



# THE Veil

VOLUME 35 • ISSUE 8 • SEPTEMBER 2021

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## The Schoolmaster

*<sup>24</sup>Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. <sup>26</sup>For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. — Galatians 3*

A long time ago, a Roman named Titus Flavius Clemens, a convert from paganism in search of Truth, came to Alexandria around 180 AD and there met and studied under St. Pantaenus the Philosopher. St. Pantaenus was known by his students as "The Sicilian Bee," and was the leader of the Catechetical School that was developing that great center of learning since the time of St. Mark (d. 68 AD). The young seeker, henceforth known as Clement of Alexandria, would become the next great leader of the school and produce many important works on the faith, including *Paedagogus*, or *The Instructor*, by 198 AD. Here is a brief selection from the first book of *The Instructor*, paraphrased from the Greek by way of French (because the English versions are quite clunky, if you'll forgive me), explaining the meaning of the title and much more:

This heavenly guide, the Word, I give him the name of the Word who exhorts, as he calls us to salvation... It is in the nature of all godliness to exhort men; godliness gives birth in our soul to an ardent love of the present and future life. Now, since the Word is both a doctor and a tutor, and since, consistent with himself, he enlivens those he has converted in principle and promises them the healing of the wounds of their souls, it seems appropriate to me to gather all his titles in one and to call him the Pedagogue. The Pedagogue wants practice and not theory. His purpose is to adorn souls with virtue and not science. It requires one to be wise and not scholarly.

This passage represents for us the most succinct description of what religious education should be from a Christian point of view: exhorting and animating souls to virtue and wisdom. This is

not just an intellectual endeavor but also therapeutic and healing. The Church teaches as she heals, and heals through her teaching. Everything we do in Christian education must include both these elements — the enlightening of the mind with the curing of the passions.

St. Paul taught that the Torah was also an instructor (or "schoolmaster", from the Greek root of "pedagogue") with the goal of bringing us to Christ, that we might live by faith as children of God, having been clothed with Christ. The Word who once spoke to us through the Torah now teaches us as the Word made flesh. Previously we were being taught to prepare for the Messiah (Christ). Now the Messiah has come and brings us to the Father. Yet, we are all still in need of instruction in this life, even to the end of our days. The difference now is Who our Instructor is and to what end are we being taught.

This September, the parish reignites her ministry of soul-healing education in Jesus Christ. We'll begin with our children this month in Church School, and adult classes and catechism will begin in October. We are excited to introduce the Catechism of the Good Shepherd for our youngest cohort (Pre-K & K), and the 1st and 2nd graders will join the elementary group (3rd-5th) this year. Both these classes will take place before the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, starting at 9am. Middle school and high school classes will follow liturgy. We're also excited to introduce The Relationship Project from Faithtree Resources for our high school class, which will be available online concurrent with in-person instruction (and may open up to alumni as well).

Adult Catechism begins Saturday, October 9th with our 8-week course on The Creed and basic doctrines of the Orthodox Church. It is a **(cont'd on p4)**



# Commemorations

*Don't see your name? Join us on Realm and fill out your profile. If you include your birthday and nameday, you'll see them here.*

*God grant you many years!*

## BIRTHDAYS

Phil K.	August C.	Eva F.
Vittorio S.	Stephanie C.	Sally M.
Fr. David	Margareta G.	Jesse D.
Alexandra B.	Katherine M.	Mircea M.
Katherine M.	Henry T.	Olivia A.
Julia M.	Inna K.	Natalie F.
McKensie K.	Kellie S.	
Steve S.	Matthew T.	

## NAMES DAYS

Stephanie C.	Sheena S.
Alyssa M.	Fr. David
Sophia P.	Elizabeth S.
Zachary P.	

## ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Paula	Stephano & Robin
Nicholas & Melanie	Adrian & Mihaela
Dn. Nicholas & Cathy	Joe & Alyssa



**Church School signups are here!**  
Classes begin Sunday, September 19

Find the signup on **Realm** in the Events list, or visit:  
[tinyurl.com/POTHMOGchurch-school2021-2022](http://tinyurl.com/POTHMOGchurch-school2021-2022)

**Church School**  
**2021-2022**

### Acquiring the Mind of Christ: Embracing the Vision of the Orthodox Church

A retreat led by Archimandrite Sergius (Bowyer), Abbot of Saint Tikhon's Monastery

**Saturday, September 18, 2021, 9:30am-3:30pm**

@ Saint Katherine  
3149 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church, VA

Fr. Sergius will be accompanied by the wonderworking icon of Saint Anna, the Mother of the Theotokos. Paraklesis will follow the retreat. **RSVP to [stk.retreat@gmail.com](mailto:stk.retreat@gmail.com)**

### CONFERENCE: Generously Investing in Emerging Leaders

*5th Annual National Orthodox Advanced Leadership Conference*

Sept 17-19, 2021

@ St. Vladimir's Seminary, in Person and Online

**LEARN MORE AT:**  
[orthodoxservantleaders.com/events.html](http://orthodoxservantleaders.com/events.html)



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**DOXACON ONLINE 2021**

**virtuous decisions in fiction**

**\$10 • November 5-6, 2021**

Buy tickets today at [doxacon.org](http://doxacon.org)



Events are subject to change. Please check the calendar at [stmaryorthodox.org/calendar](http://stmaryorthodox.org/calendar) for the most up-to-date event listings, service texts, and links to the services. Most services and events are streamed online. Zoom links and passwords can be found on Realm.

# SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>29</b> <b>BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN</b> 9:30am-10am Hours 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5pm-6pm Great Vespers
<b>5</b> 9am-10am Matins 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy	<b>6</b> <b>ST. DAVID OF EGYPT</b>	<b>7</b> 7pm-8pm Great Vespers	<b>8</b> <b>NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> 6:40am-7am 3rd & 6th Hours 7am-8am Divine Liturgy	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10am-5pm Episcopate Congress 5pm-6:30pm Great Vespers w/ Group Confession
<b>12</b> 9am-10am Matins 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy 12pm-2pm Parish Picnic & Ministry Fair	<b>13</b> 7pm-8pm Great Vespers	<b>14</b> <b>EXALTATION OF THE CROSS</b> 6:40am-7am 3rd & 6th Hours 7am-8am Divine Liturgy	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>SS. SOPHIA, FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE</b>	<b>18</b> 5pm-6pm Great Vespers
<b>19</b> 9am-10am Matins, Church School 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7pm-8:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>22</b> 7pm-8pm Great Vespers	<b>23</b> <b>NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST</b> 6:40am-7am 3rd & 6th Hours 7am-8am Divine Liturgy	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5pm-6pm Great Vespers
<b>26</b> 9am-10am Matins, Church School 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> <b>PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD</b> 6:40am-7am 3rd & 6th Hours 7am-8am Divine Liturgy	<b>2</b>



# Vacation Bible School Offers a Hands-on Approach to Learning the Faith



## NEWS | MCKENSIE K.

This past month, we had the privilege of running the Good Shepherd summer camp. Children ages 3 to 12 met for three hours on three consecutive Saturdays to learn about the church building, the articles of the altar, and were introduced to the land of Israel during time of Christ. With Fr. David's help, we had a presentation of the church building and the articles of the altar for all the children.

Surrounding this presentation, children worked with hands-on materials to aid in their understanding of these concepts. The older children created models of articles of the altar and discussed their significance. They also created models of the map of Israel and the church building too, talking about the life of Christ and the life of the church, and incorporating this into their artistic expressions of what they learned.

