

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 22th 43 was in St. Stephen**

Attendance at Divine Liturgy on **March 22th 60 was in St. Sacred Heart**

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

COLLECTION

Weekly Donation was **\$ 1,551 in St. Stephen**

Weekly Donation was **\$ 1,243.3 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)



SAINT STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Deacon: **Lawrence Hendricks**



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Dear brothers and sister in Christ!
We warmly invite all parishioners and friends to join us in the sacred celebrations of Holy Week and the Resurrection of our Lord.



"Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life!" (PASCHAL TROPARION)

In the light of the Resurrection, we wish all our dear brothers and sisters a blessed and joyful Easter!
Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Lazarus Saturday • March 28th

- 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy in Sacred Heart
- 3:00 PM – Mothers prayer in St. Stephen
- 4:00 PM – Divine Liturgy in St. Stephen

Palm Sunday • March 29th

- 8:30 AM – Confession in St. Stephen
- 8:45 AM – Procession with Palms & Pussywillows
- 9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy w/ Blessing of Palms & Pussywillows in St. Stephen
- 11:30 AM – Divine Liturgy w/ Blessing of Palms & Pussywillows in Sacred Heart
- 4:00 PM – Vespers at St. Michael (Flushing, MI)

Great & Holy Monday • March 30th

- 9:00AM – 1:30 PM – Visiting the Homebounds in St. Stephen
- 6:00 PM – Confessions
- 6:30 PM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Anointing of the sick in St. Stephen

Great & Holy Wednesday • April 1th

- 9:00AM – 1:30 PM – Visiting the Homebounds in Sacred Heart
- 6:00 PM – Confessions
- 6:30 PM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Anointing of the sick in Sacred Heart

Great & Holy Thursday • April 2nd

- 9:00AM – 2:00PM – Visiting the Homebounds in Sacred Heart
- 6:00 PM – Vespers with Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of St. Basil & Washing of Feet in St. Stephen

Great & Holy Friday • April 3rd

- 8:00 AM – Strasti Matins in St. Stephen
- 3:30 PM – Confessions in St. Stephen
- 4:00 PM – Burial Vespers for Great & Holy Friday in St. Stephen
- 6:00 PM – Burial Vespers for Great & Holy Friday in Sacred Heart with Bishop Robert
- 8:00PM-10:00PM – Visiting the Tomb in Sacred Heart
- 8:00PM – Akathist to the Divine Passion of Christ in Sacred Heart

Great & Holy Saturday • April 4th

- 8:30 AM – Jerusalem Matins in Sacred Heart
- 6:30 PM – Resurrection Matins in Sacred Heart

Pascha • April 5th

- 8:00 AM – Resurrection Matins in St. Stephen
- 9:00AM – Divine Liturgy for Pascha in St. Stephen
- 10:30 AM – Blessing of Easter Baskets & Fellowship in the hall in St. Stephen
- 11:30AM – Divine Liturgy for Pascha and Blessing of Easter Baskets & Fellowship in the hall in Sacred Heart

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!

Palm Sunday, March 29, (Festal Tone).

The prescribed propers for today are summarized on Pages 235-241 as follows: **First and Second Antiphon (Page 235-6); Third Antiphon** (Middle of Page 236 plus Troparion of Lazarus (Tone 1, Bottom of Page 236). Priest intones, "Wisdom be Attentive." Proceed with ALL the below: **Entrance Hymn (Tone 1, Middle of Page 237);** Again the Troparion of Lazarus (Tone 1 music is on bottom of Page 236);

Glory..., (Tone 4, Near bottom of Page 237); Troparion (Tone 4, Bottom of Page 237);

Now and ever..., (Tone 6, Middle of Page 238);

Kontakion (Tone 6, Bottom of Page 238).

Prokeimenon: Top of Page 239; Alleluia: Middle of Page 239. **Instead of "It is Truly Proper...":**

Bottom of Page 239 then immediately sing at top of Page 240

Communion Hymn: Psalm 117: 26,27: Top of Page 241.



