



The Pillars of St. Stephen

a prayer book to the saints

with the icons of
St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church

celebrating 70 years
of serving Allen Park

Introduction

The pillars of Saint Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church in Allen Park, Michigan, are adorned with icons of the Saints. These Saints are themselves pillars of our faith and an inspiration to us as we strive to live the life in Christ. We pray and ask their intercession for us that we may ever grow in likeness to our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. They and we are together made members of his body by his grace and together we constitute the Church, which is always in communion with the Saints and surrounded by this great cloud of witnesses. May this book of icons and prayers to the Saints inspire us to invoke the Saints daily and to become more like them as we live our daily lives.

+++++

Beginning Prayers

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

from Pentecost until Pascha:

Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly King

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

from Pascha until Ascension:

Paschal Troparion

Christ is risen from the dead!
By death he trampled Death; and to
those in the tombs he granted life.

(three times)

Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy
and Immortal, have mercy on us.
(three times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and
forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on
us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins; Master,
forgive our transgressions; Holy One,
come to us and heal our infirmities for
your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and
forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom
come; thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread; and forgive us our trespasses as
we forgive those who trespass against
us; and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil.

Amen.



The Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-Praiseworthy Apostle Peter.

Troparion, *Tone 4:*

Without leaving Rome you come to us by your precious chains which you wore. We venerate them in faith, O Apostle of the first throne, and and we pray: through your prayers to God grant great mercy to us.

Kontakion, *Tone 2:*

Let us praise the great Peter, the highest and first among the apostles, truly the disciple of the Divine One. Therefore, let us kiss his chains with faith, that he may grant forgiveness of our sins.

Synaxarion (Lives of the Saints):

The Veneration of the Honorable Chains of the Holy and All-Praised Apostle Peter: In about the year 42, on the orders of Herod Agrippa, the Apostle Peter was thrown into prison for preaching about Christ the Savior. In prison he was held secure by two iron chains. During the night before his trial, an angel of the Lord removed these chains from the Apostle Peter and led him out from the prison (Acts 12:1-11).

For three centuries the chains were kept in Jerusalem, and those who were afflicted with illness and approached them with faith received healing. Patriarch Juvenal (July 2) presented the chains to Eudokia, wife of the emperor Theodosius the Younger, and she in turn transferred them from Jerusalem to Constantinople in either the year 437 or 439.



**THE HOLY GLORIOUS, ALL-
PRAISE-WORTHY PRE-EMINENT
APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL.**

Troparion, Tone 4:

Leaders of the apostles, teachers of the world, intercede with the Lord of All to grant peace to the world and abundant mercy to our souls.

Kontakion, Tone 2:

Lord, You have received your steadfast and inspired preachers, the foremost of your apostles, into the enjoyment of Your good gifts and repose. You preferred their sufferings and death above any sacrifice. For You alone know the secrets of the heart.

Synaxarion (Lives of the Saints):

Simon, son of Jonah and brother of Andrew, was first among the disciples to confess that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God. It was by Jesus that he was called Peter. Paul, Apostle of the gentiles, preached Christ crucified to the Jews and the Greeks. Both announced the Gospel of Jesus Christ in faith and love in the city of Rome and died martyrs under the emperor Nero. The first, as the tradition goes, was nailed to a cross with his head downward and was buried in the Vatican next to the Triumphal Way. The other received his punishment from the sword and was interred at the Ostian Way. Their triumph, equal in honor and veneration, is celebrated by the whole world on this day.



**The Passing of our Venerable Father
Constantine the Philosopher, in the
monastic life called Cyril, Teacher of
the Slavs (869).**

Troparion, Tone 4:

From infancy you diligently made wisdom as your sister, O Voice of God, and, having perceived most radiantly, took her as a chaste virgin wife. You adorned your mind and soul with it like a gold yoke. You became a second Cyril, O blessed one, with the name of reason and wisdom.

Kontakion, Tone 2:

With firm and divinely inspired teaching, and enlightening the world with an exceedingly bright dawn, flashing around the universe like lightening, O Blessed Cyril, you spread the most holy word of God, to the West and to the North and to the South enlightening the world with wonders.

Synaxarion (Lives of the Saints):

The passing of our venerable father Constantine, whose monastic name is Cyril, the Apostle of the Slavs. This man from Thessalonica, along with his brother Methodius, was sent by Photius the bishop of Constantinople to Moravia, where he preached the Christian faith and devised an alphabet that they might translate the sacred books from the Greek to the Slavic language. When they came to Rome, Cyril, who was previously known as Constantine, was afflicted by illness. He was made a monk and the same day slept in the Lord. (869)



**The Passing of our Father among the
saints Methodius, Teacher of the Slavs
(885).**

Troparion, Tone 4:

Your bishop, O Christ, made a bright solemnity of dormition. Grant Your mercy from above, open the doors of the kingdom, and destroy the chains of our many sins, through the petitions of Your holy disciple and our father.

