



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – November 2017

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

A young girl was experiencing very conflicted emotions at the funeral of her grandmother. She thoroughly enjoyed being with her uncles, aunts, and cousins. At the same time, she felt deeply guilty. Was she being disloyal to her beloved grandmother by being happy?

In the aftermath of the grievous disasters we have suffered all over our nation this year, many of us are dealing with very similar questions. This is especially true for those of us who escaped unscathed from these disasters in which so many people lost their homes and even their lives. How can we be thankful to God for sparing us when He did not spare them? How can we be happy while so many people are suffering?

Here are a couple of thoughts. First – some things have no answer except for the Cross of Christ. When our rational minds are in mute (or frantic) anguish, we can still humbly and trustingly carry our crosses, by the power of the Sinless One Who carried His Cross for us.

The second point is best expressed by a story about Mother Theresa. A skeptical reporter once disparaged her life's labors, saying that no matter how simply she lived and how hard she worked, her life was easy. After all, she still had a roof over her head and food to eat. To the reporter's amazement, Mother Theresa replied something to this extent, "Yes, that is true. I am not worthy to suffer with God's special ones, but I can at least help them."

After these months of catastrophe, we all have either suffered loss ourselves or know somebody who has. May those who have suffered loss cling closely to Christ Who suffered loss for us. And may those of us who have been spared, show our thankfulness to God by humbly serving those who have suffered. And may we all find the joy of Christ as we walk together this path towards Him.

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

Bookstore – Here & There

*St. Timothy Church,
Fairfield, CA*



*Our bookstore
DOES have books!*

*Elevation of the Holy Cross,
Sacramento, CA*



*The next generation
of bookstore customers*

*St. Nicholas Church,
San Anselmo, CA*



*I'll have one of these,
and one of those, and ...*

On the home front



*Cookie Monster is
a great salesman!*

ZOO UPDATE – Surviving the Fire

We are happy to report that the zoo survived the Tubbs Fire in good order. Well, at least that is OUR opinion. We're not sure that the zoo members agree. For one thing, they did not particularly appreciate being rousted out at 3 am, put in carriers, and driven to San Francisco. [NO, we didn't pack up 30 koi – they stayed in their pond, where a good friend took care of them until we got home.] Once we arrived in San Francisco, the bunny and birds were happily enough ensconced in roomier cages provided by some friends. The cats, of course, were not so easily accommodated. How to arrange for the cats to have enough space yet to separate the ones who don't get along? Finally, the cats convinced the sisters to make the obvious decision – sleep in the living room so that the cats could have the bedrooms. No, of course, this decision wasn't about the cats making too much noise for the nuns to sleep. Anyway, it all worked fine. Still, there's no place like home, and all of us – zoo and nuns – are happy to be back.



Balou - There are some benefits to being evacuated.



Philly - I don't mind being ON the cage.



Simba & Creme - We're not friends, but we have agreed on a ceasefire.



Chiquito – The cage is a bit small, but I get to read the newspaper.



Petie and Sunrise's stunt double makes up for our failure to find any good pictures of the birds.



More News about the Fire

We are deeply grateful to God and our friends for their love and care for us during the fires that ripped through Napa and Sonoma and neighboring counties. The Tubbs fire started just a few miles north of us Sunday night October 8. We, along with the rest of the city of Calistoga, were evacuated on Wednesday October 11. When the mandatory evacuation was lifted Sunday afternoon October 15, some of the sisters returned home, while the others waited till the next morning.

Throughout the ordeal, we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of concern from friends near and far. During the evacuation, we stayed with friends in the San Francisco area, where we were treated as royalty by our hosts and by the clergy and parishioners of the nearby churches (not to mention a friend who drove into San Francisco from Stockton to take us to lunch!). Back home in Calistoga, police and firefighters (both local and members of other departments) ably and bravely protected the city. So, when we at last returned home, it was to a monastery that was just the way we left it (actually, a fair bit tidier due to our friend who was watching the koi).



There are too many people to thank for us to name them here, but we do want to extend special thanks to 7-year-old Patrick. On hearing from his mother that their neighbor was harboring nuns who had been evacuated from the fires, he asked whether the nuns might feel better if he played the piano for us. He did play, and we did feel better ☺. So, thank you, Patrick, and thank you everyone else. And of course, thanks and praise to God for His mercy towards us. May He grant us to be worthy of it!

Patrick and his mom – When you're a famous pianist, Patrick, we'll say we knew you when!



New Children's Books Coming

Our Old Testament for Children series will soon be starting back up, God willing. The first two books will be *Moses and the Burning Bush* and *The Three Holy Youths in the Furnace*. We are hoping to have them both out in time for Christmas. So, stay tuned!



November 2017 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery & St. Simeon Church

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

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

NOTE – All services are at the Monastery until necessary repairs are completed at St. Simeon Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 RETREAT AT MONASTERY (see flyer) 5 pm Vigil
5 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	6	7 6 pm Vigil	8 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Synaxis of Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel and all the Archangels</u>	9	10	11 5 pm Vigil
12 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	13 6 pm Vigil	14 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Ap. Philip of the 70/St. Gregory Palamas</u>	15	16	17	18 5 pm Vigil
19 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	20 6 pm Vigil	21 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple</u>	22	23	24	25 5 pm Vigil
26 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	27	28	29 6 pm Vigil	30 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Apostle Andrew the First-called</u>	NOTE: Our schedule sometimes changes unexpectedly. Please check our website or the recorded message on our telephone for last minute changes.	

RETREAT – Saturday November 4

Incarnating Christ in the Midst of Our World

led by **Abbot Tryphon** of All-Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA

SEE FLYER FOR MORE DETAILS

Fall Retreat—Saturday November 4, 2017

Incarnating Christ in the Midst of Our World

led by

Abbot Tryphon of All-Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA



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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Calistoga, CA 94515
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<http://holyassumptionmonastery.com>

No Fee—donations accepted

Call Soon—Space is limited

The Rt. Rev. Father Tryphon is abbot of the [All-Merciful Saviour Monastery](#) on Vashon Island, Washington. The Monastery is under the omophore of The Rt. Rev. Bishop Theodosy of Seattle, of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. Situated in the heart of a beautiful forest, surrounded by the Salish Sea, the monastery is reached by ferry from either Seattle, or Tacoma, Washington.