



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – July 2018

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

Phone: 707-942-6244; Email: sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com

Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com



Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

Recently, a friend was googling how to do something. The first result of typing “how to” was, predictably, “how to win friends and influence people.” The second, surprisingly, was “how to change your mind.” You'd think that would be easy, wouldn't you? Most of us assume that WE can change our minds whenever the evidence merits it, but we can easily think of a handful (or several handfuls!) of people who can't. Yet if we ask these very people, they most likely will insist that that WE are the ones who are exasperatingly unable or unwilling to change our minds. So, why IS it so hard to change our minds? And why don't we even realize that it's so hard? The reason is simple - we are blinded by our sin.

Well then, how do we regain our spiritual sight? We can start by asking somebody we trust where our blind spots are and having the humility to take their input seriously. Next, we should take this newfound knowledge to confession. First and middle and last, we must trust God to grant us spiritual sight, courage, perseverance and strength. Then we will not only be able to change our minds, but have our minds renewed by Christ. And we may or may not ‘win friends and influence people’ but we will have God for our Friend, and what more can we want?

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

ZOO UPDATE: Farewell to Chiquito & Hi, Again, to Daisy



Chiquito in his indoor quarters

We're sorry to report that our bunny Chiquito is no longer with us. He was getting on in years for a bunny, and one day, we found him gone. But we are happy to be able to say that in his last weeks he had become much more affectionate than ever before – always ready for a treat or an ear scratch. So, he is missed, but we are glad that his last days were happy ones.

On a more encouraging note, as this is being written, Daisy the dog is visiting for a few weeks. We're always delighted to perform dog-sitting duties, and Daisy is always happy to spend time with us. The cats are still not exactly ecstatic, but they are ignoring her from ever closer range – and that's a good start!

Daisy – Pet me, and I'm your friend for life!



Church Festival Season, Part 2

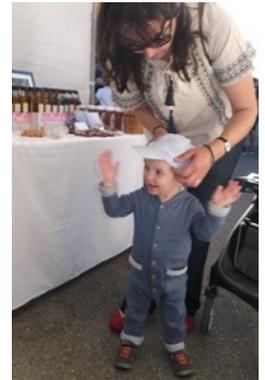
The bookstore sisters joined St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, San Jose, for their Festival weekend June 1-3. As always, they were welcomed with great kindness, for which we are very thankful. This marks the end of the SPRING festival season, but AUTUMN is around the corner! So, stay tuned!!



We do sell things other than honey!



Nothing like hot weather to make you appreciative of electric fans!!



So much stuff to get into, so little time!!



Work Parties

On Thursday, June 7, parishioners from Holy Annunciation Church, Sacramento, and St. Anna Church, Roseville (not to mention a few of our Calistoga neighbors ☺) joined together for a massive work party. Among other things, they painted the outside of the church, pruned trees, weeded, finished a staircase leading into the lower garden, cleaned up four different garden sections, helped with irrigation system repairs, processed herbs and green beans, and cleaned and reset mosquito traps! Other than that, they didn't do much ☺.

Another work party was held on Saturday, June 23, with parishioners from Nativity of Christ Church in Novato. Due to temperatures high enough to merit heat advisories, they did mostly indoor work including air conditioner maintenance, house cleaning, food prep, and putting together this newsletter (which is why pictures of them will have to wait till next month ☺)

In writing this, we are deeply aware of how much we owe our friends. Without your help, we could not possibly maintain this beautiful monastery that has been entrusted to us. Thank you one and all!



Mom, I want to help, too!



This would be easier if you had given us TWO bowls!



Okay, troops! You have your orders. Start painting!



Ah! Air conditioning!

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	2	3	4	5	6	7 9 am – 3 pm Retreat (see poster for details) 5:00pm Vigil
8 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	9	10 6:00pm Vigil	11 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Martyr Euphemia & Saint Olga</u>	12	13	14 5:00pm Vigil
15 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	16 6:00pm Vigil	17 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Holy Royal Passionbearers & Martyr Marina</u>	18	19	20	21 5:00pm Vigil
22 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	23	24 6:00pm Vigil	25 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Dormition of St. Anna</u>	26	27	28 5:00pm Vigil
29 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	30	31	<p>NOTE: Our schedule sometimes changes unexpectedly. Please check our website or the recorded message on our telephone for last minute changes and updates on repairs at St. Simeon Parish.</p>			

SATURDAY JULY 7 RETREAT

**Orthodox Christianity and American Constitutional Ideals:
A One-Day Retreat to Reflect on the Relationship of Orthodoxy & American Citizenship**

led by Fr. Philip Tolbert, of Holy Dormition Church, Santa Rosa, CA

see enclosed poster for details

Summer Retreat—Saturday July 7, 2018

Orthodox Christianity and American Constitutional Ideals

A One Day Retreat to Reflect on the Relationship of Orthodoxy & American Citizenship

Conducted by the V. Rev. Philip Tolbert

Orthodox people today are confronted with a bewildering social and political milieu every time we step outside our homes. Is it possible to be both fully Orthodox and fully American?

Can an Orthodox person participate fully and with a clear conscience in the American political process?

How should we respond to the wide array of ideas and behaviors that are often glaringly at odds with Orthodox moral teaching?

These and similar questions are on the minds of many Orthodox people today. At this retreat, we plan to make a beginning of addressing such questions and in the process discover our proper voice as Orthodox Americans in the 21st Century.



9:00 AM - Session 1



10:30 AM - Session 2



12:15 PM - Akathist

1 pm - Lunch



2:00 PM - Session 3



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

1519 Washington St.

Calistoga, CA 94515

(707) 942-6244

<http://holyassumptionmonastery.com>

No Fee—donations accepted

Call Soon—Space is limited

Father Philip Tolbert is an archpriest in the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada & Australia (Bulgarian Patriarchate) and is the National Director of the Bulgarian Orthodox Youth Apostolate (Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministries). He is attached to Holy Dormition Orthodox Church in Santa Rosa, CA.