



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – February 2020

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

Lately, the term “loyal opposition” has been popping up on the internet in relation to the current political battles. Merriam-Webster’s online dictionary defines loyal opposition as “a minority party especially in a legislative body whose opposition to the party in power is constructive, responsible, and bounded by loyalty to fundamental interests and principles.” While most of us are unlikely to be members of congress or our state legislatures, this definition is worth thinking about because we all face opposition in our lives and we all have something we oppose.

When I’m the one in opposition (to a loved one, at work, in our wider community ...), is my opposition constructive and responsible? Am I loyal to fundamental interests and principles? More importantly, am I loyal to Christ, Who died for those who despised Him? If so, then I will love and pray for the persons on the other side of the divisive issue and desire not to win the argument, but to heal the breach.

As for facing opposition, do I have the humility to seriously consider people’s objections to what I say or do? Can I acknowledge the love that is often behind the comments of my family and friends? When I just plain feel attacked, can I see God’s hand in the situation, using that person to heal my hardened heart?

Personally, I know I fall short in all of this. The heartening news, though, is that God DOES use all these things to heal our hardened hearts, and He can give us the grace both to be the loyal opposition and to learn from those who oppose us.

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

ZOO UPDATE – Guest Stars



Sorry, Poofy. You’re cute, but not as cute as Maria.



When the cat’s away, the squirrels will play!



Waffles – Let me down! I have to greet all my subjects!

THEOPHANY 2020



Fr. Anthony Roeber celebrating Divine Liturgy on Theophany Eve



When Thou, O Lord, was baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest ...



The indoor Great Blessing of the Waters



Prayer of the Artoklasia



Sermon at Divine Liturgy on Theophany



Blessing the Napa River



Can the koi tell when their water's been blessed?



Careful on the steps!



And don't forget the vehicles!



HERE & THERE



St. Seraphim Feast Day at St. Seraphim Cathedral – Yay! Lots of customers!



Just because ...



Growing Mushrooms - Twenty more boxes and we'll be set for the week!



SAINT NICHOLAS HOUSE FUNDRAISING

As we enter 2020, generous donors have continued to make contributions toward the St. Nicholas House Building Fund. We currently have \$122,750 in the bank! The sisters are making plans for fundraising efforts in the new year, and by God's grace we will continue to see progress towards our \$1million goal.



February 2020 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery
 Monastery contact info – (707) 942-6244; email – sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com;
[website – http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com](http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>NOTE: Our schedule sometimes changes unexpectedly. Please check our website or the recorded message on our telephone for last minute changes.</p>						1 5 pm Vigil
2 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Meeting of the Lord</u>	3	4	5	6	7	8 5 pm Vigil
9 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Publican & Pharisee</u>	10 6 pm Vigil	11 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Hieromartyr Blaise</u>	12	13	14	15 5 pm Vigil
16 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Prodigal Son</u>	17 6 pm Vigil	18 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Leo the Great, Pope of Rome</u>	19	20	21	22 5 pm Vigil
23 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Last Judgment</u>	24	25	26	27	28 6 pm Vigil	29 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>All Righteous Monastics</u> 5 pm Vigil