

SAINT E PREMTE



St. E Premte Albanian Orthodox Church

10716 Jasper Ave., Cleveland, OH 44111

stepremte.org

Victor Thomas, Council President
216-941-1508 or office@stepremte.org

V. Rev. Fr. Yves Babich, Rector
216-524-6832 or ybabich@yahoo.com

Sunday Liturgy 10:00 Am

August

Schedule of Services

Divine Liturgy at 10:00am
Post-Easter Sundays

August 6th - Transfiguration of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ

August 13th - 10th Sunday of Mathew – Just Reader
Service, no liturgy

August 20 – 11th Sunday of Mathew

August 27 – 12th Sunday of Mathew

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.)

Father Babich reminded 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 Yves Babich.

Birthday Celebration

August 20th – Fr. Yves Babich

We will be celebrating the birthday of our priest, Fr. Yves Babich on August 20th. Please, join for some cake and thank father for his service to St. E Premte church and our community.

For the Health & Well-being of

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

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

Departed

Kaljopi Mici - May their memory be eternal!

August 6th – Celebration of her life organized by Ela Mici and Mimoza Spiro.

Feast of St E. Premte July 26th

Our Church celebrated with a banquet Feast of St. E. Premte on July 30th. Thank you to everyone who attended it and shared their dish.





By Fr Yves Babich 2023

The holy Virgin-Martyr Saint E Premte is also known as Paraskevi whose feast day is on July 26th.

E Premte was born in a village near Rome during the reign of Hadrian (117-138 AD). Her parents were the pious Christians Agathonikos and Politea. Her parents prayed for a child, and God finally blessed them because of their great faith. E Premte was born on Holy Friday, and so her parents named her Paraskevi which means Friday in Greek, that's why we see in many of her icons palms in her hand, a sign of holy week.

Paraskevi or E Premte had an excellent education from both secular and religious teachers; she was also very knowledgeable in the field of philosophy. She loved to talk with other women about Christianity, trying to strengthen their faith in this new religion. Many prominent or important families wanted this beautiful, educated and rich woman to marry their sons. Her understanding and kindness made her even more desirable. However, she had other plans in her mind and so E Premte rejected or refused any marriage proposals.

When she was 20 years old both her parents died, leaving her as the only heir to the family fortune. E Premte did not use her fortune for herself. Filled with

the spirit of Christ she sold all her worldly possessions using the money to help the poor. At the age of 30 she left Rome and began her holy mission, passing through many cities and villages. E Premte's mission work of converting pagans into Christians took place during a time the Jews and Romans persecuted the Christian religion. Antoninus Pius, the emperor and ruled Rome at this time, did not execute Christians without a trial. E Premte was not caught immediately or put to death. Instead, Antoninus protected Christians against the obsession of the Jewish and Romans against Christians. Christians could only be brought to trial if another citizen made a complaint against them. Antoninus however had to change the law because of the many disasters that were happening in Rome, and which were blamed on the Christians.

Strong in faith, E Premte spoke and preached to the Roman citizens, leading them from idolatry to faith in Christ. Eventually, Antoninus heard of St. E Premte's missionary work. When he returned to Rome, several Jews filed complaints about her and Antoninus called her to his palace to question her, he was attracted by her beauty and tried with kind words to make her denounce Christ, he even promising to marry her and make her an empress. Antoninus became angry because she refused him, so he had a steel helmet lined with nails inside pressed on her head with a vice. It had no effect on the Saint and many who saw this miracle converted and became Christians. She was thrown into prison and the next day Antoninus again continued torturing her by having her hung by her hair and at the same time burning her hands and arms with torches. The Saint suffered greatly.

Antoninus then prepared a large cauldron of oil and tar, boiled the mixture, and then had E Premte put into it. Miraculously she stood in it as if she was being refreshed rather than burned. Angered, Antoninus thought that she was using witchcraft to keep the cauldron cooled. Antoninus then approached or got close to the cauldron to see if it was cooled down, only to be blinded by the hot steam coming out of it. At this moment the mighty blind emperor asked St E Premte to pray and have her God heal him. She said: "Emperor, the Christian God is healing you from the blindness that was given to you as a punishment".

Immediately, he regained his sight. Humbled by the miracle he freed the Saint, allowing her to continue her missionary work and ended or stopped all persecutions against the Christians throughout the Roman Empire.

Because of this miracle many icons show E Premete holding a plate with 2 eyes.

After Antoninus' death, a plague broke out and the new emperor, Marcus Aurelius, saw it as a sign from their gods that that they were angered by the tolerance of Christianity and allowing them to worship their God. Under Marcus Aurelius the laws were changed and the persecutions against the Christians started again.

Despite the dangers, E Premete continued her work of spreading the Gospel wherever she traveled. By authority of emperor Aurelius the provincial Eeparchs, or governors, Asclepius & Tarasios captured E Premete, who refused to sacrifice to pagan gods, she was thrown into a snake pit. The Saint made the Sign of the Cross over the snakes and the serpent died on the spot. Asclepius had heard of the Saint's other miracles, realized that a great and mighty power guarded E Premete and decided to set her free and Asclepius and his court were all converted to become Christians.

Tarasios however was less tolerant. St E Premete was tied and beaten, and a huge rock placed on her chest. She prayed to Christ to help her be strong. The next morning E Premete was taken to the Temple of Apollo. Everyone praised Tarasios, thinking that he had succeeded in breaking St E Premete's faith. However, upon entering the temple, the Saint raised her hand and made the sign of the cross. Suddenly, a loud noise was heard and all the idols' statues in the temple were destroyed. The priests and idolaters dragged her from the altar, beat her, and pushed her out of the temple. The priests demanded that Tarasios kill E Premete. She was convicted and condemned to death by beheading. She was then executed by Roman soldiers.

Many healing miracles occurred because of St E Premete or Paraskevi. It is said that merely coming into contact with the dirt from her grave, faithful people crippled could walk, possessed by the devil people would return to health and childless couples would bear or have children. Most importantly St E Premete healed the blindness of the Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius while she was in a heated cauldron. Because of this she is an intercessor Saint for the healing of eye ailments or eye problems.

According to this tradition, the headless body of the saint is entombed in Pounta Greece at the women's Monastery of Agia Paraskevi and is still venerated today.



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