



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY



DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

The other morning, I was out taking a walk and ran into (not literally!) a woman walking a miniature dachshund and a medium-sized terrier mix. The dachshund was moving its little legs very quickly to keep up with the leisurely movements of its owner and canine buddy. And they were all having a blast.

That got me thinking about walks I've been on when I've been the slow one (most of the time these days!) or the fast one (years ago that actually happened a time or two!). Too often, I've found myself thinking, "Slow down!" or "Speed up!"

What do the lady and her dogs know that I didn't? Well, they probably know lots of things I don't know. But there is one that is obvious. They know walks—and life itself—are about wonder, gratitude, and companionship.

So, as I go through my days, I will try to walk with the same wonder, gratitude, and companionship the dogs already know.

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

MATCHING GRANT



We are very grateful for three donors who stepped up to provide the funds for our year-end \$50,000 Matching Grant.

For details, please see the enclosed flier. Thank you!

ZOO UPDATE - Meet the Cockatiels!

Meet our two latest Zoo members - Bloop and Boaty the Cockatiels. They were originally called Abby and Gabby. Adorable names, but we were in a mood for silly names. So, we settled on Bloop (the supposed sea creature behind the extra-low-frequency sound recorded by ocean scientists in 1997) and Boaty (after the robotic mini-submarine Boaty McBoatface, usually called just plain Boaty).

Since Boaty is an scientific exploration vehicle, we thought Boaty was the obvious name for the larger, more adventurous of the two cockatiels. As for Bloop? Well, we'll just have to teach her to say it!



Don't worry, Bloop. We'll get used to these names in time!

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sundays - 10 am Divine Liturgy (Dec 21 & 28 still tentative)

Wednesday December 24 - Royal Hours and Typica 7am; Vespertal Liturgy 12pm;

12-course Christmas Eve Meal 5pm; Vigil (Great Compline & Matins) 9pm;

Thursday December 25 - Divine Liturgy 12am

For other services, please see our website

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LITURGICAL LIFE

Sunday Nov 16
St Matthew



Fr. Nicholas Carr

Friday Nov 21
Entrance of the
Theotokos



Fr. Michael Vladimirov

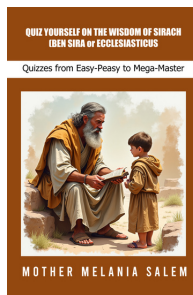
Sunday Nov 23
St Amphilocios



Fr. Stephen Howell

MOTHER MELANIA'S BOOK UPDATE

Quiz Yourself on the Wisdom of Sirach (Ben Sirach or Ecclesiasticus) is now available on Amazon as a Kindle book through the end of December for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.



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

Classic Kids' Tales: The Bronze Ring

Last month, we finished Kipling's Just So Stories. Now, we are starting Andrew Lang's The Blue Fairy Book.

First up is *The Bronze Ring*, which tells the story of a gardener's son who tends the gardens of a king and wins the heart of the king's daughter. The prime minister wants his own son to marry the princess. So, he persuades the king to send both young men on a distant quest, stacking the deck heavily against the gardener's son. Of course, the gardener's son DOES marry the princess and they DO live happily ever after. But not before they meet many road bumps on the way. Wondering what kind of road bumps they are? Join us and find out!

For a free copy of The Bronze Ring, click [here](#).

HERE & THERE

Ss Peter & Paul Food Fest, Santa Rosa, Nov 8 & 9



Smile, you're on Candid Camera!



Yes, we DID bring more than just lavender!



A VERY SMALL sampling of our friend Liubov's wonderful handmade dolls

Church of the Redeemer, Los Altos Hills Tuesday Nov 25



Oops! We already used up the Candid Camera line!

Prayer Rope Lessons Saturday Nov 22



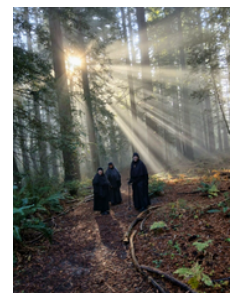
Training up the next generation!

Thanksgiving Day Thursday Nov 27



Thankful to God for friends, family, and all His many blessings!

Grove of Old Trees Friday Nov 28



A picture IS worth a thousand words!