



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

February 2 is the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord - the celebration of when the Theotokos took Christ as a 40-day-old Infant into the Temple. One hymn states that the Theotokos is higher than the Temple - because she is the Living Temple, who bore Christ in the entirety of her being - body, soul, and spirit. And only the purest of women could do that - because sin and holiness don't mix. Just think of how hard it is to be around somebody who is being truly loving when we are being petty. Now, multiply that by infinity, and that gives you an idea of what it would be like to bear the holy God in your womb if you were clinging onto your own pride and selfishness. So, the Theotokos is greater than the Temple because she is a living being who voluntarily CHOSE to be the Temple because she loved her Son the God-Man with her whole being.

One very obvious aspect of this that I've managed to overlook until lately is that a Temple is not just "God's house." It is the place where you come to meet God. So, because the Theotokos does bear God completely, she is the perfect Temple and thus is THE one to go to when we want to meet God.

Of course, she's not the ONLY Temple. She became God's Temple with her whole being so that we could become temples with our whole beings also (except, of course, that we cannot physically birth Christ). And the more fully we are temples, the more fully those around will find Christ in us.

So, how are we doing? Most of us aren't going to be perfect Temples today, tomorrow, or this week. But we can all bear Christ a bit more fully than we are right now. And if we can't think of ANYTHING that we need to do to bear Christ more fully, let's ask a trusted friend. Chances are, they know exactly what we can start on!

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - Here Comes the Fish Vet!

Concerned by a bump here, a color change there - we decided to get a specialist in fish medicine to check our fishies out. We were glad to hear that they are in good health! Yay, team! And thank you, Dr Sanders!



Whoa! My world just got very small!



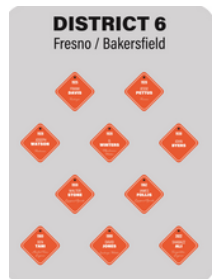
I hope the treatment ends with a treat!



Not the very best way to go if you're trying to be inconspicuous!

UPDATE ON THE CALTRAN WORKERS

My friend Consuelo kindly contacted CalTrans to get the full names of these workers: Frank Davis, Jesse Pettus, Joseph Watson, O. Winters, John Byers, Walter Stone, James Follis, Ben Tani, David Jones, and Shabazz Ali. To these men and to those whose names we will never hear - God grant you rest with the righteous!



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday Feb 2 - 10 am Divine Liturgy
Sunday Feb 16 - 10 am Divine Liturgy (or typika)
(Sundays Feb 9 and 23 - no Liturgy or typika at the monastery)

For other services, please see our website

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Mother Melania's Book Update

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

QUIZ YOURSELF ON ESTHER

Quizzes from Easy-Peasy to Mega-Master



MOTHER MELANIA SALEM

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

Classic Kids' Tales:

How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin

On an uninhabited island, a Parsee lives all alone. He bakes a marvelous cake, which is eaten by a very rude rhinoceros. In revenge, the Parsee gathers up cake crumbs and puts them in the rhinoceros' skin. This puts a wrinkle in the situation - and a LOT of wrinkles in the rhinoceros' skin! What happens next? Join us and find out!

For a free copy of *How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin*, click [here](#).

THEOPHANY 2025

Our great thanks to Fr. Anthony Roeber (Mother Macrina's father) for faithfully joining us for Theophany for the past several years. We are deeply thankful and look forward to many more years of this tradition!



The indoor blessing of the waters



Blessing the Napa River



... and the whole monastery



... and don't forget the birds!

HERE & THERE

St. Seraphim Feast Day - Jan 2



All set up ...



& plenty of potential customers!

Our Good Friend Paul Knoblich turns 75!



Paul couldn't resist the cake & we couldn't resist the photo op!



Making up for our lapse of judgment by including a nice family photo!