The younger children were introduced

to some of the hands-on materials that teach these same concepts in the catechesis curriculum for three- to six-year-olds. They were introduced to the land of Christ using the sandpaper globe and topographical map of Israel. They were also given presentations and a chance to work with some of the infancy narratives of Christ such as the annunciation. These lessons, when practiced, will eventually link together in the children's studies and give even more significance to the map itself. The younger group of children were also introduced to the liturgical colors our church uses, as well as the main articles of the altar through other hands-on presentations they will see again in the fall in deeper context. Lastly, the young children had an opportunity to be introduced to some of the preliminary practical-life presentations of the Atrium which they will see in the fall. These works will help to build a sense of caring for the church environment and the others within

it over time, and provide an important opportunity for prayerful concentration and contemplation through working with their hands.

Each day at the beginning and end of our session, we came together to pray. This was perhaps one of the most beautiful things I have seen all summer. We gathered and sang alleluia and we talked about making silence as a form of prayer — and yes, even our three-year-olds were able to be absolutely silent for a few moments with us. We talked about the things we have on our prayer table that help us pray, such as the table cloth that tells us that this is a special place where we come to pray, the candle that symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world, and the Bible where we can read God's words. It was so lovely to see all the children together again enjoying each other's company, playing together, and praying together. I know that all of us are excited to continue our learning together this fall! ✠

(*Schoolmaster, cont'd*) good course for those who are seeking to learn about the faith either as newcomers or those desiring a theological tune-up. Our Wednesday night classes will start October 6th, with *Discovering The Religion of the Apostles*, a study of 1st-century Christianity, drawing on Fr. Stephen De Young's bestseller *Religion of the Apostles* as well as other studies of 2nd Temple Judaism, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and other fun rabbit holes, providing much of the connective tissue between Old and New Testaments you didn't realize existed (or mat-

tered!) And remember, *Journey to Fullness* with Fr. Barnabas Powell is available to watch free on Realm for members.

Remember, we don't really stop being catechumens once we are baptized, since we are continually learning and growing in Christ for the rest of our lives. May the same Lord who clothes us in Himself and brings us to know the Father through the Holy Spirit bless, heal, and sanctify all our students and instructors this year! ✠

— FR. DAVID



**Saint Mary**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA | THE VEIL | VOLUME 35, ISSUE 8

# Help Fellow Parishioners Glenn & Toni by Donating to their GoFundMe

NEWS | SOPHIA P.

On August 9, Fr. David sent out an email to the parish asking for our help for a well-loved pair of parishioners, Glenn and Toni P. Recently, they were court-appointed custody of four granddaughters — but this came at an especially rough time. Glenn is in recovery from a major triple bypass heart surgery, and while his surgery was successful and has been recovering exceptionally well, his kidneys are failing. He has been on dialysis since late last year and is on a transplant list for a new kidney. Toni will need to stay home to care for the grandchildren, whose ages are 11, 7, 5, and 1, which means she's unable to provide a second income for the family.

As you can imagine, this situation is overwhelming. However, Glenn and Toni have been models of piety and have moved forward as best they can with Christian hope.

A GoFundMe was started for the couple, aiming to raise money to help soften the blows of the various and immediate needs of suddenly gaining four new young family members. The outpouring of support was unprecedented. As of August 31, \$10,030 was raised by

Glenn's GoFundMe Campaign:  
[gofund.me/955641bc](https://gofund.me/955641bc)

over 80 donors.

In an update on August 11, Toni wrote, "I do not have the words to properly thank you for the tremendous blessing

you have given us. And Glenn thanks you from the bottom of his new and improved, bypassed heart!" Toni continued to report that Glenn is continuing to recover well, surpassing the goals set for him by his cardiologist, occupational and respiratory therapists.

They are not out of the woods yet. We can continue to help Glenn and Toni in a few main ways:

1. Donate or share their GoFundMe campaign: [gofund.me/955641bc](https://gofund.me/955641bc)
2. Consider kidney donation: [kidney.org/transplantation/livingdonors](https://kidney.org/transplantation/livingdonors)
3. Remember Toni and Glenn in prayer — for strength, for a kidney donor, and healing for Glenn as they embrace the challenges ahead of them

Let's continue to rally around these two beloved members of our parish to the best of our ability in faith, hope, and love. ✠



Fr. David wrote the email addressed to the parish: "The four granddaughters are as sweet as you've ever seen and are excited to get "bath-tized" once Grandpa Glenn is ready."



