

# THE VEIL

The Monthly Journal Covering The News at St. Mary



NOVEMBER 2012



## An Attitude of Gratitude is Not Enough!

By Rev. Fr. David G. Subu

**T**his month we, as a nation, celebrate Thanksgiving, and we'll hear much of the same old platitudes about being thankful for the blessings we have received. When I was younger, I always thought I was grateful because I appreciated all the blessings I had received. I enjoyed them, I felt good about them, I loved those who showed such kindness and tried to do well by them in return whenever possible. But then one day someone told me, "You really need to say 'Thank you' more often."

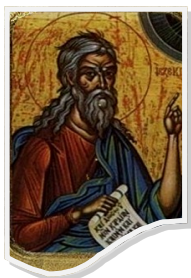
It was a bit devastating. I thought I had been sufficiently grateful because I felt grateful. I could easily point to something each day for which I could give thanks to God, even tribulations and troubles. I had an "attitude of gratitude." The problem was, I was lousy at communicating my gratitude in a clear and meaningful way. There's a reason we call it "Thanksgiving," not "Thanks-having." It's necessary to not only *feel* gratitude but to *express* gratitude.

There are many ways to express gratitude but the most sure and articulate way is to use the word "Thanks," in some form or another. It's nice also to show some small kindness in return. The practice of writing thank you notes

was once common but seems increasingly rare in a society where communication is fast, informal, impersonal, and disposable/erasable. In such an easy-to-be-isolated setting, the gift of a thank you note or a personal phone call to verbally share thanks is more than just good manners—it is a sign of spiritual health. I've always appreciated such notes and have kept many of them throughout the years. They remind me when I'm feeling down or disconnected that I have done some good things in my life, there are people who care about me, and that I may just be worth something after all. Such concrete acts of thanksgiving can continue to give many times over.

Romans 10:10 says, "With the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." We should consider that principle when it comes to gratitude. The inner disposition of gratitude shows the right attitude of a good heart, but only when expressed with the mouth does such gratitude make a true difference and show grace and favor. Let's all make sure we are sensitive to others, overcoming the temptation of self-absorption, and communicate our thanks on a daily basis. Try it—and see how happy you make those around you feel!

*- Fr. David G. Subu*



## DOXAICON— To Boldly Go Where No Conference Has Gone Before

by Daniel Silver

*I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was that of a man, but each of them had four faces and four wings."*

—Ezekiel 1: 4-6

You have been hearing or seeing the word, "Doxacon", for the last several months, either through church announcements or this newsletter. What is it? What does it mean? Doxacon came about from a conversation that Father and I had following a podcast on Ancient Faith Radio about...zombies. We found it underwhelming. We then listened to another podcast by John Granger on Harry Potter. We were impressed with the scope and quality of the lecture. Jokingly, we said there needs to be some kind of gathering where Orthodox fans of the science fiction and fantasy genres could discuss their mutual interests in the framework of Orthodox Christianity. I thought nothing of it until Father mentioned that Psa. Stephanie loved the idea and wanted to actually move ahead with this gathering. We quickly moved to define Doxacon. Why the name? "Doxa" is from ancient Greek δόξα from δοκεῖν dokein, "to expect", "to seem", which later was used in spiritual context as "belief" or "truth". The "con" is the shortened term for "convention". One of the first things that sprung to our minds was that of St. Basil speaking to young men on the right use of Greek literature. In his speech he said of all forms of non-Christian literature:

*"Now, then, altogether after the manner of bees must we use these writings, for the bees do not visit all the flowers without discrimination, nor indeed do they seek to carry away entire those upon which they*

*light, but rather, having taken so much as is adapted to their needs, they let the rest go. So we, if wise, shall take from heathen books whatever befits us and is allied to the truth, and shall pass over the rest."*

The purpose of Doxacon is to discuss amongst Orthodox Christians which flowers we should visit and what pollen we should take from them. There is much in the genres of sci-fi and fantasy that is worthy of our attention. Many sci-fi/fantasy authors drew on ideas based on Christian themes, people, or events. In stories such as "Lord of the Rings", "Dune", "Star Wars" and "Star Trek", the fate of the world --or even the universe, hangs on the actions of individuals. These individuals must stand by their principals and beliefs to save everything. We get to learn what would we do in these situations that seem implausible now, but may one day become very real. We look back at George Orwell's "1984" and see the balancing act between freedom and security as one we live with every day now. Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" of consumerism and hedonism doesn't seem so different in today's society, as it did when first published.

