



# HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

## MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

The other day, several of the sisters were doing some very mucky work around the monastery, and more than one mentioned how much they were going to enjoy a shower. This got me thinking about the many hymns that speak of greeting the Lenten fast with joy. I must admit that when I first heard those hymns, my thought was "Really?!" But I think that's largely because I had no idea just how mucky my soul had gotten in the previous nine months or so! The more I see the grimy state of my soul, though, the more I do look forward with at least SOME joy to a good cleansing. And yes, getting the grime off sometimes leaves me a bit raw. But at the end of a weeks-long spiritual bath, it is great to stand cleansed before our risen LORD and rejoice in Him. So, may we all greet the Fast with joy that we may rejoice in the Feast of Christ our Paschal Lamb.

with love in Christ,  
Mother Melania & the sisters

### ZOO UPDATE -



*Goolya - resisting temptation, is HARD!!*



*Frisco - I'm SO bored!*



*Philly - Have you noticed how regal I am?*



*Simba - on a mission, can't stop to talk!*

### Starting Lent with Forgiveness

Speaking of mucky souls, when we don't clean the muck off regularly, it becomes encrusted. The little irritations of life can harden into a thick shell of bitterness and condemnation. All the more reason to take seriously the rite of forgiveness on Forgiveness Sunday. For a heart-rendingly beautiful song about a father and son who have clearly learned to forgive and accept each other, check out [bit.ly/JamesBluntMonsters](http://bit.ly/JamesBluntMonsters).

Have a blessed Lent of repentance, forgiveness, and joy!

### MARCH CALENDAR

**Sundays - 10 am Divine Liturgy (except for March 9)**

**Presanctified Liturgies - Wednesday Mar 5 @ 10am; all other Wednesdays in March @ 5pm**

**For other services, please see our website**

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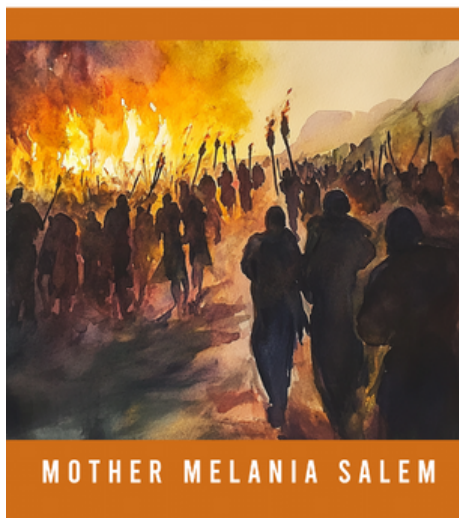
Website: [www.holyassumptionmonastery.com](http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com)

## Mother Melania's Book Update

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

### QUIZ YOURSELF ON I MACCABEES

Quizzes from Easy-Peasy to Mega-Master



Check out the March edition of Mother Melania's Monthly Mission.

## Classic Kids' Tales:

### How the Leopard Got His Spots

'In the days when everybody started fair,' all the animals were bland shades of tan. When the prey animals move to the forest and develop camouflage, the Ethiopian and the leopard need first to find them and second to develop camouflage of their own (or go without breakfast!). How do they find the prey animals? How do they develop camouflage? And do they ever manage to catch breakfast? Join us and find out!

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

## When It Rains, It Pours - and Floods! - Feb 2



*A tad too close to the koi pond pumps for comfort!*



*Where did our lower garden go?!*

## St Athanasius & Holy Cross Work Party - Feb 15

Our dear friends from St. Athanasius Church Sacramento decided to share the work (I mean, fun!) of their annual work party with our other dear friends from Holy Cross, Sacramento.



*All hands on deck - the deck roof, that is!*



*A happy cooking crew!*



*One branch down. HOW many to go?*



*A polisher's work is never done!*



*Food always tastes better after hard work - at least, that's what we tell our work parties!!!*

## A Visit from Monks of Mount Tabor - Feb 26

No, not THAT Mt. Tabor! But we did have a lovely pre-Lenten visit from members of Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Redwood Valley. It just may become a Cheese Week tradition!

River



*A veritable sea of black!*



*Looking at the lower garden and the river where it's SUPPOSED to be!*