

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance**  
**Parish annual Liturgy/picnic is, August 16, 9:30 am**  
**at George & Helen Blebea's home - 11770 State Street NE. Alliance**  
**(No service at St. Theodore)**

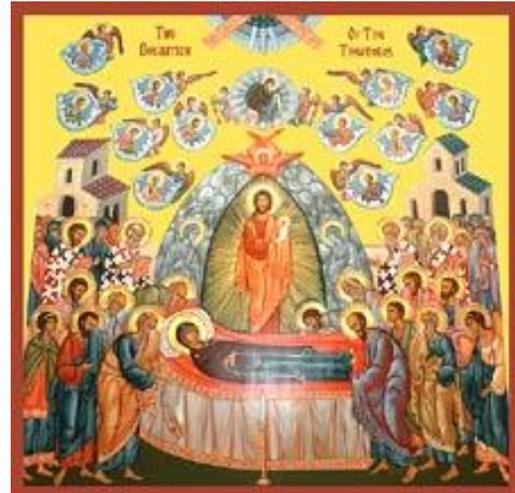
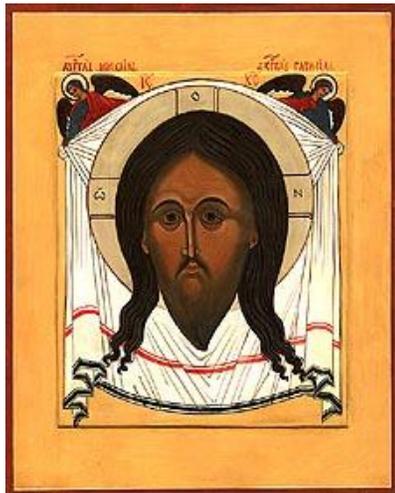
**Right Rev. Bishop Alexander, Bulgarian Diocese, Orthodox Church in America**  
**Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)**

**Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)**  
**August 16, 2015:11th Sunday after Pentecost/Afterfeast of Dormition / Translation**  
**of Icon "Not-made-by-hands" of our Lord Jesus Christ to Constantinople**

**Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**

**Mission Website**<http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com/>

*Welcome to Visitors. Thank you for coming and praying with us today. In the Orthodox Church, Holy Communion is reserved only for Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession during the Church fasting seasons. We invite you to introduce yourself to Father Joe and Deacon James at the end of the Liturgy and receive a piece of the blessed bread and join us for fellowship and Christian education at the Jonathan Casteel hall, directly through the alley way behind the church. We look forward to seeing you again and encourage you to learn more about the Orthodox Faith.*



**Tone 2            Troparion            (Resurrection)**

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,  
You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
And when from the depths You raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out://  
"O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

**Tone 2            Troparion            (Icon not-make-by-hands)**

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One,  
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God.  
Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh  
to deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy.  
Therefore with thanksgiving we cry aloud to You:  
"You have filled all with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world."

**Tone 1            Troparion            (Dormition)**

In giving birth you preserved your virginity.  
In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.  
You were translated to life O Mother of Life, //  
and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

**Tone 4            Troparion        St. Nikolai**

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved!

**Tone 2            Kontakion        (Resurrection)**

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with You, //  
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

**Tone 2            Kontakion        (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.

**Tone 2            Prokeimenon**

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.  
v: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

**Epistle:**            1 Corinthians 9:2-12

**Tone 2            Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

v: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!  
v: Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps 19/20:9)

**Gospel:**            Matthew 18:23-35

**(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:) Tone 1**

Refrain: 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 you, O Pure Virgin:  
for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united to death;  
a virgin after childbearing and alive after death,  
you ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos.

**Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



**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.

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.

According to the Prologue of Ohrid, by St. Nikolai, there are four known Icons of the Savior Not-Made-by-Hands:

· · at Edessa, of King Abgar (August 16)

· · the Kamulian, -- St Gregory of Nyssa (January 10) wrote of its discovery, while according to St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14), the Kamulian icon appeared in the year 392, but it had in appearance an icon of the Mother of God (August 9) · · in the time of Emperor Tiberius (578-582), St Mary Syncletike (August 11) received healing from this on ceramic tiles (16 August)

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 Orthodox Church is also expressed in iconography, and the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands was one of the most widely distributed.

**Save the Date: The blessing of our chapel is scheduled for the weekend of October 17 & 18, details will be forthcoming very soon.**

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### **PRAYERS requested**

#### **For The Health and Salvation of:**

Mother Ana

Doreen Wishnok (friend of the Krupko's who is battling breast cancer)

Stefanie Waseman

The Knoll Family

Archpriest Rastko Trbuhovich (Fr. Dragan's Kum)

Ann Cervo (Fr. Joe's sister-in-law, diagnosed with optical melanoma)

Roland Augspurger

Leslie and Tim Kocevar

Joan Downey

Beth Plocher

#### **For The Repose of the Souls of:**

Donald Barnhart (Grandfather of Laura Cotterman)

### **ADULT EDUCATION:**

The summer schedule for our weekly study group at the Gresh house has been modified due to the hectic summer schedules of our participants. The study group will resume sessions in September. The potential start date for the Fall season could be either September 5 (which is Labor Day weekend) or September 12. We would like feedback from interested participants on their preference of the start date.

### **COFFEE HOUR:**

Aug 16 Annual Parish Liturgy and Picnic hosted by George and Helen Blebea

Aug 23 Open

Aug 30 Open

Sept 6 Deb and Wally Borojevich

Sept 13 Open

Sept 20            Washingtons  
Sept 27            Open

Please see Deanna and Larry Dordea if you are interested in hosting a Coffee Hour. There are plenty of dates available. Thank you to Deanna, Larry and Georgie for chairing our Coffee Hours.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE HOSTED COFFEE HOUR!!!!**

**BUILDING PROJECT:**

August 14, UPDATE! By the grace of God construction of our chapel continues to advance rapidly. The exterior siding and stone on the building is complete. The exterior doors have been installed. The drywall work is underway and expected to be complete by the end of next week. The cupola refinishing is complete and the metal base replacement will take place next week, with its installation on the roof expected in about two weeks (there will be a blessing of the cupola before being set in place; an email will be sent to everyone advising the day and time of this blessing). Work on the Icons is progressing and we are still seeking additional donors. Please see Fr. Joe for further information.

For updated construction pictures please visit our parish website or the Facebook page.

We are also still in need of additional funding for the general building fund. If you are able to make an initial or additional contribution, please see Father Joe or Deacon James.

Please note, any special donations will be added directly to our building fund unless otherwise specified by the donor. God bless all who have generously donated to and support our mission.

**May the Lord bless all our endeavors to glorify His Holy Name and bring others to the fullness of the truth.**

**Heightened prayers are requested for Mother Anna**, abbess of Monastery Marcha, Richfield Ohio. She has been diagnosed with inoperable bladder cancer. May God comfort and strengthen her in the days and months ahead.

**CHOIR PRACTICES:**

We will be taking a break for the Summer. Practices will resume in the Fall.

**MEMORIAL FUND FOR GEORGE RALICH:**

Several people have inquired about donations to the Mission in memory of Dan's father, +George Ralich. We will set aside any donations in +George's memory to purchase an item for the church. Thank you!

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:**

Corbin Washington – 11th  
Jacob Baier - 22th  
Greg Cervo – 23th  
Larry Dordea - 27<sup>th</sup>

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:**

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