



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – February 2016

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

The other day, we saw a hospital advertisement saying “Uncommon care for common illnesses and injuries.” It got us thinking about how easily we tune out the common concerns of the people around us. How often our eyes glaze over when our friends and families tell the same story for the hundredth time, recount their aches and pains, or rehash their pet peeves! True, listening with compassion would take an “uncommon” amount of love and understanding on our parts – not to mention the humility and courage necessary to look at the part we have played in our loved ones' difficulties. If, however, we do pay “uncommon care” to the people behind these “common illnesses and injuries,” we may just find that their difficulties are a lot easier to heal than we could have imagined – and find ourselves being healed in the process!

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*



*If you dig through
THIS, we QUIT!*

ZOO UPDATE – Bunny Escape Artists

Shortly after our last update, we introduced the bunnies into their new hutch and run. We were pleased to note that after a little adjustment to their new environs, the bunnies were getting along quite well. Better yet, they were spending a lot of their time in the run, even with guests around. This was great news for the children eager to catch a glimpse of our often elusive bunnies.

It turns out, though, that a good bit of the bunnies' time outdoors was spent digging tunnels to freedom. This was quite surprising, as we thought that we had tunnel-proofed the run. However, a bunny's gotta dig, and dig they did! The first time, Ricochet escaped alone and came back of his own accord. The sisters made another attempt at tunnel-proofing, but Ricochet won that round, too. And this time, Chiquito joined him. One of the sisters soon caught Ricochet. Chiquito, however, was unwilling to surrender his freedom until given a sufficient bribe of his favorite foods.



*Who us? We would
never try to dig out!*

After that, we called in the big guns, and our friend Anne Andersen came back to do some serious tunnel-proofing. This involved removing the pavers, placing chicken wire on the ground, covering the chicken wire with cement and then putting down new pavers. It's hard to imagine how the bunnies can get out now, but they're very resourceful! So, stay tuned!!

ZOO TIMES TWO

No, of course, this beautiful pictorial essay isn't just filler! How could you think that?!



Simba – I own the sewing room, and don't forget it!



Philly - Who gave YOU permission to take my picture?



Balou - No, you DON'T know what I'm thinking!



Rocky – To jump or not to jump. That is the question.



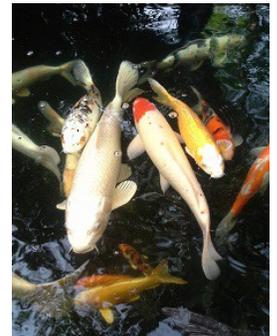
Petie - Yes, I know I'm handsome.



Sunrise - If I stare at this long enough, somebody will come open it.



Pixley and Cha Cha - friends forever



Who's directing traffic?!



THEOPHANY 2016

We had beautiful Theophany celebrations this year. Fr. John Schettig of St. Seraphim Church, Santa Rosa, celebrated the Vespers Liturgy and indoor blessing of the water on January 5. On January 6, Fr. Theodor Svane (also of St. Seraphim Church – and many thanks to Fr. Lawrence Margitich and the parishioners for so kindly lending us your priests!!) celebrated the main Liturgy and the outdoor blessing of the water. The outdoor blessing was highly memorable as God blessed us with water from above as we were blessing the Napa River. We waited to bless the monastery till after lunch in the hopes of having drier weather. On the contrary, the heavens really opened up! We have never been so happy to be so thoroughly drenched! May God continue to rain down His blessings on us throughout the year!!



Fr. John Schettig performing the indoor blessing of the waters



Fr. Theodor Svane blessing the Napa River



Fr. Theodor and Simon - Let me help, Dad!



Okay, we've blessed the monastery, the cars, and the street. That ought to do it!

February 2016 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery & St. Simeon Church

Monastery contact info – (707) 942-6244; email – sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com;

website – <http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	2 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Meeting of the Lord</u>				6 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
7 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)			10 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	11 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Martyr Victoria and Hieromartyr Blaise</u>		13 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
14 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy 5:00pm Vigil (both at St Simeon Parish)	15 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) <u>Meeting of the Lord</u> (Old Style)		17 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	18 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Leo the Great, Pope of Rome</u>		20 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
21 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)	22 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	23 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Hieromartyr Polycarp</u>				27 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
28 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish)	29	MARCH 5 – 2016 LENTEN RETREAT <i>Bearing Witness: Martyrdom in everyday life in the 21st century</i> <i>Speaker - Archimandrite Irenei Steenberg</i> <i>See Flyer for more details</i>				

March Retreat

Saturday March 5

*Bearing Witness:
Martyrdom in everyday
life in the 21st century*



Fr. Irenei Steenberg

*Director of the Sts. Cyril & Athanasius Institute for
Orthodox Studies in San Francisco and
Abbot of St. Silouan Monastery, Sonora, CA*

Saturday,

March 5, 2016



9:00 AM—Session 1



10:30 AM—Session 2



12:15 PM Akathist



1 pm Lunch



2pm—Session 3



HOLY ASSUMPTION
MONASTERY

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No Fee—donations accepted

Call Soon—Space is limited