

2024

SAINT E PREMTE



## St. E Premte Albanian Orthodox Church

10716 Jasper Ave, Cleveland, OH 44111

[stepremte.org](http://stepremte.org)

Victor Thomas, Council President  
216-941-1508 or [office@stepremte.org](mailto:office@stepremte.org)  
Sunday Liturgy 10:00 Am

V. Rev. Fr. Yves Babich, Rector  
216-524-6832 or [ybabich@yahoo.com](mailto:ybabich@yahoo.com)

## January

### Schedule of Services

Divine Liturgy at 10:00am  
January 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

### Annual Icon Day

Our 2024 Icon Day will be held on January 7th. This day we are also celebrating Holy Theophany. The Baptism of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The "Icon Day" is St. E Premte's principal fundraiser. We added more new icons to our inventory donated this summer by Kico Kolani, Berat, Albania. Without your help, your interest, and your support St E Premte would be unable to fulfill its mission.

### 2024 Calendars

Wall calendars for 2024 are also available in the church hall. They are free.



### Have you been baptized?

December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mici's brother were baptized.



If you have any questions about how to start planning on getting baptized, please feel free to ask our Father Yves Babich.

### Importance of Being 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 about how to start planning on getting baptized, please feel free to ask our Father Yves Babich.

### Altar Wine



If anyone would like to donate to Altar Wine \$10 for a bottle in the name of a departed or the health of their family. Months available are March, August, October, and December. Please, contact Victor by a voicemail at 216-941-1508 or email at [office@steprete.org](mailto:office@steprete.org) .

### Church Bread



If anyone, would like to donate \$20 for the Altar Bread in the name of a departed or the health of their family. Months available are March, August, and December. Please, contact Victor by a voicemail at 216-941-1508 or email at [office@steprete.org](mailto:office@steprete.org)

## For the Health & Well-being of

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

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

## Resources in Albania Language

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

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

## **(Teofania e shenjtë)**

### **Holy Theophany The Baptism of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ**

A few months before Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, another boy was born in the same country. His name was John, and his mother Elizabeth was a cousin of the Virgin Mary. Even before John was born, an angel appeared to John's father telling him that God planned to use his son in a special way.

When John was still a very young boy, he went to the other side of the river Jordan. There he lived in the wilderness, which was a wide, empty stretch of land, nothing more than rocks and sand. John lived there all by himself. He wore the roughest and simplest kind of clothes and ate only the little food that he was able to gather in the wilderness. There he lived and prayed and listened to God's voice.

One day, when John was grown up, he knew that the time had come for him to begin his work. He left the wilderness and went along the river Jordan speaking God's message to the people who lived there. Crowds of people came to see and listen to him. He told them how they must prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ, the Savior who was promised for many years.

When people asked John what they should do, he told them they must be sorry for all the bad things they had done. They must learn to share things with others. They must be honest, kind, and helpful to others. To show that they were really sorry and that they wanted

to live a good, clean life, the people entered into the river Jordan and bathed in its waters. John prayed that their hearts and souls might be made clean. This was called Baptism.

Some of the people who came thought that John was the promised Savior. John told them: "I baptized you with water, but there comes one who is much greater than I. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. I am not even worthy to untie His shoe."

One day John was baptizing people in the river Jordan. Great crowds were gathered about him. Suddenly John saw Christ coming down to the river. Christ came up to John and wanted to be baptized. John said to Jesus Christ: "You must not be baptized by me. I should come and be baptized by you!" However, Jesus answered. "Let it be as I wish, because I want to do all that which other men should do."

Jesus Christ then entered the water and John baptized Him. As Jesus came out of the water, the heavens opened above Him and the Holy Spirit of God, like a dove, came down upon Him. God's voice was heard: "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Theophany Icons represent the meaning of the event, show invisible angels serving Jesus Christ as He comes out of the Jordan. In the water are small creatures, representing evil spirits, fleeing. You can see the "axe at the root of the tree", which John the Baptist said would cut down every tree that does not bear good fruit. The shores of the river look like the desert where John prayed. A ray of light represents God's blessing on His Son and the Holy Spirit is shown as a dove fluttering over His head.

### **The Little Falcon**