HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Have you ever heard of kingsugi? Literally "golden joinery," kintsugi is "the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with urushi lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum ... As a philosophy, it treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise." (Thanks, Wikipedia!)

I won't presume to discuss the Japanese philosophies related to this art. But there are certainly deeply Christian parallels to be drawn. Three come immediately to mind.

First are those who valiantly and humbly endure life's inequities or unjust persecution, such as Job, Patriarch Joseph, Jeremiah, and the beggar Lazarus. Crushed in various ways through no fault of their own, these saints became beautiful not despite the cracks, but because of how they dealt with them. Without such trials, these saints would never have become as great as they are.

Second are those who sinned greatly but repented deeply, such as King David, Peter, and Paul. Their great sins are there for all to see and the sins remain sinful. Yet, Christ healed their fractured souls with the gold of their repentance and faithfulness.

Then there is Christ Himself. He didn't just valiantly and humbly endure unjust persecution: He came to earth for that very purpose - for OUR sake. So, His wounded side and hands remain in eternity as visible signs of the beauty of His victorious self-sacrificial love.

So, let's take heart. Are we innocently enduring persecution? Christ can make us beautiful through our trials. Have we fallen into serious sin? We can repent and still become great saints. We can even go past these things to suffer freely for love of Christ and His people. Thus, we shall most deeply resemble Him Whose greatest glory is that He was freely broken for our sake.

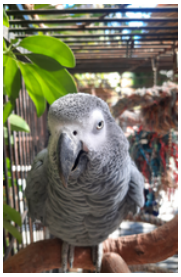
with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - Temporary Digs

Having noticed all the new construction and renovation around the monastery in the last few years, the birds were indignant that THEIR home had been neglected. Since they definitely did have a point, we are building a brand-new aviary/gazebo. This does, of course, mean that the birds are in cages until their home is rebuilt. They weren't exactly thrilled in the beginning, but being good monastic birds, they seem to have adjusted quite well. We'll let you know what they think about this in a week or so!

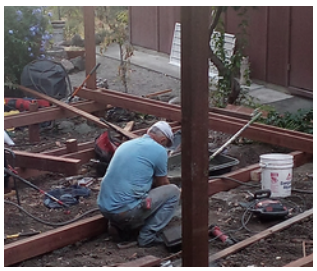
Don't worry, Pixley. I'll protect you!

Give me almonds & I'll be content



Did someone say almonds?!

We TOLD you we need a new home!



Progress!

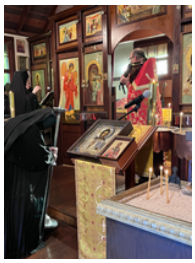
NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sundays - 10 am Divine Liturgy
Thursday November 21 (Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple) - 9 am Divine Liturgy
For other services, please see our website

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515
Phone: (707) 942-6244; Email: sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com
Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com

15th Anniversary of Our Arrival

Wednesday, October 23, marked the 15th anniversary of our arrival here in Calistoga. We are deeply grateful to His Eminence Archbishop BENJAMIN and Fr Lawrence Margitich for sharing the day with us. They have been supportive of us this whole time, as have so many of you. Many thanks to them and all of you and first and foremost our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His mercies toward us.



A Visit to St Barbara Monastery

Mother Melania gave the Friends' talk at St Barbara Monastery on Sunday October 27. It was a joy to see old friends and new. Thanks for the invite, Mother Victoria!

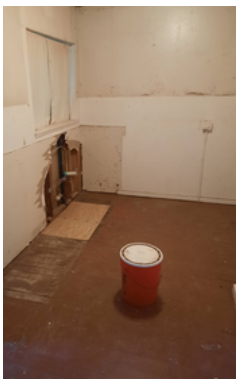
As I was saying ...

Obeying the injunction not to seek out the front seats?

St Barbara House Renovation

Now that St Nicholas House is finished and the sisters happily ensconced there, we are in the process of refurbishing St Barbara House as a guest house. Among other things, this will finally allow us to host small groups of women interested in spending some days at the monastery. We are cautiously optimistic that it will be ready by the end of the year. So, stay tuned!

Charming on the outside

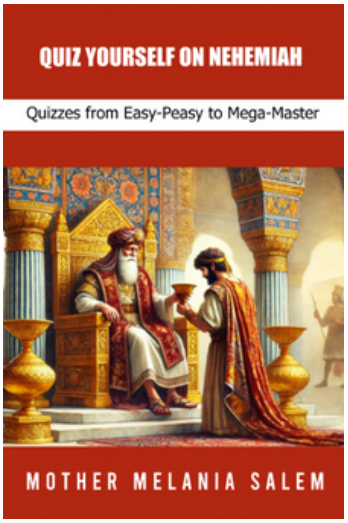


On the inside? Not quite!

Getting there!

Mother Melania's Book Update

Quiz Yourself on the Book of Nehemiah is now available on Amazon as a Kindle book through the end of November for $0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for $4.00.

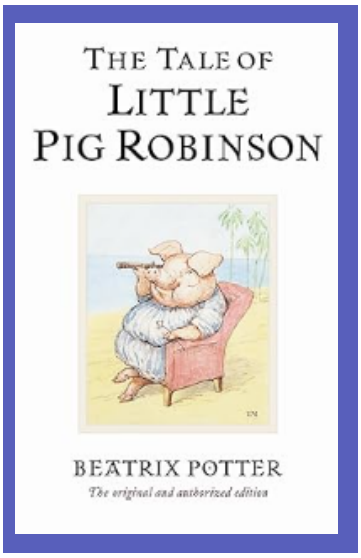


Check out the November version of Mother Melania's Monthly Missive here.

Classic Kids' Books:

The Tale of Little Pig Robinson

What do you get when you combine *The Owl and the Pussycat*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and Beatrix Potter's whimsical prose and illustrations? *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, of course. Check it out and see what you think!



For a free copy of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, click here.

2024 Year-End Campaign

We are very thankful to announce that we have a **$50,000** pledge for our year-end campaign;

Our task is to match this $50,000 by December 31st, 2024!

Checks with the memo "Year End" can be mailed to

Holy Assumption Monastery
1519 Washington Street
Calistoga, CA 94515

Online donations can be made at https://holyassumptionmonastery.com/support

Holy Assumption Monastery is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

The new St. Nicholas House, completed in 2023, continues to be an enormous blessing for Holy Assumption Monastery. Five new cells and two guest rooms, a kitchen for prosphora and bookstore baking, and a home for our library are just a few of the wonderful ways the new space serves the community.

The $400,000 loan we received through the Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund (OCCIF) requires monthly payments for five years. Our year-end campaigns ensure that we will have the loan paid IN FULL in February, 2028.

But the support from monastery friends is doing EVEN MORE. Thanks to the space provided in the new building and the funds from donors, we have been able to tackle repairs in several older structures:

- St. Julianna Cottage received new plumbing and electrical wiring;
- St. Barbara House underwent an asbestos abatement and mold remediation.

St. Barbara House will soon open as a guest house, in addition to serving as the licensed location for Calistoga Orthodox Wines.