



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 10:00am

APRIL

Sunday Meditation

Abba Zeno said, 'If a man wants God to hear his prayer quickly, then before he prays for anything else, even his own soul, when he stands and stretches out his hands towards God, he must pray with all his heart for his enemies. Through this action God will hear everything that he asks.'

The Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Schedule of Services for April 2024

Great Lent Sundays

April 7 - 10:00am Sunday of Cross
Liturgy of St. Basil
Gospel of Mark 8:34-9-1

April 14-10:00am Sunday of St. John Climacus
Liturgy of St. Basil
Gospel of Mark 9:17-31

April 21 10:00am; 5th Sunday of Lent
(St Mary of Egypt)
Gospel of Mark 10:32-45

April 28 10:00am; Palm Sunday
Gospel John 12:1-18

Easter (Pascha) is on May 5th this year.

Confessions

Please come to confession **after the Sunday Liturgy**, because there is not enough time before the Sunday Divine Liturgy.

SAVE THE DATES

Egg Hunting is back, save the date on April 28th along with meatless and dairy free Potluck luncheon.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy.

O Lord Almighty, the Healer of our souls and bodies, You Who put down and raise up, Who chastise and heal also; do You now, in Your great mercy, visit our brother (sister) (Name), who is sick. Stretch forth Your hand that is full of healing and health, and get him (her) up from his (her) bed, and cure him (her) of his (her) illness. Put away from him (her) the spirit of disease and of every malady, pain and fever to which he (she) is bound; and if he (she) has sins and transgressions, grant to him (her) remission and forgiveness, in that You love mankind; yea, Lord my God, pity Your creation, through the compassions of Your Only-Begotten Son, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, with Whom You are blessed, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages

LUTJE PER TE SEMURET

Le t'i lutemi Zotit. Zot ki mëshirë.

O Zot i Plotfuqishëm, Shëruesi i shpirtave dhe trupave tanë, Ti që ul dhe ngre lart, që ndëshkon dhe shëron gjithashtu; bëj tani, në mëshirën Tënde të madhe, vizito vëllanë (motrën) tonë (Emrin), i cili është i sëmurë. Zgjate dorën Tënde të mbushur me shërim dhe shëndet, ngrije atë nga shtrati dhe shëroje nga sëmundja e tij. Hiqni prej tij (saj) shpirtin e sëmundjes dhe të çdo sëmundjeje, dhimbjeje dhe etheje me të cilën ai (ajo) është i lidhur; e nëse ai (ajo) ka mëkate dhe mëkate, fale atij (asaj) falje dhe falje, në atë që Ti i do njerëzit. po, Zot, Perëndia im, mëshiroji krijimin Tënd, nëpërmjet dhembshurive të Birit Tënd të Vetëmlindur, së bashku me Shpirtin Tënd të Shenjtë, të Mirë dhe Jetëbërës, me të cilin je i bekuar, tani e përgjithmonë, dhe në shekuj të shekujve moshat. Amen.

Sundays of Great Lent

We are in the season of Great Lent, a time of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ. It is the living symbol of man's entire life which is to be fulfilled in his own resurrection from the dead with Christ. It is a time of renewed devotion: of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time of repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts, and deeds in conformity with Christ and his teachings. It is the time, most of all, of our return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors.

Each of the Sundays of Great Lent has its own **Special Theme**.

The First Sunday of Lent is called the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. It is a historical feast commemorating the return of the icons to the churches in the year 843 after the heresy of iconoclasm was overcome.

The Second Sunday of Lent is the commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas. It was Saint Gregory (d.1359) who bore living witness that men can become divine through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit; and that even in this life, by prayer and fasting, human beings can become participants of the uncreated light of God's divine glory.

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the Lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The abbot of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt 10: 12).

The Fifth Sunday of Lent recalls the memory of Saint Mary of Egypt, the repentant harlot. Mary tells us, first of all, that no amount of sin and wickedness can keep a person from God if he truly repents. Christ himself has come "to call sinners to repentance" and to save them from their sins (Luke 5.32). In addition, Saint Mary tells us that it is never too late in life—or in Lent—to repent. Christ will gladly receive all who come to him even at the eleventh hour of their lives. But their coming must be in serious and sincere repentance.

Popadija's Corner

Kathy, wife Father Yves is also known also as Popadija

As we make our Lenten Journey, we should reflect on what direction we will be taking. First, we need to have forgiven everyone in our lives for any transgressions they may have caused us, or we may have caused them.

We had Forgiveness Sunday and we asked every one of our church family to please forgive us and that may God forgive us all too.

When we said these things to one another, were we sincere? Did we just go through the motions of this because we are expected to do this every year right before Great Lent starts? If your answer to these questions is yes, then you really need to look at yourself and do some soul-searching.

Until I came into the OCA, I had never, ever heard of "Forgiveness Sunday", it was something that my Orthodox church never discussed or practiced. When I came into the OCA and heard about this "Forgiveness Sunday", I honestly did not know what to do. I was observing everyone else in line, listening and watching what they were doing and saying. It was not the same for every person. One woman came up to me and said that she had no idea who I was but asked for forgiveness from me and I responded, "Sure" because I did not know who she was either.

Later that evening I had thought about what had just happened a few hours earlier and I must say I still did not truly understand what this was all about. That night I prayed and prayed that God would help me figure this all out.

I remember growing up as a child people saying that sorry sometimes just does not make it. You chop someone's head off and then say you are sorry about it. You should always think before you do something so that you will not have to apologize or ask for forgiveness.

It is, sometimes, very difficult to not make mistakes and need to ask for forgiveness and be sorry for what you have done. We are only human. God gave us free will and this is why we make mistakes. I hope that we learn from our mistakes and repent.

I am wishing everyone a good Lenten Journey. We are close to celebrating the Resurrection of Christ! God Bless everyone!

Popadija Kathy



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 .

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

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.ethnicarvest.org/peoples/countries/albanian.htm>