



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SACRED HEART BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Priest: **Fr. Márton Egressy**, (419) 269-7585, egressy.marci@gmail.com
Deacon: **Lawrence Hendricks**



Glory to Jesus Christ! – Dicsőség Jézus Krisztusnak! Слава Ісусу Христу!

WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS & GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY

Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're glad you're with us today. If you are looking for God, have a prayer request, looking for more information about the Eastern Catholic Church, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr. Marton he will be happy to talk to you. Please join us for our potluck Agape in the Parish Hall following the Divine Liturgy. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

This Sunday's Hymns and Propers - Tone 2 - Sunday of Meat-Fare

The prescribed formula for the Sunday of Meat-Fare is on Pages 217-218 of the Teal Pew Book.

Thus, the prescribed music is located as follows:

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 2 - Middle of Page 130

Glory...Now and Ever..., Tone 1 - Middle of Page 126 (or follow cantor)

Kontakion of Meat-Fare Sunday, Tone 1 - Near Top of Page 217

Prokeimenon: Bottom of Page 217; Alleluia: Top of Page 218

Communion Hymns: For Sunday, Psalm 148:1 (Middle of Page 78); and for Meat-Fare, Psalm 32:1 (Bottom of Page 213)

SAVE THE DATE

February 15., *Blessing of Married Couples in both parishes*

February 15., *Council meeting in Sacred Heart*

February 22., *1st Sunday of the Great Fast, after the Liturgy we will bless koliva*

February 20-22 *13th Annual Women's Retreat* to be held at Maria Stein Retreat Center 2365 St Johns Rd, Maria Stein, OH 45860 The Retreat Master is Fr. Joseph Loya, OSA, PhD. Details to follow when announced. contact Joan Washburn at stmarymbhdwomensretreat@gmail.com

May 2-3, 2026, Pre-Cana weekend

The Marriage and Family ministry of the Eparchy of Parma, in collaboration with the Tabor Life Institute, will be offering a Pre-Cana weekend on May 2-3, 2026. This marriage preparation course, following the Byzantine Rite, will be held at St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church, located at 36125 Aurora Rd, Solon, OH. The cost for the two-day program is \$200 per couple, which includes the program fee and meals.



Schedule of Services

February 9-15, 2026

Monday, February 9., *Nicephorus Martyr, 3Jn 1-15, Lk 19,29-40&22,7-39*

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

Wednesday, February 11., *Blasé Bishop-Martyr, Joel 2,12-26, Joel 4,12-21*

10:00am *Third & Six Hours*

1:00pm-4:00pm *Silent Prayer & Visit the Shrine in Sacred Heart*

Friday, February 13. *Martinian Venerable, Zech 8,7-17, Zech8,19-23*

6:00pm *Confession*

6:30pm *Vespers in St. Stephen*

Saturday, February 14. *All Holy Ascetical Fathers and Mothers Death of cyrill Apostle to the*

Slavs, Rom 14,19-26, Mt6,1-13

10:00am *Divine Liturgy in Sacred Heart*

11:00am-1:00pm *Silent Prayer & Visit the Shrine in Sacred Heart*

Sunday, February 15. *Sunday of Cheesefare, Rom13,11-14,1, Mt6,14-21*

8:30am *Confession*

8:40am *3rd Hour*

9:00am *Divine Liturgy & Blessing Marriage Couples & Reconciliation with each*

other before Great Fast, Agape in the hall in St. Stephen

11:00am *Bible study with Kevin Perrotta*

10:00am *E.C.F. classes in Sacred Heart*

11:30am *Divine Liturgy & Blessing Marriage Couples & Reconciliation with each*

other before Great Fast

13:00pm *Agape in the hall in Sacred Heart*

Request a Divine Liturgy for Your Intentions

Divine Liturgy is the Church's most sacred prayer offered for the faithful. You may request a Liturgy for: **The living** (for health, thanksgiving, or guidance), **the sick., the departed.** Please feel free to contact Fr. Marton if you would like a Liturgy offered for a special intention. *“Pray for one another, that you may be healed.”* (James 5,16)

Prayer for Vocations

O Lord Jesus Christ, instill in the hearts of men and women a willingness to joyfully give their lives for the sake of souls, and call them to your service. Hear my prayer and the prayers of your Church: send us good, faithful, and holy priests, deacons, monks, and nuns to lead your people to their eternal happiness. Amen

Thank you

A great big heartfelt thank you to all who participated in the December Raffle and Cookie Sale. The parish made a profit of \$ 2,130.00 and the GCU sent a check that matched that amount. The check was presented to Father Márton last Sunday.

