

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, August 16, 2020 | 10th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – Afterfeast of the Dormition

Translation of the Image “Not-Made-By-Hands” of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople (944)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Deacon – Michael McCartney

Choir Director – Nina Patterson

Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich

Reader – Mark Klus

Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

Today: 40th Day Panikhida service for the servant of God Albert Kavalkovich immediately following Divine Liturgy.

Saturday: August 22 - Great Vespers - **CANCELLED!**

Sunday: August 23 – Leavtaking of the Dormition
[**READERS SERVICE**]

Readers Service – 10:00am

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

Troparion (Tone 2 – Icon not-made-by-hands)

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; / and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. / Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. / Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: / Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, // for Thou didst come to save the world.

Troparion (Tone 1 – Dormition)

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity. / In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos. / Thou wast translated to life, O Mother of Life, // and by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

Kontakion (Tone 1)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Thyself. / Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Icon not-made-by-hands)

Uncircumscribed Word of the Father, / as we behold the victorious image of Thy true incarnation, / not made by hands, but divinely wrought / in Thine ineffable and divine dispensation towards us, // we honor it with veneration.

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Dormition)

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos, / who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. / For being the Mother of Life, / she was translated to life // by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

Prokeimenon (Tone 1)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee.
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

Another Prokeimenon (Icon not-made-by-hands) (Tone 4)

Sing to the Lord a new song, / for the Lord hath done marvelous things!

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David,
His anointed, and his seed forever. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. O Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance, and will exult in Thy name
forever. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:14-23

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting. Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up. And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing in Tone 1:

Refrian: The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin, were struck with wonder, seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.

Heirmos: The limits of nature are overcome in thee, O Pure Virgin: for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united to death; a virgin after childbearing and alive after death, thou dost ever save thine inheritance, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!

O Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance, and will exult in Thy name forever. Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for the Image "Not-Made-By-Hands" are as follows:
Epistle – Colossians 1:12-18 and Gospel - Luke 9:51-56, 10:22-24]*

Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guests who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

Announcements

“Getting ready to go Back to School” - Backpack Program (let’s hope so)

The parish **has already received donations of the ten backpacks themselves**. Here is a list of school supply items we would like to include in the backpacks for those who wish to donate to this annual parish project:

- * Pencils * Colored Pencils * Pencil Cases * Erasers * Folders
- * Binders * Rulers * Notebooks * Index Cards (3 ½ x 5)

The Deadline for donating supplies is TODAY Sunday, August 16! We then need to put together the backpack supplies and forward them to the educational group in a timely manner so that the school children receive the backpacks by the start of the school year. For more information, please see one of the Parish Council members or Matushka Janine McCartney. Thank You!

[...Image “Not-Made-By-Hands” continued from last page of bulletin...]

On August 16, the icon of the Savior was placed in the Tharossa church of the Most Holy Theotokos. There are several traditions concerning what happened later to the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands. According to one, crusaders ran off with it during their rule at Constantinople (1204-1261), but the ship on which the sacred object was taken, perished in the waters of the Sea of Marmora.

According to another tradition, the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands was transported around 1362 to Genoa, where it is preserved in a monastery in honor of the Apostle Bartholomew. It is known that the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands repeatedly gave from itself exact imprints. One of these, named “On Ceramic,” was imprinted when Ananias hid the icon in a wall on his way to Edessa; another, imprinted on a cloak, wound up in Georgia. Possibly, the variance of traditions about the original Icon Not-Made-by-Hands derives from the existence of several exact imprints.

During the time of the Iconoclast heresy, those who defended the veneration of icons, having their blood spilt for holy icons, sang the Troparion to the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands. In proof of the validity of Icon-Veneration, Pope Gregory II (715-731) sent a letter to the Byzantine emperor, in which he pointed out the healing of King Abgar and the sojourn of the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands at Edessa as a commonly known fact.

The Icon Not-Made-by-Hands was put on the standards of the Russian army, defending them from the enemy. In the Russian Orthodox Church it is a pious custom for a believer, before entering the temple, to read the Troparion of the Not-Made-by-Hand icon of the Savior, together with other prayers.

The Feast of the Transfer of the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands, made together with the Afterfeast of the Dormition, they call the third-above Savior Icon, the “Savior on Linen Cloth.”

The particular reverence of this Feast in the Russian Orthodox Church is also expressed in iconography, and the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands was one of the most widely distributed.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Jane Holefelder offered by Nina Patterson
Joseph and Peggy Walker offered by David Pellack
Lynn Brubaker offered by David Pellack
Barbara Andrews and Matthew Andrews offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Albert Kavalkovich offered by Nina Patterson
Albert Kavalkovich & Andrew Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Albert Kavalkovich offered by Joseph and Kathleen Renzetti

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 8/9/20:

One Small Votive Cross – Memory of John and Margaret Pellack offered by the Pellack Children and Grandchildren.

One Small Votive Cross – Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Pellack offered by the Pellack Children and Grandchildren.

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed servant of God Albert Kavalkovich (Tuesday, July 7). May His Memory Be Eternal

+ Newly Departed handmaiden of God Mary Popelak (Saturday, July 4). May Her Memory Be Eternal

+ Newly Departed Donald (Tish Berchtold’s father) (July 14), the Brown Family; Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Heather Parsells and her unborn child; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Announcements (cont.)

