



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

The uttermost abyss hath surrounded us, and there is none to deliver us. We are accounted as lambs for the slaughter. Save Thy people, O our God, for Thou art the strength and correction of the weak.

- Tone 1, Thursday, Canon of the Holy Apostles, Ode 6

We sing this all the time, but recently I was struck by the phrase "Thou art the strength and correction of the weak." The word translated here as 'correction' - ἐπανόρθωσις - can also mean, among other things, upright position. 'Upright position' might seem to make more sense in the context of God delivering us from the abyss or from those who would slaughter us. So, God Who is our strength sets us up straight from the abyss we've fallen into or from the slaughter awaiting us.

But in my case at least, I don't just accidentally fall into the pit or the slaughter. I have always been at least partially responsible for whatever mess I've gotten myself into. So, if I am going to stand upright again, I not only need strength, but also correction. Yet, the more pits I fall into, the more I realize that I have no strength or ability to set myself upright or correct myself. But God Himself not only gives us strength and correction - He IS that strength and correction. May God grant me to remember that the next time I fall into a pit of my own making!

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania and the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - A Squirrely Adventure

We had quite the adventure when a young squirrel either fell out of a tree or ventured down and couldn't figure out how to get back up. Apparently, nobody ever told him that he was supposed to be afraid of people because when he saw the sisters, he proceeded to crawl onto their feet and then up into their arms.

The sisters were concerned whether he'd be able to get back into the tree and whether his mother would accept him. It was a relief when he managed to get halfway up the tree and his mother carried him back to the nest. So, all's well that ends well, but we hope he'll be more careful next time!



I love everyone - even humans!

Chalice Wine Update



Our 2019 Premium Chalice Wine is available! Of a production of 150 cases, we have already sold over 30 in a few weeks! If you're interested in either our Premium or Standard Chalice Wine, please see the winery's website - calistogaorthodoxwine.com/wines

CALENDAR

THURSDAY September 8, Nativity of the Theotokos; Hours/Divine Liturgy, 8:40AM/9AM

WEDNESDAY September 14, Elevation of the Holy Cross; Hours/Divine Liturgy, 8:40AM/9AM (tentative)

SUNDAYS - Divine Liturgy, 10AM

for other services, please see our website

ZOOM RETREATS

September 10 - Fr. Anthony Roeber; Reflections on The Cross: Giving commandments of salvation, He released us from the delusion of idols

October 8 - to be announced

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DORMITION 2022

What a joy, after two years of very subdued celebrations, to be able to celebrate our Feast Day with so many of our friends! We were greatly blessed to have Archbishop BENJAMIN and Fr. Timothy Winegar with us for vigil on Sun Aug 14. We were further blessed for the Liturgy on Mon Aug 15, when His Eminence was joined by Fr. Kirill Sokolou, Fr. Andrew Smith, Fr. Nicholas Carr, and Fr. Innocent Green. As always, Fr. Stephan Meholic joined us in the choir. Our thanks to them and to all our friends who added greatly to the joy of the Feast!



Neither the tomb nor death could hold the Theotokos!



Fr. Andrew, Fr. Innocent, His Eminence, Fr. Kirill, Fr. Nicholas

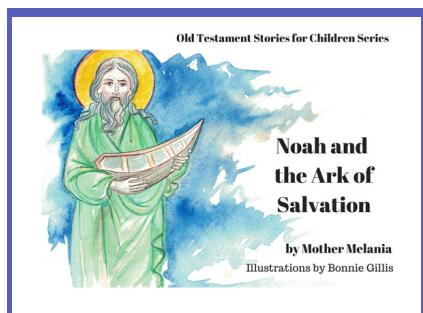
Let us sing to the LORD!



Festal procession

Always a joy to wonder how we're going to fit everyone in!

KIDS BOOK CORNER



By the middle of this month, *Noah and the Ark of Salvation* should be available on Amazon and at our bookstore. With that, we will have finished re-publishing all of our out-of-print books. Then, we will need to get serious about getting out new books and even new series. So, stay tuned!

ST NICHOLAS HOUSE UPDATE

As of this writing (Aug 30), the foundation is complete and by next week we should be seeing an actual building rise. It's still hard to believe after all these years that this is becoming a reality!

Fundraising is still critically important, and we will be announcing our final fundraiser of the year in October. Please consider planning ahead to give substantially, so the building can be paid for with the same rapidity we see it being built!



Blessing the work site



Cool machinery!



Did we mention that we like cool machinery?



Cool machinery does cool things!