



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY



JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Often, when people come to me seeking counsel, they say in tears, "I think there's something wrong with me." I always reply, "There's something wrong with all of us!" That truth alone brings relief—we are not alone in our brokenness.

Yet beneath that cry lies a deeper fear: that something unfixable is wrong with us. But that is a lie. There is nothing in us that Christ, the Great Physician of souls and bodies, cannot heal. The only wound He cannot touch is the one we refuse to admit, because He will never take away our freedom.

So, as we enter the New Year, let us look honestly at ourselves—not to chase self-improvement plans, but to confront our deeper separation from God, from one another, and from creation itself. That recognition is painful, and the steps toward healing may be hard. But if we submit ourselves to the Great Physician, He will make us whole.

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

SAVE THE DATE - Retreat by Bishop VASILY (Permiakov)



Bishop VASILY will be giving a retreat entitled "Lent as the School of Theology and Piety" on Saturday February 7 here in Calistoga.

We are very grateful to His Grace for coming to teach us. And we hope you all will join us! For more details, see the enclosed flyer

ZOO UPDATE - Oliver

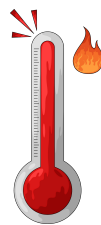
In case there was any doubt, we are pleased to report that Oliver is now firmly ensconced on the monastery grounds—and even more firmly in the hearts of the sisters.

The second part is unquestionably true, but the first doesn't mean he's given up his free-spirit ways. He still makes regular visits to his other friends. That's the polite way to say he's an accomplished moocher. But he's so sweet that nobody minds.



I'd have preferred a palace,
but I'm not picky.

2025 YEAR END CAMPAIGN - SUCCESS!!



Thanks to all of you, we not only met our \$50,000 matching-grant goal—we surpassed it. Including the initial grant, your generosity brought our total to more than \$103,000. We thank God for such loving, generous friends. May He bless you with all good things in this new year!

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sundays - 10 am Divine Liturgy (Jan 4 confirmed, Jan 18 & 25 tentative, Jan 11 no service)

Monday Jan 5 - 7am Royal Hours and Typica; 1pm Vespersal Liturgy with Indoor Blessing of the Waters 1pm; 6pm Vigil

Tuesday Jan 6 (Theophany) - 9am Divine Liturgy with Outdoor Blessing of the Waters

For other services, please see our website

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

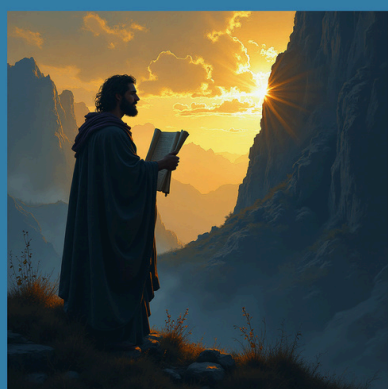
Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com

MOTHER MELANIA'S BOOK UPDATE

Quiz Yourself on Hosea, Amos, and Micah is now available on Amazon as a Kindle book till the end of January for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.

QUIZ YOURSELF ON HOSEA, AMOS, & MICAH

Quizzes from Easy-Peasy to Mega-Master



MOTHER MELANIA SALEM

Check out the January edition of [Mother Melania's Monthly Missive](#).

Classic Kids' Tales: Prince Hyacinth & the Dear Little Princess

Prince Hyacinth was cursed at birth with an extremely long nose. The curse can only be broken when he finally realizes just how long it is—simple enough, except that his entire court insists his nose is perfectly noble.

Life continues this way until he falls in love with a princess whose nose is refreshingly ordinary. Then everything changes. An enchanter makes the princess vanish, the prince sets out after her, he meets a Fairy, and then ...? Join us and find out!

For a free copy of Prince Hyacinth & the Dear Little Princess, click [here](#).

Holy Dormition Church, Santa Rosa St. Nicholas Christmas Fair - Sat. Dec 6



We'll be right back!



No words needed

Cookie Decorating with the Local School Kids - Wed. Dec 10



The lull before the storm



The storm!

CHRISTMAS 2025

We were blessed to have TWO priests with us for our Nativity celebrations - our dear friends Fr Edward Henderson and Fr Stephen Howell. Our thanks to you both and to all the faithful who joined us in greeting the birth of our Lord!



Christmas Eve Vespers Liturgy



*Christmas Eve 12 Course Meal
Lots of carols and lots of food*



Christmas Liturgy



*Christmas Day Meal
Lots of food and a carol or two*

ABBESS MELANIA AND THE
SISTERHOOD OF HOLY
ASSUMPTION MONASTERY ARE
PLEASED TO OFFER THE 2026 PRE-
LENTEN RETREAT WITH
HIS GRACE, BISHOP VASILY

Lent as the School of Theology & Piety

Saturday, Feb 7, 2026
The Brannan Center
1407 3rd Street, Calistoga

9AM REGISTRATION & HOSPITALITY

10AM LECTURE

11AM BREAK

11:15 LECTURE

12:30 6TH HOUR

1PM LUNCH

2PM LECTURE

3:30PM CONCLUDING PRAYER

4:00 PM VIGIL IN MONASTERY CHAPEL



Pre-register by January 31 with a suggested donation of \$25.00. Registrations will be accepted at the door *if space permits* with a suggested donation of \$30.00. Please pre-register regardless of your ability to contribute.

Register at <https://holyassumptionmonastery.com/events>
(707) 942-4658 or
sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com