

2024

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

February

Schedule of Services

Divine Liturgy at 10:00am
February 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th

Annual Icon Day

Our 2024 Icon Day was on January 7th and it was a huge success generating \$8,400 dollars in donations. Thanks to the great turnout and all of you who participated and donated. Special thanks to Peter Kole who has always made a generous additional donation, and continued that in 2024.

The "Icon Day" is St. Premte's Church 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 we would be unable to fulfill our mission.

February 15

THE MEETING (PRESENTATION) OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

The fortieth day after His birth, the All-Holy Virgin brought her Divine Son into the Temple of Jerusalem, in accordance with the Law, to dedicate Him to God and to purify herself. "Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites both of man and beast, for it belongs to me" (Exodus 13:2); read more on 2nd page.

February

This February Father Yves has been with our church for 2 years. We are happy to have him and his wife as part of our church and teaching God's word.



Have you been baptized?

Mici's brother were baptized on December 23rd and on January 2024 they had their first communion.

If you have any questions 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 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; a donation of \$10 per bottle can be made in the name of the departed, or for the health of a family member. Months available: March, August, October and December. Please, contact Victor by a voicemail at 216-941-1508 or email at office@stepremte.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.

Paula Thomas and Christopher Thomas

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!

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

Resources in Albania Language

The link 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>

Popadija's Corner

Kathy, wife Father Yves, known also as Popadija likes to share different things with us.

Zoe House needs baby wipes and diapers all year long. Please see Presvytera Kathy Babich for more information. There are other things that they might need during the year that will be posted in our bulletin.

THE MEETING (PRESENTATION) OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

February 2/15

The fortieth day after His birth, the All-Holy Virgin brought her Divine Son into the Temple of Jerusalem, in accordance with the Law, to dedicate Him to God and to purify herself. "Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites both of man and beast, for it belongs to me" (Exodus 13:2).

"Tell the Israelites: when a woman has conceived and gives birth to a boy, she shall be unclean for seven days, with the same uncleanness as at her menstrual period. On the eighth day, the flesh of the boy's foreskin shall be circumcised, and then she shall spend thirty-three days more in becoming purified of her blood; she shall not touch anything sacred nor enter the sanctuary till the days of her purification are fulfilled. If she gives birth to a girl, for fourteen days she shall be as unclean as at her menstruation, after which she shall spend sixty-six days in becoming purified of her blood. When the days of her purification for a son or for a daughter are fulfilled, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the meeting tent a yearling lamb for a holocaust and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering. The priest shall offer them up before the Lord to make atonement for her, and thus she will be clean again after her flow of blood. Such is the law for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl child" (Leviticus 12:2-7).

Even though neither the one nor the other was necessary, nevertheless the Lawgiver did not; in anyway, want to transgress His own Law whom He had given through Moses, His servant and prophet. At that time, the high-priest Zacharias, the father of John the Forerunner [Precursor], was on duty in the temple ["serving as a priest before God in the order of his division" St. Luke 1:8]. Zacharias placed the Virgin, not in the temple area reserved for women but rather in the area reserved for virgins. On this occasion, two unusual persons appeared in the Temple: the Elder Simeon and Anna, the daughter of Phanuel. The righteous Simeon took the Messiah in his arms and said: "For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people: a light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel " (St. Luke 2: 29-30). Simeon also spoke the following words about the Christ-child: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel" (St. Luke 2:34). Then Anna, who from her youth served God in the Temple by fasting and prayers recognized the Messiah and glorified God and proclaimed to the inhabitants of Jerusalem about the coming of the long-awaited One.

The Pharisees present in the Temple, who having seen and heard all, became angry with Zacharias because he placed the Virgin Mary in the area reserved for virgins and reported this to King Herod. Convinced that this is the new king about whom the Magi from the east spoke, Herod immediately sent his soldiers to kill Jesus. In the meantime the Holy Family had already left the city and set out for Egypt under the guidance of

an angel of God. The Feast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple was celebrated from earliest times but the solemn celebration of this day was established in the year 544 A.D. during the reign of Emperor Justinian.

The Prologue of Ohrid by Saint Nikolai Velimirovch

SAVE THE DATE:

Upcoming Events

March 10 is Meatfare Sunday. We want to have a potluck luncheon at church since that day is the last day we eat meat before Easter. Please bring an item with meat or a side dish or a dessert.

March 23rd - The next women's guild meeting will be on March 23 at St Theodosius at 10:00AM.

Other Items

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