



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

When I talk to people who are having relationship problems, they often express frustration that people are still calling them out for problem behaviors that they have been working hard to change. Interestingly, though, they don't usually phrase it that way. They are more likely to say "I haven't done that in months!" There are a million ways to go with this observation. Don't worry, though. I'll limit myself to three!

First, these problem areas have usually also been major blind spots for us. Sight doesn't get restored all at once. So, we shouldn't be surprised that there are still blind spots where there was once an entire blind swath!

Second, the more progress we make, the harder the rest of the problem is. Think of the expression "Low-hanging fruit." Once you've got the low-hanging fruit, it's time to get out the step stool, then the step ladder, then those scary long ladders that make me shudder to think about!

Third, if you're the one who is fussing at the poor souls who really ARE trying, give them a break. Blind spots don't die easy and long ladders are awfully daunting. Oh, and if you're feeling particularly brave, ask somebody you trust where YOUR blind spots are. I guarantee that you have some. We all do, you know!

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE - COME & SEE!

OPEN HOUSE AT DORMITION - August 15

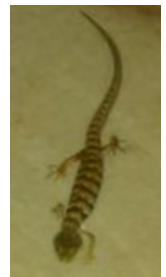
Please join us for Dormition (see attached invitation) and visit our beautiful St. Nicholas House, which God has graciously provided through your support.



ZOO UPDATE: Guest Critters, Guest Monastery

In early July, two of the sisters spent a week at St. John Monastery in Manton and brought back pictures of some of the critters there - including Fiona the lizard who graciously allowed one of the sisters to share her favorite room!

Right - Fiona taking a leisurely stroll



Zusha taking a well-earned rest from protecting the monastery from balls & sticks



Why is Fiona allowed inside, but we aren't?

AUGUST CALENDAR

SUNDAYS -Liturgy at 10am on August 20. Other Sundays tentative

For the rest of our calendar, please see our website

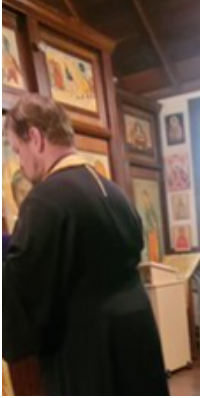
1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

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

Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com

TONSURING OUR SISTERS

On Thursday, July 13, we had the honor and joy of having Archbishop BENJAMIN and Bishop GERASIM here to tonsure three of our sisters. Sister Priskilla is now Mother Birgitta, Sister Hannah is Mother Anna, and Sister Theodosia is Mother Elizabeth. May you be saved in the angelic habit!



Fr. Kirill
Sokolov



Bishop GERASIM &
Archbishop BENJAMIN



Fr Lawrence Margitich
with the choir



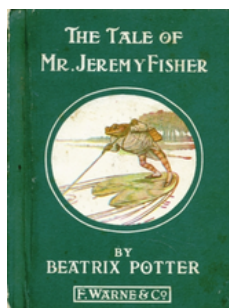
Save them,
O Christ God!

BOOK UPDATES

We are very close to finishing *Quiz Yourself on the Torah* book and on our way with *Quiz Yourself on the Book of Joshua*. We have various other things in the pipeline, but considering our current record, we'll tell you about those later!

Also, please check out the August issue of *Mother Melania's Monthly Missive* [here](#).

This month's featured book is *The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher*. Mr. Jeremy is a good-natured frog who goes fishing for minnows to provide a meal for his friends. He doesn't catch minnows and experiences a near catastrophe, but still manages to feed his guests. Join us and meet this delightful frog.



A CONCRETE PROJECT



Getting there



Cookie Monster oversees the work



Success!

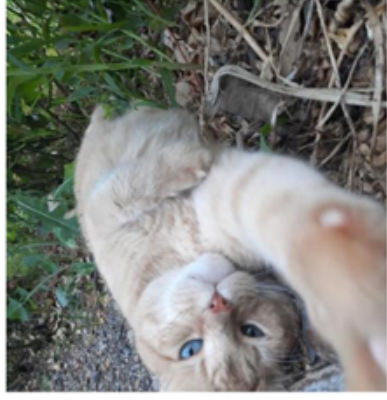
LAVENDER HARVEST *STILL* COMING UP

Due to unusual weather, the lavender is only now reaching its peak for oil harvest. So, harvest is planned for Thursday August 3 (and, if necessary, Friday August 4). If you see this before Thursday and absolutely WANT to join us, let us know!



Yes, this is the same picture from last month.
Just checking to see if you're paying attention!

**FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS AT
HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY**



Monday, August 14th, 5 pm Vigil
followed by hospitality



1519 Washington Street
Calistoga, CA 94515

Tuesday, August 15th, 8:40 Hours
9 am Divine Liturgy,
Festal luncheon following

RSVP (707) 942-4658

sisters@holypassumptionmonastery.com