

25 YEARS

**THE VEIL**

The Monthly Journal Covering The News at St. Mary



AUGUST 2013



## OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY: LOOKING BACK/LOOKING AHEAD

By Rev. Fr. David G. Subu

It's just two months away until our celebration of St. Mary's Silver Anniversary... and I have some delightful news to share with you! Through the grace of God, the generosity of a number of parish families over the years, and the diligence of your parish council, I'm pleased to announce to you that the mortgage on the Church property has been paid off! We anticipated that it would happen this year and projected to make the last payment by October. Yet it has come, like many blessings, early!

I'd like to ask your prayers in gratitude for the kindness of two anonymous donor families in particular who made this possible by giving above and beyond—one over the course of the last several years and the other through a surprise windfall last year. God knows who they are and we should all wish them the best, all things that are good for their health and salvation.

But most of all, we should thank George and Eleni Woglom for their years of leading the Anniversary Dinner Dance and Auction each year, the proceeds of which have been the keystone of our debt reduction program. These events have contributed tens of thousands of dollars toward mortgage repayment and made this year's celebration so special. May God grant many years to the Woglom family and all of you who have participated and supported the parish in successful

debt reduction!

What does this mean financially for the parish? First it frees up about \$20,000-\$40,000 in expenses per year that we can also use to pay down the other mortgage on the Roosevelt Ave. property (where our parking lot is mostly situated.) Yes—we're not out of the woods yet, but it's now very likely we'll have another mortgage down by the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at this (now doubled) rate! This will help put us in a very good position for financing our desired development goals. Your Parish Council realizes that giving towards something "invisible" like debt reduction may be one of the least glamorous ways to help the church grow, but it is a necessary step in the life of any stable and long-lived faith community. And the Lord teaches us that the most blessed gifts are those not given that we may be seen by others—for those have their own, passing, reward.—but those the Lord sees in secret and blesses openly.

If you'd like to help the cause, please attend our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on October 5 to help us burn that blessed old mortgage! Bring a friend or two! Offer your time and talent in the week and day of the event itself. Or prayerfully consider a special donation (one-time or recurring) towards the parish's continued debt reduction. It's a recognition of the past enrichment and blessings you have received and an investment in not only your own future but for those who will come to believe because of your faithfulness.

*— Fr. David G. Subu*



## TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO "CON" HAS GONE BEFORE

By Dr. Jonathan Chaves

July 19-21, 2013—a mini-conference like no other took place, entitled *Doxacon—Where Faith and Truth Meet Science Fiction and Fantasy*, at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield, Virginia. This event was conceived, organized, and implemented entirely by members of St. Mary Orthodox Church: parish priest, Rev. Fr. David Subu; his wife, Preoteasa Stephanie Subu; and parishioner Daniel Silver, along with a dedicated group of assistants—including myself. There was no support, financial or otherwise, from outside the parish. And yet the enrollment of some 100 plus persons included visitors from unexpectedly far afield—Hong Kong, British Columbia, Alabama, Tennessee, Ohio, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Connecticut, and North Carolina. The remainder were from the Greater Washington DC area. Upon arrival to the hotel, all of them received complimentary copies of the May, 1997 issue of *Chronicles* ("Utopias Unlimited") that focused on science fiction, courtesy of Scott Richert, together with subscription forms for the journal. T-Shirts were also available for purchase with *Doxacon's* official motto: Geek Orthodox.



Metropolitan Savas with Dr. Bertonneau

The presentations were preceded and followed by services, at the church, and, just before the opening keynote address, in the hotel conference room itself: this latter, the chanting of the Akathist hymn of praise, "Glory to God for All Things," was composed by an Orthodox priest who endured the ordeal of the Gulag in the Soviet Union. (The service was led by Metropolitan Savas of the Greek Orthodox diocese of Pittsburgh, himself the other keynote speaker.) Among the gifts God is thanked for in this beautiful text is the inspiration of writers, artists, musicians, and scientists who glorify Him in their work, ei-

ther directly or indirectly.

To attend a conference on literature that opened in this manner was, for an academic such as myself, a dream come true, or no, not even a dream: I had long since given up hope that in today's groves of academe any discussion of literature, art, music, philosophy, or religion itself could possibly be conducted on the basis of the assumption that *The Truth is Out There*, and yet this is in fact the very title of a book by Professor Thomas Bertonneau of the Oswego campus of the State University of New York (English Department, *mirabile dictu*—as well as being one of the contributors to the *Chronicles* issue that was distributed), a volume that explores the echoes of Christian theology that can be discerned in various TV science fiction and fantasy programs. Bertonneau's address was entitled, *Plurality and Divinity in the Work of Olaf Stapledon* (an influence of C.S. Lewis), and was an exemplary demonstration of how to study literature with an attitude of love and thirst for truth, rather than with the "deconstructivist" propensity, now rampant in academia, to dismantle the remnants of civilization, in the deluded hope that one is thereby contributing to some future utopia.

