



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – October 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,

Here's a question. When the priest fulfills his role in the Divine Liturgy is he SERVING or CELEBRATING the Divine Liturgy? Some people have strong opinions one way or the other on that question, but the obvious answer is BOTH.

The Divine Liturgy is most certainly a celebration – a celebration of Christ's victory over death, of His eternal Kingship and our participation in His Kingdom, of the restoration and re-creation of the universe ... Furthermore, in the Divine Liturgy, we don't just celebrate the idea of all this, but actually ENTER INTO the Kingdom.

Yet the King Whom we celebrate is the Servant of all, Who told His disciples this:

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. (Mt. 20:25b-28)

Thus, a basic requirement for entering into the Kingdom of Heaven is humble, loving service. Since participation in the Divine Liturgy IS participation in and celebration of the Kingdom of Heaven, only servants can celebrate it fully. That, of course, doesn't just involve the priests. The word Liturgy itself means "common work." The Divine Liturgy is the common work of God's people – a work of service and celebration. So, the more we practice serving and celebrating Christ in our daily lives, the better equipped we'll be to serve and celebrate Him in the Divine Liturgy - and in His eternal Kingdom!

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*



*Petie at vet's -
Do you REALLY
have to do this?*



ZOO UPDATE: Birds of a feather don't always flock together

Now that Sr. Margarete (the former majordomo for the birds) is back from her pilgrimage, things have gotten "interesting" in the aviary. Because Sunrise is friendlier to humans than Petie is, Sunrise was receiving the lion's share of the attention. But Petie loves Sr. Margarete. So, when she returned, all of a sudden Petie was the "lion." To our surprise, the generally well-mannered Sunrise then became so jealous of Petie that he bit Petie's foot! This resulted in a visit to the vet, antibiotics for Petie, and the removal of Sunrise to an outdoor cage until our bird expert friends can advise us what to do next.

In the meantime, Sunrise seems to have accepted with equanimity the trade-off between a much smaller space and much more human interaction (although when somebody takes him out of his cage, he is definitely not eager to go back in!). Petie, on his part, is NOT a happy camper about the antibiotics, but is enjoying all the one-on-one time. That's it for now. Stay tuned as the saga continues!

*Petie returning from vet's – It helps to
view things from a different perspective!*



*Mother Melania
assists Sunrise
in jail break!*



*Sunrise - You can't fool me.
Once I step up, I'll be in jail again!*

LITURGICAL LIFE



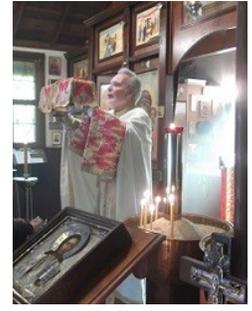
*Beheading of St. John the Baptist -
Fr. Vladimir Morosan*



*Nativity of the Theotokos -
Fr. James Jorgensen*



*Elevation of the Holy Cross -
Fr. James Jorgensen*



*Great Martyr Eustathius -
Fr. Constantine Efstathiu*

BOOKSTORE TRAVELS

International Cultural Food & Music Festival - Vallejo Waterfront Park



*Next time, don't forget to
check the weather report
for wind!*

St. Demetrios Church - Concord, CA



*Did we remember all
the honey?*

Ss. Constantine & Helen Church - Vallejo, CA



*Have cash registers,
waiting for cash!*

Holy Dormition Church - Santa Rosa, CA



*Is our sign
big enough?*

St. Nicholas Church - Saratoga, CA



*Shopper
in training*

AND ON THE HOME FRONT ...

The Saga of Cookie Monster



*Javier & Danilo -
dynamic duo
of tree trimmers!*



*Cookie Monster is
our best salesman!*



*Oh no! Cookie
decries unfair
labor practices!*



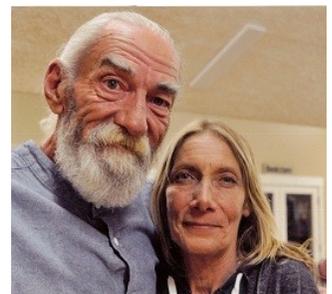
*Aha! We have
discovered the
true agitator!*



*Sometimes, you have to think
INSIDE the box!*

UPDATE ON MICHAEL & ANGELA

Thanks to all of you who have been asking about Michael and Angela. Their house-sitting situation has ended for now, and so they are looking for a place where they can live AND work. Sadly, they are having trouble finding somebody willing to rent to homeless people. So, if you live near Petaluma and have an extra room or two or enough acreage to put a small RV or trailer, please let us know. Thanks again for all your help!



October 2018 Schedule for **Holy Assumption Monastery & St. Simeon Church**

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 5:00pm Vigil
7 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	8	9 6:00pm Vigil	10 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Venerable Fathers of Optina</u>	11	12	13 5:00pm Vigil
14 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	15 6:00pm Vigil	16 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Martyr Longinus</u>	17	18	19	20 5:00pm Vigil
21 11:00am Divine Liturgy <u>St. Demetrios Chapel, Macedonian Park</u>	22	23	24 6:00pm Vigil	25 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>St. Tabitha</u>	26	27 5:00pm Vigil
28 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	29	30	31 6:00pm Vigil (for Ss. Cosmas & Damian, November 1)	Due to major repairs at St. Simeon Church, all services are at the Monastery until further notice		

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday November 17

Critical Junctures in 2,000 Years of our Christian Heritage

led by the V. Rev. John Takahashi,
Dean Emeritus, Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA

Fall Retreat—Saturday November 17, 2018

Critical Junctures in 2,000 Years of our Christian Heritage

Conducted by the V. Rev. John Takahashi

Learning the critical junctures in the history of Orthodoxy, we discover the true figure of Christ's One Holy, Apostolic and Catholic Church. Reviewing what was missed or overlooked by church historians—whose interests are more political and theological—we retrieve the continuous unchanging Church life, given to all mankind as a gift.



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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No Fee—donations accepted

Call Soon—Space is limited

Father John Takahashi is an archpriest in the Orthodox Church in America and is dean emeritus of Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco. Archpriest John Takahashi has served as a priest in Japan and the United States for 47 years. He is a scholar and also a talented artist.