How to Put Together a Traditional Easter Basket

A beloved Slavic tradition at Pascha is bringing a basket of food to church on Easter to be blessed after the Divine Liturgy. Paschal foods celebrate the Resurrection and often include items that were set aside during the Great Fast. They are typically brought to the midnight service on Holy Saturday, blessed after the liturgy, and enjoyed at the feast that follows.

HOW TO PUT TOGETHER A TRADITIONAL EASTER BASKET
TEXT ADAPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY FR. BASIL KRAYNYAK, GCU MESSENGER, APRIL, 1979* ILLUSTRATED BY FR. JONATHAN BANNON

HORSERADISH
BUTTER
KOLBASI
PASCHA BREAD
SALT
CHEESE
CANDLE
EGGS
HAM
BACON

PASCHA - The Easter Bread (Pron. Pa-ska.) A sweet yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc. Symbolic of Christ Himself who is our True Bread. Usually round loaf baked with a golden crust decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ. Sometimes a cross (+) of dough is placed on top encircled by a plait given it a crowned effect or Greek.

CHEESE - (Russian: Hradka or Siroc) A custard type cheese shaped into a ball having a rather hard but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. Also creamed cheese is placed in a small dish and both are decorated with symbols (see Pascha) out of cloves or pepper balls.

HAM - (Russian: Sushka - pron. shoon-ka.) The flesh most popular with the Slavs as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Some may prefer Lamb or Veal. This is usually well roasted or cooked as well as other meats so the festivity of the day will not be hindered with preparation and all may enjoy the feast.

BUTTER - (Russian: Maslo pron. ma-slo.) This favorite dairy product is often shaped into a figure of a Lamb or small cross and decorated as the cheese. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

BACON - (Russian: Slavina pron. sla-ni-na) A piece of uncooked bacon cured with spices. Symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy to us.

SALT - (Russian: Sol' pron. sol') A condiment necessary for flavor reminding the Christian of his duty to others.

SAUSAGE (Russian: Kolbasi-pron. kol-ba-si) A spicy, garlic sausage of pork products indicative of God's favor and generosity.

EGGS (Russian: Pisanki pron. pi-sun-ki) Hardboiled eggs brightly decorated with symbols and markings made with beeswax, indicative of new life and resurrection. Red eggs are also traditional date back to a story with St. Mary Magdalene. Having been dyed with onion skins saved over the past year, red shows the color of life and victory that came through Christ's blood.

HORSERADISH (Russian: Chren pron. khren) Horseradish mixed with grated red beets (optional) symbolizes the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. A bitter-sweet red colored mixture reminds us of the sufferings of Christ.

These articles are placed in a wicker basket. A decorated candle is placed inside and is lit at the time of the blessing. A linen cover usually embroidered with a picture of the Risen Christ or symbol with the words "Christ is Risen" is placed over the food when brought to the Church. In some places a large Easter Bread (Pascha) is made and brought separately in a large linen cloth. If the origin of the people was from a wine growing area, a sweet wine may be brought.

Palm Sunday

Jn 12,1-18

The triumphant entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem before His passion, was celebrated with solemnity since the first centuries of Christianity. In the Byzantine Rite it is considered to this day one of the twelve Major Feasts of the liturgical year. It is always celebrated on the Sunday before Easter with the blessing of branches. In liturgical books the feast is referred to as Palm Sunday or Vaj Sunday (Gr. baion-palm branch) for, on that Sunday, palm branches were blessed and distributed to the faithful. Popularly it was also called Willow Sunday (Verbna Ned'ilja) because in Europe, pussy-willows were blessed instead of palms. It is also known as Flower Sunday (Cvitna Ned'ilja) since in and near Constantinople they used to distribute early spring flowers, such as branches of lilac or elder, to the faithful Jesus Christ, after raising Lazarus (Jn 11:1-44), was finally recognized by the Jewish people as their Messiah. When He arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, they greeted Him with a triumphant welcome.