Doxacon is schedule for the weekend of July 19-21, 2013 in Springfield, VA. We plan to have keynote speakers who are authorities on the subject of Sci-Fi/Fantasy in the context of the Christian view and response. One of our keynote presenters will be Dr. Thomas Bertonneu of SUNY in Otego, NY who wrote the book "The Truth is Out There: Christian Faith and the Classics of Science Fiction Television". Following the Keynote address, we will host breakout sessions led by presenters Father and I will select from applicants who answered our "Call for Papers" for topics of discussion.

Please join us on Sunday, November 11, for a special coffee hour, following the New Member Sunday program, to learn how the parish can help support us in establishing this event either financially, by presenting a paper, or for volunteer opportunities! (See ad on page 7.)



## Help Us "Love The World"

by Libby Hall

*"The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."*

Love the World Fellowship is a non-denominational Christian church for homeless men, women, and children in the Northern Virginia area. Some sleep in tents in the woods. Some sleep on benches. Some sleep in doorways. The reasons they are homeless are as many as there are people. They are often hungry and cold.

Love the World seeks to help those on the fringes of our society. 50 Sundays out of the year, they meet in the basement of Truro Anglican Church to have a hot meal (all donated), sing hymns, listen to Scripture readings, to pray together, and to thank God for the many blessings He has provided through Love the World Fellowship. But winter brings special challenges for those who have no home.

James 2:16 tells us, <sup>16</sup>"and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it profit?*"

Because they are homeless, they have no place to store winter items during the summer and need to replace winter clothing. Every year people from around the area donate items for a "shopping day" for these homeless people. Donated items are placed out on tables by size and each church member in turn is allowed to "shop" for items they need. The next shopping day will be 4 December.

If you would like to donate even just one item, I will take them to be sorted and distributed. Please bring items to church no later than 18 November. A list of items is in the next column:

The sizes needed are Men's Large to 3X and Women's Medium to 2X.



- Hooded Sweatshirts
- Hats
- Gloves
- Scarves
- Thermal Underwear
- Heavy Socks

<sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup>***I was naked and you clothed Me;*** Matt 25: 35, 36a"

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## Our Daily Bread Program Once Again Asks for Your Help!

By Jeff Beranek, Coordinator

*"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." - James 2:14-17*

**Sign Up Now for Our Daily Bread.... Families still in need of sponsors!**

Each Fall, St. Mary parishioners "adopt" 15 families by shopping for a week's worth of groceries and personal-care products, then delivering them to the families' homes on our church's assigned day. This year, our delivery is scheduled for Sunday, **November 11**. Even in prosperous Fairfax County, there are

many people struggling to keep themselves and their children fed, this year more than ever. Through Our Daily Bread, an interfaith ministry based in Fairfax City which provides supplemental groceries for up to three months to needy families, we have an opportunity to reach out and help.

See Jeff Beranek to sign up, or call at 703-875-3090 or email to [jmberanek@msn.com](mailto:jmberanek@msn.com).



## Winter Coat Drive Sunday, December 2

*"The coat hanging unused in your closet belongs to the man who needs it.... You do wrong to everyone you could help, but fail to help." --St. Basil the Great*



Families all over Fairfax County don't have coats for this winter. Are some of their coats in your closet? Please bring new or gently used coats (all sizes) to church with you on Sunday, December 2, and we will deliver them to Fairfax F.I.S.H. ("For Immediate Sympathetic Help") so they can give them to those who need them. Thank you!

*"If you truly love God and long to reach the kingdom that is to come, if you are truly pained by your failings and are mindful of punishment and of the eternal judgment, if you are truly afraid to die, then it will not be possible to have an attachment, or anxiety, or concern for money, for possessions, for family relationships, for worldly glory, for love and brotherhood, indeed for anything of earth. All worry about one's condition, even for one's body, will be pushed aside as hateful. Stripped of all thought of these, caring nothing about them, one will turn freely to Christ. One will look to heaven and to the help coming from there, as in the scriptural sayings: 'I will cling close to you' (Ps. 62:9) and 'I have not grown tired of following you nor have I longed for the day or the rest that man gives' (Jer. 17:16).*