Kontakion, Tone 2:

Let us all sing to the blessed and faithful Methodius, O people, and lovingly bless him as a great shepherd for the Slavs, an honorable servant of the Trinity, and the one who drives out heresies, for he is praying for all of us.

Synaxarion (Lives of the Saints):

The passing of our holy father Methodius, teacher of the Slavs. After the death of St. Cyril in Rome, Methodius returned to Moravia and labored there among the Slavs, preaching the Gospel and establishing the Christian faith there.
(885)



**COMMEMORATION OF OUR
FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS
BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP
OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA
(379).**

Troparion of the Saint, *Tone 1*:

Your voice resounds to the whole world which has received your word of instruction in divine dogmas. You explained the nature of creation and gave rules to order human conduct. O royal priest, O venerable father Basil, beg Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

Kontakion of the Saint, *Tone 4*:

You have appeared as the unshakeable foundation of the Church, leading all mortals to safe pasture in the Lord, and confirming them by your teachings, O venerable Basil, revealer of heavenly mysteries.

Synaxarion (Lives of the Saints):

OUR HOLY FATHER BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA, who is called “great” in learning and wisdom. He taught meditation on the Scriptures and manual work in obedience and fraternal love to his monks, and established a way of life for them in the Rules he wrote. He taught the faithful by his excellent writings and shone forth by his pastoral care for the poor and sick. (379)



**Our Father among the saints,
John Chrysostom, Archbishop of
Constantinople (407).**

Troparion, Tone 8:

The grace shining forth from your mouth like a torch has enlightened the universe; it has stored up in the world the treasure of disdain for wealth. It has shown us the heights of humility. Instruct us by your words, John Chrysostom, our father, and intercede with the Word, Christ God, to save our souls.

Kontakion, Tone 6:

You have received divine grace from heaven and with your lips you teach all how to worship one God in the Trinity, all-blessed venerable John Chrysostom. It is proper that we praise you, for you are the teacher who reveals the divine.

Synaxarion (Lives of the Saints):

Our holy father John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople. Born in Antioch, he was ordained to the priesthood and found worthy of the title Chrysostom because of his golden eloquence. Chosen for the see of Constantinople, he showed himself to be the best pastor and teacher of the faith. He was forced into exile by his enemies. When he was recalled from his exile by a decree of Pope Saint Innocent I, having suffered many evils from the accompanying soldiers, he returned his soul to God on the fourteenth day of September at Comana in Pontus. (407)



THE CONCEPTION OF THE HOLY ANNA WHEN SHE CONCEIVED THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS.

Troparion, *Tone 4:*

Today the bonds of barrenness are loosed, for God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna. He promised, beyond hope, the birth of their godly daughter. The Indescribable, Himself, born of her as a mortal, commanded us through the angel to sing to her: rejoice, O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Kontakion, *Tone 4:*

Today the whole world celebrates how Anna became a mother by the power of God. She conceived the woman whose conception of the Word is beyond our words.

Synaxarion (Lives of the Saints):

According to tradition, Joachim and Anna were childless for fifty years of their married life. In their old age, they were promised that a daughter would be born to them. After nine months, St. Anna bore a daughter, blessed by God and by all subsequent generations of humanity: the most holy Theotokos, the ever-virgin Mary.

Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim, who was a native of Galilee. The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem.



The Holy Great Martyr Catherine (310).

Troparion of the Woman Saint, *Tone 4:*

You enlightened pagan philosophers with the light of your works. You were like a full moon for those who travel at night. You overcame the darkness and converted the queen. You stood up to the torturer, O blessed Catherine, chosen by God. On your wishes you were carried to the heavenly bridal chamber of your splendid Bridegroom Christ. You were espoused to him with a regal crown, O bride chosen by God. In the company of the angels, pray for us who keep your memory.

Kontakion of the Woman Saint, *Tone 2:*

Let us who love the divine martyrs now raise up an honorable choir honoring the all-wise Catherine. For this she preached Christ in the arena, and trampled down the serpents, dispising the wisdom of the long-winded orators.

Synaxarion (Lives of the Saints):

The holy great martyr Catherine, about whom it is told that she was an Alexandrian and a martyr, filled with sharpness of mind and wisdom no less than with strength of soul. Her body is honored in pious veneration in a famous coenobium on Mt. Sinai. (310)



Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great (356).

