

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

September

Schedule of Services

Divine Liturgy at 10:00am
Post-Easter Sundays

September 3rd - 13th Sunday of Mathew

September 10th – Sunday before Holy Cross

September 17th – Sunday after Holy Cross

September 24 – 1st Sunday of Luke

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, 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 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.

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!

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

Note from the Chairman

A donation fund will be started for the purchase of a riding lawnmower. For many years volunteers have used push mowers to maintain the church lawn. A goal of \$2,000 dollars would enable the purchase of a mower that also fits into the storage room. This purchase would enable the lawn to be maintained more efficiently and allow additional time for enhancing the overall beauty of the church landscaping. If you would like to make a donation please designate that you are donating towards the purchase of a riding lawnmower.

THE END TIMES:

By Fr Yves Babich

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. I was asked recently about the end times or when will Christ come again and our world comes to an end. Well to start with today there is much talk about the end of the world and the second coming of Jesus Christ, as there was in the past (during troubled times). Past troubled times in the United States have included, the American Civil War, the First World War, the Spanish flu, as well as the Second World War and the more recent COVID flu a few years ago, and so on and so on. We only have to read in the newspapers of those times to see the truth of what I am saying. During these times many people were predicting the end of the world, and

many books were written about the so call rapture in the 60s

The word used by the Orthodox Church to describe the Second Coming of Christ is Parousia, a Greek word used by the evangelists in their Gospels.

A question asked by many people today is the same question asked of Christ in (Matt 24:30) "Tell us, when will the end be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?"

The Second Coming of the Lord, and that it will happen, is a teaching of Scripture and the Orthodox Church. However, the exact time of His Coming in glory to judge the living and the dead, has not yet been revealed. Christ Himself at different times declared or said that the Parousia, or end times, will come suddenly, for "the master of that servant will come on a day when he (the servant) does not expect him, and at an hour he does not know" (MATT 24:50).

The Apostles and the first Christians expected the Parousia to take place soon, during their lifetime, and prepared themselves and acted accordingly, as we should. The Apostles spook about the Second Coming of Christ in this way: "The end of all things is at hand; Therefore keep sane and sober for your prayers" (1 PETER 4:7) and also "you also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand" (JAMES 5:8), and also "Children, it is the last hour" (1 JOHN 2:18). These verses express the feeling that the Second Coming of Christ would take place soon, even during their lifetime.

However, the Apostles in different other writings placed the Parousia at a future time, for concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We read in scriptures the following words "Brethren, not to be quickly shaken in mind or excited, either by spirit or by word...to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way (2 THESS 2:1-3). There is no way of knowing exactly when the glorious event will take place, for "of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of Heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only" (MATT 24:36). In other words, not even Christ knows when the end will come only that one day God the Father will decide it is time to put an end to our world.

So dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, if anyone claims to say that they know the date of Judgement day, he is a liar, as we read in many places in the bible.

But the bible or Scriptures do give some signs of the Second Coming of Christ, or the Parousia. Some of the events mentioned are in (MATT 24:4-51) false messiahs or false prophets the coming of the anti-Christ and his followers, signs in the sky, love will grow cold, great calamities or disasters in nature, wars and famines, the worship of evil and evil things, and there is more.

These signs in the Scriptures reveal only vaguely when the Second Coming of Christ will happen. What we as Orthodox Christians must do is not worry or guess on when the end of the world, or the Parousia, is coming; or in a vain way believe that science could ever stop the end from coming. What we should be doing is preparing ourselves by being ready at all times for the coming of Christ, to be at all times full of faith in Christ, and at all times living a moral life, as well as helping and forgiving our brothers and sisters.

The key word I think is to live as though today is your last day on the earth, to be ready for Christ's arrival. To live for today, not for the past or the future, by not putting off Baptism, confession, or taking communion; and to be repentance of our sins now and not tomorrow. We also should not be putting off our prayers to God until a more convenient time if we expected to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. It would be best for us to keep in our minds or think about what it would be like on Judgment Day standing before God, and all our sins are put before us, with no excuse as to our guilt.

"PRAY NOT FOR JUSTICE BUT FOR MERCY"