



# HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

Whenever I enter a certain website, I get a message saying "Verifying that you are human. This may take a minute." I guess I must be human because it always lets me in!

That got me thinking, though, of how St Ignatius begged the Roman Christians not to hinder his martyrdom. Why? Because by following Christ to death he would attain Life and finally become a human being. That may seem shocking at first, but it makes sense because to be fully human is to image forth Christ in every aspect of our lives - and most importantly, in laying down our lives for love of God and brother.

So, in this joyous Paschal season, as we greet each other with "Christ is risen!", let us remember that He died and rose so that we could die and rise with Him. He became Human with all our frailties so that He could make us Human as He meant us to be. The road there is through the Cross - then eternally onward as we share in His Resurrection Glory!

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

with love in Christ,  
Mother Melania & the sisters

## ZOO UPDATE - Whose Space Is This, Anyway?

It was only a matter of time before the cats asserted control over the aviary. Building an aviary at all was an assault on feline dignity. But THEN to refer to the entire structure as the aviary was beyond the pale. So, it wasn't long before Philly decided that the front portion of said structure was perfect for a catnap - or two or three or four ... And it wasn't MUCH longer before one of his dutiful servants appropriately fitted it out with a comfy cat bed and an even comfier heating pad!

I guess we do need a different name for the structure. Philly humbly suggested the Philly Fortress, but we doubt the birds will like that - not to mention the other cats!



*WHERE is my golden throne?!*

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## **MAY CALENDAR**

Sunday May 4 - 10 am Typika

Sunday May 11 - no services at the monastery

Sunday May 18 - 10 am Typika

Sunday 25 - 10 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday May 14 (Midfeast) - 9 am Divine Liturgy

Thursday May 29 (Ascension) - 9 am Divine Liturgy

For other services, please see our website

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1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

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

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

## Mother Melania's Book Update

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

### QUIZ YOURSELF ON III MACCABEES

Quizzes from Easy-Peasy to Mega-Master



MOTHER MELANIA SALEM

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

## Classic Kids' Tales:

### The Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo

When Old Man Kangaroo, in his 'inordinate pride,' asks Big God Nqong 'Make me different from all other animals; make me popular and wonderfully run after by five this afternoon.' he DOES get his wish - in the form of an hours-long race to avoid getting eaten by Yellow Dog Dingo! We would like to tell you that Old Man Kangaroo learned his lesson, but it doesn't seem that he did! Join us as we read this tale and consider whether we would do any better!

For a free copy of The Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo, [click here](#).

## Snapshots of Pascha (etc.)

We thank God for another beautiful Holy Week and Pascha. This year was particularly blessed, thanks to Fr Michael Vladimirov, who faithfully served Pre-sanctified Liturgies on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday, and to Fr Anthony Roeber, who served all the services from the Institution Matins up to Bright Wednesday Matins (when we reluctantly allowed him to return home to Missouri!) Thanks also to Archbishop DANIEL, who blessed Fr Anthony to be with us and Archbishop BENJAMIN for his love and care for us over the years. Again, thanks be to God!

### Lazarus Saturday



Fr Michael Vladimirov



How many palm crosses are we making?!



Don't worry. The extras went to good use!

### Palm Sunday



Typika service



Lukas proves he's a great cook!



Some of the recipients of Lukas' fish-fry feast!

### Institution Liturgy



Of Thy mystical supper, O Son of God, accept me today ...

### 12 Gospels Matins



Glory to Thy longsuffering, O Lord!

### Lamentations Matins



In a grave they laid Thee, O my Life and my Christ

### Paschal Vespertal Liturgy



Gloriously has He been glorified!

### Pascha!!!



Christ is risen!

### Agape Vespers



Proclaiming the Gospel in the language of wonder!