

St. Barbara Monastery – 15799 Ojai Road – Santa Paula, CA 93060
(805) 921-1563 – www.stbarbaramonastery.org

CHRIST IS RISEN!

***The April Gathering of the Friends
of St. Barbara Monastery
April 29th, 2018***

4pm Presentation:

***Gender, Marriage and Sexuality:
Fighting the Culture Wars With the Weapon of Peace***

***Speaker: Mother Melania
Abbess of Holy Assumption Monastery
Calistoga, CA***

5:00 pm Vespers

6:00 pm Potluck

DIRECTIONS TO THE MONASTERY

From Highway 101 – Exit Hwy 126 East at Ventura.

Travel 11 miles east along Hwy 126 and exit 10th St/Hwy 150 at Santa Paula.

Turn left from the exit ramp and follow 10th St/Hwy 150 through Santa Paula.

Bear right at the fork in the road. This is Ojai Rd/Hwy 150.

Travel about five miles (1/4 mile past Thomas Aquinas College) to 15799 Ojai Road.

The monastery driveway is on the right just past our mailbox at Highway Marker 2830.

Follow the signs to the parking area.

From Highway 5 – Exit Hwy 126 West at Santa Clarita.

Travel 27 miles to Santa Paula, and exit at 10th St/Hwy 150.

Turn right from the exit ramp and follow 10th St/Hwy 150 through Santa Paula.

Bear right at the fork in the road. This is Ojai Rd/Hwy 150.

Continue as directed above.



Christ is risen!

Indeed, He is risen!

Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

*On this day Spring is fragrant;
The new creation danceth now.*

(From the Exapostilarion of St. Thomas Sunday)

Having just experienced the paschal celebration, doesn't the whole world look rather different? The sky, the trees, the buildings, even the cars on the highway and the people walking on the street—all look. . . . 'Precious!'—that's the word. The whole world looks very, very precious. What has happened? Have scales fallen from our eyes? Everything, down to the smallest and most inconsequential, appears bright and alive—and precious—and sacred.

'Precious' and 'sacred' are, of course, among the words that modernity has stripped from our vocabulary relating to the natural and material world. They represent 'subjective' categories that impede the purposes of industry, commerce, and development, science and technology, and we are trained not to think about the world in terms of such qualities. In fact, we are taught that such qualities are superimposed by us and do not belong to the world itself.

Then, just when we have begun to view the world routinely in this 'objective' way, an icon begins to weep, or someone, whose x-rays or scans reveal cancer beyond hope of recovery, receives the Sacrament of Holy Unction and is healed, or someone dies and his body remains incorrupt and even streams with myrrh. We rightly call such occurrences miracles; in them the order of nature is overruled. But naming them 'miracles' does not entirely take care of the matter and put it to rest for us. Do we not find ourselves thinking: "Things made of wood and paint do not weep; olive oil does not heal cancer, and the bodies of the departed decay. If such things are unaccountably happening, what is going on? And how much more is there that I do not notice because my eyes have been taught not to see?"

Dear Friends, we and you, who are baptized, who have experienced the Paschal celebration, "who have beheld the Resurrection," are called to live on a different plane, a plane where the Kingdom of God is breaking through into this world and rendering it the grace-filled meeting place between God and man that it was meant to be. When we live on this plane, we not only understand but experience the world and everything in it to be precious and sacred and a means of communion with God—objectively so. On this plane, it is not incomprehensible when we encounter in created things the marks of the Kingdom which is to come—in an icon, in oil, in the holy relics of the saints and, indeed, in our fellow human beings as well as in all the natural world. And by the same token, it is not mere poetic license when the hymnographer (St. John of Damascus) writes: "the new creation danceth now."

Abbess Victoria
and the community
of St. Barbara Monastery

ST. LUKE CHURCH, GARDEN GROVE, HOLDS A MONASTERY WORKDAY

On Saturday, April 21st, Father Michael Tassos and a group of his parishioners from St. Luke Church in Garden Grove spent the day at St. Barbara Monastery. We prayed together, shared a meal together and, the weather being perfect, worked hard out-of-doors together. We rented a chipper, and set to work making woodchips out of the several huge piles of dead and burnt branches we have been collecting from everywhere



on our property since the devastating Thomas Fire in December. Now, we will be spreading the mulch in our gardens and wherever they can be used to hold in moisture while keeping down the weeds. We also got a start on this newsletter and, with Mitch Denny's help, produced some large, gopher proof planters for this summer's vegetable garden. At the end of the day, we carved out time to talk together and hear a word of teaching from Father Michael before bringing our wonderful day to a close with Great Vespers in the monastery chapel.



ABBOT DIONISIE OF HOLY RESURRECTION MONASTERY VISITS ST. BARBARA MONASTERY

On Wednesday in the 6th Week of Lent, March 28th, Abbot Dionisie of Holy Resurrection Monastery near Temecula served the Presanctified Liturgy at St. Barbara Monastery.

Holy Resurrection Monastery was founded in 2014 with the blessing of Archbishop NATHANIEL and is part of the Romanian Episcopate of the Orthodox Church in America. The community is currently engaged in construction of a chapel.

OCA CENTRAL COAST DEANERY MEETS

As has become the custom, the Central Coast Deanery of the OCA's Diocese of the West met at St. Barbara Monastery for the Deanery's annual meeting. These meetings are usually devoted to discussion of matters of mutual interest and concern, and this year's meeting focused on the forthcoming All American Council to be held in Saint Louis, MO, July 23 - 27, 2018.



Pictured are V. Rev. Lawrence Russell of Holy Annunciation Church, Santa Maria, Dean; V. Rev. Paul Waisanen of St. Herman Church, Oxnard; V. Rev. Nazari Polataiko of Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral, Los Angeles; Rev. Yousuf Rassam of St. Innocent Church, Tarzana; Dn John Robinson of St. John of Damascus Church, Poway; and Abbess Victoria of St. Barbara Monastery.

LAZARUS SATURDAY WITH ARCHBISHOP BENJAMIN



As has been the custom for many years now, Archbishop BENJAMIN spent Lazarus Saturday at St. Barbara Monastery, serving the Vigil on Friday evening as well as the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning. This year, added to the usual celebrations, Theresa Dziubek, a close friend of the monastery and a sophomore at neighboring Thomas Aquinas College, was received into the Orthodox Church through Chrismation by Archbishop BENJAMIN, taking the name of Maria (St. Mary Magdalen). Jill

Wallerstedt, our lay sister, is her sponsor.

There will be no gathering of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery on May 29th, because it is Pentecost Sunday, when Vespers with the Kneeling Prayers is usually celebrated directly following the Divine Liturgy.