Baby bottles to benefit AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center in Sacred Heart

Baby bottles to benefit AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center are available in the vestibule. Each family is asked to take one home and fill it with coins or paper money. Please return them by the end of January. The money will benefit the AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center, here in Livonia. If you have any questions, see Maryellen. Thank you!

Koliva – First Friday of the Great Fast

Koliva (also called kollyva) is a traditional liturgical food made from boiled wheat, prepared and blessed in the Eastern Christian tradition. It is especially associated with the **First Friday of the Great Fast**, when the Church remembers God's providence and proclaims the hope of the Resurrection.

History of Koliva

The tradition of koliva is connected with **Saint Theodore the Recruit (St. Theodore Tiron)**. In the 4th century, during the first week of the Great Fast, Emperor Julian the Apostate attempted to defile the fasting of Christians by ordering food in the markets to be sprinkled with meat sacrificed to idols.

Saint Theodore appeared in a dream to the bishop of Constantinople and warned him not to allow the faithful to buy food from the markets. Instead, he instructed them to prepare and eat **boiled wheat (koliva)**. Through this divine intervention, the faithful were protected, and

the Church has remembered this miracle ever since by blessing koliva on the First Friday of the Great Fast.

Spiritual Meaning

Koliva recalls the words of Christ:

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (John 12:24)

For this reason, koliva symbolizes **death and resurrection**, as well as the Christian hope of **eternal life**.

Ingredients

- boiled wheat
- honey
- ground walnuts
- raisins, mixed dried fruit, **dried apricots**
- powdered sugar/ shredded coconut (for decoration)



Koliva is more than food—it is a **prayerful offering and a confession of faith**, reminding us that our fasting leads to purification, renewal, and new life in Christ.

Blessing of Married Couples – On the Occasion of Marriage Week

Marriage Week is an international initiative that draws attention to the value of marriage and the importance of strengthening it. **Our parish would also like to introduce this beautiful tradition**, so that together we may give thanks for the gift of marriage. As part of **Marriage Week**, we warmly invite all married couples on **February 15**. During the **Divine Liturgy we will pray especially for married couples**, and **following the Liturgy** there will be a **Blessing of Married Couples**. Let us together ask God’s blessing upon our marital love, fidelity, and family life. *All married couples are warmly welcome!* 🙏🙏

Please remember in your prayers:

“Prayer is the gentle embrace of those who suffer, even from afar.” (Pope Francis)

Please remember the following members of our parish in your prayers:

Chris Lauffer, Dan Lauffer, Donald and Theresa Butellai, Deacon Laurence Hendricks, Abigel Egressy, Gregory Hendricks, Nancy Patterson, Paul and Betty Baise, Luella, Nella, James Wilkins, Betty, Julia, Marielies, George, Paul, Richard and Elaine Baranko.

Please pray also for all our benefactors, friends, neighbors and anyone we may have forgotten. Please let Fr. Marton know if you would like to add new names to the prayer list and notify him about any sick and/or hospitalized parishioners and family members.

Sundays Gospel

The Sheep and the Goats (Mt 25,31-46)

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me,you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

PASTORAL MINISTRY AND SACRAMENTS:

SACRAMENT of CONFESSIONS: on Weekdays, Sundays and Feast Days: 30 min. before

Divine Liturgy and other days, by appointment

HOLY COMNIUNION; for the sick, by appointment, anytime.

BAPTISMS - by appointment.

MARRIAGES - by appointment, at least 6 months in advance.

FUNERALS - by appointment.

ANOINTING of the sick, hospital visits - by appointment, anytime.

ATTENDANCE in St. Stephen

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on **February 1st was 34 in St. Stephen**

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on **February 1st was 40 in St. Sacred Heart**

Devote yourselves “to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

COLLECTION

Weekly Donation **was \$ 8,973.7 in St. Stephen**

Weekly Donation **was \$ 4,461.3 in Sacred Heart**

“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)