I myself, a sinologist, spoke on Chinese poems that narrate celestial journeys, and encounters with deities up to and including a "Lord of the Sky," poems that deploy such images as the "heavenly ladder." The poems read dated from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, and prepared the ground for a discussion of the extraordinary master painter, Wu Li (1632-1718), who was baptized, in all likelihood at the hand of Belgian Jesuit missionary, *François de Rougemont, S.J.*, (1624-1676), and then received into the Society of Jesus and ordained one of the first three native Chinese Catholic priests. In one of his masterful Christian poems, written entirely in classical Chinese forms, he triumphantly notes that now, there is a true "ladder to Heaven," in the person of Jesus Christ! Here, then, is one author for whom the fantasies of fiction actually have come true!



Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh at Great Vespers

Metropolitan Savas, in a closing keynote address at our church, speculated intriguingly on the underlying motivations of authors, screenplay writers, and others whose work seems to echo Christian themes. How self-conscious are they? What are they aiming at? Are they indeed in it only for the money?

And Fr. David Subu, in a session presentation, showed how a close analysis of the *Dune* series by Frank Herbert—apparently a lapsed Catholic—nevertheless demonstrated the extent to which the author had found new language and new imagery to present the great story of incarnation, sacrifice, and transcendence. It has been a cause of sadness for me that our academy today seems almost completely cut off from the intellectual riches of the clergy, these seemingly being limited to seminaries. But here was a perfect display of the wealth available. The only partially comparable experience I have had was a few years back at a conference on the Jesuits and their contributions at Boston College, where many of the academics were themselves members of the Society of Jesus.

In addition to presentations such as these, there were actual authors of science fiction and fantasy, all of them professing Christians: Nebula Award finalist John C. Wright (atheist turned Catholic convert mid-career), his wife L. Jagi Lamplighter, Matushka Donna Farley, and Craig Alan Loewen. They spoke of the practical problems and challenges faced by writers in their position; perhaps the heart of their message was captured by Wright when he pointed out that Christ Himself conveyed his teachings primarily in the form of *parables*—stories, that is to say. In the time of Christ, agriculture and exploring the wonders His earth was the great odyssey of man. Today, it is outer space and wondering the possibility of living “off world”.



**The Wrights discuss “You Got Your Christianity in My Science fiction!”**

ring novels with their impeccably printed, oversize black-and-red maps of Middle Earth, and these attracted a great deal of attention. Ms. Scott presented on why libraries need to care about and grow science fiction and fantasy.

Plans are said to be underway for a Doxacon West, in Seattle, as well as for a Doxacon II here on the east coast. For me, it would be ideal if such events could somehow reach the radar screens of our college and university faculties, as a small beam of light indicating that a traditional aspiration to transcendence can still inspire the reading and study of literature. . . . Does this sound impossible? When I first heard of Doxacon, I thought it would never occur. Thankfully, I was wrong.



**Panel discussion with the Wrights, Farley, and Loewen**

Here was a literary conference in which, instead of Foucault and Derrida, the names on everyone’s lips were those of G.K. Chesterton, C.S. Lewis, and Tolkien. In fact, Dr. Alison Scott of The George Washington University’s Gelman Library brought from the Special Collections department British first editions of *The Hobbit* and all three

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Eugene Huang, Parish Subdeacon  
Nicholas Dujmovic, Parish Subdeacon  
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## Celebrating 25 Years of Faith and Fellowship

The Parish Community of  
Protection of the Holy Mother of God Orthodox Church in Falls Church, VA  
Invites You to Attend Our

# Silver Anniversary

## Dinner Dance & Silent Auction

Saturday, October 5, 2013 • 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.  
St. Luke Banquet Hall • McLean, Virginia

*Special Guest: His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel  
Bishop of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate*

### *Ticket Includes:*

- Italian Dinner Buffet, Dessert & Beverages
- Live DJ Featuring Dance Music Through the Decades
- Dessert Frenzy • Dancing & Fellowship • Benefit Auction

