



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

I recently saw a sign that said “Enter at Your Own Risk!” The particular risk here was not radiation poisoning or anything THAT scary! It got me thinking, though. I assume that “Enter at Your Own Risk” signs are basically saying “I warned you. If you come in anyway, you have nobody to blame but yourself!” That in itself is a good lesson in a culture where we’ve become much too adept at blaming everyone BUT ourselves.

That said, the thing that got my attention this time around was YOUR OWN risk. There is no such thing as a risk that is SOLELY my own. If I take foolish risks and reap a fool’s reward, the people in my life can’t help but be affected - at least indirectly - because when I harm myself, I am less capable of doing well by you.


Of course, we do have to take risks unless we stay in our rooms and never come out. Then, we AREN’T taking risks because we will CERTAINLY run into disaster!! But next time we have to decide what risks to take, we would do well to remember - we are not our own!

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

DORMITION 2025

Dormition - being both a Great Feast and the monastery’s Feast Day - is a great day for us every year. THIS year, however, will be a first in many ways. Metropolitan TIKHON will be serving here for the first time. With him will be our recently retired Archbishop BENJAMIN (let’s all pray that he is well enough to attend!), Archbishop DANIEL (Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest), Bishop Gerasim (Bishop of Fort Worth), and our Bishop Elect Archimandrite Vasily. Not to mention the many priests and laypeople who are planning to attend. So, please join us for this joyous event. Details are below and on the enclosed invitation.


2025 FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
AT HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY



Thursday, August 14th, 5 pm Vigil
followed by hospitality

Friday, August 15th,
8:40 Hours
9 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy,
His Beatitude, Metropolitan
TIKHON presiding

Festal luncheon following
RSVP (707) 942-4658
sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com



1519 Washington Street
Calistoga, CA 94515

AUGUST CALENDAR

Sundays - 10 am Divine Liturgy (August 17, 24 & 31 still tentative)

Procession of the Cross (Friday August 1) - 9 am Divine Liturgy

Transfiguration (Wednesday August 6) - 9 am Divine Liturgy

Dormition (Friday August 15) - see above for times & the above for more info

For other services, please see our website

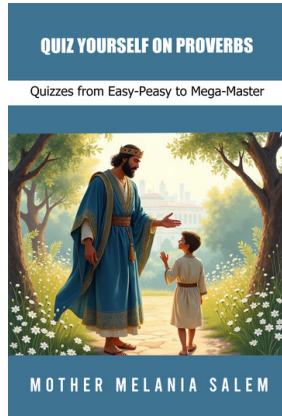
1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

Phone: (707) 942-6244; Email: sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com

Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com

Mother Melania's Book Update

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



Check out the August edition of Mother Melania's Monthly Missive.

Classic Kids' Tales:

How the Alphabet Was Made

A week after her nearly disastrous - but very fun! - experiment with sending the first letter - Taffy decides to invent the alphabet. Of course, she has to enlist the help of her father Tegumai. After Taffy surprises her mom Teshumai with a written note (a much less disastrous event than the arrival of the first letter!), father and daughter enlist Teshumai to help them finish their wondrous invention. No plot here. Just joy. Join us and see!

For a free copy of *How the Alphabet Was Made*, click [here](#).

ZOO UPDATE - the Indoor Kitties

As you probably know, we have FOUR kitties, but you are only likely to see TWO of them. You see Philly a lot because he is - by his own choice - an entirely outdoor kitty. Simba believes in balancing his existence between indoors and outdoors (at his own discretion, of course). Frisco & Goolya, however, stay largely indoors. They're both important members of the community, though. Just ask them!



Frisco - WHO gave you permission to photograph me?!



Goolya - you can photograph me all you want, just be sure to pet me!



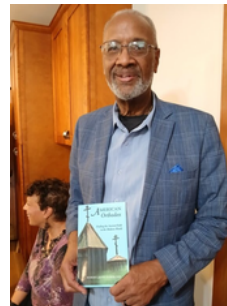
HERE & THERE

Friday July 4 - Annual Pilgrimage to Fort Ross



latest in monastic headware

Sunday July 13 - John Hammond premieres 'Orthodox America' documentary at the monastery



Did I mention that there is a book too?

Our friends get the grounds in shape for our Feast Day



You're doing a marvelous job & we'll give you great references!



LITURGICAL LIFE



Fr Ian MacKinnon



Fr Aris Metrakos



Fr James Retelas