



# Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – January 2012

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

Phone: 707-942-6244; Email: [sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com](mailto:sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com/>



Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

A symphony conductor was once asked what is the hardest position to play in the orchestra. He answered unexpectedly, “Second violin.” The reason, of course, is that it is hard on our egos to be pegged as “second fiddle.” To be a really great second violinist, one must put one’s ego aside and play for love of the music.

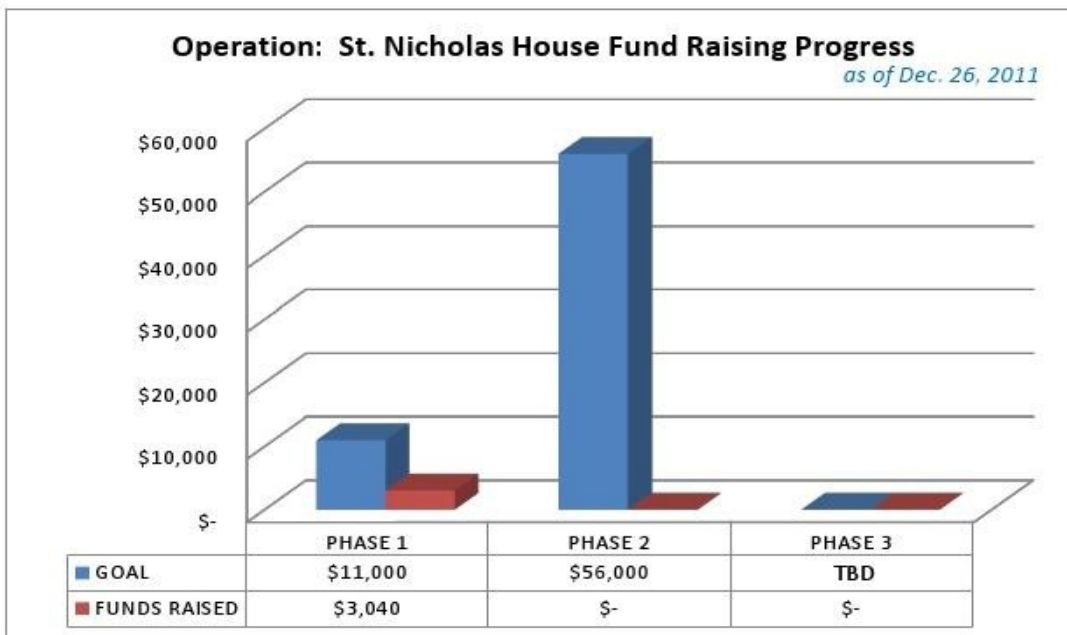
With Theophany rapidly approaching, this little vignette brings to mind the words of St. John the Baptist, “He must increase, and I must decrease.” This humility made him protest at Christ’s request for baptism, but also made him obey Christ’s command, “Suffer it to be so, that we may fulfill all righteousness.” He may not have understood how this would fulfill all righteousness, but he was humble enough to obey. St. John’s greatness is like that of the great second violinist – he could put his ego aside for love. And when one puts one’s ego aside for love of Christ, the resulting ‘music’ sweetens the whole universe.

As we enter this new year, may we find the joy of humility and obedience. And whatever our part in the orchestra of life, may we play it for love of the One Who took on our humanity to raise us to Himself.

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania  
and the community  
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

## ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE – Update



Many thanks to those of you who have graciously helped with St. Nicholas House. Special thanks are due to St. Nicholas Church in San Anselmo, who donated the entire proceeds of their annual raffle to the rebuilding of St. Nicholas House. We ask St. Nicholas' abundant blessing on them and all of you for your love and support.

*Phase 1 – Aviary & Demolition; Phase 2 – Footprint extension, new roof & waterproofing; Phase 3 – Interior Remodel (no estimate yet)*

## DECEMBER FRIENDS MEETING

On Sunday, December 4, Father Lawrence and Matushka Ann Margitich spoke on their pilgrimage to Constantinople. They concentrated their talks on three churches – Ss. Sergius and Bacchus, Chora (so called because it was originally in the *chora* or countryside before the second land wall of Constantinople was built), and – of course – Hagia Sophia.



