



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY



SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Calistoga Creamery usually sports a chalkboard with a cute saying. A month or so ago, it was “Money can’t buy you happiness, but money CAN buy you ice cream, and that’s basically the same thing.”

This saying resonates all too well with me, I’m afraid! Too bad it’s not true! The good news, though, is that we actually CAN use money to increase happiness. The trick is to focus not on satisfying our whims, but on cementing or healing our closest relationships. Taking your grandkids out for ice cream can’t buy happiness, but it CAN provide a priceless opportunity to cement a relationship of love. Sending flowers AND a sincere apology to somebody you hurt isn’t a guaranteed cure of a strained relationship, but it’s a really good start!

So, next time we take out our wallets for a non-essential purchase, it might be worth asking “What is it I’m buying really?” I have no illusions for myself that the answers won’t often be selfish. But the more frequently I can spend money (AND time) for the sake of loving the people around me, the more TRUE happiness we will all experience. And that can’t hurt!

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - We love our toy to pieces!



Wait a minute! How can we EAT this box AND SIT in it, too!?

Pixley and Shannon have a bad habit (not that THEY think of it that way!) of chewing the door and door frame of their aviary. In reponse, their chief caretaker hung a cardboard toy across the top of the aviary door. They were NOT happy at first, but then they decided if they couldn’t chew the door, they could at least chew the cardboard... and THEN, they decided to snuggle inside the toy! But that didn’t stop them from continuing to chew at it. So, last we checked, the cardboard toy was very little cardboard and very little toy. Time to get a new one!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sundays - 10 am Divine Liturgy

Sat Sep 14 (Elevation of the Cross) - 9 am Divine Liturgy

Fri Sep 20 (St Eustathius) - 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

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ANNUNCIATION 2024



Niether the tomb nor death could hold the Theotokos

Vigil - Wednesday August 14



Dn John Dibs & Fr Philip Halliwell



Some of the Faithful



Praise ye the Lord

Liturgy - Thursday August 14



Archbishop Benjamin & the clergy



The Faithful - young & old



Fr Stefan Meholick & the choir



The Festal Procession - clergy and faithful



Let all creation praise the Lord!

HERE & THERE

Ss. Peter & Paul Mediterranean Festival,
Martinez, CA - August 3 & 4



Ready for business!



Ready to buy!

Nativity of Christ Women's Group, Novato -
plus friends August 10



I love talking to captive audiences!



Too cute for words!

Please check out the September issue of Mother Melania's Monthly Missives, which focuses on Beatrix Potter's "Tale of Johnny Town Mouse."

Classic Kids' Books: Tale of Johnny Town Mouse

Johnny Town Mouse and his friends are having a dinner party when Timmy Willie quite literally crashes their party after a scary and unintentional ride to the city in a vegetable hamper.



Johnny does his best to be a good host, but between Timmy's inability to eat city fare and his fear of the ever-present cats, Timmy decides to go home. Thankful for Johnny's kindness, Timmy invites him to come visit the country.

Johnny does eventually take Timmy up on his offer. But why? And what does he think of the country? And what does Beatrix Potter think about Johnny and Timmy's choices in life? Join us and find out!

For a free copy of *The Tale of Johnny Town Mouse*, click [here](#).