



# Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – June 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,

Late spring here at the monastery brings a special beauty. Many flowers are in full bloom, the veggie gardens are burgeoning, and the fragrance of orange blossoms and roses wafts through the air. Once, a friend remarked (as many people do) that we live in the Garden of Eden. Another person, having watched a sister on her knees weeding, said, “No, there were no weeds in Eden!” That, of course, is the other side of this beautiful place. It needs a lot of loving attention – weeding, planting, watering, harvesting ...

Our spiritual lives have both these dimensions as well. We have just experienced all the radiance of the Paschal season. Then, Ascension arrived and, with it, the ten days of joyful expectancy in which we await the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. But in this great spiritual spring – and after it – there is always the necessity of tending our spiritual gardens, and that requires a lot of hard work. Still, as any gardener knows, the work is part of the joy of it.

As we go back into 'ordinary' time, may God grant us to tend our spiritual gardens with gratitude and love for Him. And may we be full of the fruits of the Holy Spirit!

With love in Christ,

*Mother Melania  
and the community  
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

## ZOO UPDATE

Petie is ensconced pretty firmly in the office now. With his cage sitting next to the front window, he has become quite the attraction for the school children and anyone else passing by.

The baby koi are all noticeably larger now that they are outside. The six larger ones (now “the toddlers”) are still intimidated by the grownups and teenagers. So, they spend most of their time hanging out under the cage of the four babies. A cagey move on their part!



*Toddlers making a rare appearance!*



*The 'fish shed' – future home of our icon-mounting studio*

## ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE RENOVATION – update

The sisters have been working with our architect, Michael Wysocki, to identify priorities in the renovation plan and begin building a budget estimate. Our first necessity is replacing the roof, which must happen before the winter rains arrive. We will also construct a new storage closet for our garden tools, and refurbish the current tool shed (aka “the fish shed,” where the baby koi had been housed till recently) to eventually house part of our icon-mounting activities.

Right now, we are determining what grade of materials to use on the roof. As anyone with remodeling experience knows, it is easy to buy the cheapest materials, but they may not save you money in the long-term. We want to put a roof on St. Nicholas House that will last, but will also be within our budget! Please continue to keep the renovation project in your prayers.

## MAY FRIENDS MEETING

On Sunday May 13, Metropolitan NIKITAS (Lulias) spoke on *The Samaritan Woman in Hymnography*. Unlike her 'life,' the hymns of the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman give very little information about her - not even her name. This is because hymnology, like iconography, focuses on theological truth, not historical fact. What's important is not details about her life, but her encounter with Christ and how she responds to Him. So, the focus isn't primarily on her, but on Christ. This focus is reflected in the hymnody for today - the most important hymns are about the Resurrection, then on Midfeast, and only third about the Samaritan woman (although His Eminence remarked that coming in third in this particular situation is pretty good!)



*Metropolitan NIKITAS*

His Eminence then spoke about St. Romanos the Melodist's Kontakion on the Samaritan woman. There are three major themes.

- 1) Sychar (her home town) represents the pagan world (though in fact the Samaritans weren't exactly pagan)
- 2) the Samaritan woman herself, a non-Jew, represents the Church, called out from the pagan world
- 3) the five husbands represent the former idols that had to be put away so that she can be betrothed to Christ the true husband (these idols aren't idols of stone, but of whatever we focus on instead of God - in our day and age, they are things like cars, the lottery, basketball stars ....)



*At Vespers*

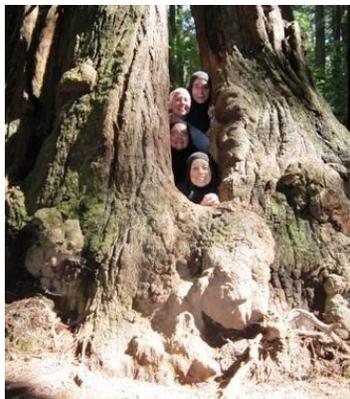
The Samaritan Woman was also the quintessential missionary - something about her was so compelling that it brought all the people of the town out to see this One Who had so changed her. His Eminence here remarked that if you want to know where a parish's heart is, just look at how much they spend on missions and philanthropy. It's a good question for us, individually, too - how much of our time and money do we spend on loving others and leading them to Christ? The Samaritan Woman provides an excellent example of how we SHOULD be.



## THIS & THAT



The May 20 solar eclipse was the occasion of an impromptu "block party" with the sisters, our neighbors, and our visitors. Notice the patterns caused by the eclipsed sun.



During Bright Week, the sisters went on an outing to Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve.



Somebody had to be working while we were having all that fun! Our good friends Sergei and Stan Moroz have been working hard to complete the wall in our lower garden.

## June 2012 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery & St. Simeon Parish

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
3 9:40am Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) <u>Pentecost</u> 5:00pm Vigil (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	4 8:40am Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery) <u>Day of the Holy Spirit</u>	5	6	7	8	9 5:00pm Vigil (at Holy Assumption Monastery)
10 9:40am Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	11	12	13 5:00pm Readers' Vigil (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	14 8:40am Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery) <u>Prophet Elisha &amp; Patr. Methodius</u>	15	16 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
17 9:40am Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish)	18	19	20	21	22	23 5:00pm Vigil (at Holy Assumption Monastery)
24 9:40am Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	25	26	27	28	29	30 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)

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

*Sunday June 10, 2012*

**FORT ROSS –**  
***Past, Present, and Future***

Presented by  
***Robin Joy Wellman***  
*State Park Interpreter, Fort Ross*



4:00 PM – Presentation  
5:00 PM – Vespers  
6:00 PM – Potluck

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**July 8 Meeting** – “Hundreds Turn to Christ in Turkana: Kenyan Catechism,” given by OCMC Team Member Roberta Sardell.

**August 15 (Wednesday) - Dormition** – please join us for our altar feast!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (707) 942-6244  
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