Troparion, Tone 4:

Father Anthony, you zealously imitated Elijah in righteousness, and you followed the straight paths of the Baptist. You were a desert-dweller and established the world through your prayers. Therefore, pray to Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

Kontakion, Tone 2:

Having rejected the cares of this life, you quietly ended this way of life, imitating the Baptist in every model of venerable asceticism. Together with him we honor you, O Anthony, the Beginner of the ascetical fathers.

Synaxarion (Lives of the Saints):

Anthony was an Egyptian and was born in about the year 250 in the village of Koman near Heraclea. Following the death of his noble and wealthy parents, he divided the inherited estate with his sister. Anthony distributed his half of the estate to the poor, and in his twentieth year he dedicated himself to the ascetic life for which he had yearned from his childhood. In the beginning, Anthony lived a life of asceticism in the proximity of his village, but in order to flee the disturbance of people he withdrew into the wilderness on the shore of the Red Sea. During the eighty-five years of his ascetic life, only twice did he go to Alexandria. Anthony reposed in the 105th year of his life, leaving behind an entire army of disciples and emulators.



The Synaxis of the Holy, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John.

Troparion of the Forerunner, *Tone 2:*

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with praise, but for you, O Forerunner, the Lord's testimony is enough. You were shown to be more honorable than the prophets since you were deemed worthy to baptize in the waters the Lord you had proclaimed. Therefore, you fought for the truth, and with joy proclaimed the good news to those in Hades, that God has appeared in the flesh to take away the sins of the world and to grant us great mercy.

Kontakion, *Tone 6:*

The River Jordan trembled, and was driven back filled with fear at your coming in the flesh, while John drew back in awe as he fulfilled the ministry of the Spirit. The ranks of angels stood amazed when they beheld You baptized in the stream, and we, who were in darkness, are filled with light, praising You, God-made-manifest, Who enlighten all!

Synaxarion (Lives of the Saints):

The Synaxis of the holy Forerunner, Prophet, and Baptist John. A "synaxis" feast follows one of the great feasts, and highlights a major personage of yesterday's celebration. We remember today the work of the Forerunner, John, who baptized Christ.



**THE SYNAXIS OF THE
ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND
ALL THE BODILESS POWERS OF
HEAVEN.**

Troparion, Tone 4:

Leaders of the heavenly armies, although we are unworthy, we always beseech you to fortify us through your prayers and to shelter us beneath the wings of your sublime glory. Watch over us who bow to you and cry out fervently: deliver us from danger, for you are the commanders of the powers on high.

Kontakion, Tone 2:

Leaders of God's armies and ministers of divine glory, commanders of angels and guides of mortals, plead on our behalf for what we need and for great mercy; since you are the leaders of the heavenly hosts.

Synaxarion (Lives of the Saints):

THE SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND ALL THE ANGELIC POWERS. In the time of Pope Sylvester of Rome and Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria, this feast was established to honor Michael and Gabriel the Archangels, and all the holy bodiless powers of heaven in their nine choirs: Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.



**THE HOLY, GLORIOUS AND
VICTORIOUS GREAT MARTYR
GEORGE THE WONDER-
WORKER (303).**

Troparion, Tone 4:

You fought the good fight with faith, O George, martyr of Christ. You convicted the tyrants of their wickedness. You offered yourself as an acceptable sacrifice to God. Therefore, you received a crown of victory, and through your prayers, O holy one, you obtain forgiveness of sins for all.

Kontakion, Tone 4:

Cultivated by God, you became an excellent gardener of religion, harvesting sheaves of virtues for yourself. You sowed in tears but reaped in joy. You fought to the shedding of your blood, and through your prayers, O holy one, you obtain forgiveness of sins for all.

Synaxarion (Lives of the Saints):

The Holy Great Martyr George the Victory-Bearer, was a native of Cappadocia (a district in Asia Minor), and he grew up in a deeply believing Christian family. When he became a man, Saint George entered into the service of the Roman army. Diocletian gave all his governors full freedom in their court proceedings against Christians, and he promised them his full support. Saint George, when he heard the decision of the emperor, distributed all his wealth to the poor, freed his servants, and then appeared in the Senate. The brave soldier of Christ spoke out openly against the emperor's designs.



*Icon of the
Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen
from our chapel*

**St. Stephen
Byzantine Catholic Church
4141 Laurence Avenue
Allen Park, MI 48101
313-382-5901**

<https://saintstephenbyzantine.church/>

