



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

"You've probably seen road signs like 'Hidden Driveway,' 'Blind Driveway,' or 'Caution: Trucks Entering.' For unfamiliar drivers, these are excellent warnings of dangers that aren't immediately obvious." For locals, the signs are reminders not to let familiarity with the roads lull us into false security. So, when we see these signs, we slow down and pay careful attention to our surroundings.

Wouldn't it be nice if we had signs like these to warn us of danger in our relationships? In fact, we do—but they're not posted at eye level just before the trouble spot. Instead, Scripture and the Fathers offer guidance that requires regular reading and reflection, so we're prepared before we reach the curve.

There's at least one other difference between physical road signs and the road signs of life. When we're the ones coming out of the blind driveway, we are VERY aware that the other person can't see us and we can't see them until we're nearly on top of each other. But in the rest of life, we tend not to realize just how blind we are to what's happening just on the other side of the curve. And we're nearly always shocked that the other person didn't see US—clearly they must be blind! At least, that's my sad experience. But Scripture and the Fathers help with THAT problem, too. In short, a good dose of humility about our own state and of forbearance, love, and nonjudgmentalism towards others goes a far way. Too simplistic? Maybe. But why not try it and see what happens?

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

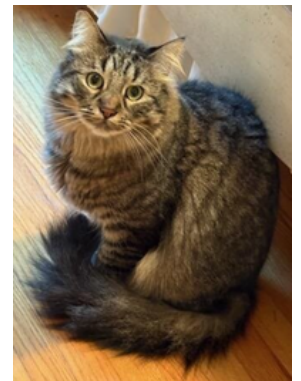
GIVING TUESDAY

Our thanks to all of you who have contributed to our recent monastery improvements - not least, to our beautiful new St Nicholas House. We are planning our yearly Giving Tuesday fundraiser for our building loan, but we are short on donors for the \$50,000 matching grant. If you can help out, we would be very grateful. And if any of you want to donate BEFORE we get the full matching grant together, we will certainly not say no!! THANKS AGAIN!!!

ZOO UPDATE - Cat Gallery



Simba - I need a little more room for my tail



Frisko - I prefer a nicely curved tail



Goolya - My tail is beautiful no matter what!



Philly - What??

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sundays November 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 - 10 am Divine Liturgy (Nov 9 & 30 still tentative)

Friday November 21, The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple - 9 am Divine Liturgy

For other services, please see our website

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BLESSING OF THE GRAPES - 2025

We are grateful to God for another successful grape harvest and crush. Special thanks to Fr Nicholas Carr, who waited patiently on standby till we got the call - time to harvest!

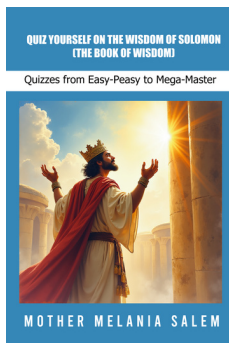


Fr Nicholas Carr blessing the grapes

The grapes are officially certified 'Delicious!'

MOTHER MELANIA'S BOOK UPDATE

Quiz Yourself on the *Wisdom of Solomon (The Book of Wisdom)* is now available on Amazon as a Kindle book through the end of November for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.



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

Classic Kids' Tales: The Butterfly that Stamped

In 'The Butterfly that Stamped.' King Solomon, is plagued by the constant bickering of his 999 wives. Not wanting to show off, he refuses to use his magical powers to silence them. Then, a quarrel between a butterfly and his wife gives Solomon an idea: he secretly empowers the butterfly's bluff that a stamp of his foot could destroy the palace. When the butterfly 'stamps' and the palace vanishes, the queens are stunned into silence. Solomon restores the palace ... and then what? Join us and find out!

For a free copy of *The Butterfly that Stamped*, [click here](#).

LITURGICAL LIFE

One great blessing that comes from not having a full-time priest is all the priests who graciously help us out. This month, it was not only priests, but - to our great joy - Bishop VASILY! Many thanks to you, Your Grace. And many thanks also to Fr Daniel York, who served here for the first time, and Fr Michael Vladimirov, who has faithfully served us for several years. We are grateful!



His Grace Bishop VASILY



Top right - Fr Daniel York, Bottom right - Fr Michael Vladimirov

VISIT BY METROPOLITAN MAXIMILIAN OF IRKUTSK AND ANGARSK

On October 2, we were greatly honored to receive a visit by Metropolitan Maximilian of Irkutsk and Angarsk. He was in the United States for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the pilgrimage to Fort Ross. We are grateful that he took the time to visit us. Thank you, Your Eminence!



His Eminence, his entourage, and the sisters



His Eminence helps out the choir!