

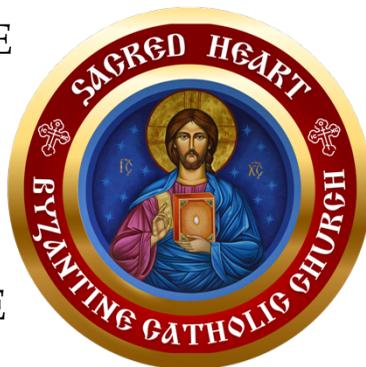
## SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## SACRED HEART BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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!

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast, Memory of St. John Climacus, Tone 7**

The "Tone of the Week" is Tone 7. The format for today, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast, is on Pages 226 - 227 of the teal pew book. The pages for non-routine music for today are as follows. Per Sacred Heart tradition, for Sundays of Lent, instead of 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 7 - Bottom of Page 156. **Troparion of St. John Climacus**, Tone 4 - Top of Page 226. **Glory...Now and Ever...**, Tone 4 - Middle of Page 141 (or follow cantor)

**Kontakion of St. John Climacus**, Tone 4 - Middle of Page 226

**Prokeimenon**: Middle of Page 158 plus verse, then Bottom of Page 226 without verse.

**Alleluia**: Middle of Page 158 with 2 verses, then Top of Page 227 with verse. After start of Anaphora, Page 55, music for the liturgy of St. Basil the Great will be sung, Pages 96-100

**Communion Hymns**: Psalm 148:1 - Page 78. Then Psalm 111: 6,7 - Bottom of Page 227

### SAVE THE DATE

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

**March 21<sup>st</sup> Saturday**, Akathistos Saturday, Akathist at **10AM** in Sacred Heart

**March 21<sup>st</sup> Saturday**, Akathistos Saturday, Akathist at **4PM** in St. Stephen

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

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Fast**, Council meeting in Sacred Heart

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Fast**, Regional Great Lenten Vespers in St. Nicholas, Sterling Heights at **4PM**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> Monday**, Council meeting in St. Stephen at **6:45PM**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday**, Regional Great Lenten Vespers in St. Michael, in Flushing at **4PM**

**April 4<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**, Resurrection Matins in Sacred Heart at **6:30PM**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday**, Resurrection of Our Lord-Pascha, **8:00AM** Resurrection Matins, 9:00am Divine Liturgy&Blessing of Easter Basket in St. Stephen

**April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday**, Resurrection of Our Lord-Pascha, **11:30AM** Divine Liturgy&Blessing of Easter Basket in Sacred Heart

**April 6<sup>th</sup> Bright Monday**, Divine Liturgy&Mirovanja in St. Stephen at **9:00AM**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> Bright Monday**, Divine Liturgy&Mirovanja in St. Sacred Heart at **11:30AM**

**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.

**October 17-19, Eparchial Assembly in Columbus, Ohio:** A Pre-Assembly, open to all of the faithful of the Eparchy will be held October 17-19, 2026. The formal Assembly will be held October 19-22, 2026, but attendance will be by invitation only.



# Schedule of Services

## March 16-22, 2026

Monday, March 16., 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Great Fast., Sabinus & Pappas Martyrs, Gen 13, 12-18, Prov 14, 27-15

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

6:00pm *Confession*

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

Wednesday, March 18., Cyril of Jerusalem Archbishop, Gen 17, 1-9, Prov 15, 20-16, 9

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

Thursday, March 19., Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, Gen 18, 20-33, Prov 16, 17-33

6:00pm *Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete in Sacred Heart*

Friday, March 20., Venerable Fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery, Gen 22, 1-18, Prov 17, 17-18, 5

6:00pm *Confession*

6:30pm *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in St. Stephen (+ Melvyn) & Young Adults event (V&V)*

Saturday, March 21., Akathistos Saturday, Heb 9, 24-28, Mk 8, 27-31

10:00am *Akathistos in Sacred Heart*

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

3:30pm *Confession in St. Stephen*

4:00pm *Akathistos in St. Stephen*

Sunday, March 22., 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast Mary of Egypt Venerable, Heb 9, 11-14, Mk 10, 32-45

8:30am *Confession*

8:45 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour

9:00am *Divine Liturgy in St. Stephen & Agape in the hall*

11:00am *Bible Study with Kevin Perrotta*

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

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

4:00pm *Great Lenten Vespers in St. Michaels Church in Sterling Heights*

### 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)

### Pray for Peace and Our Church's Future

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us join in prayer **for peace in the world**, especially for countries affected by war, that peace may come swiftly. We also ask the Holy Spirit to guide **our Church and parish in the days ahead**, strengthening our faith and unity. These intentions will be included in every Divine Liturgy, so that we may all share in God's mercy and guidance.

### 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:

Living and Sick: *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, Sugars, Richard and Elaine Baranko, Guillermo, Christine, Rosario, Nicodemus, Mary Alice, Virginia Thome Weber.*

Deceased + *Paul +Helen Moehler, +Edith Santo.*

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.

### Parish Database Update

To better serve our parish family and to ensure that our records are accurate and up to date, we are currently updating our parish database. We kindly ask all parishioners to review and update their household information, including contact details and sacramental records. Even if you believe your information has not changed, please take a moment to complete the parish survey so that we may confirm the accuracy of our records. Printed forms are available at the church entrance. Completed forms may be returned to the parish office. Thank you for helping us maintain accurate parish records and strengthen our parish community. **Please fill out the blank and please return by March 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

### Parish Renovation & Fundraising Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church

Dear Faithful, to properly care for and maintain our beautiful church, several important renovation projects are needed. The banquet hall roof has developed a leak, which will be repaired when the weather improves. The **cost: \$2,875.00**. Thank you very much for your support so far.

