



## Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – April 2020

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

When I wrote the first draft of this message, we were waiting to see whether the country would be opened up again by (western) Easter. Now, we're looking at the end on April. That's a disappointment not just because of the extra weeks of sheltering in place but even more so because of the loss of the symbolism of reopening the country on Easter. Throughout Lent, we have had plenty of external reminders of our frailty, mortality, sinfulness, and general powerlessness. Yet, in this same period, we have also had plenty of reminders of kindness, selflessness, restraint, and forgiveness. We've even seen a bitterly divided congress manage to pass a bill for the good of the whole country (which, come to think of it, nicely exemplifies both the negative and positive aspects just listed)! So, this has truly been a national time of the "bright sadness" of Lent, and how lovely it would have been to see a resurrection of our nation on western Easter.

Yet, if we have a forty-day Lent, we also have a forty-day Paschal season. Plus, every Sunday is a little Pascha, and every Divine Liturgy is the celebration of the Resurrection. So, whenever the country does get back to normal (or as close to normal as it's going to get), Christ will be right there in His Resurrected glory. The question is, where will WE be?

Will this prove to be a time of healing and resurrection for our nation? I hope so, but of course, I don't know. I do know, however, that this can be a time of healing and resurrection for ME, if I am willing to repent. If I do that, it can be a time of healing and resurrection for the people who have to live with me! And if we all start living the life of Resurrection, what will that look like? I don't know that either, but let's all repent and find out! May God grant us a blessed remainder of this time of bright sadness, and may we all see the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania  
and the community  
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

### **ZOO UPDATE – Meet Goolya**



*Just so you know,  
this is MY zebra!*

*Carrying capacity: the maximum population size of a species that an environment can sustain indefinitely, given the food, habitat, water, and other necessities available in the environment.*

The feline carrying capacity of Holy Assumption Monastery seems to be four cats. With Cookie no longer with us, it was just a matter of time before a new kitty showed up. So, please meet Goolya (named after St. John Maximovitch's beloved dove companion – <http://www.pravmir.com/st-john-maximovitch-and-the-dove/>). She is happily settling in to her new abode. It remains to be seen where she'll fit in the cat hierarchy. But she came with the description "saucy." So, we're betting on her to climb the hierarchy fast!



*Next time, get me a  
BIGGER house!*

## AROUND THE MONASTERY



*A rose by any other name*



*Who's bathing in here? Hint – Ernie from Sesame Street sang about their cousin.*



*The inorganic garden*

## BAKING KULICH FOR PASCHA



*I LOVE making dough*



*I hope these come out!*



*Yay! Success!*



## CALENDAR ?????

### April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
?	?	?	?	?	?	?
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in keeping with Archbishop BENJAMIN's directives, our services are currently closed to everyone except the sisters. For details of those directives and further updates, please check out [www.dowoca.org](http://www.dowoca.org). In the meantime, we are live-streaming all of our services on our facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/holyassumptionmonastery/>. It's been a learning curve for us, but we've been touched by the kind response of our friends. And it's been a blessing for us to be able to do this small thing to stay close to our wider family who can't currently join us physically. May God grant us a speedy end to these uncertain times and bring our friends back to us soon!

*P.S. The Bright Saturday Liturgy, potluck, and talk on bioethics by Fr. Spyridon Jajeh on Saturday April 25 seems very unlikely at this point, but hope springs eternal! We'll keep you updated!*