

THE VEIL

The Monthly Journal Covering the News at St. Mary's



JANUARY 2012



A NEW COVENANT

By Rev. Fr. David Subu

Each New Year the Church celebrates the Circumcision of the Lord. It's a passing reference in the Gospel of Luke (2:21), the day on which the Lord was formally given the name Jesus by his earthly family, having already been given it by the heavenly Father through His angels. The event marks the first act of Christ in fulfilling the Law of Moses, a necessary step in fulfilling the whole of the Prophets and bringing to completion the Covenant made between God and Abraham long ago: Gen 22: 18 "In your Seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." And Gen 12: 10 "This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; 11 "and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you." Thus, the little passing mention of the Lord's Circumcision is a sign of great things: the fulfillment of one Covenant and the beginning of another.

But what is a covenant? It is, simply put, a binding agreement between two parties, freely made. God made his Covenant with Abraham and his descendants. But as St. Paul points out, the Promise made to Abraham was not limited by the works of the Law, which came later in the time of Moses, but was a promise through Christ to all mankind. Even Circumcision is not the covenant, but only its sign. The true Covenant is this: "I will take you as My people, and I will be your God" (Ex. 6:7). At its heart is a relationship of mutual love and trust and communion. The promises to Abraham and his descendants came as a result of that agreement, and the woes of history happened to the people of God when they forgot this and followed after different

gods and different loves. The Law, which was given as a helper and a teacher could not change this. But "13Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law..., 14that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Gal. 3) Thus, "27For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

The result of this is now both Jew and Gentile, all peoples and nations, are able to have access to that. No longer are the males circumcised as a sign but both male and female enter into the relationship, the sign of which is baptism, the seal of which is the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are celebrating, appropriately, the Lord's baptism this month as well, and by connection, remembering our own. Baptism is a symbol itself of the ultimate circumcision: the crucifixion, in which Christ offered not only a token of flesh but the whole of his Body and Blood for us. In Baptism we symbolically die with Christ, that we might live with Him, as St. Paul explains, "4Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection... 11Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This is what it means to live in the New Covenant relationship with God: "alive to God in Christ Jesus the Lord." It is a life in which sin no longer holds dominion over us, and we can know true freedom. In fact, through living this baptized

(Continued on page 3)

**Protection of the Holy Mother of God Orthodox Church in Falls Church, VA
An English Speaking Parish Community of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate, OCA**

CALL TO ORDER OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
ORTHODOX CHURCH
7223 ROOSEVELT AVE., FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042

2011 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY AGENDA
(PROPOSED)
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012

12:30 PM UNTIL COMPLETION OF BUSINESS

- *OPENING PRAYER*
- *ROLL CALL*
- *APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA*
- *APPROVAL OF PARLIAMENTARIAN AND TELLERS*
- *REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2012 PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES*
- *PASTOR'S REPORT*
- *PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT*
- *LADIES GUILD PRESIDENT'S REPORT*
- *CHURCH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT*
- *AUDITORS' REPORT*
- *TREASURER'S REPORT*
- *STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO THE ASSEMBLY*
- *RECOMMENDED 2012 BUDGET PROPOSAL FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL*
- *RECOMMENDED 2012 PARISH COUNCIL SLATE AND ELECTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL AND 1 ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO EPISCOPATE CONGRESS*
- *ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER*

PARISHIONERS MUST BE OFFICIALLY ENROLLED AS A MEMBER AND IN GOOD STANDING IN ORDER TO VOTE AT THE ASSEMBLY.

UPCOMING LECTURES AT ST. VLADIMIR'S SEMINARY!

"Mind and Spirit Moments"

Sunday, January 29, 2012, 4 p.m.



John G. Rangos Family Building: The 29th annual Father Alexander Schmemmann Memorial Lecture, "Our Great High Priest: The Church as the New Temple," with Dr. Margaret Barker.

Saturday, March 31, 2012, 9 a.m.



Divine Liturgy in Three Hierarchs Chapel, followed by brunch and a public Lenten retreat in the John G. Rangos Family Building: "Melody of Faith: Theology in an Orthodox Key," with Dr. Vigen Guroian.

"The Veil" Monthly Journal Protection of the Mother of God Orthodox Church Romanian Orthodox Episcopate, OCA

Archbishop NATHANIEL of Detroit, Hierarch
Rev. David G. Subu, Pastor
Archdeacon, Peter Danilchick, Parish Deacon
Eugene Huang, Parish Sub-Deacon
Christopher Thomas, Parish Council President
7223 Roosevelt Avenue,
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
www.stmaryorthodox.org
Contact: newsletter@stmaryorthodox.org
703-280-0770 (Office) 703-254-8914 (Cell)

Editor-in-Chief: Fr. David Subu, Pastor
Circulation: Lori Jacobson/Ellen Robinson
Layout & Graphics: Psa. Stephanie Subu

(Continued from page 1)

Christian life we also experience the mystery of the Lord's circumcision: "11In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead." (Col. 2)

