



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY



OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Sometimes, when people are disappointed by a friend or family member, they say "I will never trust them again." This always reminds me of a conversation I had on this topic years ago with some 5th graders. They had been reading the story of Lewis and Clark's first encounter with an adult grizzly. Using that as a springboard, I said, "I would trust you all to WANT to save me from a grizzly bear. I would even trust you to TRY to save me from a grizzly bear. But - sorry - I don't trust any of you to SUCCEED!"

The point of this slightly silly example? It's unhelpful to understand trust in 'either/or' terms - I either trust you or I don't. First and foremost, NOBODY but God is completely trustworthy - He's the only One Who always CAN do the loving thing and always DOES. Even here, we run into trouble when WE define the loving thing instead of trusting the One Who IS Love. (On a lower level, think how angry you were in high school when your parents grounded you, only to thank them years later for their loving discipline.)

Second, 'either/or' trust for our fellow human beings is destined for failure AND is an unfair burden to place on mere mortals. We ALL have our weak points, and we ALL disappoint the people we are closest to. Yet, while none of us is perfectly trustworthy, most of us ARE trustworthy in some ways. I know people that I would never trust with a secret, but whom I WOULD trust in a life-or-death situation. As for me, sadly, I can't be trusted always to say and do the godly thing - I can't even be trusted always to WANT to do the right thing. But I think I can be trusted to eventually come to my senses, repent of my lousy attitude, and try again.

So, next time someone disappoints us, let's not completely discount them. Rather, let's acknowledge where they ARE trustworthy AND where we AREN'T. The more we do this, the more trustworthy we'll ALL become. Give it a try!

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - We're Hungry!



*Within our pond we koi abide,
With hunger that we cannot hide.
We swim around, our mouths propped wide,
With hunger never satisfied.*

*We wiggle, waggle, twist, and turn,
Our gaze with hunger ever burns
We splash and dart with all our might,
To show we're starving, day and night.*

*The nuns insist it's all a lie
To cozen people to comply
With our demands - a shameless ploy,
But don't believe them. Believe the KOI!*

15 Years in Calistoga!!

We will celebrate Divine Liturgy on Oct 23 to thank God for 15 years here in Calistoga!



OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sundays - 10 am Divine Liturgy

NOTE: Sun Oct 27 Liturgy will be at the monastery, NOT at St Demetrios Chapel in Macedonian Park

Wed Oct 23 (James, Brother of the Lord) - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

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WORKSHOP - Helping without Hurting

On Sept 6 & 7, Jeff and Kathy Gilman and Rod Bowman from Redwood Gospel Mission led the above-titled workshop for us. As people in need come to us, we are ever more aware of our own need to help wisely in a way that reflects God's love. Many thanks to Jeff, Kathy, and Rod for their loving guidance!



HERE & THERE Happy Birthday!



One young birthday boy & one young-at-heart birthday girl!



One birthday girl, two great cooks & all-around good eggs!

Festival at St George Church, Rohnert Park - Sep 28 & 29



Anybody coming?



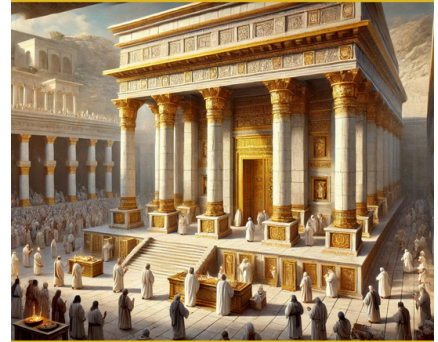
Wow! We weren't expecting a band!

Mother Melania's Book Update

[Quiz Yourself on the Book of Ezra \(II Ezra\)](#) is now available on Amazon as a Kindle book through the end of July for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.

QUIZ YOURSELF ON EZRA (II EZRA)

Quizzes from Easy-Peasy to Mega-Master



MOTHER MELANIA SALEM

Please check out the October version of Mother Melania's Monthly Missive [here](#).

Classic Kids' Books: Cecily Parsley's Nursery Rhymes

This book combines classic nursery rhymes with lesser-known rhymes, possibly original to Beatrix Potter. All are illustrated in her charming style. Join us in the fun!



For a free copy of Cecily Parsley's Nursery Rhymes, click [here](#).