**Saint Mary**  
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FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA | THE VEIL | VOLUME 35, ISSUE 8

# Another Successful Backpack Project Provides Students with School Supplies



## NEWS | ELLEN R.

Again this year, St. Mary's partnered with FOCUS to provide school supplies to Mason Crest Elementary School in Annandale. We communicated directly with the school so we could provide the items most needed by the students.

As a Title I school, Mason Crest relies on their PTA and groups like ours to provide each student the supplies needed for their grade level. Last year, due to COVID-19, the school sent out a limited amount of supplies, but they retained the backpacks and were able to use them this year. As for us, our goal this year was to provide supplies for 75 students, and we exceeded that amount. At the request of the school, we included dry erase markers, sticky notes, regular markers, scissors, tissues, and zip-seal bags. That was in addition to the usual school supplies, like crayons and glue sticks.

Because of your overwhelming generosity, we were also able to send funds directly to FOCUS to support their ongoing nationwide projects.

Thank you all — and thanks to Jake, our family dog, who oversaw the collection process. He supervised the collection of all the items, watched us load the car, and made sure some of his fur was included in every box! He even tried to get in the car and be part of the delivery! While he does occasionally sleep on the job, it's okay, since he's old. ✘

# Thank You For Teaching Me

## REFLECTION | SOPHIA P.

On July 25, our last day at St. Mary's before we got in our car and began our cross-country move to California, my husband Zac offered a goodbye to the parish. He reminded us that however far apart we may be physically, we are together in the Eucharist. "I'll see you at the Chalice," has become a phrase that we have adopted through our travels, as we've moved around the continent for Zac's schooling, and we feel its truth mightily each day. I declined to say anything after liturgy that day — I wasn't confident that I could form words at that time — so I've written this letter to you so I can thank you for all you've taught me. St. Mary's had become such a precious and unexpected home to us, and I want to tell you how.

The most obvious is that I learned to chant at St. Mary's. I'm irresistibly drawn to the services of the Church, and I learned to chant quite incidentally, simply because I



Zac and Sophia, in front of their new house in Riverside, California.

was present. After a vespers service one day, at a time when I only knew a few names of the people here, choir director and head chanter Sdn. Nick approached me and said something amounting to, "I heard you singing alto! You should come chant with us if you'd like!" And so I did, though it took a little cajoling, because my history in music is quite supplemental and I was singing on instinct from some kind of musical memory I couldn't identify. It was only a few years later that I was directing services antiphonally with Sdn. Nick during quarantine. The services deeply center my life, and that this instinct should mature into a way I can serve the Church is a testament to this parish's dedication to the faith and passion for services. Fast-forward to today, two weeks after returning to our home parish in Riverside, California, I found myself chanting the eight-mode doxasticon for the Dormition, often counted as one of the hardest liturgical pieces of the year, with the very chanters whose voices were the first sound of Orthodox hymnography to me. How is it possible that I could chant next to them? Life is so strange sometimes!

We weren't expecting to participate in such a warm community, either. In his brief farewell, Zac mentioned to the parish that we also were planning on "not getting attached" here. In this, we failed utterly. There are so many people who have changed me deeply, who have caused me to remember the Lord in increasingly fruitful ways. Some of you I've become close with; others, my soul has watched attentively from a distance. I've started so many friendships that I expect to be lifelong, including those godchildren we gained and those whose marriages we've sponsored in good faith before the Lord. On a wider level, our lives were enriched on a daily basis by your piety, your measured approach to the world, and your good-mannered, east-coast kindness.

