



St. E Premte Albanian Orthodox Church

10716 Jasper Ave, Cleveland, OH 44111 stepremte.org

Victor Thomas, Council President

V. Rev. Fr. Yves Babich, Rector

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Sunday Liturgy 10:00 Am

July & August 2026

Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

July 5, 12, 19, 26

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Special Feast Days

July 13, Archangel Gabriel

July 20, Prophet Elias

July 27, Martyr Saint Panteleimon

August 6, Transfiguration

August 15, Dormition of the Virgin Mary

August 29, Beheading of John the Baptist

Upcoming Events in the Orthodox Community

Festivals

July 11, St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox
Church Festival on State Rd. in Parma

July 16-19, St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church
Festival on Wailings Rd. in
North Royalton

August 21-23, St. Mary's Romanian
Orthodox Church Festival on Warren Rd. in
Cleveland

Upcoming Events in our Church

**Sunday, July 26 our Bishop Nikodhim
will be at our church to celebrate our St.
E Premte Feast Day. Please plan to attend
and give our Bishop a warm welcome as
we always do.**

For the Health & Well-being of

**Please remember them in your prayers.
May God give them strength to endure
and get well.**

Paula Thomas, Sokrat, Aliqi, Matilda, Peter
Kole, Roy, Athena, Sister Anastasia, Father
Tom, Scott, Mike

Newly Baptized in our Church

Congratulations to those who have been
baptized in our Church.

May 23, Ilda Janko

May 23, Nicholas Suli

May 23, Jacob Suli

June 13, Fabiola Hysenaj

God Bless them and their godparents and
grant them many years of good health and
happiness.

New Members of our Church

We welcome our new members of our St. E
Premte Albanian Orthodox Church.

Christopher Thomas

Kelsi Mici.

May God bless them and grant them many
years of good health and happiness.

Members of our Church

Please be current with your church
membership dues every year. Please let
Victor know when you will be paying your
membership dues.

**Birthdays, Anniversaries, Traveling or
Special Prayers for someone who is sick
or has passed away**

Please let Father Yves know if you are having a birthday, anniversary, traveling, or special prayers for someone is sick, having surgery or someone who has passed away to add to our prayer list.

Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet

I have an idea for our parishioners to have a sign-up sheet in the church hall for coffee hour after Divine Liturgy.

It seems like the same few people most of the time bring something for coffee hour.

It does not have to be home-made or anything fancy. It can be as simple as some donuts or cookies. If you would like to be creative, it will be welcomed.

I will be having a sign-up sheet on the table in the hall that has all the news and bulletins on it.

St Mary of Egypt Monastery

St Mary of Egypt needs our help! Please bring canned food and boxed food. Best places to shop for these things would be Costco's, BJ's, or Sam's Club since they distribute food to over 100 plus families. They do get produce from Cleveland Food Bank.

If anyone would like to volunteer, they can always need help distributing and putting bags of food together.

St. Mary of Egypt Food Pantry
4345 State Rd.
Cleveland Ohio 44109
Contact Maria Lovejoy
cell: 330-212-6604 home: 330-220-3213

Eastern Orthodox Women's Guild

On June 6th I invited the Eastern Orthodox Women's Guild ladies to come to St. E Premte to have their meeting and to see our beautiful church. They had a wonderful time and really loved our church. We had a light luncheon and great fellowship. It would be great if our Albanian ladies would join the guild.

The membership cost is \$10.00 per year membership and we have several events during the year, and everyone is welcome at these events.

Please see Kathy Babich about becoming a member.

You will be able to meet many Orthodox women from all the Orthodox parishes in the Greater Cleveland area. We support many charities in the Cleveland area and other places in the US. I am planning to have the ladies meet again next year at our church since I had such great feedback from all who attended. Remember, Martha Banks was a great supporter of Eastern Orthodox Women's Guild. May her Memory be Eternal!

Prifteresha's Corner

Transfiguration

August 6

Why do we bless grapes and fruits on the Feast Day of Transfiguration?

The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on this day is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God's unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord. This is an ancient Christian custom. The first week of August on the sixth of August, the farmers use to gather the early fruits of their summer harvest grapes, figs and etc. and to present them in the Church to be blessed to give them for free to the congregation. These fruits are called the "beginnings." In the text from the 7th century "the laws of the kingdom" by Emperor Constantine Porfirogenitos this custom is described vividly: "The Emperor of Constantinople gathers the "beginnings" aparches in Chalcedone, where there are many vines, and then he waits for the Patriarch of Constantinople to come on the Holy day of Transfiguration, to bless the fruits and to personally hand out the grapes to the laymen.

