Mary.

Acts 23:1-11. John 16:15-23.

10:00am Third & Sixth Hour

6:00pm Confessions

6:30pm Vespers and Divine Liturgy for Thursday

Cantor: Mary R

intention of Nancy Patterson, from Richardson Family

Thursday, June 5, 2025

Post-festive Day of Ascension. The Holy Martyr Dorotheus, Bishop of Tyre (362).
The Holy Martyr Cosmas, an Armenian Priest.

Acts 25:13-19. John 16:23b-33a.

Friday, June 6, 2025



Leave-taking of Ascension. Our Venerable Father Bessarion the Wonder-worker (446).
Venerable Fr. & Confessor Hilary the Younger, Hegumen of the Dalmatian Monastery (845).

Acts 27:1-44. John 17:18-26.

7:00am First and Third Hour

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Vespers for Saturday

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Saturday of Souls. The Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Ancyra (303).
The Holy Martyrs Cyriaca, Valeria, and Maria.

Acts 28:1-31 & *for the departed*: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

John 21:15-25 & *for the departed*: John 5:24-30.

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Cantor: Mary R

+departed of Marron & Alvarado Families, from Sarah Marron

7:00pm Great Vespers for Pentecost – followed by Confessions

Cantor: Mary R

Sunday, June 8, 2025

⊕ PENTECOST SUNDAY. Tone 7

⊗ The Translation of the Relics of the Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit (319).

Blessed Maria Theresa Mankdiyan Chiramel.

Vespers Paramia: Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29 • Joel 2:23-32 • Ezekiel 36:24-28.

Matins Gospel: John 20:19-23.

Acts 2:1-11. John 7:37-52; 8:12.

8:15am Matins *for Pentecost*

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

After Liturgy: Fellowship & Potluck in the hall. No Class – Kneeling Vespers for Pentecost

12:15pm Kneeling Vespers *for Pentecost*

Cantor: Mary H

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 +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, Lance Remisoski, 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-eiwo-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

Pilgrims of Hope

The current Holy Jubilee Year of 2025 calls us to be Pilgrims of Hope. It, for us, should be a pilgrimage toward the fulfillment of our petition in the Litany of Peace “for peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all.”

Our Lenten pilgrimage of the Great Fast provides each of us with a grace-filled opportunity to do our part in promoting a culture of peace, a stable Church, and that oneness to which we are called and which is life in the Most Holy Trinity.

Our 40-day journey on the proximate level is toward the holy and great observance of all that Christ our Hope voluntarily endured for our salvation. It is a journey to the brightness of the Feast of Feasts, a celebration of the resurrection of our Anchor of Hope, and a reminder that our entire life in this world is such a journey toward the happiness of life everlasting. Concluding the Canon of Paschal Matins we sing: How lovely, how divine, how sweet was your voice, O Christ, when you promised to remain with us without fail until the end of time; we, the faithful, full of joy, hold fast to this anchor of hope.

The jubilee logo for Holy Year 2025 features a cross whose lower part has been elongated to form the shape of an “anchor of hope” which stabilizes the ship. Our Christian pilgrimage is often depicted as one making its way by sea and on waters that are not always calm. We navigate in the hope of our Lord’s promise that his faithful will arrive not only safely, but saved.

But Jesus does not simply travel with us, wherever we want to go. He calls us to the challenging way of repentance and without fail receives lovingly those who commit themselves to turning back to the way of the Lord. He is the way, the truth, and the life, and He shows us the way.

Continue on page 8.

The hope of resurrection and eternal life

It's all too common when our faith is floundering to think that Christ is not fulfilling his promise to remain with us. Too often it seems that life isn't going the way we want and that we've been forgotten. Our Symbol of Faith and its expectation of "the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come" itself acknowledges the reality of change and death in this world.

I'm one filled with optimistic hope for life in this world, but I always must temper that with an acknowledgement of death. Such death is experienced not only when people grow sick and fall asleep in the Lord but also when seemingly insurmountable changes come our way.

The Christian faithful face such with hope and love and with eyes open to potential new growth from the burial that follows change and death. Our Lord Jesus Christ gives this meaning to his own passion and death. Following his journey into Jerusalem He declared "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.... I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." (John 12:23,24)

Just as seeing the remains of loved ones lying before us and hearing the hymns of farewell at a funeral can bring us to tears and a profound sense of loss, so too do we mourn when we see some of our churches relegated or repurposed when parochial usage is discontinued. Christians, however, find hope in recognizing that the aging, dying, and burial of our bodies does not mean death of our souls. After death, our soul lives on and seeks an even greater participation in the life of God. After a particular church is no longer able to function as it had for so many years, the spiritual lives being nurtured there find a new freedom and new opportunities for spiritual growth and peace.

I find many of our faithful able to accept this reality about parish churches just as they accept this reality about their own lives. When the reality "hits home," however, and there is discernment about a change at one's own parish church, the defenses of denial and bargaining come into play as they so often can in the face of our mortality.

It is in our liturgical worship, careful listening to the Word of God, and personal prayerful discernment that we can continue in a life of peace and hope amid such changes.

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 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.

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 \$30

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

Building Fund

Building Fund Balance:

\$34,090

+\$129.06 (interest)

+\$510 (10% of rental income)

+\$160 (April 2025 Building Fund Donations)

-\$212 (door repair)

-\$2300 (kitchen tile repair)

\$32,377.06

May 2025 Building Fund Donations: \$210

ATTENDANCE – *Thank you for praying with us.*

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on May 25th was **79**. 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 25th was **\$1,481.86** Average Weekly Collection: **\$1,973.57**

Sunday: \$880; Holy Day: \$50; Online: \$483.36; Candles: \$48.50; Fuel: \$20

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).