—St. John Climacus on "Detachment"  
The Ladder of Divine Ascent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am - 10am Choir Practice</li> <li>9:30am - 10am Akathist</li> <li>10am - 11:45am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy w/ Abp. Nathaniel</li> <li>11:45am - 12:05pm Memorial: Ficken/Scala</li> </ul>	<b>29</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm - 7pm Office Hours</li> <li>7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class</li> </ul>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(No Vespers/Class this week)</li> <li>10am - 2pm Office Hours</li> </ul>	<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orthodox Institute (Antiochian Village)</li> <li>7pm - 8pm Peer Depression Ministry</li> </ul>	<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orthodox Institute (Antiochian Village)</li> <li>12pm - 1pm Book Study: The Ladder</li> </ul>	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(No Vespers)</li> <li>Orthodox Institute (Antiochian Village)</li> <li>10am - 12pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>
<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Daylight Savings)</li> <li>9am - 10am Choir Practice</li> <li>9:30am - 10am Akathist</li> <li>10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:30am - 11:45am Memorial: Maxim</li> <li>11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship Hour/ Church School</li> </ul>	<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm - 7pm Office Hours</li> <li>7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class</li> </ul>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am - 2pm Office Hours</li> <li>4pm - 7pm Office Hours</li> <li>7pm - 7:30pm Vespers</li> <li>7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education: The Way</li> </ul>	<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holy Archangels</li> <li>10am - 1pm Divine Liturgy and Baptism at Anapolis Mission</li> <li>7pm - 8pm Peer Depression Ministry</li> </ul>	<b>9</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am - 2pm Office Hours</li> <li>12pm - 1pm Book Study: The Ladder</li> </ul>	<b>10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am - 11:30am Good Samaritan Advocates Prayer Breakfast</li> <li>5pm - 5:45pm Vespers with confessions</li> </ul>
<b>11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Member Sunday</li> <li>9am - 10am Choir Practice</li> <li>9:30am - 10am Akathist</li> <li>10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:30am - 12:30pm DOXACON Fundraiser</li> <li>11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship Hour/ Church School</li> </ul>	<b>12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class</li> </ul>	<b>13</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All-American Council (Parma, OH)</li> </ul>	<b>14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Philip</li> <li>10am - 2pm Office Hours</li> <li>4pm - 7pm Office Hours</li> <li>7pm - 8pm Holy Unction</li> <li>7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education: The Way</li> </ul>	<b>15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beginning of the Nativity Fast</li> <li>7pm - 8pm Peer Depression Ministry</li> </ul>	<b>16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Matthew</li> <li>10am - 2pm Office Hours</li> <li>12pm - 1pm Book Study: The Ladder</li> </ul>	<b>17</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am - 2pm Altar Server Retreat</li> <li>5pm - 5:45pm Vespers with confessions</li> </ul>
<b>18</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Tikhon</li> <li>9am - 10am Choir Practice</li> <li>9:30am - 10am Akathist</li> <li>10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship Hour/ Church School</li> <li>12:30pm - 2:30pm Parish Council</li> <li>6pm - 8pm Young in Faith</li> </ul>	<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm - 7pm Office Hours</li> <li>7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class</li> </ul>	<b>20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm - 8pm Great Vespers with Litya</li> </ul>	<b>21</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrance of the Theotokos</li> <li>10am - 11am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>4pm - 7pm Office Hours</li> <li>7pm - 8pm Thanksgiving Service (Molieben) and Akathist</li> </ul>	<b>22</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thanksgiving Day</li> </ul>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Catherine</li> <li>11am - 12pm Baptism: West</li> <li>5pm - 5:45pm Vespers with confessions</li> </ul>
<b>25</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am - 10am Choir Practice</li> <li>9:30am - 10am Akathist</li> <li>10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship Hour/ Church School</li> </ul>	<b>26</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm - 7pm Office Hours</li> <li>7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class</li> </ul>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am - 2pm Office Hours</li> <li>4pm - 7pm Office Hours</li> <li>7pm - 7:30pm Vespers</li> <li>7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education: The Way</li> </ul>	<b>29</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am - 2pm Office Hours</li> </ul>	<b>30</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Andrew</li> <li>10am - 2pm Office Hours</li> <li>12pm - 1pm Book Study: The Ladder</li> </ul>	<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm - 5:45pm Vespers with confessions</li> </ul>

## GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!



### **Birthdays**

Lori Layhue  
Stephen Subu  
Christopher Thomas  
Tatiana Romanovskaya  
Nicholas Dujmovic

