

2024

SAINT E PREMTE



## St. E Premte Albanian Orthodox Church

10716 Jasper Ave, Cleveland, OH 44111

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

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Sunday Liturgy 10:00 Am

## DECEMBER

### Schedule of Services

Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

### Save the Dates

#### December 15: Children Visit with Santa

Kids and parents had a magical moment with Santa who made a special appearance to hand out gifts to all the children.



#### December 25: The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior

**Jesus Christ (Christmas)** - Come for a short, meaningful service to honor the Nativity of our Lord. Let His light shine in your hearts this season!

Spread the word and bring loved ones along. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

### Monthly Feasts

In December, the Orthodox Church observes several significant feasts:

#### December 6: Feast of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker

-Celebrates Saint Nicholas, renowned for his acts of charity and miracles, and one of the most beloved saints in Orthodox Christianity.

December 12: Feast of Saint Spyridon - Honors Saint Spyridon, a 4th-century bishop known for his piety and miracles.

#### December 25: The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior

**Jesus Christ (Christmas)** - Celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, a central event in the Orthodox liturgical calendar.

#### December 26: Synaxis of the Theotokos

Honors the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, following the celebration of Christ's Nativity.

#### December 29: Commemoration of the Holy Innocents

Honors the infants slain by King Herod in his attempt to kill the newborn Jesus.

### 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](mailto:office@stepremte.org)

### Departed

**May his memory be eternal!**

**Ferdinant Ambo** died on Friday, 10/18/2024 (79) years old and 40 Day Memorial on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at our church.

To add the name leave a voicemail 216-941-1508 or email Victor at [office@stepremte.org](mailto:office@stepremte.org)

### Thank You

Gift Baskets – We would like to thank Martha Banks and her daughter for donating all the gift baskets for our Independence Day.

Independence Flag Day – Thank you to everyone who attended the service and donated to the raffle gift baskets during the celebration of Independence Flag Day. There was a special prayer with our kids for the Albanian Country.

New Fire replace - Thank you Naslazi family for donating the beautiful fireplace. Please make time to thank them on Sunday when you come to church for such a generous gift.

Our Wonderful Church Ladies - Thank you for the hard work, cleaning and beautifully decorating the church and hall for the Christmas season! The hall is now shining with a festive Christmas tree, twinkling lights, and warm holiday touches—all set by our new cozy fireplace, generously donated by our beloved Naslazi family.

**By Fr. Yves**

## **Modern day Miracles of Saint Nicholas**

In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit!

We have all heard the stories about Saint Nicholas from our childhood about miracles that took place in ancient time. Today I would like to talk about some modern-day Miracles of Saint Nicholas.

The Miracle by St. Nicholas that happened on December 19, (Old Calendar) 1907 the lives of many Orthodox and Catholic living in Van Meter and Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania, were spared because they attended religious services or went to church on the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas instead of going to work. They were employed by the Darr mines and were asked to work on that day in 1907 but many despite to go to Church for the Liturgy that day instead. That very day a huge mine explosion occurred, ending the lives of approximately 200 men. Spared or saved were the Orthodox and Catholic worker who decided to attend the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Saint Nicholas.

The following account appeared in the area newspaper: JACOBS CREEK, PA, December 19 Today was a holiday of the Orthodox Church, and as such, it was observed by many of the men who usually work in the Darr mines. Usually about 400 men toil within the mine. On account of the religious holiday—it was the Feast of St. Nicholas—this number was nearly cut in half, and these, almost two hundred men, who were saved by religious devotion, will certainly be more devout than ever, after the extent of the mine's horror is fully realized. A marker erected at the entrance to Olive Branch Cemetery in Rostraver Township gives an account of horrific occurrences in local coal mines:

The men observing the feast day were spared. It is estimated that St. Nicholas prevented the loss of two to three hundred men and boys, some as young as ten. Had they been in the mine, another thousand women and children would have been widowed or orphaned. They would have faced financial ruin as there was little or no help from the coal companies nor government agencies

There was another miracle of St. Nicholas in 1907. Earlier on December 6 at the Fairmont Coal Company's St. Nicholas feast day in the New Calendar, was one of the worst mining disaster in United States history took place in Monongah, West Virginia. Nearly 400 men lost their lives that day. However, 60–100 Italian Roman Catholic and Orthodox Carpatho-Rusyn miners were spared as they attended St. Nicholas feast day in Church.

And again another miracle happened during the Russian revolution in Siberia in 1917. The White Army was retreating they entered a village; they seized a peasant suspected of working or collaborating with the Reds or the

communists. It was decided to execute him. Eugene Nikolaevich ordered the prisoner to be locked up.

That night, as the lieutenant was sitting alone writing out the accusation against the man, and then there came a knock at the door. He opened it and in stepped an old man wearing a skoufia, a hat: like those worn by priests and monks, and an old cassock. "Mister Officer," he said", you have arrested a peasant. Don't kill him. He's innocent." "And who are you?" asked Eugene Nikolaevich. "I am the Priest of the local church, Fr. Nicholas", answered the old man, and he left.

Eugene Nikolaevich thought it over and decided to release the prisoner. Early in the morning, he ordered a sleigh to be harnessed, had the prisoner get in, took some bread, and told the escorts: "I'm going to shoot him". Once in the forest he untied the prisoner, gave him the bread, and said: "Into the woods with you, and don't cross our path again!"

Returning to the village, Eugene Nikolaevich went to the church. It was locked. He asked a peasant walking by: "Where does Fr. Nicholas live? . . ." "The Reds shot him long ago," he said.

Eugene Nikolaevich was shocked and surprised. But he decided to look around the church anyway. Someone unlocked the door for him, and he went inside. Suddenly he saw to the right an icon of St. Nicholas and immediately recognized him as the old man that had visited him the night before. In the icon, the Saint Nicholas was painted wearing the very same skoufia.

The intercessions of St Nicholas before Christ are still happening in our time. He is a great miracle worker and a helper for those in need and not just a symbol for merchants to use to sell thing.

Glory be to Jesus! Amen

### **Other Items**

Our church would like to have greeters and singers. Please see John Thomas.