



# Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – January 2020

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

In preparation for our *Carols and Canapes* Fundraiser for St. Nicholas House (which was a great success 😊), as you can see on the next page), a couple of the sisters put together a slideshow of monastery moments from the last ten years. We got a chuckle from many of them, including this one, showing Fr. Theodor Svane and the sisters blessing the monastery in a cold, soaking rain. Beyond the chuckle, the picture reminded us of the sheer joy of the Theophany blessing of the water, especially when God doubles the blessing by sending rain down from the heavens!



*Wet but joyful!*

Yet on any other cold, wet winter day, we are more likely to see rain as a nuisance than as a blessing. So, why is Theophany different? The rain isn't any less wet or cold on Theophany, but caught up in the joy of Christ, we just don't focus on the discomfort the way we would on any other day. The good news is that we can do that ANY day, and the key is thankfulness. As we start this new year, may God help us to be ever thankful for all that He has done for us and ever alive to the joy of life in Him.

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania  
and the community  
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

## HAVE BOOKSTORE, WILL TRAVEL

**St. Seraphim Cathedral**  
Santa Rosa  
November 30



*Is this festive enough?*

**Holiday Village**  
Calistoga  
December 6



*Filling Santa in on who's naughty or nice?*

**Arts & Crafts Fair**  
Calistoga  
December 7



*Today's offerings – cookies, cookies, & cookies*

**Nativity of the Holy Virgin**  
Menlo Park  
December 7



*Can I take him home?*

**Holy Dormition**  
Santa Rosa  
December 7



*The brightness of the season?*



## ZOO UPDATE – Christmas Eve at the Zoo

Every year the zoo denizens look forward to their special treat that they get in honor of Christ's being born in a manger. At least, we assume they do. At any rate, WE look forward to giving them the treats, and THEY do enjoy eating them!



*Cha Cha & Pixley –  
Birds that eat together  
stay together!*



*Petie –  
Yum! Bird candy!*



*Sunrise –  
I may be in prison,  
but the food is marvelous!*



*the Koi –  
Yay! Cheerios!!*

## CHRISTMAS 2019 (No, we didn't forget the cats!)



*Balou –  
Let me eat in peace!*



*Simba –  
The treat bag says it all!*



*Cookie –  
I get extra treats for this!*



*Philly –  
Life is good 😊*



*Decorating Cookies –  
Don't have TOO much fun!*



*Leading Carols –  
Tra la la la la!*



*12-Course Christmas Eve Meal –  
Save room! We've got five courses to go!*



*Santa's  
Helpers*



*Vesperal Liturgy  
of St. Basil*



*Christmas Vigil*



*A star showed Thee Whom nothing  
can contain contained within a cave.*



*Christmas Liturgy*



*I'm sorry. HOW many French hens?*



*What's for dessert?*



*Desserts worth waiting for!*



*See? We ARE star singers!*



## SAINT NICHOLAS HOUSE FUNDRAISING

The December 19<sup>th</sup> Carols & Canapes fundraiser for the new St. Nicholas House project was a wonderful success! Nearly 100 people – our Calistoga neighbors, as well as friends from Santa Rosa and Fairfield – joined us at Indian Springs Resort that Thursday evening. Thanks to the generosity of many local businesses, our guests enjoyed wine and light hors d'oeuvres while purchasing tickets for generous raffle prizes that included hotel stays, restaurant gift cards, and (of course!) wine and wine tastings. The sisters presented information on the St. Nicholas House project, while a group of singers from Santa Rosa offered a selection of Orthodox Christmas hymns, and another friend played seasonal selections on her harp. The evening raised a total of \$12,325 for our project and helped us meet the \$20,000 matching gift from a local business owner. We would like to thank everyone who participated as a guest, a sponsor, a musician, or a contributor in any way. Glory to God for His gifts and for the love He shows us through our friends.



*Santa's helper is back!*



*Now for our next selection ...*



*Too cool!*



*Putting in a good  
word for the nuns*



**January 2020 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
<p><b>NOTE: Our schedule sometimes changes unexpectedly. Please check our website or the recorded message on our telephone for last-minute changes.</b></p>			<p>1 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy</p> <p><u>The Circumcision of Christ/St. Basil the Great</u></p>	2	3 7:00am Royal Hours	4 5:00pm Vigil
5 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy followed by the Indoor Blessing of the Water	6 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy followed by the Outdoor Blessing of the Water	7	8	9	10	11 5:00pm Vigil
5:00pm Vigil	<u>Theophany</u>					
12 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	13	14	15	16 6:00pm Vigil	17 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	18 5:00pm Vigil
					<u>Ven. Anthony the Great</u>	
19 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	20	21	22 6:00pm Vigil	23 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	24	25 5:00pm Vigil
				<u>Hieromartyr Clement of Ancyra</u>		
26 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	27	28	29 6:00pm Vigil	30 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	31	
				<u>Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs</u>		