

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 15th** was **48 in St. Stephen**

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on **February 15th** was **45 in St. Sacred Heart**

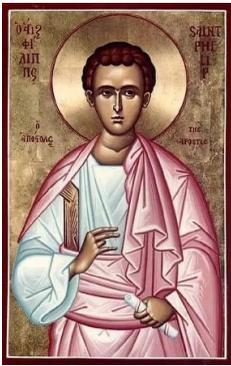
Devote yourselves "to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42).

COLLECTION

Weekly Donation was \$ **1,064.69 in St. Stephen**

Weekly Donation was \$ **3,266.37 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)



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



GREAT LENTEN PRAYER CHAIN

During this holy season of the Great Fast, we invite all parishioners to commit to daily prayer and to offer these prayers for **peace in the world, for our Church, for our families, and for the sick and suffering**. Please pray the following each day during Great Lent:

O Theotokos and Virgin, rejoice, O Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls. (*Prostration*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

O Baptist of Christ, be mindful of us all, that we may be delivered from our iniquities, for unto thee is given the grace to pray on behalf of us all. (*Prostration*)

Now and ever, and forever, Amen.

Pray for us, holy apostles and all the saints, that we may be delivered from perils and afflictions: for our fervent supplicants before the Savior. (*Prostration*)

We take refuge beneath thy tender mercy, O Theotokos: despise not our supplications in distress, but deliver us from perils, for thou alone art pure and blessed. (*No prostration*)

Lord, have mercy. (40 times). *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever Amen.*

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

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!

1st Sunday of Great Fast, Sunday of Orthodoxy, Tone 4

The prescribed formula for the Sunday of Orthodoxy is on Pages 220-222 of the Teal Pew Book. Per Sacred Heart tradition for Sundays of Lent, antiphons were changed. Thus the music for today is as follows: For first and second antiphon, sing first and second Typical Psalm A on Pages 16 and 17. Instead of third antiphon, sing the Beatitudes on Pages 23-24.

Troparion of Resurrection, Tone 4 - Top of Page 141., **Troparion of Holy Icons**, Tone 2 - Top of Page 220., **Glory...Now and Ever...**, Tone 8 - Bottom of Page 161 (or follow cantor)

Kontakion of Holy Icons, Tone 8 - Bottom of Page 220., **Prokeimenon**: Middle of Page 221. **Alleluia**: Middle of Page 221. After start of Anaphora, Page 55, the liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated. Sacred Heart uses "A" music on Pages 96-100. **Communion Hymns**: For Sunday, Psalm 148:1 (Middle of Page 78), plus for Righteous, Psalm 32:1 (Bottom of Page 213)

Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life!
Take from me the spirit of sloth,
faint-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk. (*Prostration*)

But give rather the spirit of chastity,
humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. (*Prostration*)

Yea, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors
and not to judge my brother,
for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. (*Prostration*)

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 Sugars, 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.

SAVE THE DATE

February 27th Friday, *Mothers Prayer in St. Stephen at 5:30pm*

March 1st, 2nd Sunday of Great Fast, *Regional Great Lenten Vespers in St. Stephen at 4:00pm. The Divine Liturgy will celebrate before the Vespers at 2:30pm.*

March 8th, 3rd Sunday of Great Fast, *Regional Great Lenten Vespers in Sacred Heart at 4:00pm. The Divine Liturgy will celebrate before the Vespers at 2:30pm.*

March 15th, 4th Sunday of Great Fast, *Regional Great Lenten Vespers in St. Michaels Church in Oregon, Toledo at 4:00pm.*

March 19th Thursday, *Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete at 6 PM in Sacred Heart*

March 21st Saturday, *Akathistos Saturday, Akathist at 10 AM in Sacred Heart*

March 21st Saturday, *Akathistos Saturday, Akathist at 4 PM in St. Stephen*

March 22nd 5th Sunday of Great Fast, *Ladies meeting in Sacred Heart*

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.

1st Sunday of the Great Fast, the Sunday of Orthodoxy

Historical Background of the Sunday Orthodoxy

Today we celebrate the "triumph of orthodoxy", meaning of the true faith. It celebrates the final victory over iconoclasm in 842, after 130 years of repeated struggles. The Synod of Constantinople had reaffirmed the [Seventh Ecumenical Council](#)'s teaching on the proper use of images in Christian worship, and to celebrate the event the population of Constantinople took part in a huge procession from the Blachernae Church to Hagia Sophia, carrying icons and other images which had been hidden away in homes and monasteries and now could be restored to the churches. Every parish holds a similar procession today, as the Council had decreed that the first Sunday of [Lent](#), which was the date of that first procession, would include this remembrance. Today, the service reflects both the original feast, Sunday of the Prophets, and the triumph of orthodox belief over all heresies. Iconoclasm teaches that the Word of God as Incarnate in Jesus cannot be represented in art, as the divine should not be represented in any way. In this, it reflects both Jewish and Muslim teachings, and raises questions then about the Incarnation: did God truly become a human being in Jesus or not? This underlies all iconoclastic tendencies, rejecting the great gift of the incarnation through which we are offered salvation. Iconoclasm was also a reaction to the claims of miracles accompanying icons, and excessive piety which seemed to veer very close to idol-worship. Much of the ancient Eastern Christian art was lost in this purge. The treasury of Saint Catherine's Monastery in Sinai – which escaped the destruction - gives us a glimpse of what we have lost. Officials favored their destruction. Parishioners hid icons in their homes, but soldiers would break in to search for the forbidden images.

