



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – January 2018

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

In our attempts to improve our singing, our choir members have been seeing a voice coach. Recently, the whole choir went for our first joint lesson. As we ran into various problems while singing together, our voice coach consistently did two things – point out what was going right and gently encourage each of us to improve our specific weakness.

It was a very helpful singing lesson, but an even better lesson in cooperating with others. When there are rifts in our families, workplaces, churches, etc., we are easily tempted to notice everyone else’s failings. If we do recognize our own failings, we often become even more upset with the others’ faults.

Thank God, we don’t have to get caught up in that trap. We can make a point of looking for what is going right (especially the strengths of the other people), and we can humbly work on our own faults. If we consistently do this, we will find that we can “harmonize” with some of the most unlikely people better than we could ever have imagined.

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

ZOO UPDATE



*Snap and Pop –
which is which?*

We are sorry to report that our parakeet Pop is no longer with us. With Snap having already died, Crackle is the only remaining parakeet. Fortunately for Crackle, she spent more time in front of the mirror than with Snap and Pop. Still, she misses her buddies and sings much less often than she used to. Her attendant has been trying to find just the right melody to convince Crackle to join in. A bit of Mozart perhaps?



*Crackle - at least I
don't have to share my
food dish anymore.*



HERE & THERE – have bookstore, will travel

Calistoga Christmas Faire

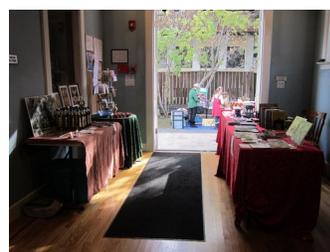
Nativity of the Theotokos Church, Menlo Park



*Pop-up cards made by a
home-based cottage industry
in Vietnam - a great seller!*



*Our own homemade cookies -
always a great seller, too!*



Open for business!



Yay! A customer!!

CHRISTMAS 2017

We thank God once again for another celebration of the Nativity of Christ. Thanks also to Rev. Fr. Edward Henderson and all our friends and parishioners who joined us for this glorious season. May we all continue to celebrate the birth of Christ in our own hearts throughout the year!



Beautify the house in which the Divine One is born!



Thou hast made the whole creation shine with joy.



Singing Christmas carols at the Christmas Eve Meal - What key was that?!



Do you like my hat?



I love it! But then, I love everything!



Christmas carols (on Christmas Day, this time) – if at first you fail the deed, try again till you succeed!



HEAR ALL THE BELLS, GLAD CHRISTMAS BELLS

Thanks be to God (and to our friends at Blagovest Bells), we now have a working bell console! With the console, all our bells can be played by just one bell ringer. Well, one really GOOD bell ringer. We'll have to see how that goes!



Before



During



After



GOODBYE, OAK TREE

Our venerable old oak tree has been going the way of all flesh (more accurately, the way of all wood) for some time now. When it became a clear hazard, we had to cut it down. Only, with a tree that big, it was not a job for amateurs or even a team of seasoned professionals. No, this was a job for seasoned professionals with one serious crane! It certainly livened up our quiet little street for a day!



One SERIOUS crane



The REST of the crane!



One serious STUMP

January 2018 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery & St. Simeon Church

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

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-----------|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| 5:00pm Vigil | 1 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Circumcision of our Lord/ St. Basil the Great</u> | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 7:00am Royal Hours 1:00pm Vesperal Liturgy 6:00pm Vigil | 6 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Theophany</u> 5:00pm Vigil |
| 7 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy or Typika | 8 | 9 | 10 6:00pm Vigil | 11 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Ven. Theodosius the Great</u> | 12 | 13 5:00pm Vigil |
| 14 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy or Typika | 15 | 16 | 17 6:00pm Vigil | 18 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>St. Athanasius the Great & St. Cyril of Alexandria</u> | 19 | 20 5:00pm Vigil |
| 21 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy or Typika | 22 | 23 | 24 6:00pm Vigil | 25 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>St. Gregory the Theologian</u> | 26 | 27 5:00pm Vigil |
| 28 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy or Typika | 29 | 30 | 31 | Due to major repairs at St. Simeon Church, all services are at the Monastery until further notice | | |

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday March 3
Marriage, Love, and Sexuality: A Cultural Crossroads
 led by Mother Melania

Lenten Retreat—Saturday March 3, 2018

***Marriage, Love, and Sexuality:
A Cultural Crossroads***

led by Mother Melania



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

Mother Melania is the abbess of Holy Assumption Monastery and the author of a number of children's books.