**Age 21+ Only • Semi-Formal Attire**

Suggested Donation \$50/person

Paid Reservations Required By September 22

Invitations & Registration Details Coming Soon!  
Bring family and friends!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Irene Chrysovolantou</li> <li>• 9am - 9:30am Choir /Akathist</li> <li>• 9:30am - 11am Divine Liturgy (Summer Hours)</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish priest vacation July 22-30</li> <li>• 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class</li> <li>• 7:30pm - 8:30pm Peer Depression Ministry</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish priest vacation July 22-30</li> </ul>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7pm - 9pm Vigil with Cross</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procession of the Holy Cross</li> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 10am - 11am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 7pm - 7:40pm Paraclesis (Confessions before and after)</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 7pm - 7:40pm Paraclesis (Confessions before and after)</li> </ul>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 3pm - 4pm Baptism</li> <li>• 5pm - 5:45pm Vespers with confessions</li> </ul>
<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 9am - 9:30am Choir /Akathist</li> <li>• 9:30am - 11am Divine Liturgy (Summer Hours)</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 7pm - 8pm Great Vespers with Litya</li> <li>• 7:30pm - 8:30pm Peer Depression Ministry</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfiguration</li> <li>• 10am - 11am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 7pm - 7:40pm Paraclesis (Confessions before and after)</li> </ul>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 7pm - 7:40pm Paraclesis (Confessions before and after)</li> </ul>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 7pm - 7:40pm Paraclesis (Confessions before and after)</li> </ul>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 7pm - 7:40pm Paraclesis (Confessions before and after)</li> </ul>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 5pm - 5:45pm Vespers with confessions</li> </ul>
<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 9am - 9:30am Choir /Akathist</li> <li>• 9:30am - 11am Divine Liturgy (Summer Hours)</li> </ul>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class</li> <li>• 7pm - 7:40pm Paraclesis (Confessions before and after)</li> <li>• 7:30pm - 8:30pm Peer Depression Ministry</li> </ul>	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 7pm - 7:40pm Paraclesis (Confessions before and after)</li> </ul>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition Fast</li> <li>• 7pm - 9:15pm Vigil of Dormition with Lamentations/Procession</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormition of the Theotokos</li> <li>• 10am - 11am Divine Liturgy</li> </ul>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5pm - 5:45pm Vespers with confessions</li> </ul>
<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9am - 9:30am Choir /Akathist</li> <li>• 9:30am - 11am Divine Liturgy (Summer Hours)</li> </ul>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class</li> <li>• 7:30pm - 8:30pm Peer Depression Ministry</li> </ul>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7pm - 7:30pm Vespers</li> </ul>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5pm - 5:45pm Vespers with confessions</li> </ul>
<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9am - 9:30am Choir /Akathist</li> <li>• 9:30am - 11am Divine Liturgy (Summer Hours)</li> </ul>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class</li> <li>• 7:30pm - 8:30pm Peer Depression Ministry</li> </ul>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7pm - 7:30pm Great Vespers</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beheading of St. John the Baptist (strict fast)</li> <li>• 7am - 8am Divine Liturgy</li> </ul>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5pm - 5:45pm Vespers with confessions</li> </ul>

# GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!



### Birthdays

- Adrian Apodaca
- Alexander Yuskavage
- Ava Birchfield
- Cathy Dujmovic
- Catherine Walter
- Cristina Boicu
- John Koory
- Juliana Subu
- Roseanna Cox
- Roslyn Bahumian
- Sophia Cleary
- Stella Schmalzbach
- Timothy Yuskavage

### August Anniversaries

- 7 Joseph and Ileana Henry
- 10 Lori Monica and Jonathan Jacobson
- 16 Fr. David and Psa Stephanie Subu
- 19 Eva and Jeff Beranek
- 26 George and Eleni Woglom

### August Saint's Name Days

- 26 St. Natalia: Natalya Sophia Beranek
- 30 St. Alexander of Constantinople: Alexander Woglom



# AUGUST/SEPTEMBER COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS

- August 4-The Dujmovic Family (Fast)
- August 11- SPONSOR NEEDED (Fast)
- August 18-Warren and Libby Hall
- August 25-SPONSOR NEEDED
- September 1- SPONSOR NEEDED (Labor Day)
- September 8-ANNUAL PARISH BBQ & PICNIC
- September 15- SPONSOR NEEDED
- September 22-SPONSOR NEEDED
- September 29-SPONSOR NEEDED
- October 6-Parish Council  
In honor of Archbishop Nathaniel

# The "WOW" Factor: Coming attractions to our annual auction!

Ever dream of flying in a private airplane? Wish you had friends in high (court) places? Love horses, Hobbits, tantalizing tastes, and forward fashion?

The 2013 St. Mary auction has all this and more – including behind-the-scenes experiences, one-of-a-kind treasures, and some of the best food you've ever had.

We'll publish the official auction program in September. Meanwhile, here's a sneak peek at a few of the exciting auction items we're working on (*some of these are still being confirmed*):

- 3,000 Feet Up – One-Hour Private Airplane Ride
- Insider's Tour of the U.S. Supreme Court
- British Gastro-Pub Dinner Party
- "An Evening in Andalucia, Southern Spain" Dinner
- Singapore Family Dinner
- "The Hobbit" miniatures (Bilbo and Gollum) along with painting lessons with Father David.
- Whiskey Tasting with Friends
- Gourmet "Lola's Cupcakes" Home Delivery
- 4 Seasons of Flower Arrangements/Centerpieces
- Fabulous Calvin Klein Handbags, Wallets, Sunglasses, and Shoes
- Handwritten Icons & Other Orthodox Treasures
- Hand painted Pysanky & Pysanky Workshop
- Plus more items and experiences being confirmed each day!

