



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY



JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

A few months ago, I stopped at a rest stop on Hwy 5 and saw this "Fallen Workers Memorial." The first sign says "Dedicated to Caltrans Employees who lost their lives to build, maintain, and operate California's world-class transportation system."



The 10 men listed on the middle sign died in a period of nearly 100 years - the first in 1925, the last in 2022. Unfortunately, I took a blurry picture and can only read their last names - Mistrs Davis, Pettus, Watson, Winters, Byers, Stone, Follis, Tam, Jones, and Ali.

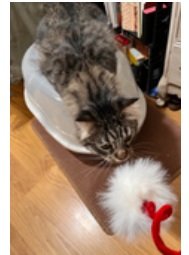
I do think fairly often of the servicemen and women who died for our country. Sadly, though, I had never even thought to honor the men and women who died working on our roads. That got me thinking about the countless people to whom we are beholden for our country and our very lives. We will never know the names of the vast majority of these people, but all the more reason to honor those whose names we DO know.

So, as we move into the New Year, may we remember with gratitude those who made it possible for us to reach this year. And may we ask God's grace to be of great help for those with us and those who come after us!

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - Christmas for the Critters

A lovely aspect of our Christmas Eve 12-course meal is that we always give the animals a special treat before we start our own meals. We didn't get any pictures this year, but we DID capture Frisco trying to figure out what in the world a boing hat is. The one thing he did seem to be certain of - it's a toy!!!



A mighty hunter!

YEAR-END MATCHING GRANT UPDATE

At last count, we not only reached our \$50,000 matching grant goal, but surpassed \$61,000! Thanks to you, we can continue to pay off the St Nicholas House loan AND pay for our beautiful new aviary and the renovations on St Barbara House.



The aviary's so nice, some of the sisters want to live in it!



St Barbara House - soon to be all finished! (We hope!!!)

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sundays - 10 am Divine Liturgy (January 12 & 26 still tentative)

Theophany, Monday January 6, 9 am Divine Liturgy

For other services, please see our website

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Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com

Mother Melania's Book Update

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



Check out the January version of Mother Melania's Monthly Mission.

Classic Kids' Tales:

How the Camel Got His Hump

This story takes place when 'the world was so new and all' and the horse, dog, and ox were learning to work for man. The 'scruciatingly idle camel, though, had no such intentions - and no manners either. His favorite - and pretty much ONLY - thing to say was 'Hmmp.' Eventually, the hmmp ends up on his back and he does end up working for man - though definitely not enjoying it! So, how did that happen? And what did the horse, dog, and ox think about the whole thing? Join us and find out!

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



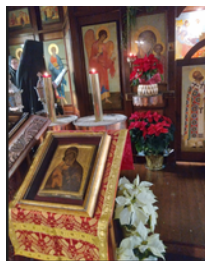
Cookie Decorating - December 11, 2024



And this was AFTER things slowed down!

CHRISTMAS 2024

Vesperal Liturgy



In readiness to meet



The Old Testament



With fear of God, with faith and love, draw near.

12-Course Christmas Eve Meal



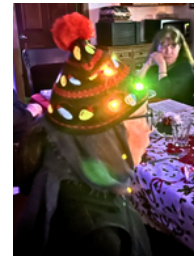
Singing for our suppers



Cute as cute gets!



Just because



Midnight Liturgy



The Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave



Christ was born in a manger to become food for the faithful

Christmas Day Meal



Still singing for our suppers



We don't know these people!

Caroling



On our way!



Just in case nobody notices us



Helping us stay on pitch!