



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – February 2018

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

How often we get depressed about struggling with the same old sins year after year! And how VERY often we get angry at the people around us who have been doing the same annoying things FOREVER! And no matter how hard we try, we can't seem to break this pattern.

Well, we can take a cue from - of all things - video games. In a video game, the levels are simultaneously the same as and different from each other. They're the same in the sense that a particular game (and therefore each level) is about racing, or treasure hunting, or empire building, or whatever. If the first level is farming, we can be confident the second level won't be kung fu! But the levels do differ in that they increase in difficulty from level to level. As soon as we master one level, we have to go to the next level – where it becomes hard all over again.

Life follows the same pattern, but we often fail to see it. We all have our particular besetting sins that we've struggled with for years, and it's easy to despair. But more often than not, we really HAVE made progress, we're just on higher levels of the struggle. As for our loved ones that drive us crazy, what were they like ten years ago? Chances are, their story is a lot like ours. They're working on themselves but still have a lot of work left to do. Maybe they've made a LOT of progress in ten years, but we have been focusing on how far they have to go instead of how far they've come.

So, may God grant us to enter Lent with renewed hope and patience for ourselves and those around us. And while we struggle with the particular challenges of our current level, may we always remember to thank God for the progress we and our loved ones have all made. And who knows? When Lent rolls around next year, we may be another level or two further along!

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*



*I get my very own
food dispenser!*

ZOO UPDATE – Crackle settles in

We're happy to report that Crackle is settling down successfully into life without her two buddies. She has downsized to a smaller cage, which she seems to think rather cozy, and she spends a lot of time talking to her twin in the mirror. She's been singing a lot, too, which is a very encouraging sign that she's adjusting well to her new circumstance. Her caretaker has yet to convince her to start learning Mozart, though. Maybe next month!



*Mirror, mirror in the cage ...
Looking decent for my age
(almost 5, you know!)*

LITURGICAL LIFE

Feast of St. Basil the Great & the Circumcision of our Lord

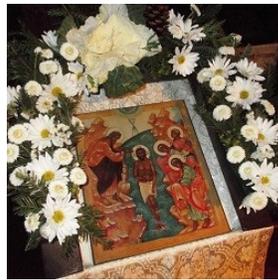
Feast of the Theophany of our Lord



Fr. Vladimir Morozov



Worshipping together



Icon of the Theophany



Blessing the Napa River



BLESSING OF THE MONASTERY



Belfry



Aviary



Koi Pond



Lower Garden



Bookstore and the Christmas Tree that refuses to die



Monastery office



Refectory



And don't forget the cars!



BOOKSTORE – HERE & THERE



So much to choose from, so little time!



Just one more question, Fr. Timothy!

In late January, our traveling bookstore was at St. Seraphim Church, Santa Rosa, for an excellent marriage retreat given by Fr. Timothy Pavlatos. The retreat was so good that we plan to ask Fr. Timothy to give a similar retreat here. So, stay tuned!



Every newsletter needs a picture of an adorable baby!

Meanwhile, sales at our new bookstore have steadily increased since the grand opening last August – thanks partly to our loyal following of cookie-loving school children. But don't worry parents – we have some healthy choices, too!



We've got cookies. Life is good!



Do you want to see the cookie or our school projects?



Did we just get the last two cookies?



Grown ups love cookies, too!

February 2018 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery & St. Simeon Church

Monastery contact info – (707) 942-6244; email – sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com;

website – <http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Due to major repairs at St. Simeon Church, all services are at the Monastery until further notice</p>				1 6 pm Vigil	2 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>The Meeting of Our Lord</u>	3 5 pm Vigil
				4 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</u>	5	6
11 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Sunday of the Last Judgment</u>	12	13	14	15	16	17 5 pm Vigil
18 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy followed by Forgiveness Vespers <u>Forgiveness Sunday</u>	19 BEGINNING OF THE GREAT FAST 6:00pm Great Compline w/ the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	20 6:00pm Great Compline w/ the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	21 4:00pm Pre- sanctified Liturgy ~6:30pm Great Canon	22 6:00pm Great Compline w/ the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	23 6:00pm Small Compline w/ the Paraklesis	24 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (tentative) <u>St. Theodore the Recruit Saturday</u> 5 pm Vigil
25 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Triumph of Orthodoxy Sunday</u>	26	27	28 4:00pm Pre- sanctified Liturgy	<p>Our schedule changes during Lent. For details, please go to the calendar tab on our webpage.</p>		

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday March 3
Marriage, Love, and Sexuality: A Cultural Crossroads
 led by Mother Melania

see enclosed poster for details

Lenten Retreat—Saturday March 3, 2018

***Marriage, Love, and Sexuality:
A Cultural Crossroads***

led by Mother Melania



9:00 AM—Session 1

10:30 AM—Session 2

12:15 PM Akathist

1 pm Lunch

2pm—Session 3

**HOLY ASSUMPTION
MONASTERY**



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<http://holypassumptionmonastery.com>

No Fee—donations accepted

Call Soon—Space is limited

Mother Melania is the abbess of Holy Assumption Monastery and the author of a number of children's books.