And of course, I didn't expect to serve as your communications director! In the same way that I fell into serving musically, I fell into serving the church visually. I love all manner of creation, so it was my honor to create the St. Mary's logo and refashion this very newsletter. The delight I get from little tasks often boggles and annoys my husband: things like keeping the vespers text on a single sheet of paper; or, if it's a feast, putting a pop of the festal color in the bulletins for parts honoring the feast. I've loved taking the parish's natural (*cont'd on p7*)



# Back to School: A Book Series for the New Ecclesiastical Year

**FEATURE | ILEANA C.**

September marks the return to school for many students throughout the United States, and with the return to school, a return to a lot more reading for most students. But the opportunity to increase one's daily reading is not limited to just students. September also marks the new ecclesiastical year, which provides the perfect opportunity to make an ecclesiastical new year commitment to reading more ecclesiastical literature. Along those lines, I would like to recommend the complete list of books in the Orthodox Bible Study Companion Series. This series, published by Ancient Faith, consists of 13 books explaining in detail all of the books of the New Testament, which I began in the last ecclesiastical year and am in the process of finishing this ecclesiastical year:

- *The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church*
- *The Gospel of Mark: The Suffering Servant*
- *The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor*
- *The Gospel of John: Beholding the Glory*
- *The Acts of the Apostles: Spreading the Word*
- *The Epistle to the Romans: A Gospel for All*

- *First and Second Corinthians: Straight from the Heart*
- *Words of Fire: The Early Epistles of St. Paul to the Thessalonians and the Galatians*
- *The Prison Epistles: Philippians – Ephesians – Colossians – Philemon*
- *Shepherding the Flock: The Pastoral Epistles of St. Paul the Apostle to Timothy and Titus*
- *The Epistle to the Hebrews: High Priest in Heaven*
- *Universal Truth: The Catholic Epistles of James, Peter, Jude, and John*
- *The Apocalypse of St. John: A Revelation of Love and Power*

The goal of these books is to explain the New Testament to parishioners in a way that is clear and not intimidating, and I believe that Ancient Faith has succeeded in that goal. If you are interested, these books can be purchased either individually, or as a set, at the following link: [store.ancientfaith.com/companion](http://store.ancientfaith.com/companion). Whatever ecclesiastical books you choose to read this year, may you find them both educational and enjoyable. As the Knights Templar would say in Latin, derived from Psalm 113:9, "Non nobis Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam!" (Not to us Lord, not to us, but to Your Name give the glory!) ✠

(*Thank You, cont'd*) warmth and letting it direct my choices of colors and words on the website or the announcements. And what visitor or catechumen can be lost in the basement, with the blue arrows and signs I plastered all over it? Crafting the parish into a blue haven, reflecting the womb "more spacious than the heavens" that bore

our Christ, has been a delight that I wasn't specifically seeking out upon our arrival. You're all a joy to serve!

Probably the greatest lesson I learned concerns obedience and hierarchy. Especially through the pandemic, something I saw was how hard so many of you worked to better understand your faith and what God

expected of you. And above all, due to my vantage point as communications director, I saw your priest working tirelessly to serve you in every way he could imagine, overworking himself to go above and beyond the call of duty. I watched Fr. David do his best, think, work, fumble, and get up again. You have seen his steady (*cont'd on back*)

## Falls Church Pantry

Please continue to drop off your donations in the shelves downstairs by the restrooms. Here's a list of the FCS needs for September:

**PANTRY:**

- apple sauce: 24oz (NO snack sizes)
- bath & liquid hand soaps
- breakfast cereal
- canned veggies: 16oz only
- chicken, 5oz single cans only
- crackers
- dish liquid
- disinfecting household cleaners
- dry soups
- grape & strawberry jam (NO jelly): 16oz only
- healthy snack bars
- instant, caffeinated coffee: 8-12oz only
- laundry detergent
- maseca (yellow corn flour)
- mayo: small jars only
- pancake syrup
- paper towels: singles & 2-packs only
- pasta sauces: 24 oz only
- pasta: noodle-length only
- rice: 1-2lbs only
- shampoo
- stews, quick meals & sides: canned or microwave
- sugar: 1-2lbs only
- toilet tissue: 4-packs only
- toothpaste and brushes (NO travel sizes or mega packs)
- UHT (shelf-stable) dairy milk: 32 oz
- vegetable oil: 24 oz only

**FURNITURE:**

Only basic home furnishings listed below are accepted; no upholstered furniture or mattresses.

