



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

I was driving on a country road a month or so ago and saw a road sign that said something like "Do not litter. It's our law." That struck me, because the usual language would be "It's THE law." How much difference that one word makes! "THE law" is an impersonal thing that constricts me against my will. "OUR law" is an organic part of who we are as members of each other.

Sadly, though, our culture is so divided (at least at the national discussion level) that we see "us against them" instead of just "us." And many people feel that they ARE dealing with "THE law," not "OUR law."

I'm not going to solve our national problems, but I know in the depths of my heart that, as members of the Body of Christ, we can confidently live by OUR unchanging Law, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind ... and ... your neighbor as yourself.' To do this is our challenge, our honor, and our joy, whether others reciprocate or not.

But I strongly suspect that if we do follow OUR Law--the Law of Our Lord--we may just find that our culture becomes more and more US and less and less them.

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - a message from Philly



Fluffy



Not fat!!!!

I'm Philly the cat,
I'm fluffy, not fat!
When no one believes me
It really can grieve me.

But then comes a day
When I'm needing a shave,
And they see they've been wrong -
I've been thin all along!

Yet my triumphs don't last
For my fur grows so fast
That soon I'm right back
Where I started, alack!

But I've learned to accept
This cruel fate for I've kept
In my mind this one fact--
I'm a marvelous cat!

CROSS DEDICATION - Saturday April 6, 11am

One of the most beloved landmarks of Calistoga is the cross that stood atop the Community Presbyterian Church from 1872 to 2023. When the church building was converted to the Brannan Center, we received this historic cross as a sacred trust.

We are currently preparing the area where the cross will stand and plan a small dedication ceremony on Saturday April 6, 11am. Anybody who can join us is very welcome to do so.



MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday Divine Liturgies - 10am

Clean Week: Great Compline with the Canon of St Andrew, Monday March 18 - Thursday March 21, 6pm

Friday March 22 - Pre-sanctified Liturgy 10:30am

Monday March 25 - Annunciation Vespertal Liturgy, 5pm

Please see our website for the rest of our services for March

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Santa Rosa Premiere Showing of 'Sacred Alaska'

With Director Simon Scionka for a Q and A after the film.

Showing at Summerfield Cinemas - 551 Summerfield Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95405
Tuesday, April 9th, 2024. Seating begins at 6:30 PM and film begins at 7:00 PM.

Sacred Alaska is an award-winning documentary that offers an intimate look into Native Alaskan culture and spirituality. It showcases the profound influence of Orthodoxy, introduced by Russian monks in the late 18th century, on Alaskan society. The film highlights the unique way Alaskans have woven their indigenous beliefs with Orthodox traditions, deeply influencing their worldview. Central to this is the concept of learning to become a "real person." Through beautiful cinematography and powerful storytelling, "Sacred Alaska" underscores the profound, sacred bond between the Alaskan people, their faith, and the formidable landscape they call home.

- The director of the film, Simon Scionka, has graciously agreed to be available for discussion after the film.
- With the blessing of His Grace Bishop Alexei of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska, all donations and proceeds will benefit the Alaskan priests to travel to the homeland of St Innocent of Alaska
- Donations can be offered [here](#). Every bit of the donation goes directly to the priests' fund for this pilgrimage. All donations amounts are appreciated.
- Tickets can be purchased here: [Sacred Alaska Tickets](#)
- Official website of the movie: <https://sacredalaskafilm.com/>

HERE & THERE

St. Athanasius Church, Sacramento,
Work Party - Saturday, February 24



We're ready to work! Let's go!



A silver cleaner's work
is never done



Weed patrol
extraordinaire!

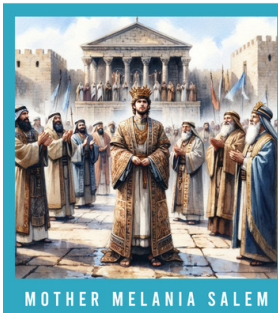
BOOK UPDATES

Quiz Yourself on the Book of II Samuel (II Kingdoms) is available now until the end of March for \$0.99 as a [Kindle book](#). It is also available as a printed booklet for \$2.99 at the monastery book store.

The parrot coloring book is still under construction - no doubt because the birds have not been nearly as insistent about seeing themselves in print as the cats were!

QUIZ YOURSELF ON II SAMUEL (II KINGDOMS)

Quizzes from Easy-Peasy to Mega-Master



Also, please check out the [March issue of Mother Melania's Monthly Missive](#), featuring Beatrix Potter's *Tale of Ginger and Pickles*. Ginger and Pickles' store is the most popular shop in the village - because they extend unlimited credit. Unfortunately, when they can't pay their debts, they close the store and 'make their living' by preying on their former customers!



Is that the end of the story? Does anybody learn anything from this unfortunate experience? Join us and find out!