



# HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

## FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

A little while back, this verse came up in Vespers:

*No longer are we forbidden the Tree of Life, for we have Thy Cross as our hope. O Lord, glory be to Thee!*

(Tone 7, Tuesday Vespers Aposticha)

I made a note of it because it seemed the perfect verse to reflect on as we were coming into the weeks of preparation for Great Lent.

History as we know it in this broken world is marked by our lack of access to the Tree of Life. Both the beauty of those who minister patiently and quietly to our bodily and spiritual needs, and the ugliness of those who try to enlarge their own lives at the expense of others, are framed by our dull recognition that we are meant for a Life we are not living.

But even here and now, we do have access to the Tree of Life — through Christ’s Cross, which is our hope. Yet Christ’s Cross avails us nothing if we do not take up our own crosses.

So, as we prepare to enter Lent, let us take this verse as our path forward — now and until the day we partake unsparingly of the Tree of Life, restored to us by our Lord who suffered the Cross for us.

with love in Christ,  
Mother Melania & the sisters

*Lent as the School of Theology and Piety*  
- Retreat by Bishop VASILY (Permiakou)



**PLEASE JOIN US!**  
Sat. February 7 -

Brannan Center  
1407 3rd Street  
Calistoga, CA  
(across from the  
monastery)

### THEOPHANY 2026

Our thanks to Fr Anthony Roeber who graciously served ALL the Theophany services for us!



*Blessing the Napa River*

### ***FEBRUARY CALENDAR***

Sundays - 10 am Divine Liturgy (Feb 1 & 8 - confirmed; Feb 22 tentative), 10 am Typika (Feb 15)

Monday Feb 2 (Meeting of the Lord)- 9am Divine Liturgy

#### HOLY WEEK

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday (Feb 23, 24, 26) 6pm Great Compline with Canon of St Andrew

Wednesday (Feb 25) 4pm Pre-sanctified Liturgy

Saturday (Feb 28 - St Theodore the Recruit) 9am Divine Liturgy

For other services, please see our website

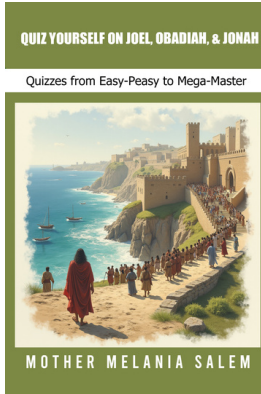
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## MOTHER MELANIA'S BOOK UPDATE

Quiz Yourself on Joel, Obadiah, and Jonah is now available on Amazon as a Kindle book till the end of February for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.



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

### Classic Kids' Tales: East of the Sun, West of the Moon

East of the Sun, West of the Moon is a northern fairy-tale version of the Cupid and Psyche myth. In this telling, a white bear (an enchanted prince, not Cupid) secures a poor but beautiful maiden's promise to come with him to his home in return for making her family rich. She learns to love him for his goodness, but when her mother accuses him of being a troll, the maiden goes to him at night with a candle, wakes him, and sets in motion a further curse. Then she goes through her own version of Psyche's great labors, falters near the end, but – of course – frees the prince from his enchantment and marries him. OOPS! I just told you the end! But if you want to figure out HOW we got there, read the story and find out!

For a free copy of ' East of the Sun, West of the Sun, click [here](#).

## ZOO UPDATE - WHO'S THERE?!

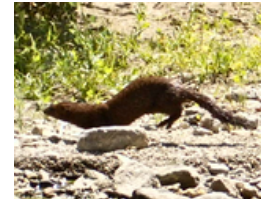
The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's CEMAF Program have been taking pictures of wildlife on our part of the Napa River and have graciously agreed to share. Enjoy!



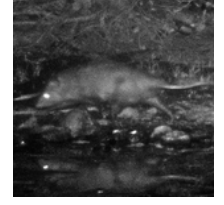
*I'm the original wild guy!*



*Coyote*



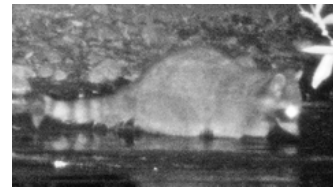
*American Mink*



*Virginia Opossum*



*American Beaver*



*Racoon*



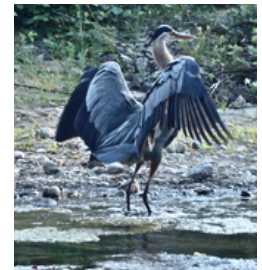
*Grey Fox*



*Great Egret*



*Green Heron*



*Great Blue Heron*

### Ekaterina Daineko Iconography Workshop: Dec 27-Jan 4



*Do we get to spread out to paint?!*

### Family Group Retreat: Jan 17



*Wait! Are all the kids accounted for?!?!*

### Salvador & Maria Built Our Arbor



*So, they get to sit under it first!*

### St Seraphim Sisterhood Retreat: Jan 31



*Did we forget anyone?*