### **Anniversaries**

7 Lerner  
13 Maxim  
24 Hall  
27 Chaves/Caraveli

### **Names Days**

8 Archangel Michael: Jeffrey Michael Beranek  
11 St Martin of Tours: Daniel Martin Jacobson;  
21 Theotokos - Entry of the Mother of God in the Temple: Eva Marie Beranek  
23 St Alexander Nevsky: Alexander Joseph Beranek  
24 Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria: Sarah Kathryn Jacobson; Katie Walter

## OCTOBER COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS



**October 28:** Scala & Robertson Families  
*In memory of Armand Scala  
& Marie Scala Ficken*

**November 4: Ovidiu & Dorina Maxim**  
**Fundraiser in honor of wounded  
soldier, Florinel (See article).**

**November 11: DOXACON FUNDRAISER:**  
**"Fellowship of the Geeks"**  
**(See Article)**

**November 18:** Sponsor Needed (Fast)

**November 25:** Sponsor Needed (Fast)

**December 2: St. Juliana SOUP LUNCHEON**  
**(See ad on back page.)**

**December 9: Hall Family**

## HOLY BREAD BAKER



Genica

# NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION SUNDAY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**Pledging the gift of time, talent, and treasure is how  
we establish membership at St. Mary.**

**We would like to recognize our newest members to the St. Mary family at our  
special New Member Recognition Sunday program, following Divine Liturgy.  
Please pray with us as Father David blesses them on their commitment to our  
parish and steadfastness to the Orthodox faith!**



## AROUND THE COFFEE URN

*News and events percolating  
around our Orthodox community*

### "Fellowship of the Geeks" Sunday, November 11

The Doxacon committee will be sponsoring an "out of this world" coffee hour to help raise seed money for next year's Doxacon (See article on page 2.) Ever wondered what the blue milk Luke Skywalker drank in Star Wars or Lembas bread Frodo shared with Samwise tasted like? Here is your chance! As a way of saying "thank you" for taking the time to listen to a special presentation about Doxacon, the committee will be preparing food from cookbooks based on sci-fi/fantasy novels and movies! It will be surely be a unique and fun experience!

### November 4th Coffee Hour Dedicated to a Wounded Soldier in Need

Ovidiu and Dorina Maxim would like to raise donations for a Romanian soldier, Florinel Eneache, who was wounded in Afghanistan. Mr. Eneache lost both of his legs and one of his arms. He is currently a patient in Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda Maryland. He has been in the hospital since May. His family (wife and son ) still live in Romania and could only afford to visit him one time. The Romanian Government is unable to support them. Mr Enache needs a special wheelchair that costs \$25,000 and he has to pay half of the cost. He receives only \$200 per month for disability. He cannot benefit the use of artificial legs because of the very high amputation, with no support for prosthesis. If it is possible in any way for the generosity of hearts to help this man, please consider giving a donation during coffee hour.

## Altar Server Retreat Saturday, November 17

Father David, Subdeacon Eugene Huang and Subdeacon Nicholas will be leading a special retreat for the altar servers of St. Mary!

The altar boys will spend time discussing:

- Relationship with God
- Proper procedure in the altar
- Our role in the church
- We will have lunch provided, play some games and clean up the altar area.

This is an excellent time for the boys to get better acquainted and get to know their special jobs better! If your son has not served before, this retreat will be a great opportunity to learn more about expectations and readiness. **RSVP is required so proper preparations can be made.**

If you would like to help or have questions, please speak with Subdeacon Eugene or Fr. David.

## CASTING CALL! 2012 Christmas Pageant

Church School Principal, Ana Rij, and Children's Choir Director, Justina Mubangu, will be directing this year's Christmas Pageant.

Volunteers are needed to assist them with costumes and to be present for practices, which will begin on Sundays in December. Parent volunteers are essential for programs like this to be a success!

**THE VEIL WOULDN'T EXIST WITHOUT PARISHIONER  
CONTRIBUTION! DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE:  
NOVEMBER 24**

# **ANNUAL NATIVITY SOUP LUNCHEON**

## **Sunday, December 2**



The St. Juliana's Guild will be selling delicious Lenten soup to raise funds for OCMC missions in Romania and Albania. You may dine in or take out. The soup can be frozen, so it is ready to eat at any time during the fast!



### **THE VEIL JOURNAL**

***St. Mary Orthodox Church  
7223 Roosevelt Avenue  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042***