THE DORMITION [THE FALLING ASLEEP - THE ASSUMPTION] OF THE MOST-HOLY BIRTH-GIVER OF GOD

August 15

The Lord Who, on Mt. Sinai, commanded by His Fifth Commandment: "Honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12), showed by His own example how one should respect one's parent. Hanging on the

Cross in agony, He remembered His mother and indicating to the Apostle John, said to her: "Woman behold your son" (St. John 19:26). After that, He said to John: "Behold your mother" (St. John 19:27). And so, providing for His mother, He breathed His last. John had a home on Zion in Jerusalem in which the Theotokos settled and remained there to live out the end of her days on earth. By her prayers, gentle counsels, meekness, and patience; she greatly assisted the apostles of her Son. Primarily, she spent her entire time in Jerusalem often visiting those places which reminded her of the great events and of the great works of her Son. She especially visited Golgotha, Bethlehem, and the Mount of Olives. Of her distant journeys, her visit to St. Ignatius the Theophorus [God-bearer] in Antioch is mentioned, as well as her visit to Lazarus (whom our Lord resurrected on the fourth day), the Bishop of Cyprus, her visit to the Holy Mountain [Athos] which she blessed and her stay in Ephesus with St. John the Evangelist [The Theologian] during the time of the great persecution of Christians in Jerusalem.

In her old age, she often prayed to the Lord and her God on the Mount of Olives, the site of His Ascension, that He take her from this world as soon as possible. On one occasion, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and revealed to her that within three days she will find repose. The angel gave her a palm-branch to be carried at the time of her funeral procession. She returned to her home with great joy, desiring in her heart once more to see in this life, all of the apostles of Christ. The Lord fulfilled her wish and all of the apostles, borne by angels in the clouds, gathered at the same time at the home of John on Zion. With great rejoicing, she saw the holy apostles, encouraged them,

counseled them, and comforted them. Following that, she peacefully gave up her soul to God without any pain or physical illness. The apostles took the coffin with her body from which an aromatic fragrance emitted and, in the company of many Christians, bore it to the Garden of Gethsemane to the sepulchre of [her parents], Saints Joachim and Anna. By God's Providence, they were concealed from the evil Jews by a cloud. Anthony, a Jewish priest, grabbed the coffin with his hands with the intention of overturning it but, at that moment, an angel of God severed both his hands. He then cried out to the apostles for help and was healed since declaring his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Thomas was absent, again according to God's Providence, in order that a new and all-glorious mystery of the Holy Theotokos would again be revealed. On the third day, Thomas arrived and desired to venerate [kiss] the body of the Holy All-pure one. But when the apostles opened the sepulchre, they found only the winding sheet and the body was not in the tomb. That evening, the Theotokos appeared to the apostles surrounded by a myriad of angels and said to them: "Rejoice, I will be with you always". It is not exactly known how old the Theotokos was at the time of her Falling Asleep, but the overwhelming opinion is that she was over sixty years of age.

THE BEHEADING OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

August 29

Herod Antipas, son of the elder Herod, who was the slayer of the children of Bethlehem at the time of the birth of the Lord Jesus, was ruler of Galilee at the time when John the Baptist was preaching. This Herod was married to the daughter of

Aretas, an Arabian prince. But Herod, an evil sprout of an evil root, put away his lawful wife, and unlawfully took unto himself Herodias as his concubine, the wife of his brother Philip, who was still living. John the Baptist stood up against this lawlessness and strongly denounced Herod who then cast John into prison. At the time of a banquet in his court in Sebastia in Galilee Salome, the daughter of Herodias and Philip, danced before the guests. The drunken Herod was so taken by this dance that he promised Salome that he would give her whatever she asked of him, even though its behalf of his kingdom. Being persuaded by her mother, Salome asked for the head of John the Baptist. Herod gave the order, John was beheaded in prison, and his head brought to him on a platter. John's disciples took the body of their teacher by night and honorably buried it and Herodias pierced the tongue of John with a needle in many places and buried the head in an unclean place. What later happened to John the Baptist's head can be read on February 24. However, God's punishment quickly befell this group of evil doers. Prince Aretas, in order to cleanse his daughter's honor, attacked Herod with his army and defeated him. The defeated Herod was sentenced by the Roman Caesar, Caligula, to exile at first to Gaul and later to Spain. As exiles, Herod and Herodias lived in poverty and humiliation until the earth opened up and swallowed them. Salome died an evil death on the Sikaris (Sula) river. The death of St. John occurred before the Pascha [Passover] but its celebration on August 29 was established because, on that day, a church which had been built over his grave in Sebastia by Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena was consecrated. In this church the relics of John's disciples, Eliseus and Audius, were also placed.