



# Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – December 2019

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

And the word (*Logos*) became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

A few years ago at a retreat here at the monastery, a conversation came up about the meaning of *Logos*, which (as above) is normally translated as “word.” A friend with a PhD in the classics said that the most fundamental meaning of *Logos* would be closer to ... Meaning! So, Christmas is the celebration of the One Who IS Meaning coming into this world and taking on flesh, for our sake. Yet, there seems to be little agreement on the meaning of life in our day. Is it the purposeless purpose of evolution? Expressing oneself? Fighting social injustice? Is there any meaning at all?

Christmas reminds us where we find meaning – in the One Who humbled Himself to dwell with us. In icons of Christ’s Nativity, He is wrapped not in swaddling clothes, but in winding sheets because He was born to die for us, to offer His whole life for love of us. So, our meaning lies in following Him in His life of humble and courageous love, of taking up our crosses and following Him. And who knows? If we start living lives of real meaning, our culture may just follow suit!

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania  
and the community  
of Holy Assumption Monastery*



*Just add water!*

## ZOO UPDATE – Fish Tales

Ever since our dear friend and koi expert Norm died over two years ago, we have been looking for somebody to maintain our koi pond. Because our system is a bit unusual, it’s been quite a challenge to find someone who understands the system and is located close enough to Calistoga to be able to service the pond on a regular basis.



*If you touch the wrong part, it will explode!*



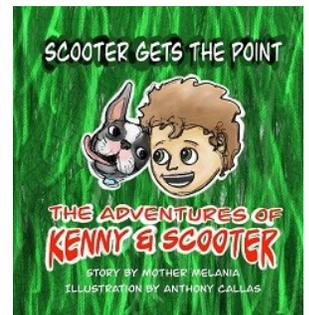
*Ghost creatures or poor photography?*

So, it was a joy and relief when Anthony of Koi Enterprise in Sacramento arrived on the scene! He started by overhauling the pump and plumbing system, which was in sore need of some TLC. There’s a little more work to be done to get the current system tip top. After that’s all done, there’s a good chance that we can finally get the fountain area working again. So, we’re all very excited. Well, we’re not sure if the koi are excited or not, but they should be!!!



## NEW CHILDREN’S BOOK – *Scooter Gets the Point*

*Scooter Gets the Point* is the first book in *The Adventures of Kenny & Scooter*, our new series of minimal-word picture books. Written by Mother Melania and illustrated by Anthony Callas, the series celebrates the love of family and friends (and of course, a boy and his dog) through the comic mishaps of daily life. If you’re looking for a Christmas present for a young child, please consider buying *Scooter Gets the Point* on Amazon (by using [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you can support us even more) or through our bookstore by email ([bookstore@holyassumptionmonastery.com](mailto:bookstore@holyassumptionmonastery.com)) or phone (707-942-6244).



## ***OLIVE HARVEST***

Thanks to our friends from St. Lawrence Church in Felton and St. Seraphim Cathedral in Santa Rosa for helping us with this year's olive harvest. Looking forward to next year!



*Pick a pail of olives!*



*I volunteer! I volunteer!*



*Can I try an olive?*



*The nuns did SOME of the work!*



## ***BOOKSTORE – Here & There***

***Ss. Peter & Paul Church, November 9 & 10***

***The Adventures of Cookie Monster***



*Where's the honey?!*



*Happy customers 😊*



*Cookie Monster makes everyone smile.*



*Grandpa Cookie with his winter coat*



## ***THANKSGIVING***



*We are thankful for our friends ...*



*and God's bounty ...*



*and the joy of a child (and his dad 😊)*



## ***SAINT NICHOLAS HOUSE FUNDRAISING***

Our fundraising thermometer continues to rise. The sisters have started their visits to Bay Area churches and have been heartened by the response. Again, if you would like your parish to be on our list, please contact us!

A Christmas benefit concert, *Carols and Canapes*, will be held on December 19, 5:30 pm, at Indian Springs, here in Calistoga. See the enclosed flyer for details. We welcome your participation in helping us plan additional events!



**December 2019 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery**  
 Monastery contact info – (707) 942-6244; email – [sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com](mailto:sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:00pm Vigil
<b>8</b> 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5:00pm Vigil
<b>15</b> 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Vigil	<b>17</b> 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <b><u>Prophet Daniel &amp; the Three Holy Youths</u></b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 5:30pm Carols & Canapes  see flyer for details	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:00pm Vigil
<b>22</b> 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00am Royal Hours  1:00pm Vesperal Liturgy  5:00pm Christmas Eve meal  9:30pm Vigil	<b>25</b> 12:00am Divine Liturgy  <b><u>Nativity of Our Lord</u></b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:00pm Vigil
<b>29</b> 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Vigil	<b>31</b> 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy  <b><u>Venerable Melania the Younger &amp; Leavetaking of Nativity</u></b>  6:00 pm Vigil	<b>1</b> 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy  <b><u>Circumcision of the Lord &amp; St. Basil the Great</u></b>	<b>NOTE: Our schedule sometimes changes unexpectedly. Please check our website or the recorded message on our telephone for last minute changes.</b>		

# CAROLS & CANAPES

AN EVENING BENEFIT FOR  
HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY  
ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE FUND

ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE  
DARIO SATTUI & IRINA YARTSEVA, JOHN MERCHANT,  
SUE MAURO, LISA LOCHANKO, AND SARA KOZEL



COMPLIMENTARY WINE & HORS D'OEUVRES  
LIVE ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS MUSIC  
RAFFLE & MYSTERY DOOR PRIZE!  
**HELP THE NUNS MEET THEIR \$20,000 MATCHING  
DONATION GOAL!**

DEC  
19  
2019

5:30-7PM | THURSDAY  
THE BARN @ INDIAN  
SPRINGS RESORT

**\$35 SUGGESTED  
DONATION**

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