On August 16 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Dormition of the Theotokos, and we commemorate the Recovery from Edessa to Constantinople of the Icon of Christ Not Made by Hands, known as ‘The Holy Napkin.’

**Verses**

Thou didst wipe Thy face with linen while yet living.
Who later, being dead, wouldst be wrapped in linen.

Prince Avgar of Edessa sent a portrait-painter, Ananias, to Palestine with a letter to Christ our Savior, in which he begged the Lord to come and heal him of his leprosy. In the event that Lord was unable to come, the prince commanded Ananias to paint His likeness and bring it, believing that the portrait would heal him. The Lord replied that he could not come, as the time of His Passion was at hand. Our Savior took a napkin and wiped His face, leaving a perfect reproduction of His most pure face on it. The Lord gave this napkin to Ananias, with a message that the prince would be healed by it, but not entirely, and He would later send him an envoy that would rid him of the remainder of the disease. Receiving the napkin, Avgar kissed it and the leprosy fell from his body, with just a little remaining on his face. Later, the Apostle Thaddaeus came to Avgar, fully healed him and baptized him. Then the prince smashed the idols that stood at the city’s gateway and placed the napkin with the face of Christ above the entrance, stuck onto wood, surrounded with a gold frame and ornamented with pearls. The city eventually fell to Arab conquest, and the Holy Napkin was translated to Constantinople in 944.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyrs Diomedes the physician of Tarsus in Cilicia and Alkiviades; Venerable Gerasimos the New Ascetic of Kephallenia; Timothy, bishop of Epiros; New-martyrs Nikodemos of Meteora and Apostolos (Stamatios) of St. Laurence; and the New-martyrs of Megaris.

*By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.*
THE EPISTLE

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (4:9-16)

Brethren, God has exhibited us Apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, 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 held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill clad and buffeted and homeless; and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (17:14-23)

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before Him said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Thy disciples, and they could not heal him.” And Jesus answered, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.” And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” Jesus said to them, “Because you have no faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. This kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting.”

TYPES OF MARY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Types of both Christ and Mary, His Mother, fill the Old Testament. Indeed, most of Old Testament types of Mary - a natural consequence of her essential role in the Incarnation of her Son, Jesus Christ - reveal the awesome marvel of her womb which contained the almighty God. Referring to Genesis 2:9, the hymnography of the Church sees the garden of Eden as a type of Mary: “Rejoice... O Living Paradise, having the Lord, the Tree of Life, in your midst” (Akhathist Hymn). The burning bush beheld by in the wilderness (Ex 3:1-6) is one of the most often mentioned types of Mary. For example “She is the Bush springing from barren ground [her mother, St. Anna, had been barren] burning with the immaterial fire that cleanses and enlightens our souls” (Small Vespers, Nativity of the Theotokos). St. John of Damascus observes, “The burning bush is an image of God’s Mother... If, therefore, the ground where the image of the Theotokos was seen by Moses is holy ground [Ex 3:5], how much more holy is the image itself?” The tabernacle in the wilderness, where God dwelt among the wandering Israelites (Ex 25:1-27:19), also prefigures Mary: “The tabernacle that is to hold God, the sanctuary of the glory, has chosen to dwell in the holy temple” (Matins, Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple). Another hymn from this service addresses her as “O Holy of Holies,” identifying her with the most holy inner place of the tabernacle and the temple (Ex 26:33; 3Kg 8:6). Other Old Testament types of Mary relating to the Lord dwelling in her womb include the jar of manna (Ex 16:33, 34); Aaron’s rod that budded (Nm 17:16-23); the tablet of the Law “written with the finger of God” (Ex 31:18); the ladder reaching from earth to heaven (Gn 28:10-17); the fleece that received the dew (Jdg 6:36-38; see Ps 71:1-6); the tongs besting the live coal (Is 6:6); and the fiery furnace in Babylon (Dan 3:19-50). Concerning this last image, the hymnographer St. Cosmas of Maiuma writes, “The furnace moist with dew was the image and figure of a wonder past nature. For it burned not the Children whom it had received, even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin’s womb into which it had descended” (Matins, Nativity of Christ). The miracle of the Virgin Birth is another prominent theme among the Old Testament types of Mary. One of the most striking of these is found in Ezekiel 43:27-44:4, the only Old Testament passage read at all four of the major Feasts of the Theotokos. This reading tells about the east gate of the heavenly temple remaining shut even as the Lord God of Israel, and He alone, goes in and out through it. This is prophetic of the Lord entering Mary’s womb and being born nine months later with her virginity remaining intact. Hence in various hymns the Church proclaims her as “the Gate that looks towards the East,” “the Gate through which none may pass,” and “the East Gate... [who] awaits the entrance of the Great Priest.” Another such image occurs in Daniel 2:45, where the Theotokos is the mountain out of whom a stone (that is, Christ; 1Co 10:4) is cut “without hands.” This refers to Christ’s birth from the Virgin, untouched by a man. Mary is the culmination of the whole history of the ancient Hebrews. She is the perfection to which all of faithful Israel aspired through the long centuries of preparation for the coming of the Messiah, beginning with the promise given to Abraham: “God promised to our forefather Abraham that in his seed the Gentiles would be blessed [Gn 22:18], O pure Lady; and through thee today, the promise receives its fulfillment” (Matins, Annunciation).
**Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church**
“A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America”

