

SAINT E PREMTE



# St. E Premte Albanian Orthodox Church

10716 Jasper Ave, Cleveland, OH 44111

Website <http://stepremte.org/index.php>

Victor Thomas, Council President  
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V. Rev. Fr. Yves Babich, Rector  
216-524-6832 or [ybabich@yahoo.com](mailto:ybabich@yahoo.com)

Sunday Liturgy 10:00 Am

## February

### Welcome

We are blessed to have Fr. Yves Babich, his wife and you to come and worship at St. E Premte Church on Sunday's. Please, let your family members, cousins and friends know that Devine Liturgy Starts at 10:00am. Make sure to stay after the Divine Liturgy for coffee hour in the Hall. Talk to Fr. Yves Babich and his wife Kathy and catch up with old friends and make new friends.

### Annual Icon Day

Our 2023 Icon Day was held on January 22. The "Icon Day" is St. Premte's Church principal fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who attended and donated. Without your help, your interest, and your support we would be unable to fulfill our mission.

### For the Health & Well-being of

Elizabeth and her unborn child.

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

(Leave a voicemail 216-941-1508 or email Victor at [office@stepremte.org](mailto:office@stepremte.org) to add a name to this list)

### Departed

Father John M. Loejos

**May their memory be eternal!**

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

### Altar Wine



If anyone, would like to donate to Altar Wine \$10 for bottle in the name of a departed or the health of their family. Months available are: March, August, October and December. Please, contact Victor by a voicemail at 216-941-1508 or email at [office@steprete.org](mailto:office@steprete.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: March, August and December. Please, contact Victor by a voicemail at 216-941-1508 or email at [office@steprete.org](mailto:office@steprete.org)

### A Big Thank You

We would like to thank you George Cella for all his work on the icons inside the church.

### 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 C

### Weeks of Preparation to Great Lent

First day of Great Lent is on Monday February 27<sup>th</sup> following Forgiveness Sunday. There are three weeks in February prior to Great Lent that constitutes the weeks of preparation.

The weeks of preparation, and especially the Sunday gospel readings, serve to exercise the mind, whereas the fasting of Great Lent focuses on the body, and Holy Week's services exercise the spirit. Each week of Preparation has its own distinct theme which is expressed in the Gospels readings appointed for the Divine Liturgies on these days:

- **Feb.5<sup>th</sup>** - Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18:9-14)
- **Feb.12<sup>th</sup>** : Sunday of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

- **Feb 19<sup>th</sup>:** Sunday of the Last Judgment (also called Meatfare Sunday; Matt 25:31-46).
- **Feb 26<sup>th</sup>:** Sunday of Forgiveness (also called Cheesefare Sunday; the expulsion of Adam from Eden is also a theme of this day); Matt 6:14-21.

St. E Premte church eases us into the lenten fasting discipline during this period. Bring a meat dish on February 19th for the Meatfare Sunday. After this week no meat is eaten; eggs, fish, and dairy are permitted on any day.

### The Rite of Forgiveness

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, the day before entering the Great Fast is called Forgiveness Sunday. This Rite of Forgiveness is one of the most important acts of Great Lent, as the Christian is one who forgives and is forgiven.

On this day we ask each other's forgiveness, remembering that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another

### Popadija's Corner

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

Soon Great Lent will be here. Now is time to ponder on what we are going to be struggling with. Are we struggling with our temperaments? Are we struggling with our conscience? Are we struggling with fasting? Are we struggling with nothing? Let's make a list of our faults and also make a list of what we are good at and excel in.

1. **Good thing** – Love going to church and being part of the church family.
2. **Bad thing** – Not spending enough time in prayer.
3. **Good thing** – Greeting new people when they come to our church.
4. **Bad thing** – Not spending enough time with others.
5. **Good thing** – Helping with fundraisers to help people who are less fortunate than we are.
6. **Bad thing** – Sometimes when asked to attend a fundraiser making excuses as to why we cannot be there. What is more important a fundraiser to help people less fortunate or bowling on a league or some other sport activity? Missing one evening of sports is not going to kill us.
7. **Good thing** – Helping our church grow and prosper in all things. Never being negative is good.

8. **Bad thing** – Always singing “woe is me”. Negative people never, ever bring good things into their lives or the lives of others.

Here are a few things to think about as we prepare for our Lenten journey. If you have more to add to the list do so and see where you are spiritually and your relationship with God, your family, and friends.

### 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 making a donation. Please see Popadija Kathy for tickets and for making donations. Please plan to attend!

## Saint Kristo the Gardener of Albania



The holy New Martyr Kristo was an Albanian who worked in a vegetable garden. At the age of forty, he decided to go to Constantinople to seek better business opportunities.

One day he was negotiating with a Turk who wished to purchase all his apples, but they were unable to agree on a price. The Turk became angry and accused Kristo of expressing a desire to become a Moslem. Kristo was brought before the authorities, and false witnesses were found to testify that he had indeed stated his intention to convert.

Kristo declared that he never said that he wished to become a Moslem. His testimony was discounted, however, because he was a Christian, and Moslem witnesses had lied about him.

The saint was beaten and tortured the next day but remained steadfast in his confession of Christ. Kaisarios Dapontes, a well-known monk and author, visited Saint Kristo and got him freed from the place where he was chained. He brought food for him, but he refused to eat. "Why should I eat?" he asked. "I do not expect to live, so I may as well die hungering and thirsting for Christ."

Since he refused to abandon the Orthodox Faith, Saint Kristo was sentenced to be beheaded. Before they led him away, Kristo gave Dapontes a metal file and told him to sell it and use the money to have memorial services offered for him.

On February 12, 1748, Saint Kristo the Gardener was beheaded, thereby receiving an eternal crown of glory from Christ.