

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

November

Schedule of Services

Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

Monthly Fasts

The Nativity Fast - Begins November 15

The Nativity Fast, which starts on November 15, is a sacred journey leading us toward the celebration of Christ's birth. Fasting is an opportunity to prepare our hearts, to clear away distractions, and to refocus on what is truly important. During this time, I encourage you to participate in the spiritual practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Each day, try to take a moment to pray for the poor, the lonely, and those in need.

November 21 - Fast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

One of the most significant events in November is the Fast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. This fast reminds us of the Virgin Mary's dedication to God from a young age, a symbol of purity and commitment. Like the Theotokos, we too are called to bring ourselves fully to God, to purify our hearts, and to deepen our devotion.

Let this fast be a time of renewal and a reminder of the strength found in surrendering ourselves to the Lord.

November 24 - Flag Day Celebration/Dita e Flamurit:

This year, we will celebrate Flag Day at St. Premte with a special service and community gathering, bringing together parishioners of all ages to honor our heritage. The day will include a short blessing in gratitude for our cultural heritage, followed by a gathering in the church hall with traditional Albanian food, and craft activities. We encourage everyone to wear traditional Albanian clothing or red and black to proudly show their Albanian pride.



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

Deported

May his memory be eternal!

FERDINANT AMBO died on Friday, 10/18/2024, 79 years old.

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

IF YOU ARE PERFECT

By Fr. Yves

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ. If you are perfect, flawless and never sin, then you have no need to go to Church, or even need Christ. But, if you are like the rest of us imperfect and struggling against sin every day, and in need of Christ's help, then you have come to the right place: the house of God. So God bless you for being here today

The Church was founded or started by Christ himself and he blessed it on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles. When Christ started the Church, he gave Holy gifts and holy power so all of mankind could change from just something that is alive now and dead tomorrow and become a child of God and live forever.

The purpose of the Church is to open the door to people who may have no hope of getting rid of their daily problems, to give them a way into the kingdom of God, and lead them on the road of peace and life forever.

Just as we are made up of the visible, our bodies, and the invisible, our soul, the Church Triumphant is the Church in Heaven and invisible, and the Church Militant is visible and the churches where Christians are still fighting their spiritual struggles on Earth. The Orthodox Church does not separate the invisible and the visible Church, because the church is one,

In the Church there are Saints and sinners. The Church is where Saints and sinners struggle and meet to worship and express their faith in Jesus Christ. We worship together, and struggle together, encourage, and support each other with Christ's love given to us as a gift to be passed around and shared. Most of us are strugglers, and as long as we are struggling, God will love and protect, and help us. The love and help that comes from God is sometimes visible and sometimes invisible. The blessings sent by Christ may come to us in many ways by the prayers of believers and saints of the Church.

The Church can be compared to a hospital, where there are sick people and doctors, the strong and the weak. The strong in faith help the weak, and are there to heal and are expected by God to be good examples and a help to all. Never judge anyone because of their sins that they do today, because they may repent and someday become a saint. The church is also like a factory where Saints are made, and the weaker parts are made stronger.

The Church is both visible and invisible here on earth and in heaven, as I said. Just as, Christ has two natures, God and Man, so the Church also has the goal to unite God with Man, the believers and the founder of the church Jesus Christ the son of God.

The purpose of the Church is to make between Christ and believers an invisible union or friendship which can come through prayers and the sacraments of the church. Our faith in God can grow like a small seed into a big tree when nourished or fed by the visible Church here on the earth.

If you really think of yourself as perfect or sinless, you are living a lie, and are under the influence of the devil. Compare yourself with the saints of the Church, read about their lives and the bible, and then you will see where you have work to do. To think of yourself as perfect is arrogance

and prideful and a sin, it was the first sin committed by Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden when they disobeyed God thinking that they didn't need God in order to live. The only way to get out of this trap of the Devil is by being humble and saying you are sorry to God for your mistakes and need God for help in all things. Do not do something because of an idea in your head; it may be the devil talking to you, it's better to do things Christ teaches in the bible, which is God's way of doing things. Remember the Church has much experience in helping you unite yourself with Christ.

The church is a place where we get together to worship God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It is a holy place where we ask God for help and a place where we thank God for his help. It is a place where God's grace or blessings is given to us freely, just by asking. It is a place where we can learn by other people's experience of God, and a place where we can share our experiences of God with others.

The blessings, given to the Church and its believing members, have one goal, to help --us someday to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. And the only way to enter Heaven is through the mercy of Christ, and to receive this, we must be loved by Christ. And Christ loves all of us, even the sinners.

If you want to be loved by Christ you must not only believe in Christ, but also share with others, the love Christ gives to you.

Glory be to Jesus!
Amen.

Push until when

A man was sleeping one night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God spoke. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might...

So, this the man did, day after day. For many years he worked from sunup to sundown, his shoulders were set against the cold, huge surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all his might!

Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain. And was a useless thing to do. Since the man was showing discouragement, the (the devil) decided to put a thought into this mind or head: (the devil does this all the time. The devil said "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time and it hasn't moved." he gave the man the idea that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts depressed the man. The devil or Satan said, "Why kill yourself over this? Just spend your time doing the least effort; and that will be good enough."

That's what the man planned to do, but decided to make it a matter of Prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to The Lord.

"Lord," he said, "I have labored long and hard in Your Service, putting all my strength to do that what you have asked. But, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord answered gently, "My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done.

Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to Me with your strength Gone, thinking that you have failed. But, is that so? Look at yourself.

Your arms are strong and muscled, your back shiny and brown; your hands are callused or rough from constant pushing, your legs have become strong and hard. By this work you have grown much, and your skills are better than they were before. True, you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be Obedient and to push and to exercise your Faith and trust in My Wisdom. That you have done. Now I, my friend, will move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect or brains to understand what God Wants, when actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him.

By, exercising our Faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God Who moves The Mountains.

When everything seems to go wrongJust P.U.S.H

When the job gets you down..... Just P.U.S.H.

When people don't do as you think they should..... Just P.U.S.H.

When your money is "gone" and the bills are due..... Just P.U.S.H.

When people just don't understand you... Just P.U.S.H.

P = Pray, U = Until, S = Something, H = Happens

We all need a good PUSH once in a while, so.... Pass this on to your loved ones and friends who may need it; they may get it just in time. "Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."

By George Belobab

Other Items

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