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

*******Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon*******

In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Youth Fund
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

Cash Flow Activity (August)

Week of Sun Aug 2 to Sat Aug 8

August Month-to-Date

Attendance:	36	36 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 2,395.00	\$ 2,395.86
Funds Out:	\$ 8,345.94	\$ 9,845.94
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 5,950.94)	(\$ 7,450.08)

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

Shop Rite Gift Cards: If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see either David Pellack or Ken Kavalkovich to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.

Calendar of Events

- 1st Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
- 2nd Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
- 2nd Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
- 3rd Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 4th Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	Today (Aug 16)	Next Week (Aug 23)
3rd Hour :	John Spack	Michael Spack
6th Hour:	David Albrecht	Matthew Andrews
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and Lena Helen	Reader Mark Klus and Michael Wanenchak

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Aug 16): Saint Herman of Alaska
(Heather & Peter Parsells, Dr Gale Rutan & Joseph Francis)

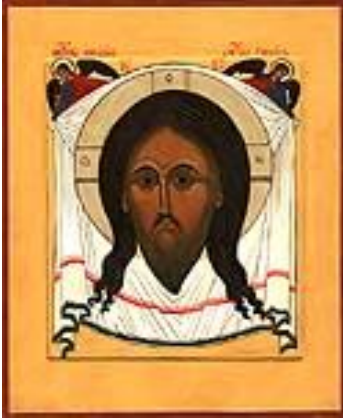
Next Week (Aug 23): Saint John of Kronstadt
(Lena Helen, Paul Filanowski, Matthew Andres, Martha Palubniak).

(NOTE: The parish has now resumed the Fellowship Coffee Hour in its normal fashion and is continuing with the Team cycle).

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services in August.

Saturday, August 29 – The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. *STRICT FAST DAY!*

Sunday, August 30 – Quarterly PARISH COUNCIL Meeting!



Translation of the Image “Not-Made -By-Hands” of our Lord Jesus Christ [August 16th]

The Transfer from Edessa to Constantinople of the Icon of our Lord Jesus Christ Not-Made-by-Hands occurred in the year 944. Eusebius, in his HISTORY OF THE CHURCH (I:13), relates that when the Savior was preaching, Abgar ruled in Edessa. He was stricken all over his body with leprosy. Reports of the great miracles worked by the Lord spread throughout Syria (Mt.4:24) and reached even Abgar.

Without having seen the Savior, Abgar believed in Him as the Son of God. He wrote a letter requesting Him to come and heal him. He sent with this letter to Palestine his own portrait-painter Ananias, and commissioned him to paint a likeness of the Divine Teacher.

Ananias arrived in Jerusalem and saw the Lord surrounded by people. He was not able to get close to Him because of the large throng of people listening to the preaching of the Savior. Then he stood on a high rock and attempted to paint the portrait of the Lord Jesus Christ from afar, but this effort was not successful. The Savior saw him, called to him by name and gave him a short letter for Abgar in which He praised the faith of this ruler. He also promised to send His disciple to heal him of his leprosy and guide him to salvation.

Then the Lord asked that water and a cloth be brought to Him. He washed His Face, drying it with the cloth, and His Divine Countenance was imprinted upon it. Ananias took the cloth and the letter of the Savior to Edessa. Reverently, Abgar pressed the holy object to his face and he received partial healing. Only a small trace of the terrible affliction remained until the arrival of the disciple promised by the Lord. He was St Thaddeus, Apostle of the Seventy (August 21), who preached the Gospel and baptized Abgar and all the people of Edessa. Abgar put the Holy Napkin in a gold frame adorned with pearls, and placed it in a niche over the city gates. On the gateway above the icon he inscribed the words, “O Christ God, let no one who hopes on Thee be put to shame.”

For many years the inhabitants kept a pious custom to bow down before the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands, when they went forth from the gates. But one of the great-grandsons of Abgar, who later ruled Edessa, fell into idolatry. He decided to take down the icon from the city wall. In a vision the Lord ordered the Bishop of Edessa to hide His icon. The bishop, coming by night with his clergy, lit a lampada before it and walled it up with a board and with bricks.

Many years passed, and the people forgot about it. But in the year 545, when the Persian emperor Chozroes I besieged Edessa and the position of the city seemed hopeless, the Most Holy Theotokos appeared to Bishop Eulabius and ordered him to remove the icon from the sealed niche, and it would save the city from the enemy. Having opened the niche, the bishop found the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands: in front of it was burning the lampada, and upon the board closing in the niche, a copy of the icon was reproduced. After a church procession with the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands had made the circuit of the city walls, the Persian army withdrew.

In the year 630 Arabs seized Edessa, but they did not hinder the veneration of the Holy Napkin, the fame of which had spread throughout all the East. In the year 944, the emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitos (912-959) wanted to transfer the icon to the Constantinople, and he paid a ransom for it to the emir of the city. With great reverence the Icon of the Savior Not-Made-by-Hands and the letter which He had written to Abgar, were brought to Constantinople by clergy.

[...Image “Not-Made-By-Hands” continues on page 4 of this bulletin...]