



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – March 2018

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

This month, we'd like to share a couple of verses from Matins of the Sunday of Forgiveness.

Out of the earth was I fashioned by the hand of God, and I was told in my wretchedness that to the earth I should again return. Who would not weep for me! I am cast out from God's presence and have exchanged Eden for hell.

We were banished once, O Lord, from Paradise through eating from the tree; but Thou hast led us back again, O my God and Saviour, through Thy Cross and Passion. At the intercessions of Thy Mother, give us strength through this Thy Cross to keep the Fast in holiness and to worship Thy divine Awakening, the Passover of salvation.

The first verse is put in the mouth of Adam, as he sits outside Eden and weeps for what he has lost. We can't comprehend the grief of Adam and Eve – cast out of this wondrous garden that we can't begin to imagine. Yet, they had an advantage that we don't – they KNEW what they had carelessly thrown away. Sadly, WE are so occupied with our careers, our possessions, our cell phones, etc., that we don't even NOTICE that we sit outside the shut gates of Paradise.

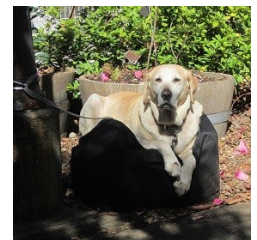
So, in Great Lent, we are invited to take honest stock of our desperate situation and to weep for ourselves and for this world that is fallen along with us. Yes, that is daunting, but only then can we approach the Fast in godly manner, embrace the Cross of Christ, die with Him, and rise to worship His “divine Awakening, the Passover of Salvation.”

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

ZOO UPDATE – A ~~Fail~~ Tale of Two Doggies

The sisters had another chance to doggy-sit Daisy the yellow Labrador. Other than somewhat of a propensity to run around the neighborhood when left to her own devices, she is the best dog in the universe. Now if only she were black, she'd also be the best candidate for best MONASTERY dog in the universe! As it is, she's always welcome for a visit 😊.



Home away from home



Tin Tin Tin – a koi's best friend

On a more “serious” note, we are sad to announce that Tin Tin Tin is missing! To our alarm, we noticed one day that he was gone from his post above the small fountain on the end of the koi pond. Where could he be? Not in the fountain. Not in the koi pond! Not behind the koi pond!! Not anywhere else in the monastery!!!

Certainly our faithful Tin Tin Tin would not have deserted his post. Is he lost? Does he have amnesia?! Was he doggie-napped?!? Whatever the explanation, we hope he finds his way home soon. We miss him!

ST. ATHANASIUS WORK PARTY

On Saturday, February 17, Fr. Stephen Howell and a group of roughly 30 parishioners from St. Athanasius Church, Sacramento, joined us for a work party. They did such a variety of things that it's hard to think of anything they DIDN'T help us with. This is now the second year in what we hope will be a very long-lived annual tradition (although semi-annual would be even better ☺). Thanks, Fr. Stephen and crew!



Would you remind us which groups we're in again?



How many bags of weeds have we pulled so far?



Take that, you weeds!



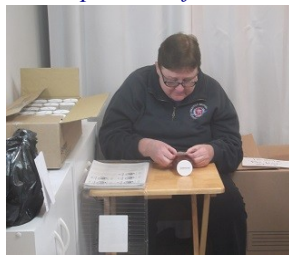
Once you finish the stairs, can you start work on St Nicholas House?



We LOVE working at the monastery!



Chef in training



And when you're finished with THAT box ...



Fr. Stephen - As I was saying ...



Stamping envelopes - it's all in the wrist!

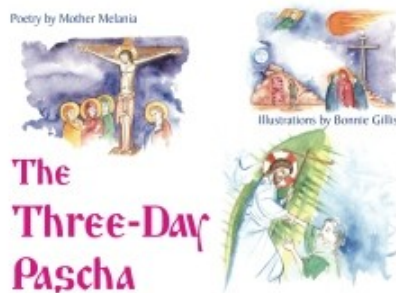
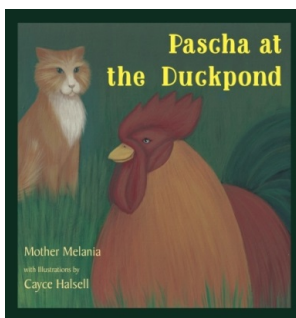


Look, Ma. One hand!



PASCHA BASKET SUGGESTIONS

Looking for something special for your Pascha Basket? Please consider shopping in our Store. Our website pictures more items, and our Store receives new items regularly! Shop early for best selection! For your convenience, we also ship items, too! To order, either stop by our Store, call or text us at 707-540-1927, or email us at sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com. Here are a few suggestions ...



March 2018 Schedule for **Holy Assumption Monastery** & **St. Simeon Church**

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

Website – www.holyassumptionmonastery.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOTE: Due to major repairs at St. Simeon Church, all services will be at the Monastery until further notice.				1	2 5:00pm Small Compline w/ the Paraklesis 6:30pm Matins	3 5:00pm Vigil <u>Soul Saturday</u>
4 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>St. Gregory Palamas</u>	5	6	7 4:00pm Pre-sanctified Liturgy	8	9 5:00pm Small Compline w/ the Paraklesis 6:30pm Matins	10 5:00pm Vigil <u>Soul Saturday</u>
11 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Veneration of the Cross</u>	12	13	14 4:00pm Pre-sanctified Liturgy	15	16 5:00pm Small Compline w/ the Paraklesis 6:30pm Matins	17 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (TENTATIVE) 5:00pm Vigil <u>Soul Saturday</u>
18 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>St. John of the Ladder</u>	19	20	21 4:00pm Pre-sanctified Liturgy	22	23 6:00pm Matins	24 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (TENTATIVE) 5:00pm Vigil <u>Akathist Saturday</u>
25 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Annunciation</u>	26	27	28 4:00pm Pre-sanctified Liturgy (TENTATIVE)	29	30 6:00pm Vigil	31 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (TENTATIVE) 5:00pm Vigil <u>Lazarus Saturday</u>

Our schedule sometimes changes unexpectedly. Please check our website or the recorded message on our telephone for last minute changes.