



# Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – March 2020

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

Phone: 707-942-6244; Email: [sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com](mailto:sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com)

Website: [www.holyassumptionmonastery.com](http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com)



Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

As I'm writing this, Lent is almost upon us. Soon, it will be Forgiveness Sunday, when we will all ask and receive forgiveness from each other. In line with this, I encourage you all to watch this poignantly beautiful video from last October of 18-year-old Brandt Jean forgiving and hugging Amber Guyers, who killed his 26-year-old brother Botham – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeESVLQK4hw>. To speak at length about this video would just be to distract from its impact. So, I will only say this much – as we go through Lent towards the Resurrection of Christ, may God grant us all to be the kind of people who plead with tears for the opportunity to forgive!

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania  
and the community  
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

## OUR PRIESTS

The upside of not having a full-time priest is the blessing of having several priests who have lovingly served our community over the years. To the priests below and all others who have helped us – we thank God for you!



*Fr. Edward  
Henderson*



*Fr. Ian  
MacKinnon*



*Fr. James  
Jorgenson*



*Fr. John  
Takahashi*



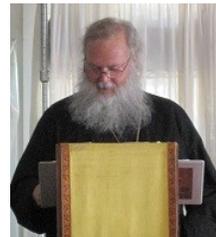
*Fr. Lawrence  
Margitich*



*Fr. Michael  
Luniv*



*Fr. Nicholas  
Carr*



*Fr. Philip  
Tolbert*



*Fr. Spyridon  
Jajeh*

## ZOO UPDATE – Hello and Goodbye

We are sorry to report that Cookie (aka Crème), the senior member of our feline community, is no longer with us. She had three happy years with us (if you don't count her imperious attitude towards Simba, which she had largely overcome by her last months). So, goodbye, Cookie. We miss you!

We are happy, though, to say hello to our guest Peanut, a long-legged Chihuahua (the first we've ever met!). He plans to stay with us for a few months (if we're nice). So, welcome!



*Our sweet little  
Cookie cat*



*Peanut – Did I  
hear someone open  
a treat bag?*

## *St. Athanasius Church, Sacramento – Annual Work Party*

On Saturday, February 22, Fr. Stephen Howell and a group of over thirty adults, teenagers, and children from St Athanasius Antiochian Orthodox Church, Sacramento, joined us once again for a day of work, talk and prayer. Every year they do huge amounts of work, and we think they couldn't possibly do more the next year. And then the next year comes, and they do! This year, they worked on the central stairway to the lower garden, finished harvesting our olives and then pruned back the trees, made a "keyhole garden" box between St. Barbara House and St. Julianna House, cleaned the aviary, polished lampadas, spruced up the grounds in general, and did various office tasks .

At lunchtime, Fr. Stephen read the lives of the saints and then did a **dramatic** reading of *Scooter Gets the Point*. After lunch, Mother Melania gave a short talk on the progression of the passions – examining how we go from entertaining certain tempting thoughts to have full-blown passions/addictions – and strategies for conquering these destructive habits. This is the fourth year now that this group has come to help us, and it is always a joy. Thanks again! See you next year!



*Fr. Stephen Howell gives marching orders*



*Receiving marching orders – Aye, aye, sir!*



*The valve to the irrigation system is in here somewhere!*



*Cleaning lampadas – These little lights of mine, I'm gonna make them shine!*



*Cleaning the aviary – Do you think the parrots will say thanks?*



*Oh, the sisters wanted a rail, too?*



*Done!*



*Cookie Monster oversees the office workers.*



*We've got it all under control.*



*See! We told you!*



*Raking olives is more fun than raking grass.*



*You missed that one over there!*



*Don't worry! I've got your back!*



*No work party is complete without a visit to the koi.*



*I didn't do it, he did! Just look at that mischievous grin!*



### **MEMORY ETERNAL, JOHN MERCHANT!**



John Merchant, owner of Indian Springs, passed away unexpectedly in January. He is sorely missed by so many people, and not least by the nuns. He was one of the earliest and most enthusiastic of our local supporters, and he was the first person to join the fundraising board for St. Nicholas House (and he heartily thanked us for the opportunity!).

When we went to his celebration of life at Indian Springs in February, we learned a lot more about him, especially his humility and his open-handedness. At the end, they played a beautiful impromptu "rap" that John had done about his life, a recurring theme being that, as successful as he had become, he was just a boy from Yakima. We came home more appreciative of this wonderful friend of ours, but also sadder about having lost our "champion." So, you can imagine how we felt when the sister in charge of our chalice wine started telling us excitedly that we had just gotten a new wine order – from Yakima! Thanks, John. You haven't forgotten us, and we'll never forget you!

## March 2020 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy  <u>Forgiveness Sunday</u>	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Great Canon	<b>3</b> 6:00pm Great Canon	<b>4</b> 5:00pm Presanctified Liturgy  ~7:30pm Great Canon	<b>5</b> 6:00pm Great Canon	<b>6</b> 10:00am Presanctified Liturgy	<b>7</b> 5:00pm Vigil
<b>8</b> 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy  <u>Triumph of Orthodoxy</u>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:00pm Presanctified Liturgy	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11:00am Presanctified Liturgy	<b>14</b> 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy  <u>Soul Saturday</u>  5:00pm Vigil
<b>15</b> 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy  <u>St. Gregory Palamas</u>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:00pm Presanctified Liturgy	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:00pm Vigil
<b>22</b> 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy  <u>Veneration of the Cross</u>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <u>Annunciation</u>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy  (TENTATIVE)  <u>Soul Saturday</u>  5:00pm Vigil
<b>29</b> 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy  <u>St. John of the Ladder</u>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>NOTE: Our schedule sometimes changes unexpectedly. Please check our website or the recorded message on our telephone for last minute changes.</b>			

SAVE THE DATE – BRIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 25

DIVINE LITURGY

followed by a Potluck & a Presentation on Bioethics by

Very Reverend Spyridon Jajeh

Clinical Pharmacist, Director of Hospital Pharmacy,

& Adjunct Professor of Pharmacy Practice