

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

THE AUGUST GATHERING OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. BARBARA MONASTERY

Sunday, August 27, 2017

4:00 pm Presentation:

Inner Prayer and Psalm 50: Our Daily Renewal

Speaker: Rev. Calinic Berger

Priest of St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox

Cathedral, Los Angeles

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.

Drive across the bridge and 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.



Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

Once the Feasts of Transfiguration and Dormition pass, August becomes the “season of reports” at the monastery. This is when, our fiscal year having just ended, our diocese asks for an annual financial report and a summary account of life at the monastery with a word about future plans.

The latter report this year will, of course, feature the long-awaited completion and consecration of our new chapel last May and the arrival of our new novice, Sister Photini. We won’t include much about future plans; nevertheless, writing this report (which, incidentally, we have evidence no one actually reads) has set us thinking about “What next?”

At present, we find ourselves approaching a crossroads. For the moment, our practical focus has to be paying off the debts incurred to complete construction of our chapel—about \$100,000. That will require quite an effort. Meanwhile, we have undertaken a small but critical project: preparing the strip of land along the south side of Sisar Creek (what we call “the sliver”) to accommodate more parking, because the Fire Dept. permits only very limited parking on the north side of the bridge where the chapel is. This means moving the pallets of block presently stored there and trimming the old oaks along the creek so that they present no hazard to vehicles that might be parked under them. Then we will have to see how best to prepare the ground for the purpose. We are hoping that this relatively small project can be completed by the Feast Day of St. Barbara on December 4th.

While all this is being accomplished, however, we need to be turning our attention to what might lie ahead. When Archbishop Benjamin presented us with the idea of building the chapel and the initial funds to start building it about six years ago, we were planning to construct a new wing onto our house to accommodate more sisters as well as guests. (Most of you realize that we have only one room available for a guest and the only alternative we can offer is a tent for camping.) So, the logical next project to undertake would be the new wing. But it turns out there is an obstacle to overcome first. Before any more construction can take place on the north side of the bridge, the Fire Dept. requires us to make the bridge wider for two-way traffic. This represents an important safety issue: preventing a bottleneck at the bridge with service vehicles attempting to enter at the same time cars would be trying to evacuate the property.

At this point, nothing is decided. Rather, we see the months ahead as a time to explore possibilities and try to discern the will of God for the monastery. We ask you, our Friends, to add your prayers to ours as well as to give us your thoughts regarding what might be the best path to pursue.

Abbess Victoria
and the Sisters of
St. Barbara Monastery

A WORD ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Father Calinic was born in Detroit, Michigan, and baptized by his maternal grandfather at the St. Simion Romanian Orthodox Church. In 1969 his family moved to California. As a child and as a teen he attended the Orthodox Church of the Redeemer in Los Altos Hills, California, where he formed the desire to serve God as a priest. Having graduated from Santa Clara University in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in Engineering, he later enrolled in the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, graduating in 1994. Following a semi-doctoral program in Patristics and Catholic Theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, completing his PhD in 2003. In between studies, he worked as an electrical engineer in the semiconductor industry. Feeling called to leave his job and was ordained to the holy diaconate in 2005 and to the holy priesthood in 2006. Father Calinic has served as Visiting Professor of Dogmatic Theology at St. Vladimir's Seminary and has taught and published on Orthodox theology and spiritual life in a variety of venues. Prior to coming to St. Nicholas, he was the pastor of Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, from 2006 to 2015. He was appointed assistant pastor at St Nicholas on December 6, 2015.



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NEW ITEM! PRAYER ROPES MADE AT THE MONASTERY

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!



We are now offering prayer ropes handmade here at St. Barbara Monastery of various knot-counts, materials, lengths and colors. Please consider supporting the monastery by purchasing a 33, 100 or 300 knot rope at the following prices:

33-knot bracelet: \$7, 100-knot rope: \$20, 300-knot rope: \$50

To learn what styles are available and make purchases, email us at sbmonasterystore@gmail.com or visit our monastery bookstore in person. A bulk discount is available for purchases of 5 or more prayer ropes.

MONASTERY CASKETS

We are giving our monastery casket industry a much-needed “reboot.” Many have lamented the fact that we are no longer offering redwood caskets. This is because the kind of redwood we were using is no longer available to us. To compensate for that, however, we are now in the process of designing two other wood casket styles that could include the use of Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar and/or Sitka Spruce. (We are especially excited about the last wood option with its connection to the history of Orthodoxy in America!) In the meantime, we are offering simple pine caskets for those who want to plan ahead and pre-order. Contact sbmonasterystore@gmail.com to place an order for a pine casket and stay tuned for more information on other casket options.



CHAPEL ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP

Little by little, we are trying to complete the furnishing of the interior of our new chapel. Some items are still available for sponsorship. If you are interested in sponsoring any of these items, please contact the monastery at 805-921-1563 or sbmonastery@gmail.com.

1 portable censer stand	\$750.00
1 wall-mounted censer stand	\$450.00
2 benches to seat clergy in the altar area	\$150.00 each
2 wood shelves (with supports) for the altar area	\$ 30.00 each
paraments (covers) for the Holy Table in gold, blue, white, green and purple	\$250.00 each
acolyte robes, 1 gold and 1 blue	\$200.00 each
1 narthex chandelier	\$800.00
2 sconces for the narthex	\$400.00 both
4 sets of 6 paraments (covers) for the icon stands (analogia) in gold, blue, green and purple	\$500.00 per set

Meanwhile, our iconographer Heather MacKean tells us that the icons yet to be completed for the iconostas will be ready for installation at the end of September.