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& Metropolitan of all North America

**His Grace Bishop JOHN, Auxiliary and Bishop of the**
Diocese of Worcester and New England

V. Rev. Father Elie Estephan
Cell- 1-(240) 205-9079

Sub-Deacon Emad Amirhom
Sub-Deacon Elijah Vollendorf

**Schedule of Services**

- **Sunday: Orthros** (Matins) 9:00 a.m.
- **Church School** 11:15 a.m.
- **Sunday: Divine Liturgy** 10:00 a.m.

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**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**Tone: 1 Eothinon: 10**

**RESURRECTION APOLYTIKION:** Tone 1
While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE ICON OF CHRIST:** Tone 2
Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE DORMITION:** Tone 1
In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

**TROPARION OF THE DORMITION:** Tone 1
Verily, the Theotokos, who is ever watchful in intercessions, and whose prayers are never rejected, neither tomb nor death could control. But since she is the Mother of Life, He Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb did translate her to life.

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**Prayer Line**
St. Mary ~ Internet Prayer Line
Prayer requests can be sent to us via the internet at
office@stmarypawtucket.org

All requests must be received by Wednesday noon to be included in that week’s bulletin. Any requests received after that time will be included in the following week’s bulletin.
Memorial Services

A 40 Day Memorial Service is being offered for the servant of God Paula Hallal, a Five Year Memorial Service for Fred Hallal, and a Ten Year Memorial Service for Sophie Hallal. Memorial Services are being offered by their Loving Family.

May God grant them peace and may their memories be eternal.

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Kevin Hashway
Mark Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Victoria & Albert Hallal
Offered by: Ron Hallal

Josephine Karam
Mother Xenia Minihan
Offered by: Elie, Julia & Naji Karam

Ron Hallal
Offered by: Rhonda Hallal, Bob Lienert, Hanna & Emma, Sharyn Hallal, Keith & Maria Hallal, Isabel & Matthew

Holly, Jordan, & Alexander Lazieh
Bob Dessaint
Cheryl & Anthony, Emma & Evan Nassaney
Nancy & Dimitrios, Steven & Nicolas Sterpis
All Relatives & Friends
Offered by: Lily Massiwer

Holly, Cheryl, Nancy and their Families
Offered by: Lorice Hallal

Holly, Cheryl, Nancy and their Families
Offered by: Edward & Paula Hallal & Family

Holly, Cheryl, Nancy and their Families
Offered by: Peter & Robin Soderland & Family

Holly, Jordan, & Alexander Lazieh
Bob Dessaint
Cheryl & Anthony Nassaney & Family
Nancy & Dimitrios Sterpis & Family
Charlie & Angela Abosamra
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Mary Gurghigian
Offered by: Paul and Maureen Gurghigian

Holly Lazieh and sons and Bob Dessaint
Cheryl & Anthony Nassaney and family
Nancy and Dimitrios Sterpis and family
Lily Massiwer
Diana Hashway
Mary Massiwer and family
John and Patricia Massiwer
Fred and Adele Shwaery and family
Offered by: Paul, Maureen and Mary Gurghigian

Donald, Lauren, Daniel, Liz and Sarah
Offered by: Cindy Hayes

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Holly Lazieh & Family & Bob Dessaint
Cheryl & Anthony Nassaney & Family
Nancy & Dimitrios Sterpis & Family
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Holly Lazieh & Family & Bob Dessaint
Cheryl & Anthony Nassaney & Family
Nancy & Dimitrios Sterpis & Family
Offered by: Walid & Mirna Nakhoul

Charlie & Angela Abosamra
Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Holly, Cheryl & Nancy & Their Families
Lily, Diana & Mitchell
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Janice Hallal
Offered by: Her Loving Husband Ron

Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Paula Hallal
Offered by: Diana Hashway

Paula Hallal
Sophie & Fred Hallal
Relatives & Friends
Offered by: Lily Massiwer

Paula Hallal
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

Fred, Sophie & Paula Hallal
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

Arabic Liturgy

Arabic Liturgy is being offered the first Saturday of each month at 6:00 P.M. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.