



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

One of the readings of the Vespereal Liturgy for Annunciation includes these words by St. Elizabeth, the Mother of John the Baptist. "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people" (Luke 1:25). I've always been struck by the previously childless couples whom God blessed with children in their old age. The blessing of the healing of their barrenness went hand-in-hand with reproaches during the decades previous to the child's conception and birth. It reminds me of these words of Christ:

"Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."
(Mark 10:29-31)

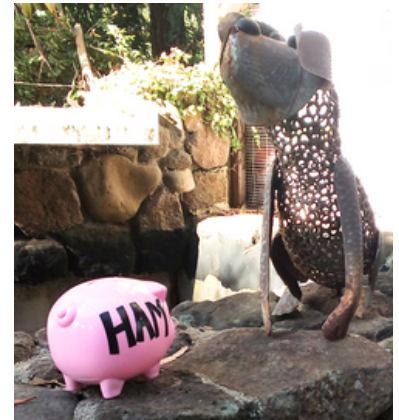
Simply put, it is a spiritual principle that the attainment of heavenly riches involves the loss (and better yet, the willing renunciation) of earthly fame, comfort, etc.

So, as we continue our Lenten disciplines of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, let us remember to do so not in self-flagellation or in self-congratulation, but rather by joyfully tossing away the things that keep us barren of good works, that we may bear righteous fruit and rejoice eternally with our Lord and all His faithful!

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - This Little Piggy

Just when we were wondering what to write about in this month's Zoo Update, who arrives in the mail but this little Piggy Bank? HAM is the acronym for Holy Assumption Monastery. So, when one of our friends (who MAY just hail from St Barbara Monastery) received this Piggy Bank, she boxed him up and sent him to live with us.



Don't worry, Tin Tin Tin. When the treasury is full, we will feed you up and you won't feel so hollow inside!

We promptly named him Alexander Hamilton and solemnly promised never to use his funds to buy ham, bacon, pork chops, etc. Hmm. Maybe a ham version of Tofurky, though?

CROSS DEDICATION

As mentioned last month, now that the Community Presbyterian Church has been converted to the Brannan Center, we have been entrusted with the cross that stood atop the church from 1872 to 2023.

A small dedication ceremony will be held on Saturday April 6, 11am. Please join us if you can!



APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday Divine Liturgies, 10am (April 14, 21, 28)
(April 7 will be Typika service at 10am)

For other services, please see our online calendar

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DEDICATING ST KATHERINE LIBRARY

Dedicating individual cells and other spaces to specific saints is a common custom in monasteries. In keeping with this tradition, we have asked various close friends and major supporters to name the various cells and other rooms in the new St Nicholas House.

Among the many people who gave to St Nicholas House was Porter Lynch - a teenager who contributed his cat-sitting money despite not even knowing us at the time. Deeply touched by such generosity, we asked him to name our library - as a way to thank both him and all those who have contributed their widow's mites. We are profoundly grateful to you all!

When we asked Porter to name the library, he actually researched saints to determine who would be a suitable patron of a library. Among those he determined on was St. Katherine, who is a great fit due to her erudition. Not only that, but Porter's twin sister is named Katherine. So, that was an easy choice!

To Porter, his parents and all who love and help us - many, many thanks. You've no idea how much you mean to us!



Porter with his parents Christopher and Brenda and a motley crew of nuns!



In front of the icon of St Katherine

Zhavoronki

For the past couple of years, we have been following the Russian tradition of baking zhavoronki - sweet bread buns traditionally baked to celebrate the 40 Martyrs of Sebaste (March 9). Shaped like larks, zhavoronki symbolize the arrival of spring, as larks are the first birds to appear in Russia during this season.



Why didn't WE rate high enough to get into the ZOO UPDATE?

BOOK UPDATES

I Kings (III Kingdoms) is available as a Kindle book through the end of April for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00. I seem to be on a roll with the Bible quizzes (though pride does go before a fall!), and I'm even hoping to get back to some of my other projects before I turn 100! Stay tuned to see how I do!

QUIZ YOURSELF ON I KINGS (III KINGDOMS)

Quizzes from Easy-Peasy to Mega-Master



MOTHER MELANIA SALEM

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

Classic Kids' Books:

The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse

Thomasina Tittlemouse is "a most terribly tidy particular little mouse." Much to her chagrin, she is beset by a houseful of uninvited and decidedly NOT tidy guests. How does she rid herself of them? Is her house ever clean again? Join us and find out!



For a free copy of *The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse*, click [here](#)