



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – April, 2011

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

Phone: 707-942-6244; Email: sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com



Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

As this newsletter is being written, we are more than halfway through Lent and have already celebrated the Sunday of the Cross. How often we start the season of the Fast with enthusiasm for dying to our old selves and living the new Life in Christ! Many of us, though, don't take account of the obvious truth that dying to ourselves is painful. So, our enthusiasm wanes quickly when we actually have to curb our appetites – not to mention having to curb our tongues!

Others, who are made of sterner stuff, enter whole-heartedly into the Fast and never seem to flag. While this is highly commendable, a major snare these spiritual athletes need to avoid is pride. There was a monk who routinely did many more prostrations than he had been assigned. When doing these prostrations, he “just so happened” to leave his door ajar. One day, his elder, seeing this display of zeal, told the monk that he only had a blessing to do the number of prostrations he had originally been given. To the monk's astonishment, he was unable to do this smaller number. The reason? Pride is an incredible motivator, and the monk had little or no motive otherwise.

Whichever of these traps we may have fallen into, the Church offers us the Cross of Christ for healing and restoration. We who are too weak to carry our own crosses can cling to the One Who freely carried His Cross for our sake. Those who are strong can find the unconquerable Might of the One Who became weak on our behalf. Together, humbled by our weaknesses and God's unfathomable mercy, may we reach the glorious day of the Resurrection of Christ our God!

with love in Christ,
*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

A New Chapter of Life in Calistoga!!!

We are entering into a wonderful new chapter of life here in Calistoga. Almost from the day we arrived, we have been greatly blessed to have a wonderful relationship with St. Simeon Church. Over the past year and a half, both our bishops blessed Fr. Joakim to serve weekday Divine Liturgies here at the monastery and us to sing various weekday services at the parish.

Now our bishops have blessed the next step. Starting on Pascha, we will be alternating Sunday Divine Liturgies between St. Simeon and the Monastery. The basic plan is for Divine Liturgy to be at St. Simeon Church on the first and third Sundays of the month and at the Monastery on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We will alternate fifth Sundays.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have helped us along the way. Thanks to Bishop BENJAMIN and Archbishop KYRILL for blessing this endeavor. Thanks to the members of both communities for their willingness, and indeed, their desire, to be united. Thanks to all the priests who have celebrated Divine Liturgies with us. Thanks to all the Orthodox faithful and parishes who have supported us with prayer, labor, and finances. First and last, thanks to the Lord God for His wondrous mercies to us.

It seems very fitting that the start of this new endeavor is on Pascha – the ultimate Day of new beginnings, or rather of the New Creation. May God grant that as we celebrate Pascha together, it may be the first step towards celebrating together forever in the eternal Day of His Kingdom.



Fr. Lawrence &
Mat. Ann Margitich

REMINDER: Friends' Meeting on April 10

Our April Friends' Meeting has been moved to April 10. Fr. Lawrence and Mat. Ann Margitich (St. Seraphim Church, Santa Rosa) will speak on their recent trip to the Holy Land.

At the May 1 meeting, Fr. Andrew Cuneo (St. Seraphim Church, Santa Rosa) will speak on C.S. Lewis. On June 5, Fr. John Finley (Missions and Evangelism Department, Antiochian Archdiocese) will present a talk on a yet-to-be-determined subject. The schedule for Friends' Meetings is presentation at 4 PM, vespers at 5 PM, and potluck at 6 PM.

April Schedule

We will not celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sunday April 3 due to the Retreat at Holy Virgin Cathedral "Joy of All Who Sorrow" on Geary St. There will, however, be Hours/Divine Liturgy at St. Simeon Church, at 9:40 AM. We will have Hours/Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM on Sundays April 10 and 17. Saturday evening vigils will be at 5:00 PM at the monastery on April 2 and 16 and at St. Simeon on April 9 and 30. Other services include

April 2 (Soul Saturday) - 9:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy (St Simeon)

April 6 - 5:00 PM Matins/Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (**Monastery**); **No Pre-sanctified Liturgy**;

April 7 - **Annunciation, Old Style** 9:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy (St Simeon)

April 8 - 5:00 PM Matins with the Akathist (**Monastery**); 12:00 PM Pre-sanctified Liturgy (**Monastery**)

April 9 (Saturday of the Akathist) - 8:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy (**Monastery**)

April 16 (Lazarus Saturday) - 8:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy (**Monastery**)

April 17 (Palm Sunday) - 9:10 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy (**Monastery**); 9:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy (St Simeon)

April 18 (Holy Monday) - 1:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy (St Simeon)

April 19 (Holy Tuesday) - 1:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy (**Monastery**)

April 20 (Holy Wednesday) - 1:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy (St Simeon); 5:00 PM Institution Matins (**Monastery**)

April 21 (Holy Thursday) - 8:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy (**Monastery**); 5:00 PM 12 Gospels Matins (St Simeon)

April 22 (Great and Holy Friday) - 8:40 AM Royal Hours (**Monastery**); 3:00 PM Vespers (St Simeon); 5:00 PM Matins (St Simeon)

April 23 (Great and Holy Saturday) - 9:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy (St Simeon); 11:00 PM Nocturns (**Monastery**)

April 24 (Pascha) - 12:00 AM Paschal Matins/Divine Liturgy (**Monastery**); 11:30 AM Agape Vespers (St. Demetrius Chapel, Macedonian Park)

April 25 (Bright Monday) - 9:40 AM Hours/Divine Liturgy (St Simeon)

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>

Newly Leaked Information!

Petie and Oscar are not the only residents of St. Nicholas House dealing with a leaky roof. The original leak was shared between the aviary and the main porch. With recent rains, however, the leaks have progressed to the point where one room is rapidly becoming uninhabitable. Plans are under way for a temporary fix as soon as the weather permits, but we lack the finances for a more permanent solution.

As soon as finances do permit, the sisters plan to relocate the aviary into the back of the gazebo, fix the roof of the house, and convert the aviary and porches into much-needed work space. If you can help financially or with the necessary skills, Petie and Oscar will thank you profusely, and so will we!!



St. Nicholas House