



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – May 2016

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

As this is being written, it is the sixth week of Lent and we are going step by step with Christ on His journey to resurrect Lazarus before His own burial and resurrection. One of the most intriguing verses concerning Lazarus is, “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was” (John 11:5b, 6). Staying away and allowing Lazarus to die was NOT the obvious way for Christ to show His love for Lazarus and his sisters! Only in retrospect can we see the unparalleled blessing that Christ had in store for Lazarus. After all, who else was ever resurrected after four days in the tomb?!

As Lazarus lay dying, he almost certainly didn’t understand why Christ had not come to heal him, and Mary and Martha clearly didn’t comprehend. But while they still lacked understanding, they DID have faith in and love for Jesus Christ. And Christ rewarded that faith and love far beyond what they could have imagined – not only in this life, but far more so in the next.

As we journey through this life and our own deaths – whether the little day-to-day ones, the huge trials of life, or our own physical deaths – may we not forget that Christ allows this BECAUSE He loves us. If we – like Lazarus and his sisters – respond to Christ with faith and love, we too shall be resurrected to live forever with Him Who loved us even to the death and Who is Himself the Resurrection and the Life!

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

with love in Christ,

Mother Melania

and the community

of Holy Assumption Monastery

ZOO UPDATE – Meet Snap, Crackle, and Pop

Our bird population has just gone up by 75% with the arrival of Snap, Crackle, and Pop – three parakeets in need of a good home. Our first thought was to house them in their own cage in the conures’ aviary, but they have been indoor birds all their lives. So, one of the sisters volunteered her cell as their new home. As her cell also happens to house Rocky the cat, we were a little concerned – not that well-mannered Rocky would express any untoward interest in them, but that the parakeets might not recognize his peaceful intentions. Fortunately, they are either used to cats or know a sweetheart when they see one. Keets and cat are now happily ensconced in the same cell – chirping and meowing to their hearts’ content.



If you promise to play fair, you can come back to our side of the cage!

PASCHA 2016

We thank God for yet another year in which to repent and to experience the joy of Pascha. Below are a few highlights from Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, and Pascha.



Lazarus Saturday at the Monastery



Our faithful friend Stavros always makes sure we have plenty of palm crosses for Palm Sunday



Blessing the Palm Crosses



Palm Sunday at the Monastery



Procession before the Paschal Service



Lift up the gates, O you rulers, and be lifted up, you everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall enter.



The Monastery decked for Pascha



Blessing the Pascha baskets



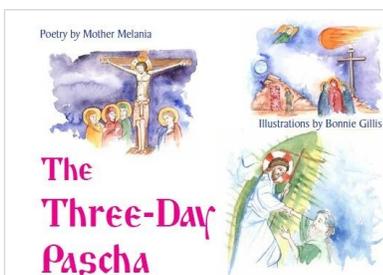
New improved butter lamb - at least he looks less like a dog and more like a cow!



Full house!



BOOK UPDATE



A college professor of mine used to say that if you wanted to estimate how long something would take, figure out how long it possibly COULD take, and then multiply by five!! His equation is sadly accurate, at least in the case of our *Three-Day Pascha* book, which is not out yet. We ARE confident, however, that it will be ready by NEXT Pascha!!

May 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 12am Paschal Matins/Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) <u>PASCHA</u> 12pm Agape Vespers (at Macedonian Park)	2	3	4	5	6	5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
8 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) <u>SUNDAY OF SAINT THOMAS</u>	9	10 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	11 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Equals-to-the-Apostles Methodius and Cyril</u>	12	13	5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
15 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>SUNDAY OF THE HOLY MYRRHBEARERS</u>	16 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	17 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Apostle Andronicus</u>	18	19	20	5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
22 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) <u>SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC</u>	23	24 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	25 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Mid-Pentecost</u>	26	27	5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
29 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN</u>	30	31 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	NOTE: 8:40am Hours/Liturgy for Justin Martyr, June 1, at Monastery			

Summer Retreat ***Saturday June 25***

On Stillness and the Prayer of the Heart



Speaker:

Hieromonk Innocent

***Superior of St John of Shanghai and San Francisco
Monastery, Manton, CA***

Saturday,

June 25, 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