Pope Gregory III condemned the heresy, but his messengers to the Emperor were imprisoned. Finally, Empress Irene, Pope Hadrian I, and Patriarch Tarasios convoked the Seventh Council at Nicaea in 786-87. This Council reaffirmed the classic Christian defense of icons: "We define that the holy icons, whether in color, mosaic, or some other material, should be exhibited in the holy churches of God, on the sacred vessels and liturgical vestments, on the walls, furnishings, and in houses and along the roads, namely the icons of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, that of our Lady the Theotokos, those of the venerable angels and those of all saintly people. Whenever these representations are contemplated, they will cause those who look at them to commemorate and love their prototype. We define also that they should be kissed and that they are an object of veneration and honor (timitiki proskynisis), but not of real worship (latreia), which is reserved for Him Who is the subject of our faith and is proper for the divine nature. The veneration accorded to an icon is in effect transmitted to the prototype; he who venerates the icon, venerated in it the reality for which it stands". Iconoclasm was very popular in the imperial army, in the Balkan peninsula, and among refugees from the provinces conquered by the Muslim armies. These people preferred to use plain crosses, not crucifixes, and decorative paintings that had no figures in them. Iconoclasm also appeared in parts of the Latin Church and was revived in the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s.

Schedule of Services

February 23-March 1, 2026

Monday, February 23. *2nd Week of Great Fast., Polycarp Bishop-Martyr., Gen 3,21-4,7., Prov3,34-4,22*

11:00am *Funeral service with Divine Liturgy (+ Paul Sugars) in Sacred Heart*

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

Wednesday, February 25. *Tarasius Patriarch, Gen4,16-26., Prov 5,15-6,3*

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

5:00pm-6:00pm *Soup&Salad in Sacred Heart*

6:00pm *Confession in Sacred Heart*

6:30pm *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in Sacred Heart (+ John Orlyk)*

Friday, February 27. *Procopius Venerable-Confessor, Gen5,32-6,8., Prov6,20-7,1*

5:30pm *Mothers pray in St. Stephen*

6:00pm *Confession*

6:30pm *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in St. Stephen (+Melvyn&Sarah)*

Saturday, February 28. *2nd All Souls Saturday Heb3,12-16., Mk1,35-45*

10:00am *Divine Liturgy in Sacred Heart for All Souls*

11:00am-12:00pm *Silent Prayer & Visit the Shrine in Sacred Heart*

3:30pm *Confession in St. Stephen*

4:00pm *Divine Liturgy in St. Stephen for All Souls*

Sunday, March 1. *2nd Sunday of the Great Fast, Heb1,10-2,3., Mk2,1-12, Tone 5.*

11:00am *Confession in Sacred Heart*

11:30am *Divine Liturgy in Sacred Heart, Agape in the hall in Sacred Heart*

2:30pm *Divine Liturgy in St. Stephen*

4:00pm *Great Lenten Vespers in St. Stephen & Agape in the hall in St. Stephen*

(We kindly ask you to bring soup, salad, or another Lenten dish to share at this Sunday's agape meal. Thank you for your generosity and for helping us make this time of fellowship a blessing for all.)

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

Sacred Heart Choir Practice

Beginning March 1st, we should plan on rehearsing every week until Easter.

3/1 10:30 Rehearsal, 11:30 Liturgy cantor-led

3/8 1:00 Rehearsal, 2:30 Liturgy with choir pieces, 4:00 Great Lenten Vespers (Deanery event at Sacred Heart)

3/15 10:30 Rehearsal, 11:30 Liturgy cantor-led

Death Notice

PAUL J. SUGARS

September 10, 1933 – February 18, 2026

With Christian hope in the Resurrection, we announce the passing of Paul J. Sugars, who fell asleep in the Lord on February 18, 2026, at the age of 92. Paul is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, Catherine; his children Paula, Jacqueline (Mike), and Paul (Leesa); his cherished granddaughter Alexa; his brother Stephen; his in-laws Louise, Mary, Charles, and Joan; and many loving nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Susan; his brother Jack and wife Jean; his brother Michael; his sister Elaine and her husband Robert (Bob); and his in-laws John and Pearl, Joseph and Marie, John and Beverly, and Martin.

Visitation will be held on *Sunday, February 22, 2026, from 3:00–7:00 PM at Manns Family Funeral Home in Livonia.* The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated *on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church (29125 Six Mile, Livonia),* with visitation beginning at 10:00 AM. Burial will follow on Tuesday. May his memory be eternal! Вічна пам'ять!