

SAINT E PREMTE



St. E Premte Albanian Orthodox Church

10716 Jasper Ave, Cleveland, OH 44111

stepremte.org

Victor Thomas, Council President
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V. Rev. Fr. Yves Babich, Rector
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Sunday Liturgy 10:00 Am

December

Schedule of Services

Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

December 3rd - Liturgy 10:00 AM

December 10th - Liturgy 10:00 AM

December 17th - Liturgy 10:00 AM

December 24th Christmas Eve Liturgy 10:00 AM

December 25th, Monday Christmas day Liturgy 10:00 AM

December 31st Liturgy 10:00 AM

Save the Dates

- December 23rd - Saturday- join the joy of baptism of Kelvin and Kelsi -Ela and Landi Mici's son. One of the son is in college 4th year and the other one finishing up his master for Physician Assistant
- December 24th- Christmas Eve Liturgy- 10am
- December 25th - Christmas Day Liturgy
- January 7- Icon Auction and blessed water day.

Resources in Albanian Language

The link contains links to Bibles, stories and websites written in Albanian which tell about Jesus and His love for the Albanian people.

<http://www.ethnicarvest.org/peoples/countries/albanian.htm>

Have you been baptized?

There is every reason for you to be obedient and follow God's command for all believers to be baptized. By doing so, you'll be identified with the Body of Christ, the church, and you'll be identified with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and you'll also be baptized (or identified) into His death, burial, and resurrection.

The purpose of Holy Baptism is to remove the consequences of the 'original sin'. It washes away all sins committed before the time of Baptism if the person is beyond the age of infancy.

Jesus said, whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned (Mark 16:16.).

Our Father Yves Babich reminds us about the importance of getting baptized at any age knowing that it was a common practice to be baptized as an adult during ancient times. If you have any questions how to start planning on getting baptized, please feel free to ask our Father Yves Babich.

For the Health & Well-being of

Please remember them in your prayers. May God give them strength to endure and get well.

Christopher Thomas – Thank you to all those who prayed for Christopher during his recent illness and hospital stay. The family is grateful and proud to be part of such a caring community.

NAME - To add the name to the prayer list, leave a voicemail 216-941-1508 or email Victor at office@stepremte.org

Departed

May their memory be eternal!

To add the name leave a voicemail 216-941-1508 or email Victor at office@stepremte.org

Thank you

Everyone who attended the service on November 26th and donated during the celebration of 111th Independence Flag Day



- Sonila Gjeci for donating a new Albanian Flag



- Church Women/ Gocat e Kishes for taking the initiative and doing a thorough cleaning of the church.



Popadija's Corner

Kathy appreciates all the prayers and beautiful get well card with a gift card enclosed. Love you all!

Advent Preparation

On November 15 we will be entering the important season of Advent, or if you like, the Christmas 40 day fast. Advent is defined as “coming”. Therefore, Advent is a time of preparing for the coming of the Messiah.

Each one of us, if we desire to grow as faithful Orthodox Christians will make preparations during this season by examining our lives. Each one of us should

ask: “What is required of me, personally in order to be prepared for the “Messiah’s coming”?”

Some obvious responses might be:

“Keep the Advent Fast”.

“Attend all services provided by the parish”.

These and other responses pertaining to our physical preparations are certainly important; but the essence of Advent preparation is how we prepare our hearts for Christ’s coming.

How do we prepare our hearts? We prepare through our fasting, our personal prayer life, and regular attendance to the liturgies and the Sacraments of the church. By attending these, we prepare our hearts to receive Christ and the transformational work. He wants to do in us, in our hearts. Also, we must want to receive and be willing to receive a change in our hearts and in our habits. If we earnestly do our work during Advent, Christ will help us to drop old destructive habits and reform us, as new people with new and holy habits. Then our lives will be filled with joy and peace! We will be a great blessing to others and at peace with ourselves!

If we just go through the season as secular people, we will have missed the real Christmas entirely. That would be tragic! The joy of Christ and being transformed in Him is something not to be missed! Our lives depend on it! God bless us all as we faithfully prepare for the coming of Christ on Christmas into our hearts and our lives!

May God help us through this Advent season!

(Advent Stuffed Cabbage)

- 2 Onions, chopped
- 3 carrots, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 cups rice
- ½-cup oil
- 1 head cabbage
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed

Salt and pepper to taste

Soak rice in water overnight or at least for a few hours. Clean and cut up vegetables fine. Heat oil in pan, add onions, and simmer until caramelized. Add celery and carrots and let simmer for a few minutes. Add presoaked rice, salt and pepper to taste; simmer for about 5 minutes. Set aside to cool off and add garlic.

Precook cabbage and spoon in rice mixture and roll. Place shredded cabbage on bottom of roasting pan and then place cabbage rolls on top. Top with more shredded cabbage. Make mixture of tomato sauce and tomato soup and pour on top of everything. Bake at 350 or 375 until done. About 2 hours at least.

I have experimented and made different variations of this recipe. I have used presoaked barley with the rice; I have added sliced Shitake or Portobello mushrooms. When putting in mushrooms, sauté in frying pan separately, then add to rice mixture. Instead of rolling cabbage rolls, I have layered the ingredients, cut up cabbage, rice mixture, cut up cabbage, rice mixture, and cut up cabbage. Some people put in grated potatoes. You can use your imagination!

**I also use pickled cabbage and regular cabbage together. **

St Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia.

This saint, famed throughout the entire world today, was the only son of his eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, citizens of Patara in Lycia. They dedicated to God the only son He gave them. St. Nicholas was taught in the spiritual life by his uncle Nicolas, Bishop of Patara, and became a monk at 'New Sion', a monastery founded by his uncle. On the death of his parents, Nicholas gave all the property he inherited to the poor and kept nothing for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charitable works, fulfilling the Lord's words: 'Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth' (Matt. 6:3). When he embraced a life of solitude and silence, thinking to live in that way until his death, a voice from on high came to him: 'Nicholas, set about your work among the people if you desire to receive a crown from Me.' Immediately after that, by God's wondrous providence, he was chosen as Archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. He was cast into prison during the persecutions of Diocletian and Maximian, but even there continued to instruct the people in the Law of God. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325, and, in his zeal, struck Arius with his hand. For this act, he was removed from the Council and from his Episcopal duties, until some of the chief hierarchs had a vision of our Lord Christ and His most holy Mother showing their sympathy with Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas was restored to his Episcopal duties.

This wonderful saint was a defender of the truth of God, and was ever a spirited champion of justice among the people. On two occasions, he saved three men from undeserved sentences of death. Merciful, trustworthy, and loving right, he walked among the people like an angel of God. People considered him a saint even during his lifetime, and invoked his aid when in torment or distress. He would appear both in dreams and in reality to those who called upon him for help, responding speedily to them, whether close at hand or far away. His face would shine with light as Moses' did aforetime, and his mere presence among people would bring solace, peace and goodwill. In old age, he became sick of a slight illness, and went to his rest in the Lord after a life full of labor and fruitful toil. He now enjoys eternal.

Troparion to St. Nicholas Tone 4

The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith,/ a model of meekness, and a teacher of temperance./ Therefore thou hast won the heights by humility,/ riches by poverty./ Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

The Prologue from Ochrid By St. Nikolai Velimirovic