



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

When I'm texting on my phone, I often use the swipe function instead of hitting each letter separately. Usually, the phone does a decent job of figuring out what I'm trying to swipe, but often it gives me unexpected results. Recently, I swiped 'tomorrow' and the first result was 'ribeye,' followed by 'together,' 'Roberts,' and 'Rochelle.' I tried again and DID get 'tomorrow,' followed by 'thinks,' 'things,' and 'Roberts.' Not sure who Roberts is, but my phone seems to be thinking of him lately!

I've noticed, though, that if I keep swiping a word, my phone gets better and better at recognizing what I am trying to say. It's an open question whether the higher success rate is due to me or my phone!

The older I get, the more I realize how much miscommunication occurs even among close friends and relatives. Unlike phones, we do sometimes get tempted to give up on communicating with each other. So, here are three good rules - 1. Give the other person the benefit of the doubt that they ARE trying to communicate and they're not intent on being unkind, 2. Never assume that the miscommunication is all on the other side, 3. Try first and foremost to communicate the Love of Christ.

If we do these things - especially the last one - we will probably find out 1. we're not the great communicators that we thought we were, 2. our friends have better motives than we give them credit for, 3. the more we communicate the love of Christ, the less insistent we get on making sure everybody else understands US!

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - Friends at Last?

For nearly a year now, Petie and Sunrise have been living amicably (well, amicably enough) in the aviary. We've even seen them just hanging out together. Hmmm. If they can do that after all these years, there's hope for the rest of us!



Yes, we HAVE been known to hang out together of our own accord, but a bribe of peanuts never hurts!

Do You Still Want the Print Newsletter?

Starting in March, we will reduce our print newsletter list. To receive our e-newsletter, contact us or sign up on our webpage. If you still want the print newsletter, please let us know by phone, mail or email (see info below). Thank you!

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday Divine Liturgies, 10am (February 4, 21, 28)
(February 11 is still tentative)

For other services, please see our calendar

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THEOPHANY 2024



When Thou, O Lord, was baptized in the Jordan ...



Vespers Liturgy



Outdoor blessing of the waters - O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!



Blessing the monastery



Theophany Liturgy



Indoor blessing of the waters

ZOO UPDATE 2



Philly the Guard Cat hard at work - really!

BOOK UPDATES

I've finally finished *I Samuel (I Kingdoms)*! It is available as a [Kindle book](#) through the end of February for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$2.99. If all goes well, *II Samuel* will be out NEXT month! I haven't gotten very far on the *Monastery Birds Coloring Book*, but maybe I'll get THAT done, too! Hope springs eternal!

QUIZ YOURSELF ON I SAMUEL (I KINGDOMS)

Quizzes from Easy-Peasy to Mega-Master



MOTHER MELANIA SALEM

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

Benjamin Bunny, his wife Flopsy, and their children (the Flopsy bunnies) are improvident but cheerful. So, when the long-suffering Peter Rabbit has no cabbages to spare, Benjamin and the bunnies decide to raid Mr McGregor's rubbish heap. To their delight, they find a lot of lettuce, which they love, but which also puts rabbits to sleep.

Mr. McGregor finds them asleep and his intentions aren't quite benevolent! Do they escape? Do they learn their lesson at last? Join us and find out!

For a free copy of *The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies*, click [here](#)

