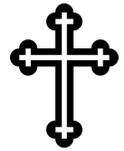




HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

"Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!"

With these words, both St. John the Baptist and Jesus started their ministries.

To be honest, the first things these words bring to mind for me is a dreary sense that I'm not what I ought to be and an even drearier sense that I ought to do something about it. But that's because I don't really understand repentance in the depths of my heart. Repentance is a turning back towards God, re-entry into the Kingdom of God after living as an outcast. Yes, the road is difficult, but it ends in God's Kingdom. Not only that, but the Kingdom breaks into our dreary little world along the road, any time that we allow it to do so.

Our country has been undergoing great difficulties for a while now, and it's easy to rail about how the OTHER side refuses to see the error of their ways. Well, there is plenty of error to go around, but I've never had any success convincing other people why they are wrong and I am right! I CAN, however, embrace repentance myself. If I do, I will learn how to embrace others as well. And who knows? They may join me on the road of repentance. And if we keep walking this road, we shall find ourselves - like the Prodigal Son - in the embrace of our heavenly Father, Who has been patiently waiting to welcome us all back home into His Kingdom.

with love in Christ,

Mother Melania and the sisters

January Zoom Talk with Fr. Spyridon Jajeh



On Saturday January 9, Fr. Spyridon Jajeh gave a Zoom talk entitled The Killing of the Innocents: Herod and Abortion. In a nutshell, he was contrasting Herod's attitude of total self-centeredness and a lack of concern for human life, etc. with God's love of all people and His care for infants and those still in the womb (beautifully shown by many scriptural passages speaking of how God knew His saints while they were still in the womb and called them even before they were formed in the womb!) The more self-oriented our culture has become, the more we want to be our own gods and thus our own arbiters of right and wrong.

And to help us along with that goal, we have redefined terms or used new ones to avoid realizing what we are doing (abortion sounds much better than killing an infant in the womb). This conversation was a painful one, but it must be had - NOT to condemn anybody, but to help us see our sins (both personal and national) for what they are so that we can truly repent. We ALL have things that we need to repent deeply of, and when our sins aren't the 'big' ones, we tend to think WE are okay.

But if we're thinking that, we need to remember that Jesus was compassionate with most sinners - the ones He was harsh with were the hypocrites and the arrogant. So, if that's where we are, we have the MOST need to repent. But the good news is that deep repentance is the entrance into eternal joy!

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Watch-cat on duty

ZOO UPDATE - Philly the Night Watch-cat

Of all our cats, Philly is the most outdoorsy. Well, not in the sense of the long, lean hiker type. But he strongly dislikes being indoors, and he wanders far and wide. We often see him crossing the street, returning from his travels to who knows where. Despite his wanderlust, though, he can reliably be found at night guarding the premises and magically showing up to protect any sister who happens to be outside. True, Philly looks like an unlikely protector, but he HAS been known to protect damsel kitties in distress. So, marauders, beware! Philly the Night Watch-Cat is on guard!



Theophany 2021

Blessing the Monastery



The outdoor blessing of the waters - blessing the Napa River



O Christ our God, Who hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!



If we bless the tool shed, will the tools stop developing legs?



Blessing the koi pond - the fish love being blessed, too!



Outing to Clear Lake

Ice Cream Break



Philly is not the only one who goes out into the great outdoors.



Speaking of the great outdoors ...



We don't actually like ice cream 😊. We're just supporting local business!



CALENDAR

SUNDAYS - Hours/Divine Liturgy at 9:40AM/10:00AM

TUESDAY FEB 02 (Tentative) - Hours/Divine Liturgy 8:40/9:00AM

ZOOM RETREATS

SAT. FEB 13, 10AM-12PM - Fr. Anthony Roeber, From One Day to More than 40: Preparing for Pascha

SAT. MAR 13, 10AM-12PM - TBA