

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

March

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 March 2023

Great Lent Sundays

March 5 - Orthodox Sunday

Liturgy of St. Basil

Gospel of John 1:43-51

Epistle Heb 11: 24-26 32-12:2

March 12 - Sunday of Gregory Palamas

Liturgy of St. Basil

Gospel of Mark 2:1-12

Epistle Heb 1:10-2:3

March 19 - Sunday of Cross

Liturgy of St. Basil

Gospel of Mark 8:34-9-1

Epistle Heb 4:14-5:6

Saturday, March 25 - Feast of Annunciation

March 26 - Sunday of St. John of the ladder

Liturgy of St. Basil

Gospel of Mark 9:17-31

Epistle Heb 6:13-20

Confessions

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

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

Departed

Please remember in your prayers the newly departed hand maiden of God, Eleni Basho who passed away on March 1st.

May her memory be eternal! Vecnaja Pamjat! The funeral is Saturday, March 4th at 11:00 AM at McGreevey funeral home in Westlake.

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

Returning Icons

Our 2023 Icon Auction was held on January 22. The "Icon Auction" is St. E Premte's Church principal fundraiser. It is time to return the Icons during the month of March. Thank you to everyone who attended and donated. Please, return give the icon to Victor or John.

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@stepremte.org

Question for Father Yves



Father Yves placed a jar where you can drop in your questions regarding anything you like to learn or hear during our services. The jar is located by Holy Water.

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

Updating Mailing List

We are in the process of updating mailing list including email addresses to share our church news. Next time you are in church make sure to write down your contact info in the Hall Area.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you or someone you know is interested on volunteering, please email Victor at office@stepremte.org.

SAVE THE DATE: **Upcoming Events**

A Free Event

On Sunday evening March 5th @ 5PM Orthodox Sunday vespers will be at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Parma, for the Triumph of Orthodoxy. A Lenten reception will follow in the parish hall.

International Orthodox Christian Charities event

On May 8th, 2023 the 31st Anniversary IOCC Annual Banquet will be held at Woodside Event Center Broadview Hts.

This event will fund feeding and helping people in need around the world.

Tickets are \$60.00 each. If you cannot attend, please consider donating. Please see Popadija Kathy for tickets and for making donations. Please plan to attend!

Bio of Fr. Yves Babich

St. E Premte church is blessed to have Fr. Yves Babich who is currently proudly serving all of us. Please, read below to get to know more about our priest.

Very Rev. Father Yves C. Babich was born in Colmar, France on August 6th, 1950. Father Babich immigrated to the United States on July 4th, 1956, and became a United States citizen in 1969. Father Yves graduated from Finney High School in Detroit in 1969, and went on to Macomb Community College, in Warren, Michigan. Father Yves served in the U.S. Air Force from October 1974 to August 1976 as an Administration Specialist, and finally attended St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary, South Canaan, Pennsylvania, and graduated from the seminary in 1980.

Father Babich married his wife Katharina on September 9th, 1980. Together they have two children, Anna and Nicholas, and one grandson Jack. Father Babich also works at NASA Glenn Research as a contractor. He is a Designer Draftsman and contributes freelance artwork for Orthodox magazines.

Most recently, Father Babich has served at the following churches: St. Theodosius Cathedral, Cleveland, Ohio, St Michaels Orthodox Church, Broadview Hts., Ohio, and Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Lakewood, Ohio.

Father Yves was granted retirement as of June 2018 and was attached to Holy Trinity Church in Parma, Ohio by Bishop Paul, Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest. Some of the honors awarded to Father Yves include the Gold Cross by the Holy Synod in September 2002 by Archbishop Job. Elevation to Archpriest by the Holy Synod in June 2006 and by Archbishop Job in 2007. Awarded the Jeweled Cross by the Holy Synod in 2012 which was given to Fr. Yves by Bishop Sava in 2014.