But we are not so different from the people of the Old Covenant, are we? How often do we conduct ourselves as if God were not with us? Every time we give in to sin, it is an act of forgetting our covenant with Him, that He is our God, and we are His people. We act as if uncircumcised in our hearts. We neglect the precious gift of baptism, and sully the robe of grace given to us. And we bind ourselves with fear and guilt. Let us instead remember Him and our covenant and walk in newness of life, enjoying a life in the Spirit, for "17Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

For us, our freedom in the Spirit is tied with our remembering this Covenant relationship. Thus, the central act of our Christian worship is the Eucharist. "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me... This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (1 Cor. 11)

Likewise we pray above all things that God remember us in His Kingdom (Luke 23:42). Even in the Psalms, Hades is described as "the land of forgetfulness," (Ps. 88)—the place where even God has forgotten you, or so it seemed. To love is to remember.

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, this New Year, let us remember the New Covenant, and with its New Commandment: "Love one another." Let us love one another and love the Lord by remembering each other—in prayer, in charity, in helps and ministries, in words and deeds of affection. Let us put this covenant into practice with our fellow parishioners, our fellow Christians with whom we share this blessed freedom and fellowship. Our covenant with God, like that of Abraham, was not isolated and individualized, but between God and His people. Let us be who we are called to be—the people of God, and "heirs according to the promise." When we begin to see each other and ourselves as God sees us, and treat each other so, it changes everything.

And all of this you can signify with one word: Circumcision. So, if anyone asks you what your New Year's resolution is this year, you might just consider saying, "Oh... I plan on being circumcised—in the Spirit!"

- Fr. David Subu

ATTENTION SCI-FI/FANTASY FANS!



As Orthodox Christians, we believe in absolute truth. That search for truth and the revealing of the true nature of the universe, be it here or in a galaxy far, far, away, is at the center of our faith!

Do the genres of science fiction and fantasy allow us to examine examples of ideas that stand true in any setting, be it Middle Earth, Narnia, Dune, or the inside the TARDIS? "Doxacon" is planned to be a venue to explore if and where we find truth in the genres of science fiction and fantasy.

We are now forming a pan-Orthodox committee to begin plans for the first "Doxacon". Do you have fan convention experience? Do you enjoy discussing our faith and the Sci-Fi genre with others? Then join Fr. David Subu & Daniel Silver for an informational meeting on **Sunday, February 12** to help plan the first ever Sci-Fi/Fantasy convention with an Orthodox Christian Perspective!

AROUND THE COFFEE URN:

News and events percolating in our community.



Come and learn about Jewish Orthodox Christians in Israel!

On Sunday, January 15th, Lea Halim will host a fund-raising lunch for Father Alexander Winogradsky. Father Winogradsky is a priest at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in the Old City of Jerusalem. He pastors a small Israeli congregation from a variety of backgrounds, and is the only priest to serve the Divine Liturgy in Hebrew. The members of his parish face significant difficulties in practicing their faith in Israeli society. Your donations will go to support Father Alexander's unique mission in Israel, as well as to help get him through his current period of ill health.

On Wednesday, January 18th, Lea will lead an Adult Education class focusing on Jewish figures within the Church and the relationship between the Church and the Jewish people.

Congratulations and Many Years! Get Iconography Lessons From This Graduate!

This December, Nadine Thola graduated from VCU with a Masters Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations in jewelry and sculpture. Nadine's graduation ceremony will be held in conjunction with the spring graduation in May. This does not mean the end of her academic career, however, as she will be returning to classes in January to start on the requirements for collegiate teaching in Northern Virginia.

Nadine will also begin offering Iconography lessons on Saturdays 1-4pm at \$35 per lesson, roughly 9 lessons, starting Jan 28. Acrylic Gouache, gold leaf optional. Inquire with Nadine 703-660-6782 or Inkspots@cox.net.

Special Young in Faith Meeting January 15th!

We are pleased that Father Maximus Urbanowicz of Gospel To All Nations ministry (www.gtan.org/Maximus.html) will be our guest speaker at the Young in the Faith fellowship group on Sunday Jan. 15th, 6-8pm.

Fr. Maximus is an Orthodox evangelist who has preached to hundreds of thousands of people in 40 countries around the world. Please us at the home of Proto-deacon Peter Danilchick to hear Fr. Maximus share about his experiences and the importance of Orthodox world missions and evangelism.

St. Juliana's Guild Planning Meeting for 2012

The St. Juliana's Ladies Guild will be conducting a meeting during Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 22. Our last meeting was held in October, in which we discussed planning a parish wide Lenten Retreat, as well as our need organize our next Lenten Soup Luncheon. All women are welcome! So grab your coffee and food and join us in the Library to help us make 2012 a great "year of the woman" at St. Mary's!

2011 Poinsettia Donors

Stephanie C. and George R. Codrea in memory of **in memory of** George and Martha Codrea

Tatiana Romanovskaya **in honor of** her mother Tatiana.

David Cheplick **in memory of** Linda Cheplick.

