



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – March 2019

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

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

Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com



Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

Wednesday, February 6 is a day that will always be etched in our minds. After vespers that evening, Archbishop BENJAMIN tonsured two of our sisters as stavrophors and four as ryassaphors (see below for details). Just a few hours afterwards, Mother Olga reposed beautifully and peacefully. Newly tonsured stavrophors spend five days in the church, and when possible, the newly departed stay in the church until the funeral. So, until Friday (the day of the funeral), our newly reposed Mother Olga was in the church with our new stavrophors, Mothers Ioanna and Angelina. As monastics, we remember death daily in order to be ready to meet Christ. So, for the newly tonsured sisters to be in the church with our first sister to die and meet our Lord was profoundly beautiful and fitting.

It is also fitting that Lent is just around the corner as this is being written. Lent is a time of heightened preparation for our deaths, so that we can be beautiful of soul to meet Christ our Bridegroom. Our newly tonsured sisters have taken important new steps on their path at the same time that Mother Olga has finished hers. As we enter Lent, may we too move forward on this path that we may be beautiful of soul to meet Christ at Pascha and in the general Resurrection.

with love in Christ,

Mother Melania

and the community

of Holy Assumption Monastery

IN MEMORIAM – Mother Olga



Mother Olga always had a smile for kids

Our dear Mother Olga (formerly Sister Thekla) finished her race courageously on the evening of February 6. She had had a rough life, which left quite a few rough edges on her as well! Despite all that, she was a generous soul and a great lover of children. In her last years, she had to contend with an ever-increasing host of illnesses. Yet, the sicker she got, the more spiritual fruit she bore. In her last weeks and days, her inner beauty shone ever brighter until, at the end, she died in peace, radiant with the glory of Christ. May she stand before our Lord to intercede for us that we, too, may have such blessed ends!



Fr Innocent (Green) and Fr Lawrence (Margitich) praying the funeral service for Mother Olga



TONSURES

As Mother Olga was finishing her race, several of our sisters had just started the next lap on theirs. On February 6, after Vespers, Archbishop BENJAMIN tonsured Mothers Angelina and Ioanna (formerly Sisters Pearl and Ann) as stavrophors, and Sisters Marie, Katherine, Hannah, and Theodosia as ryassaphors. Just a few days before that, on the eve of the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, our postulant Tamara was clothed and is now a novice. We ask God's blessing on all of them as they move forward in their monastic lives!



Sister Hannah, Sister Katherine, & Sister Theodosia



Mother Melania, Mother Ioanna, Archbishop Benjamin & Mother Angelina



And some of our faithful friends and family members who joined us

ZOO UPDATE – Rain, Rain, Go Away

The heavy rains at the end of the month did not endanger our animals, but they did make zoo life temporarily more interesting! On Day 2 of precipitation from the "atmospheric river" (also known locally as a "Pineapple Express"), sisters realized it was raining *inside* the aviary; several leaks had appeared in the ceiling of the African Grays' enclosure. Fr. Steven Howell (who had come back--*in the rain*--to continue working on a fencing project) helped the sisters clear debris off the aviary roof and tarp the leaky section. Meanwhile, other sisters had to constantly monitor water levels in the koi pond (sometimes in the middle of the night). When waters crested on Tuesday evening, we had to prepare for the possibility of the pond pumps being submerged by river water. Thanks be to God, the water receded before that happened. For the cats, the rain meant different things: Simba stood sentinel indoors and out, watching the river through windows or from covered porches; while Balou curled himself up on various beds for what was essentially a three-day nap. But everyone was happy to see blue sky and sunshine when they finally reappeared!



The Napa River flooded our lower garden - Like we said, we got a LOT of rain!



This was NOT on our bucket list!



Sunrise - If I hide, will it all go away?



Balou - Just wake me up when it's over.



WORK PARTY

This past weekend, Fr. Stephen Howell and his crew from St. Athanasius Orthodox Church (Sacramento, CA) helped us clear the ground for our next major undertaking: The Permaculture Project (if you need a refresher – or a first course – on permaculture, see our [December 2016 newsletter](#), recapping Luke Currier's November 2016 permaculture workshop. As a first step in our Permaculture Project, Fr. Stephen and crew helped us prepare to plant a Biblical Garden and a vegetable garden. And if THAT's not enough, they also helped with a myriad of other tasks. Thank you, Fr. Stephen and crew. We are already busy thinking up permaculture and other projects for your NEXT visit!



Starting with prayer



Preparing the garden is hard work, but ...



... all we need is a little dogged determination!



This has been fun, but we're feeling a bit fenced in.



Inserts for packing chalice wine - Hey, we were just getting the hang of this, and now they're all done!



No monastery visit is complete without stopping at the koi pond!

March 2019 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery

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

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOTE: Our schedule sometimes changes unexpectedly. Please check our website or the recorded message on our telephone for last minute changes.					1	2 5:00pm Vigil
3 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>The Last Judgment</u>	4	5	6	7	8	9 RETREAT 9:00am-3:00pm (See flyer) 5:00pm Vigil
10 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy, followed by Forgiveness Vespers <u>Forgiveness Sunday</u>	11 6:00pm Great Canon	12 6:00pm Great Canon	13 5:00pm Pre- sanctified Liturgy ~7:30pm Great Canon	14 6:00pm Great Canon	15 1:00pm Pre- sanctified Liturgy	16 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>St. Theodore the Recruit</u> 5:00pm Vigil
17 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Triumph of Orthodoxy</u>	18	19	20 5:00pm Pre- sanctified Liturgy	21	22 1:00pm Pre- sanctified Liturgy	23 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Soul Saturday</u> 5:00pm Vigil
24 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>St. Gregory Palamas & Forefeast of Annunciation</u>	25 5:00pm Vespers Liturgy <u>Annunciation</u>	26	27 5:00pm Pre- sanctified Liturgy	28	29 1:00pm Pre- sanctified Liturgy	30 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Soul Saturday</u> 5:00pm Vigil
31 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Veneration of the Cross</u>	For our complete Lenten schedule, please see the calendar on our website & don't forget Daylight Savings Time on March 10!					

Saturday March 9 Retreat (See Flyer)

Seeking First the Kingdom: Our Lord's Teaching from the Sermon on the Mount

Conducted by Fr. Ian MacKinnon and Fr. Timothy Winegar

Lenten Retreat—Saturday March 9, 2019

Seeking First the Kingdom...Our Lord's Teaching from the Sermon on the Mount.

Conducted by Fr. Ian MacKinnon and Fr. Timothy Winegar

SEEK YE FIRST
the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness;
AND ALL THESE THINGS
shall be added unto you.

- Matthew 6: 33



9:00 AM—Session 1



10:30 AM—Session 2



12:15 PM Akathist



1 pm Lunch



2pm—Session 3



HOLY ASSUMPTION
MONASTERY



1519 Washington St.
Calistoga, CA 94515
(707) 942-6244

<http://holypassumptionmonastery.com>

No Fee—donations accepted

Call Soon—Space is limited

Fr. Ian MacKinnon is the pastor emeritus of Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Sacramento, and Father Timothy Winegar is the current pastor of the same church.