



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – February 2017

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

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

Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com



Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

A certain teacher got a letter from a struggling student who signed it “Your difficult student.” After reassuring her student that she was “a student with difficulties,” NOT “a difficult student,” the teacher got thinking about some students she certainly HAD considered to be “difficult students.” Two things stood out – lack of motivation and lack of appreciation. On further reflection, the teacher realized that she cheerfully put great effort into helping “students with difficulties,” whereas she struggled not to resent helping “difficult students” who actually required considerably less of her time. The teacher then concluded that she had her OWN difficulty – a bad attitude towards the attitudes of her difficult students!

We all have people with difficulties in our lives, but we don’t generally pigeonhole them as “difficult people” unless they show no motivation to get out of their mess or fail to appreciate our efforts to help them. True, we can’t help everybody around us, but we CAN start looking at our own bad attitudes towards the people that we feel aren’t trying hard enough. Who knows? If we seriously take stock of our OWN “difficulties,” we may find that some of the “difficult people” in our lives are less difficult than we thought they were – and dare I say – less difficult than WE are!

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

BYE BYE, DROUGHT!

Last month brought more rain and flooding than Napa County has seen in years. With the Napa River in our backyard, we had a front-seat view of the flooding. Fortunately, all the work previously done on the Napa River kept the floods from being as devastating as they could have been, and here at the monastery, the flood waters never rose beyond our lower garden. The good news for everyone is that all the precipitation has increased the snow packs in the mountains to greater than average depth, and at least for now, we can smile and say “Bye bye, drought!”



Rising ...



and rising ...



You can stop now!

THEOPHANY 2017

This year we were blessed to celebrate Theophany with Fr. Theodor Svane (Jan. 5) and Fr. Constantine Efstathiu (Jan. 6). It is always a particular joy to bless the Napa River and know that the blessed water will flow down the river to the ocean and around the world. May God's blessing also flow forth into the streams of our own lives and around the world!



*Fr. Theodor Svane,
Vesperal Liturgy, January 5*



*The blessing of the Jordan comes to
the Napa River!*



*Obligatory picture
of very cute kids*



*Fr Constantine Efstathiu -
indoor blessing of the water, January 6*



Oops! We forgot to put out the food!!!!



ZOO UPDATE – Rogues' Gallery

No news may be good news, but it makes it hard to do a Zoo Update. So, here for your viewing pleasure are our various zoo inmates.



*Creme: You take the cat
bed. I'LL take the
afghan!!*



*Balou: No, it's not fish
food. It's cat food. I'm
eating it, and I'm a cat!*



*Simba: I don't know what
you woke me up for, but it
had better be important!*



*Philly: Hey, that
tickles!*



*Chiquito & Ricochet: We'll
do anything for a carrot!*



Koi: Feed us NOW!!



*Snap & Crackle:
We've perfected
this pose now!*



*Pixley: Don't worry,
Cha Cha. I've got
you covered!*



*Petie: I want
more!!*



*Sunrise: I'm the
sociable parrot*



*Withnail & Gimli
(guest stars): We
want to see the
bunnies!*

February 2017 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 6 pm Vigil (at Monastery)	2 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>The Meeting of Our Lord</u>	3	4 5 pm Vigil (at Monastery)
5 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>The Publican and the Pharisee</u>	6	7 6 pm Vigil (at Monastery)	8 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Great Martyr Theodore the General & Prophet Zechariah</u>	9	10	11 5 pm Vigil (at Monastery)
12 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) <u>The Prodigal Son</u>	13	14	15	16	17 6 pm Vigil (at Monastery)	18 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Memorial Saturday</u> 5 pm Vigil (both at Monastery)
19 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Last Judgment</u>	20	21	22	23	24	25 5 pm Vigil (at Monastery)
26 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) followed by Forgiveness Vespers <u>Forgiveness Sunday</u>	27 BEGINNING OF THE GREAT FAST 6:00pm Great Compline w/ the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (at Monastery)	28 6:00pm Great Compline w/ the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (at Monastery)	SAVE THE DATE: Saturday March 11 Retreat – The Divine Scriptures of the Orthodox Church: Reading the Bible as an Orthodox Christian led by Fr. Philip Tolbert, of Holy Dormition Church, Santa Rosa, CA see enclosed poster for details			

Lenten Retreat — Saturday, March 11, 2017

The Divine Scriptures of the Orthodox Church Reading the Bible as an Orthodox Christian

~ the Very Reverend Philip Tolbert, speaker

9:00 AM Session 1

10:30 AM Session 2

12:15 PM Akathist

1:00 PM Lunch

2:00 PM Session 3

Holy Assumption Monastery



1519 Washington Street

Calistoga, CA 94515

(707)942-6244

<http://holyassumptionmonastery.com>

**No Fee~Donations accepted
Call soon—Space is limited**

Father Philip Tolbert is an archpriest in the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada & Australia (Bulgarian Patriarchate) and is the National Director of the Bulgarian Orthodox Youth Apostolate (Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministries). He is attached to Holy Dormition Orthodox Church in Santa Rosa, CA. Fr. Philip and his wife, Popadia Junia, have two adult children.