



# Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – September 2016

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

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

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



Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

In an effort to stop wasting water, some of us are using immersible water heaters. (For those too young to remember life before microwaves, immersible water heaters are used to heat a cup of coffee, boil water, etc.) The brand of heater we bought had quite a few negative reviews. However, many of these seem to have been by people who did not observe the CLEAR warning never to take the heater out of the water while still plugged in.

This got us thinking about how often we ignore warnings when we have little expectation of immediate negative consequences. Why not drive a little faster when we're late? Why not have that extra doughnut? Yes, we all know somebody who got into a car accident for going faster than they should. And many of us have waistlines that proclaim the effect of months and years of one extra doughnut. However, the negative consequences either are infrequent or only gradually become evident. So, we continue to speed and to eat poorly, although we know better.

It's the same with spiritual precepts. If we indulge unkind thoughts towards a friend, our relationship may not suffer noticeably this week or next. If we don't say our prayers today, we probably won't notice some great catastrophe tomorrow. Sooner or later, though, these bad habits are sure to catch up with us. And unless we repent, the consequences will be great indeed. Conversely, good habits often don't provide immediate rewards. Kind thoughts and deeds may not quickly mend broken relationships. Prayer may feel dry for weeks or months or even years. Then, it's tempting to think "What's the point?" and give up.

In either case, St. Paul provides great counsel. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap ... And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." May God grant us to heed these words so that we too may reap the unimaginably rich fruits that He greatly desires to give us!

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania  
and the community  
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

## ZOO UPDATE – The Great Sunflower Seed Heist!

After the bunnies moved to their new run, our friend Alex helped us convert their former residence into a storage room for pet supplies. The ever inquisitive Petie and Sunrise, living next door to the new storage room, soon noticed (and became INTENSELY interested in) a stalk of sunflower seeds sitting prominently on a shelf.



*Crime scene with sunflower stalk outlined in black*

Finally, one day, someone forgot to close the door between the storage unit and Petie and Sunrise's aviary. The Greys didn't need a second invitation! When their caretaker came by the aviary and couldn't see either Grey, her mischief antennae were alerted. She went into the storage unit where Petie was gorging himself on sunflower seeds. Sunrise was too savvy to compete with Petie. Instead, he took floor patrol, happily eating everything that his messy aviary mate dropped.

The Greys allowed themselves to be returned to their aviary without any fuss. It seems that they have accepted their fate philosophically – their philosophy being "If it happened once, it can happen again!"



*Sunrise – Psst! The coast is clear!*



*Petie - So much to eat.  
So little time!!*

## ***DORMITION 2016***

Thanks be to God for yet another glorious feast of the Dormition. His Eminence, Archbishop BENJAMIN served the Vigil, assisted by Father Nebojsa Pantic (Ss Constantine and Helen, Vallejo, CA – Greek Archdiocese), Father Lawrence Margitich, Father Theodor Svane, and Deacon Nicholas Carr (all from St. Seraphim, Santa Rosa, CA - OCA). Vigil was well attended, with around 50 of our friends. The next morning around 150 pilgrims joined us for the hierarchical Liturgy. Serving with Archbishop BENJAMIN were Father Ian MacKinnon (Holy Cross, Sacramento, CA – OCA), Father Lawrence Margitich, Father John Schettig, Father Theodor Svane (all from St. Seraphim), Father John Christiansen (St. Timothy, Fairfield, CA – Antiochian), Father Andrew Smith (Nativity of the Holy Virgin, Menlo Park - OCA), Archdeacon Kirill Sokolov (Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA – OCA), Deacon Nicholas Carr (St. Seraphim), Subdeacon Johan Morse, and Subdeacon Seraphim Salonga (Holy Cross, Sacramento - OCA). As always, Father Stephan Meholick (St. Nicholas, San Anselmo - OCA), several of his parishioners, and a few other friends brought much needed aid to our little choir. Our thanks to all who served, sang, brought food, and otherwise participated in honoring our holy Lady the Theotokos. May we see you all and many more friends next year!



*Should we put the chairs back down after we clean them?*



*We shamelessly cajole our neighbors into helping us prepare for the feast!*



*Cobweb patrol at your service!*



*A tent-ative solution to providing shaded outdoor seating*



*Waiting for the bishop*



*Icon of the Dormition*



*Plaschanitsa (burial shroud) of the Theotokos*



*Archbishop BENJAMIN with Fathers Theodor and Nebojsa*



*Let us sing to the Lord!*



*Archbishop BENJAMIN*



*Festal procession*



*The PROFESSIONAL bell ringers give the sisters a break!*



## ***OAKVILLE GROCERY'S ARTISANS PROGRAM***

A month or so ago, Oakville Grocery announced its *Artisans Program*, featuring the best “Local Food from Local People.” Oakville Grocery is well known for being very selective in general. So, we were very pleasantly surprised when the judges chose our *Currant Nut Crunch* and *Sisters' "Currant Choice" Granola* for this new program. As part of the program, the artisans make themselves available for sampling once every quarter. Our first sampling, on Saturday August 27, was a great success. Our thanks to our friends at Oakville Grocery for their help in making this possible. Thanks also to all our friends who have been buying our products all along. Next time you're on Highway 29, stop in Oakville Grocery and check out the Artisan shelves!



*Mother Tabitha, food sampler extraordinaire*

## September 2016 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery & St. Simeon Church

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
				1	2	3 5:00pm Vigil (at Holy Assumption Monastery)
4 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	5	6	7 7:00pm Vigil (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	8 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery)  <u>Nativity of the Theotokos</u>	9	10 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
11 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish)	12	13 7:00pm Vigil (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	14 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery)  <u>Elevation of the Cross</u>	15	16	17 5:00pm Vigil (at Holy Assumption Monastery)
18 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	19	20	21	22	23 7:00pm Vigil (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	24 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Protomartyr Thekla (tentative)</u>  5:00pm Vigil  (both at Holy Assumption Monastery)
25 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	26	27	28	29	30	

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Friday-Sunday Nov 11-13 – Permaculture Workshop**  
 led by Luke Currier

Please see enclosed flyer for details



# Holy Assumption Monastery Permaculture Workshop

**Friday November 11 –  
Sunday November 13**

The presenter, Luke Carrier, is a tonsured reader in the Orthodox Church. He is a lifelong gardener with experience in orchard management, animal husbandry, landscaping, and sustainable forestry. He has a Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) through Midwest Permaculture. He is currently writing a book on the intersection of Permaculture and Orthodox Christianity, He holds a BA in Theology from St. Katherine College in San Marcos, CA, as well as an MA in Social Justice from Kilns College in Bend, OR.

This event will be a combination of lecture and hands-on learning about suburban applications of permaculture.

Friday 11/11- An Introduction to Permaculture (6 PM - 8 PM)  
Saturday 11/12- Permaculture Principles, Practice, & Design (9 AM - 3 PM)  
Sunday 11/13-Permaculture & Orthodox Christianity (12:30 PM - 2:30 PM, following Divine Liturgy & Coffee Hour)

For more information please contact Holy Assumption Monastery at:

sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com  
707-942-6244  
1519 Washington St, Calistoga CA 94515

(Suggested donation \$40)