



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY



APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

... Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

These verses are part of the Biblical Canons sung at Matins during Lent. Having never lived through famine, I have never fully grasped the depth of trust Habakkuk expresses here. Dying is one thing; watching everyone and everything you love die is another altogether. To trust God in the midst of that is beyond my capacity to imagine — and for that very reason, it's easy to dismiss. Habakkuk was a saint. Of course he had that kind of faith.

There is one problem with that line of reasoning: Habakkuk does not begin the book with serene trust. He begins by complaining to God about His justice — or what looks to him like the lack of it. First he protests that God is not judging His people despite their sins. Then, when God reveals that He will judge them through the Babylonians, Habakkuk protests even more: How could God possibly judge His sinful people by an even more sinful people?

Habakkuk never receives a direct answer to that question. What he receives instead is a deeper encounter with God — one that allows him to see that God is trustworthy even when His ways make no sense to us.

So whether we are watching a culture unravel, a personal life unravel, or simply dealing with a handful of fraying threads, perhaps we can stop looking for explanations and start looking toward the One whose loving self-sacrifice is the answer. And as we join Him in that self-sacrifice, may we also join Him in His Resurrection.

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words



Up to trouble? Who, ME?!



*Don't worry, Bloopie!
I'll bust you out of there!*

APRIL CALENDAR

Sundays - 10 am Divine Liturgy [April 5, 19 - confirmed; April 26 tentative]

Lazarus Saturday (Apr 4) - 9 am Divine Liturgy

Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday (Apr 6 & 7) - 11 am Pre-sanctified Liturgy & 6pm Bridegroom Matins

Holy Wednesday (Apr 8) - 9 am 9th hour, Typika, Vespers; 6 pm Matins

Holy Thursday (Apr 9) - 11 am Vespertal Liturgy; 6 pm 12-Gospels Matins

Holy Friday (Apr 10) - 7am Royal Hours; 1 pm Holy Friday Vespers; 6 pm Lamentation Matins

Holy Saturday (Apr 11) - 11 am Vespertal Liturgy; 11:30 pm Paschal Nocturnes

Pascha (Apr 12) - 12 am Paschal Matins and Divine Liturgy; 11 am Agape Vespers

For other services, please see our website

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

Phone: (707) 942-6244; Email: sisterseHolyAssumptionMonastery.com

Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com

MOTHER MELANIA'S BOOK UPDATE

Quiz Yourself on Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi is now available on Amazon as a Kindle book till the end of April for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.

QUIZ YOURSELF ON HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH & MALACHI

Quizzes from Easy-Peasy to Mega-Master



MOTHER MELANIA SALEM

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

Classic Kids' Tales: Little Red Riding Hood

If you think you know *Little Red Riding Hood*, try reading this version!



For a free copy of 'Little Red Riding Hood,' click [here](#).

Liturgical Life



Fr Michael Vladimirov -
Pre-sanctified Liturgy



Fr Nicholas Carr
Annunciation

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, Sacramento - 3-29-26

Our friends at Elevation Church invited Mother Macrina and Sister Marie to come talk to their parish and their older Sunday school classes. Thanks for the invite!



As I was saying ...



Yay! Everyone's awake!



When do we get to sit down?