



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

The other day, I was talking with somebody who was feeling very down about how her life has gone and is going, and she said with grief, "There must be something wrong with me." When people say that, they seem to mean "There is something inherently wrong and completely unfixable in me."

But the Cross and Resurrection of Christ tell us this: There is something inherently wrong with all of us, but Christ died to heal this native wound of mankind. He has made the Life of God available to all of us, and the only thing unfixable thing is our refusal to admit our deep brokenness.

So, as we journey with Christ through the remaining days of Holy Week towards Pascha, let's be unrelenting both in our recognition of our sins and in our trust that the One Who died and rose for us intends for us to share in His eternal glory - if we will only let Him.

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - Goodbye, Bubbles

We are sorry to report that Bubbles, our parakeet, has died. When she came to us in 2016 her name was Crackle (as one of a trio of parakeets that we dubbed Snap, Crackle, and Pop). Snap and Pop died a couple of years after they came, and her caretaker decided she needed a new name. Not sure where the name "Bubbles" came from, but that has been her name ever since. We will miss her sweet voice and chirpy (quite literally 😊) personality. Goodbye, Bubbles. You were a great bird!



Bubbles: equal parts sweet & beautiful

A VISIT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SACRED ALASKA



We looked even happier after the movie!

Simon Scionka, the director of the wonderful movie *Sacred Alaska*, visited the monastery in conjunction with a screening held in Santa Rosa on Tuesday, April 9. *Sacred Alaska* is a beautiful documentary about the Alaskan saints and the piety of the Orthodox Alaskan faithful.

If that's not enough to encourage you to check it out, the cinematography is stunning! To learn more, go to <https://sacredalaskafilm.com/>

MAY CALENDAR

Great & Holy Thursday - Vespertal Liturgy 10 am; 12 Gospels Matins 6 pm

Great & Holy Friday - Royal Hours 8 am; Vespers 3 pm; Lamentations Matins 6 pm

Great & Holy Saturday - no Vespertal Liturgy here; Midnight Office 11:30 pm

Pascha - Paschal Matins & Divine Liturgy 12 am; Agape Vespers 11 am

May Sundays except for Pascha are still tentative. For those and all other services, please see our online calendar.

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CROSS DEDICATION

On Saturday, April 6, we dedicated the Cross that stood atop the Presbyterian Church for 150 years until it was taken down when work began to convert the Church building into the Brannan Center. We are honored to have been given this historic cross in trust. Our thanks to Pastor David Moon-Wainwright, the last pastor at the Presbyterian Church, for his written words; to Paul Coates, who first asked us if we would accept the cross in trust and who installed the cross in its new home; to Fr Lawrence Margitich and Fr Stephen Howell, who did the cross blessing; and to all who came for the service. May this cross stand long after we are all gone to remind all who pass by of the high calling to take up our crosses and follow the One Who took up His Cross for love of us.



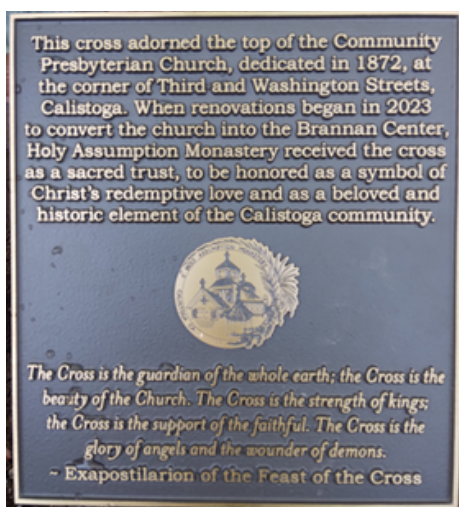
Fr Lawrence Margitich and Fr Stephen Howell



Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master



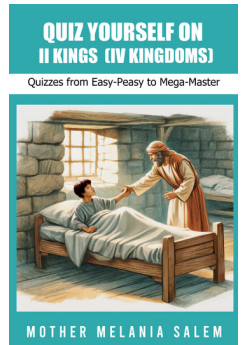
The Cross in its new home



The plaque explaining the significance of the Cross

BOOK UPDATES

II Kings (IV Kingdoms) is available as a Kindle book through the end of May for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00. I'm still trying to get back to my other projects. But it's not going to happen this month 😞.



On the other hand, my stated goal last month was to get to them before I turn 100. So, I still have time left! I may even get back on track before I turn 90!

Also, please check out the May issue of Mother Melania's Monthly Missive, which focuses on Beatrix Potter's "The Tale of Timmy Tiptoes."

Classic Kids' Books:

The Tale of Timmy Tiptoes

Timmy and Goody Tiptoes are minding their own business when the other squirrels mistake a bird's meaningless song of "Who's been digging up MY nuts?" to mean that Timmy and Goody are stealing their nuts. The other squirrels stuff Timmy into a woodpecker hole where Timmy and Goody had been storing their nuts. There Timmy meets Chippy Hackee, a chipmunk who goads Timmy into eating so many nuts that he has no hope of getting through the woodpecker hole back to his beloved Goody.

Does Timmy get out of the woodpecker hole? How about Chippy Hackee? Join us and find out!



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