The **Silver Anniversary Dinner Dance & Silent Auction** is Saturday, October 5. There are no walk-ins – your space must be reserved and paid before September 22.

So look for registration details coming soon . . . and get a group together to join the fun!

# HOLY BREAD BAKER



BAKER NEEDED

# EPISTLE READER



John Koory



## AROUND THE COFFEE URN

News and events percolating in and around our community.

### The Challenge of Miscarriage: Questions, reflections, and healing on the loss of a child

by Kristine Lorentz

*You probably didn't even notice. I never had the chance to tell you. I had just entered my second trimester and was anxious to tell you the news that we were expecting another baby. Instead, the very same week, we found out that our little one had passed away. What next? What is an Orthodox mother to do after a miscarriage? What would happen to my baby? Could anyone tell me?*

It seems nobody really knows what to say about miscarriages. Some seemed to have only little bits of information and advice on this tricky subject. That's most unfortunate, because to me, it didn't matter that our baby had never actually been born. My husband and I had still experienced the death of a child. If we are truly a pro-life community that recognizes life beginning at conception, then we the Church must be ready and willing to acknowledge and assist those women who have lost their babies, no matter what stage of life their baby reached. Even though our baby was only about the size of a lime, Robert and I decided he needed a burial. We returned our precious little baby to the earth and planted a white crepe myrtle in memory.

Did you ever worry or wonder what happens to a little unborn baby that perishes? Does the baby need to be baptized like we do to join body of Christ? St. Gregory of Nyssa tells us that a baby has a pure soul: "Whereas the innocent babe has no such plague before its soul's eyes obscuring its measure of light, it continues to exist in that natural life; it does not need the soundness that comes from purgation, because it never admitted the plague into its soul at all." What a comfort it was to know that because my little baby never had the chance to be corrupted by sin, he was immediately transformed into a glorious new form in the Kingdom of God in a way we cannot even understand or imagine. He will not have to endure trial or Judgment like the rest of us. What a privilege to have carried that little baby while on earth, even for a short time! This is why Fr. David said it was only appropriate to sing "Christ is Risen" or "Holy God" at the time, since this baby had no sins to forgive. Hence that white colored crepe myrtle will always be a perfect reminder of this purity.

Traditionally baby is supposed to receive a name on the 8th day after birth. However, if this baby really is an angel now as St. Gregory tells us, then is it not okay to have a name to call upon to pray for us while we remain here on earth? Although this baby was perfectly formed (10 fingers & 10 toes, eyes, ears, mouth, nose, even a teeny little bottom) we were unable to tell the gender for sure. But the moment we got our horrible news we decided this child needed a name, and that name would be Sava. My due date was near St. Sava's feast day. St. Sava was the first archbishop of Serbia and he is very important to Serbs. I have a great-great grandmother too that was named Sava, after the Sava River. In Bosnia, where she was born, it was a trend long ago to name girls after rivers. Naming your baby is one of the best ways to honor that child as well as help you accept that he or she was a real person.

The next time you hear that someone has miscarried, remember to act the same as you would with any other death in the family. Drop off a meal, send a card, light a candle, ask the parents how they are doing (don't forget, the fathers are mourning the loss too, not just the mothers) and most importantly remember to pray for them to find peace and comfort.

Here are two helpful websites for Orthodox women suffering from miscarriages:

Lost Innocents: Practical help for miscarriage from an Orthodox Christian perspective

<http://lostinnocentsorthodox.blogspot.com>

Also there is another site similar to the one above that is Romanian:

<http://runciplierdutisinascutiinaintedevreme.wordpress.com>

The Tepeyac Family Center, a Christian Pro-Life OB/GYN Practice in Fairfax that also has a Perinatal Hospice Program:

<http://www.tepeyacfamilycenter.com>

**(Editor's Note:** Kristine is interested in creating an Orthodox outreach group for men and women grieving over the loss of a child, as well as be a resource for recovery. If you would like to help establish and be part of this group, please speak with her. Thank you.)

**Deadline for SEPTEMBER Issue:  
August 24**

# END OF SUMMER PARISH BBQ AND PICNIC

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

**Following Divine Liturgy, we move coffee hour to the great outdoors next door at Tyler Park!**

**HAMBURGERS \* HOT DOGS \* SIDE DISHES  
REFRESHMENTS \* CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

**Please look for a sign up sheet in the parish hall for food items to bring. Please see Ho Kim to volunteer for set-up and clean-up.**



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