*Mat. Ann*



*Fr. Lawrence*

Ss. Sergius and Bacchus is a functioning mosque, and so there were no icons to be seen, but the architecture was beautiful. Chora and Hagia Sophia had both been converted into mosques also, but now function as museums and some of their stunningly beautiful iconography can still be seen. Mat. Ann mentioned, however, that mosaics are much more beautiful when actually present because of the play of the light over them. Also, although as an iconographer, she already knew a good bit about the iconography and sheer size of Hagia Sophia, she still found being there an amazing experience.

We are very thankful to Fr. Lawrence and Mat. Ann for the opportunity to learn a bit more about this city that is so important to the history of the Church. Of course, we can not do justice to their talk without showing their slides, but we suggest that you look up these churches on the internet.



## OUT & ABOUT

On Saturday December 3, we participated for the third year in a row at the Calistoga Christmas Bazaar. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet our fellow Calistogans and catch up with people we haven't seen for awhile.

The last Sunday before Christmas (December 18), Fr. Silas Ruark and the parishioners of St. Timothy Parish, Fairfield, graciously received the sisters who brought the bookstore. Many thanks!!



*Setting up for the Christmas Bazaar*



*Which shall we choose? See's Candies or a Mynah Hat?*



*At St. Timothy Church*



*John & Michael – junior salesmen extraordinaire!*



## CHRISTMAS IN CALISTOGA

We had a most glorious Christmas! Many thanks to Fr. Stephen Howell, who graciously celebrated all our Christmas Eve and Christmas services with us. As is our tradition, on Christmas Eve, we ate our 12-course Holy Meal together with friends new and old – being sure to feed the animals first in remembrance of Christ's lying in the manger for our sake – and interspersing Christmas carols with the courses.



*Prepare to receive Christ!*



*Singing Christmas carols*



*Fr. Stephen preaching*



*Ring the bells*

**January 2012 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery (blue) & St. Simeon Parish (red)**

Monastery contact info – (707) 942-6244; email – [sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com](mailto:sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com); website – <http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00am matins, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Royal Hours  11:00am 6 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> Royal Hours & typica  2:00pm St. Basil Liturgy  6:00pm Vigil (all at Monastery)	<b>6</b> 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)  <u>Theophany</u> (new style)  3:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)	<b>7</b> 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish)  <u>Nativity of Our Lord</u>  5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
<b>8</b> 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish)  4:00pm FRIENDS MEETING (at Monastery)	<b>9</b> 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish)  <i>Liturgy in Slavonic</i>  <u>St Stephen</u>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)	<b>14</b> 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish)  <u>Obrezania/St Basil</u>  5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
<b>15</b> 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)	<b>19</b> 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish)  <u>Theophany of our Lord</u>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
<b>22</b> 9:30am Meeting of Bishop Hours/Hierarchal Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish)  <i>Archbishop Kyrill presiding</i>  <i>Annual parish meeting after Liturgy</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	<b>25</b> 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)  <u>St. Gregory the Theologian</u> (New Style)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
<b>29</b> 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b> Text in blue represents services at the Monastery  Text in red represents services at the Parish			

Announcing  
**THE JANUARY 2012 MEETING**  
of the  
**FRIENDS OF HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY**

**Sunday January 8, 2012**

Part 4 of an Ongoing Series on Contemplative Prayer –

***Encountering God through Inner  
Prayer & Neptic Fasting:***

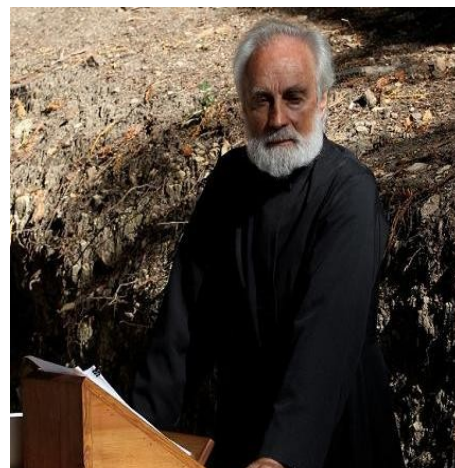
Breaking Down the “Middle Wall of Partition”

Presented by

***Vincent Rossi***

Theologian, Educator, & Independent Scholar

*St. Seraphim Church, Santa Rosa*



4:00 PM – Presentation

5:00 PM – Vespers

6:00 PM – Potluck

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**February 12 Meeting** – Archimandrite Irenei (Steenberg) will speak on an as yet undetermined topic

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (707) 942-6244  
or EMAIL [sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com](mailto:sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com)