The Evangelist, however, hastened to remark that it was done in fulfillment of a prophecy (Mt 21:4-5) When the Apostles saw the enthusiastic crowds, they brought a donkey colt, and made their Master ride upon it, while the people spread their cloths and strewed "branches from the trees" (Mt 21:8) on the road in front of Him. Others took "branches of palm" (Jn 12:13) in their hands and, cheering cried out: "Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Mt 21:9) As Jesus was entering the city, surrounded by the excited crowds, the Scribes and Pharisees became alarmed and decided to stop Him at any cost. But the people kept acclaiming Him as their Messiah, saying: "This is the Prophet, Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee!" (Mt 21:10). The two prayers for the blessing of branches used in the Byzantine Rite churches seem to be the original prayers, since they are found in the oldest ritual book, Euchologion of Barberini dated in the eighth century. By the first prayer we are reminded that Jesus Christ, entered the Holy City on Palm Sunday, voluntarily accepted His passion and death for our salvation, and that the triumphant procession with palm branches heralded His glorious resurrection. The second prayer alludes to the olive branch brought to Noah by a dove at the end of the deluge as a token of divine protection and blessing (peace). Therefore, in prayer, the priest asks divine protection and blessing on every home where the blessed branches will be reverently preserved.

The blessed branches should be carried home as a sacramental, as a visible symbol of Christ's presence. They should be entwined on the crucifix or used to decorate an icon, and to serve as a "sign of salvation," and a "pledge of protection and blessing" during the coming year as invoked by the second Prayer of Blessing.

Schedule of Services

March 30-April 5, 2026

Holy Monday, March 30., *Holy Week of the Great Fast, Ex1,1-20, Job1,1-12, Mt24,3-35*

10:00am *Church Cleaning in Sacred Heart*

6:00pm *Confession*

6:30pm *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Anointing of the sick in St. Stephen (+Helen Moehler)*

Holy Wednesday, April 1., *Ex2,11-22, Job2,1-10, Mt26,6-16*

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

9:00am - 1:30 pm - *Visiting the Homebound in Sacred Heart*

6:00pm – *Confessions*

6:30pm - *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Anointing of the sick in Sacred Heart (+Maria and John Lukas, John and Mary Strach)*

Holy Thursday, April 2., *Is50,4-11, 1Cor11,23-32*

9:00am - 1:30 pm - *Visiting the Homebound in Sacred Heart*

6:00pm *Vespers with the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of St. Basil & Washing of Feet in St. Stephen & Agape in the hall. Everyone is warmly invited to the agape, where you are welcome to bring and share Lenten foods. There will also be an opportunity to speak with the bishop.*

Good Friday, April 3., *Is52,13-54,1 1Cor1,18-2,2, Mt27,1-38*

8:00am- *Strasti Matins in St. Stephen*

3:30pm - *Confessions in St. Stephen*

4:00pm - *Burial Vespers for Great & Holy Friday in St. Stephen*

6:00pm - *Burial Vespers for Great & Holy Friday in Sacred Heart with Bishop Robert*

8:00pm-10:00PM - *Visiting the Tomb in Sacred Heart*

8:00pm - *Akathist to the Divine Passion of Christ in Sacred Heart*

Holy Saturday, April 4., *Rom6,3-11, Mt28,1,20*

8:30am *Jerusalem Matins in Sacred Heart with Bishop Robert*

6:30pm *Resurrection Matins in Sacred Heart*

Resurrection of our Lord Pascha, *April 5., Acts1,1-8., Jn1,1-17*

8:00am - *Resurrection Matins in St. Stephen*

9:00am - *Divine Liturgy for Pascha in St. Stephen*

10:30am - *Blessing of Easter Baskets & Fellowship in the hall in St. Stephen*

11:30am - *Divine Liturgy for Pascha and Blessing of Easter Baskets & Fellowship 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)

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, Debra Grega.*

Deceased + *Paul Sugars +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.

Pastoral Visits for the Homebound before Easter

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.

Support the St. Nicholas Fund in St. Stephen

We would like to remind our parishioners that you can continue supporting the St. Nicholas Fund. Through this foundation, your generous contributions help us provide assistance to those in need in our community. Every gift, large or small, makes a difference in bringing hope, comfort, and joy to families and individuals who rely on our support. Thank you for your continued generosity and for helping us live out the spirit of St. Nicholas.