Catherine Donovan **in memory of** Fr. Daniel Donovan and Matushka Helen Donovan

Jacobson Family **in memory of** Barbara, Martin, Anna, Benny, Mary, Luise, and Douglas

Dorina and Ovidiu Maxim **in memory of** our parents Roxanda, Gheorghe and Maria

Stephanie Kozemchak **in memory of** Joseph Sikorski, Peter and Florence Kozemchak; Anna Salask; John and Kathryn Sikorski

Victor and Victoria **in memory of** Niculaie, Victor, Ecaterina, Sofia, Iorgu, Oprea, Gheorghe; **In honor of** Victor, Victoria, Ana, Roderick, Paraschiva, Victor, Julietta

Wolgom Family **in honor of** Bacas and Woglom Families

Robert and Kristine Lorentz **in memory of** Vic Lumovich and Fred Glumsic

Elaine Devine **in memory of** Jack Devine

Christiana M. Kozemchak for health and blessings

Thola Family for health and blessings

Yuskavage Family for health and blessings



Protection of the Holy Mother of God Orthodox Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 • 9am - 10am Choir Prep • 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy	2	3	4 • 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	5 • Theophany Eve • 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours • 7pm - 9:30pm Vespers liturgy	6 • Theophany • 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours • 10am - 11:30am Festal Liturgy	7 • 5pm - 6pm Great Vespers
8 • 9am - 10am Choir Prep • 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy	9 • House Blessings • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 8:30pm HB: Fairfax	10 • House Blessings	11 • House Blessings • 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours • 12:30pm - 1:30pm HB: Falls Church • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours	12 • House Blessings • 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	13 • 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours • 12pm - 1pm Ladder of Divine Ascent Book Study	14 • House Blessings • 10am - 12pm Choir Practice • 5pm - 6pm Great Vespers
15 • 9am - 10am Choir Prep • 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy • 2pm - 6pm HB: Silver Spring • 6pm - 8pm Young in Faith	16 • House Blessings • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours	17 • House Blessings	18 • House Blessings • 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 7:30pm Vespers • 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education	19 • House Blessings • 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	20 • 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours • 12pm - 1pm Ladder of Divine Ascent Book Study	21 • House Blessings • 5pm - 6pm Great Vespers
22 • 9am - 10am Choir Prep • 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy • 12pm - 12:40pm Ladies Guild Meeting	23 • House Blessings • 10am - 3pm March for Life • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours	24 • House Blessings	25 • House Blessings • 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education	26 • House Blessings • 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	27 • 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours • 12pm - 1pm Ladder of Divine Ascent Book Study	28 • House Blessings • 10am - 12pm Choir Practice • 5pm - 6pm Great Vespers
29 • 9am - 10am Choir Prep • 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy • 12pm - 2pm Annual Parish Assembly	30 • Three Hierarchs • House Blessings • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours	31 • House Blessings	1 • House Blessings • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 8pm Great Vespers • 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education	2 • Meeting of Our Lord • House Blessings • 10am - 11am Festal Liturgy	3 • 12pm - 1pm Ladder of Divine Ascent Book Study	4 • House Blessings • 5pm - 6pm Great Vespers

GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!



January Birthdays

- Gregory Zimmerli
- Armand Scala II
- Ana Williams
- Dionne Manos
- Demitri Apodaca
- Mina Coleman
- Adrian Apodaca
- Maria Lerner
- Luna Asghedom
- Anne Wright
- Kristine Lorentz
- Toni Robertson

January Anniversaries:

- Sarah and Arthur Zimmerli
- John and Julie Grecco

January Saint's Name Days

- 12 St. Tatiana, Martyr in Rome:
Dsa. Tanya Danilchick
- 21 St. Agnes: Ursula Rij

JANUARY HOLY BREAD



Denise Manos

JANUARY COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS



January 8: St. John Banquet

Proceeds to go to help rebuilding administrative facilities at Valea Plopului, Romania after a fire destroyed them in December. Checks payable to St. Mary's.

January 15: Lukas and Lea Halim

Benefit coffee hour served to help raise funds for supporting the first Hebrew Language Orthodox mission in Israel.

January 22: Glen and Carrie Compton

January 29: Annual Assembly

Parish Council will feed hungry souls in exchange for your participation in this important, annual meeting concerning the life of our parish.

February 5: NO SPONSOR

February 12- NO SPONSOR

ON-LINE DONATIONS NOW ACCEPTED!



For your convenience, donations to our parish can be sent electronically via "Pay Pal"!

To donate, please click the "Donations" tab at the upper right hand corner of our website.

Annual St. John the Baptist Dinner

We are taking free will donations to help the humble village of Valea Plopului, where the local parish has started an orphanage serving over 200 children, rebuild their administrative offices and kitchen after it burned down this past December.

Please make checks payable to St. Mary's

POFTA BUNA!

Sunday, January 8
Following Divine Liturgy

Sarmale

(Stuffed Cabbage)

Schmitt's Homemade

Spicey Sausage

Mamaliga cu Brinza

(Corn meal with cheese casserole)

Fasole Frecata

(Refried mashed northern beans)

Salad

Dessert



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