- bed frames — twin, double, or queen
- dressers / chests of drawers
- kitchen / dining room tables and chairs

**No-salt and no-sugar items are encouraged. Please, no extra large sizes — clients have limited storage. Please check dates! Expired or opened goods cannot be accepted.**



You can also make financial donations on the Falls Church Service Council website at [fcsweicare.org/donate.html](http://fcsweicare.org/donate.html)



*(Thank You, cont'd)* countenance, but have you seen your priest's sweat and blood? Could you bear the weight of his stole? I became more grateful than ever that I would never have to bear that kind of responsibility to make decisions that would inevitably disappoint or confuse his flock. At the dread judgment, I will not have to answer for so many souls in this way. I glimpsed the terror of being a spiritual shepherd, and how "the road to hell is paved with the bones of priests", as St. John Chrysostom is often

cited as saying. The priesthood merits fear. Whatever you think of any particular decisions made in this parish, or by your bishops, your bosses, your husbands, your professors, your president, or any other leader, I urge you to pray for them, forgive them, help them, and have mercy on them. Run up alongside them, and help them carry their crosses. They need our support so they can, in turn, serve us better. The lesson of the utter importance of praying fervently for your priests will remain with me. Thank

you, St. Mary, for teaching me this.

As this chapter of life in the DC area has closed for us, the sadness of leaving you is brightened considerably in light of how you've taught me what a servant of God can look like. There is one thing needful in this life — and under the veil of the protection of the Theotokos, our souls are better prepared to serve God through the nurturing of our families, community, and parish, and (if God is our helper) to die a good Christian death. Thank you for all you've done. ✠

## ACTIVE MINISTRIES/GROUPS

*Come join us in our ministry efforts, develop relationships, and enrich your life and the lives of others!*

### Adult Catechism

Contact: Fr. David  
frdavid@stmaryorthodox.org

### Doxacon: Faith & Fandom Convention

doxaconprime@gmail.com

### Men's Discussion Group

Contact: Jonathan C.  
jchaves@gwu.edu

### MoOKs (Mothers of Orthodox Kids)

UnderTheVeilOfHerProtection@gmail.com

### Philokalists Anonymous

Contact: Anna C.  
caraveli.anna3@gmail.com

### Young Adult Ministry

Contact: Nick & Jos  
yam@stmaryorthodox.org

### Reel Women

Contact: Anna C.  
caraveli.anna3@gmail.com

Is your group/ministry active, but not on this list? Email Sophia at [UnderTheVeilOfHerProtection@gmail.com](mailto:UnderTheVeilOfHerProtection@gmail.com) to get set up!

## Write for the Veil!

Participate in the parish thought-life. Share an event. Make change.  
To get involved, email the communications manager **Sophia** at

[UnderTheVeilOfHerProtection@gmail.com](mailto:UnderTheVeilOfHerProtection@gmail.com)



# THE Veil

*The Official Newsletter of the Protection of the Holy Mother of God Orthodox Church*  
Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, Orthodox Church in America (OCA)

**Hierarch:** Archbishop NATHANIEL of Detroit | **Parish Priest:** V. Rev. Fr. David G. Subu

**Deacons:** Protodn. Peter Danilchick, Dn. Nicholas Dujmovic | **Choir Director & Head Chanter:** Sdn. Nicholas Jones

**Subdeacons:** Sdn. Eugene Huang, Sdn. Nicholas Jones, Sdn. Bogdan Maxim | **Parish Council President:** Todd Sweet