### Encouragement Card for Our Seminarians: How to Participate

During the Great Fast, join the entire Eparchy in supporting our seminarians — **Father Deacon Joseph Hnat, David Varga, James Hartung, and Patrick Kilroy** — as they continue their formation and discernment. Visit <https://parma.org/seminarian-appreciation> to write a **message of prayer, encouragement, or gratitude** today! If you feel moved, you may also speak to your parish priest about sending a modest donation or “pocket money” to help support their daily needs during formation. This is entirely optional but deeply appreciated. Another option is to donate to the Eparchy's Society of Blessed Hieromartyr Theodore Romzha which aims to inspire, support, and nurture vocations <https://parma.org/investinvocations>. The card will be sent to the seminarians **in time for Pascha**, reminding them that their Eparchy walks with them in faith and love. The card will close 3/23.

### Pastoral Visits for the Homebound

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Our parish would like to reach out to those who are elderly, sick, or unable to come to church. If you or someone you know cannot attend the Divine Liturgy but would like a visit from the priest, we would be happy to come and visit, pray together, and bring Holy Communion. Please help us care for our parish family by letting us know about those who may benefit from a pastoral visit. Please feel free to contact **Fr. Marton** with confidence to arrange a visit: ☎ **419-269-7585**. Let us remember that no member of our parish family is forgotten.

### ST. STEPHEN'S GUILD – EASTER BAKING

The St. Stephen's Guild will be baking traditional **Paska Bread** and making **Butter Lambs** for Easter. **Paska Bread:** \$20 each (Plain, with Raisins). **Butter Lambs:** \$5 each. **Order Deadline:** Sunday, March 22. **Pickup:** Palm Sunday, March 29, after the Divine Liturgy. Thank you for supporting the St. Stephen's Guild and our parish community!

### ALTAR SERVER INVITATION

*"Serve the Lord with gladness."* — (Psalm 100)

**Our Byzantine Catholic Church** warmly invites **boys and young men of the parish** to become **Altar Servers** and assist in the celebration of the **Divine Liturgy**. Serving at the Holy Altar is a beautiful and meaningful way to grow in faith and take an active role in the life of the Church. Altar servers help the priest during the services and learn the rich traditions of our Byzantine Catholic worship.

**Why become an Altar Server?** Grow closer to Christ through service. Learn the beauty and meaning of the Divine Liturgy. Serve the parish community. Participate more deeply in the life of the Church.

### **Who can join?**

All boys and young men who would like to serve the Lord and the Church. Parents are encouraged to support their children in this special ministry. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact **Fr. Marton** ☎ **419-269-7585**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast**

### Memory of St. John Climacus

Saint John Climacus was born in the late sixth century, though little is known about his origins because he deliberately chose to live as a stranger in the world. From a young age he desired to belong entirely to God. At the age of sixteen, after receiving a good education, he left the world and went to **Mount Sinai**, dedicating his life to prayer, humility, and ascetic struggle. At Sinai he placed himself under the guidance of an elder named Martyrios. With deep humility and obedience, John submitted his entire life to his spiritual father, striving each day to grow in virtue. After four years of testing, he was tonsured as a monk at the age of twenty. Even then, holy elders recognized the grace of God within him and foretold that he would one day become a great light for the Church.



After many years of obedience, Saint John withdrew into solitude in the desert near Sinai. There he lived for about forty years in prayer, fasting, and silence. His life was simple and disciplined. He ate very little, slept only enough to sustain his strength, and devoted himself to constant prayer and meditation on the Scriptures. Through tears of repentance and deep humility, he purified his heart and grew in love for God. During this time he gained great spiritual wisdom and the gift of discernment. Many monks began to seek his guidance. Although he tried to hide his virtues, God revealed him as a spiritual teacher. Through prayer he even performed miracles, saving people from danger and helping those who struggled with temptation and despair. Eventually, after many years in the desert, Saint John was called to become the abbot of the **Monastery of Mount Sinai**. Like a new Moses guiding a spiritual Israel, he led the monks with wisdom, humility, and love. At the request of another abbot, Saint John wrote his famous spiritual work **“The Ladder of Divine Ascent.”** In this book he describes the spiritual life as a ladder of thirty steps leading the soul toward God. Each step represents a virtue or struggle on the path to holiness. This work became one of the greatest guides to the Christian spiritual life and is still read especially during **Great Lent**.

Saint John taught that humility, repentance, vigilance over our thoughts, and love for God are the path to true freedom. His words are simple yet powerful, leading the soul toward transformation in Christ. Near the end of his life he appointed his brother George as his successor. When Saint John peacefully fell asleep in the Lord around the year 649, his brother followed him to the Lord not long afterward, just as the saint had foretold.

Saint John Climacus remains one of the great spiritual teachers of the Church. His life reminds us that through humility, prayer, and perseverance we too can ascend the ladder that leads to the Kingdom of God.

**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 **March 8<sup>th</sup> was 29 in St. Stephen**

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on **March 8<sup>th</sup> was 47 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 \$ **2,019.55 in St. Stephen**

Weekly Donation was \$ **5,160.61 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)*