



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – May 2011

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

On April 12, our dear friend, Father Deacon Michael Savko, fell asleep in the Lord after a courageous battle with cancer. In one sense, we say that he “lost” that battle. But here we remember and celebrate the basic truth of Pascha – Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tomb bestowing life!

There is no victory over death – and therefore no lasting victory at all – if Christ is not risen. But in Christ, the victory over death is available to all. So it surely is for our dear friend. Through his courageous and buoyant faith, and his willingness to die to himself, he is participating eternally in Christ's victory over death.

Most of us are not looking death in the face in the same way that Father Deacon Michael had to. But every minute of every day, we have tiny 'deaths' to deal with. Will we say no to the second brownie or not? Will we listen patiently and lovingly to that person we find so boring or will we find the first excuse to run away? Will we turn off the television when it's time for our evening prayers? In accepting these little deaths for the sake of God and of each other, we too can participate in our own little way in the Resurrection of Christ.

So, whether we are dealing with the annoyances of daily life or with great tragedies, the choice is simple – cling to our life or die with Christ. If we choose Christ, no power in the universe can prevent our rising with Him.

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

May Schedule

On Sundays May 1, May 15, and May 29, Hours/Divine Liturgy will be at St. Simeon Church at 9:40 AM/10:00 AM.

On Sundays May 8 and May 22, Hours/Divine Liturgy will be at the Monastery at 9:10 AM/9:30 AM

Saturday evening vigils will be at 5:00 PM at St. Simeon on April 30, May 14, and May 28 and at the monastery on May 7 and May 21.

Other services at the **Monastery** include

May 3 (Radonitsa – Day of Rejoicing) – 8:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy, followed by Radonitsa services at the cemeteries in St. Helena

May 21 (Ss. Helen and Constantine) – 8:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy

May 25 (3rd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist) – 8:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy

Other services at **St. Simeon** include

May 6 (St. George, Old Style) – 9:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy

May 24 (Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Old Style) – 9:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy

For updates and the rest of our schedule, please call the monastery at 707-942-6244 or go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Calistoga-CA/Holy-Assumption-Monastery/106974442681502> or our website <http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com/>

The April Friends Gathering

Despite the fact that many of our faithful friends were unable to attend because of other commitments at their own parishes, our April 10 Friends' Gathering was very well attended, with nearly 100 Friends.

Father Lawrence and Matushka Ann Margitich gave a very enlightening and enjoyable presentation about their recent trip to the Holy Land. The map slides showing the locations of key Biblical cities were a great help to those of us who are geographically challenged. It was also a blessing to see and hear a short clip of a beautiful monastic choir. Most importantly, though, Fr. Lawrence and Mat. Ann somehow managed to convey the holiness of the sites that they saw.



At the end of the presentation, we were treated to a few slides of Constantinople. There was not enough time for much explanation. But our appetites for more were whetted, and we are hoping for an encore presentation!

Left – Father Lawrence Margitich; Above – Matushka Ann Margitich



The Latest on Leaks!

Our attempt to provide a temporary 'fix' of the leaks in St. Nicholas House was unsuccessful. We have been hesitant to attempt a permanent fix of the roof because we also need to do some major remodeling, including an expansion of the area where the worst leaks are. However, a feasible solution has been suggested.

The whole roof is in need of repair or replacement. So, we will frame in the expanded area and roof the entire area. Once this is completed, we can finish the inside work as time and funds permit. We hope to have an estimate for the cost of the roof by next month. Again, if you can help financially or with your expertise, we will be extremely grateful.

PASCHA!!

There is not much one can say about Pascha that hasn't already been said much better by saints. So, we will limit ourselves to saying that our Paschal celebration was a great joy and that we are grateful to all who celebrated with us the arising of our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ!



REMINDER: Friends' Meeting on May 1

On May 1, Fr. Andrew Cuneo (St. Seraphim Church, Santa Rosa) will be speaking on **“Why We Hope Narnia Is True: C.S. Lewis on Longing.”**

On June 5, Fr. John Finley (Missions and Evangelism Department, Antiochian Archdiocese) will speak about funeral practices in modern America in light of Orthodox theology of the body.

The Friends' Meeting schedule is presentation at 4 PM, vespers at 5 PM, and potluck at 6 PM.



Fr. Andrew Cuneo