



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY



JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

ZOO UPDATE - Where Is Sunrise?!

Somewhere along the line, I got on a "Word of the Day" email list. (What can I say? I'm a confirmed word junkie!) The other day, the word was *weltschmerz*:

1. *Mental depression or apathy caused by comparison of the actual state of the world with an ideal state.*
2. *A mood of sentimental sadness.*

I don't know many people who fit the first definition exactly, but I do know quite a few who are discouraged by the state of our world and are pining for a version—rightly or wrongly—that they believe would be better.

The good news is that an ideal world does exist. It is the Kingdom of Heaven: eternal, unshakeable, and already touching our broken, mortal world in the here and now.

The harder news is that the Kingdom doesn't magically erase the brokenness of our culture or anyone else's. Until Christ returns in glory, we will continue to live in the tension between the two kingdoms.

But this isn't bad news. Christ has already won the victory over the prince of this world; we are simply in the mopping-up phase—difficult, yes, but with a definite end.

So the question isn't "How do we fix our broken culture?" but "How do we fight for our true King?" For a few people, that may involve politics. For most of us, it looks like what the Kingdom has always looked like: loving God and loving our neighbor.

If you're not sure what that means for you right now, talk to your confessor or to a wise older person. They may not hand you a full war plan, but they can help you fight the battle that's in front of you today. And as you keep fighting your part of the battle, you'll find the Kingdom of Heaven establishing an ever-stronger beachhead right where you live.

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

We often joke (but know that it's true) that Sunrise is not a super-smart bird. One day recently, several sisters noticed that the African Greys were hard to see in the aviary: where were they spending their time?

At dinner time, Petie appeared in the feeding area all by himself. Calling out Sunrise's name, the sister heard a "peep!" and rustling sound... but still couldn't see Sunrise. A few more "peeps!" and rustles focused her attention on two stacked cardboard boxes underneath the feeding area. Lifting up the top box, the sister immediately realized that Sunrise had chewed his way through the bottom of the top box, and then the top of the bottom box -- and had fallen inside the bottom box! He might have been inside for hours, and clearly he had never considered the possibility of chewing his way through a side of the box to free himself.

Our sister came to his rescue and pulled him back up through the hole he had chewed. Both birds then enjoyed dinner and climbed to their favorite perches for lights out, while we rotated the box so that now the hole is on the side near the floor.

We all occasionally need rescuing from our not-too-bright activities, and we love Sunrise, even when he's not the sharpest knife in the drawer!



Actually, I was planning a jail break!

MAJOR SCHEDULE CHANGE: We gratefully announce that Fr. Nicholas Carr will be serving Divine Liturgy here on the 1st, 2nd, & 4th Sundays of each month. So, going forward, we will plan for Liturgy on those Sundays. If we don't have a priest for the 3rd & 5th Sundays, we will go out for Liturgy.

JUNE CALENDAR

Sundays June 7, 14, 28 - 10 am Divine Liturgy

Sunday June 21 - No Liturgy

Monday June 29 (Ss. Peter and Paul) - 9 am Divine Liturgy

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MOTHER MELANIA'S BOOK UPDATE

Quiz Yourself on the Book of Jeremiah is now available on Amazon as a Kindle book till the end of June for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.

QUIZ YOURSELF ON THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

Quizzes from Easy-Peasy to Mega-Master



MOTHER MELANIA SALEH

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

Classic Kids' Tales: Cinderella

We've all read or seen Cinderella many times, and this version is a lot like the ones we all know. EXCEPT, that is, that it doesn't end with Cinderella's marriage to the prince.

Wondering how it DOES end? Join us and find out!



For a free copy of *Cinderella*, click [here](#).

LITURGICAL LIFE



Fr. Michael Vladimirov



Fr. Nicholas Carr



Fr. Damian Kuolt

HERE & THERE CHURCH FESTIVALS

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension, Oakland; May 15-17



I LOVE Church Festivals!

Nativity of Christ Church, Novato; May 23-24



Ready for Business!

A NEW GATE

As long as we've been here, our driveway gate has been on life support. So, it's a joy to have an actual functioning gate. Our thanks to Fr John Christianson, who provided the redwood, and Michael Danford, who rebuilt the gate. If we haven't exhausted the two of you, we have other projects for you to consider!



Now, THAT is a saw!



Time for an honorable discharge!



Success!