



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY



APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

When you open Bank of America's cell phone app, it says, "What would you like the power to do?" Hmm. A list of things too embarrassing to admit springs to mind. For example, wouldn't it be nice to develop chocolate that you can eat ten times a day without gaining weight? Or to have the power to make everybody happy with me all the time? But in my saner moments, I know that the only two things I NEED the power to do are to love God with all my heart and soul and mind and strength and to love my neighbor as myself. The good news is that Christ gave us that power by His crucifixion and resurrection. The 'bad' news is that I have to share in the crucifixion in order to attain to the resurrection. But the Cross is Christ's glory, and if we take up our own crosses and follow Him, we will be perfected in selfless love, which IS His glory. And that, in the end, is the only power worth having!

with love in Christ,

Mother Melania and the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - Goolya and Frisco



Ahhh! Peace and quiet!



Oops! Spoke too soon!



Scram, Kid!



Goolya wins the day!

CALENDAR

SUNDAYS - Divine Liturgy, 10AM

LENTEN WEEKDAY SCHEDULE (when there is no Pre-sanctified Liturgy)
5:30am Matins, 12:15pm 6th Hour, 4:00pm Vespers, 6:00pm Great Compline

for other services, please see our website

ZOOM RETREATS

THERE WILL BE NO ZOOM TALK IN APRIL

SAT. MAY 14, 10AM-12PM: His Grace, Bishop DANIEL
Topic To Be Announced

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515
Phone: (707) 942-6244; Email: sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com
Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com

MARCH 2022 ZOOM TALK

On Saturday, March 12, Fr. Anthony Roeber spoke on the role of the “Presanctified Liturgy” in the Orthodox understanding of a “Eucharistic ecclesiology.” Fr. Anthony began with the question of whether and for how long the Orthodox have thought of the Eucharist as the central axis or cohesive Mystery of the Church.



We would like to know in more detail how the earliest Christians not only thought about the Eucharist, but how often they received the Mystery. Aside from the Apostle St. Paul’s brief observations in his first letter to the Corinthians, and the comments in the Didache or “Teaching” of the Apostles, we can only conclude that early Christians insisted upon being reconciled with one another, and that only the baptized and chrismated were permitted to receive the Mystery, the “thanksgiving” (Eucharist) repeated throughout the Orthodox Christian’s life in preparation for eternal life. We know that St. Ignatius of Antioch pleaded with his people to remain gathered around the Eucharist with their bishop, the presbyters, and deacons. But this still does not tell us too much about the details or frequency of the Eucharist in early Christianity. By the fourth century, St. Ambrose of Milan urged his catechumens in Milan, Italy to receive perhaps even daily and not to abstain from receiving when attending Liturgy, a practice he lamented as now increasingly common among Greek-speaking Christians. Over the centuries, regular and frequent reception by the laity may have declined as clerics became more identified with the political elites and adequate catechesis about preparation and reception of the Eucharist also failed. The recovery of both teaching and reception began in the 1700s in parts of the Orthodox world, but reception of the Eucharist at all liturgies the faithful attend has only become more common in the last 100 years.

We then turned to the Presanctified Liturgy, which is now celebrated in the Orthodox world only in Lent and Holy Week on Wednesdays and in some traditions on Fridays. Fr. Anthony traced the origins of this Vespers-with-Eucharist Liturgy, explaining why the Church considers it inappropriate to celebrate joyously during the solemnity of the Lenten Fast. Initially this liturgy was offered Monday through Friday before declining to only Wednesdays and Fridays. The inclusion of litanies specifically for the catechumens preparing for Baptism and Chrismation heightens the identification of the faithful with the catechumens in the Presanctified Liturgy. Despite the pious identification of the Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy with Pope St. Gregory of Rome, the Latin West did not contribute to the Eastern form of a Presanctified Liturgy. In the West, the Presanctified Liturgy is offered only on Great and Holy Friday.

Participants asked several questions about the priest's actions surrounding the Presanctified Lamb on the previous Sunday and the rituals surrounding the final prayers leading up to the communing of the faithful at the Presanctified Liturgy. Others asked about the ways in which the faithful should prepare for receiving the Eucharist, and more questions were posed about the long history of eucharistic reception and how those patterns have affected how the Orthodox understand what is meant by “the Church.”

<https://holyassumptionmonastery.com/march122022aeucharisticunderstandingofthechurch>

CHILDREN'S BOOKS CORNER

Bad Dog, Scooter! is currently under review by Amazon and we hope the paperback will be live within the next few days! Either way, it is available NOW as a PDF or a MOBI (Kindle) file at bit.ly/BadDogScooterBookFunnel By downloading it, you will be joining Mother Melania's new email list, which will focus particularly on her books. Also, for a sneak preview of a new webpage for her books, check out bit.ly/MMChildrensBooks



THE DIVINE SERVICES

We are ever grateful to God for the clergy who so generously donate their time to serve here.

Below are just two of the many clergy who have blessed us with their presence and service over the years. May God bless them all abundantly for their sacrificial love!



Fr. Nicholas Carr
Vespers Liturgy
Annunciation



Fr. Florin Lapustea
Divine Liturgy
Sunday of the Cross

SUPRASL 2022

A WORLD GATHERING
OF ORTHODOX YOUTH

July 18-24, 2022
Supraśl, Poland



Holy Assumption Monastery is excited to offer two sponsorships for Orthodox young adults (18-30) to **Suprasl2022**

Suprasl2022 is an international Orthodox youth festival hosted by the Orthodox Church of Poland and the Fellowship of Orthodox Youth in Poland with the blessing of His Beatitude Metropolitan Sava and His Eminence Archbishop George of Wrocław and Szczecin.

The aim of the festival is to bring together dedicated youth workers and young adults from Orthodox churches world wide to experience the unity and universality of the One Holy Church and to stimulate each other in the field of youth ministry.

Please visit <https://www.suprasl2022.org> for more information

The sponsorship application form is available at <https://holyassumptionmonastery.com>

Complete applications will include 1) the application form;

- 2) a personal statement describing how will you benefit from participation, and how you envision bearing the fruit of your experience within your home community;
- 3) a letter of recommendation from your parish priest; and
- 4) a simple description of your financial need

Sponsorships will cover festival fees and travel, up to \$1000

Recipients will be asked to give an online presentation after the festival about their experience

Application Deadline: April 15, 2022

Mail to: Holy Assumption Monastery

Attn: Suprasl2022

1519 Washington Street

Calistoga, CA 94515

Or submit via email to

sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com

