

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

*CHRIST IS BORN!*



*GLORIFY HIM!*



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Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

Every so often, the phrase turns up in the stichera for some special day: “Come ye who love the feasts. . . .” We do love the feasts, which we think of as extraordinary days—days when we have special services or perhaps travel to a parish church that is celebrating its altar feast. But we also love regular days—to tell the truth, possibly even more. These are days which follow our basic rhythm of prayer, services, meals, work and rest. The Year of Our Lord, 2015, was wonderful for us, and made up of many such regular days.

The background sounds on these regular days here were from electric saws cutting boards and hammers knocking them into place—music to our ears (not unwelcome ‘noise’ at all!) as we watched our new chapel taking beautiful form inside and out. During the coming months, we will be gearing up throughout many anticipated regular days to invite all of you to their crown--a truly extraordinary day of celebration: the consecration of this new chapel dedicated to the Holy Martyrs Barbara and Eugene! (See “A Momentous Announcement” on the next page.)

Looking back over the year, we thank the Lord for His innumerable blessings on our monastery, including the blessings of your friendship and support. And we greet each and every one of you with this present great and glorious “Feast of the Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (as the Typicon calls it). May our celebration bring all of us ever more deeply into the Mystery of God’s love for us!

Abbess Victoria  
and the community of  
St. Barbara Monastery

## **!!! A MOMENTOUS ANNOUNCEMENT !!!**

On the Feast of St. Barbara, our project manager Mitchell Denny announced to Archbishop BENJAMIN and all present that this was the last Feast of St. Barbara that we would be celebrating in the monastery's house chapel! God willing, by next year, construction of the new chapel will be completed and the building declared ready for "occupancy" by the County of Ventura. Moreover, it is expected (hoped!) that, by then, the interior will be furnished and ready for worship. Upon receiving this encouraging news, the Archbishop immediately decreed that the consecration of the new chapel would take place, God willing, on Saturday, December 3, 2016—a day prior to the actual Feast of St. Barbara. *Mark your calendars and plan to be part of this glorious occasion.*

### ***FEAST OF ST. BARBARA – DECEMBER 3/4, 2015***

Although the Feast of St. Barbara fell on a Friday this year, well over a hundred



people arrived at the monastery to celebrate with us. We thank His Eminence, Archbishop BENJAMIN, for coming once again and presiding at all the liturgical services for the Feast. V. Rev. Paul Waisanen served the Vigil on Thursday evening and concelebrated with nine other priests at the Divine Liturgy on Friday: V. Rev. Michael Lafoon, V. Rev. Michael Tassos, V. Rev. Nicholas Speier, V. Rev. John Sommer, V. Rev. Josiah

Trenham, Rev. David Kruse, Rev. John Parker, Rev. Yousuf Rassam and Rev. Nazari Polataiko. Subdeacons Stephen Butler and Monk Lawrence served in the altar, and Ruth Rutledge directed the choir for the Divine Liturgy again this year. It was especially wonderful to have the children from the homeschoolers' group associated with St. Andrew Church in Riverside with us. We also thank all who contributed to the festive meals both Thursday and Friday, particularly Mary Lapadat, who arrived a day early to produce her special contributions to the table.

### **New Item Available**

**Mini wall calendars for 2016 are available, displaying 12 scenes from around the monastery. They are 6" square, sell for \$ 8.99, and can be ordered online (preferred) or by phone (805-921-1563) from the monastery bookstore.**

## ***FUNDRAISING DINNER AT ST. LUKE CHURCH, GARDEN GROVE***

On Sunday evening, November 8<sup>th</sup>, St. Luke Church in Garden Grove sponsored a fund raising dinner on behalf of the monastery's Chapel Building Fund. We thank V. Rev. Michael Tassos and Anna Nasser, Church Administrator, for all their work organizing this event and Chef Kimmy Tang and Bogdan Popescu for their incredible donation of all the food as well as its preparation. V. Rev. Michael Tassos and V. Rev. Jon Fate donated the various wines, which were presented with expert commentary at the dinner by V. Rev. John Finley. And we thank the innumerable others who worked together to create this most successful event, which raised some \$30,000 for the Chapel Building Fund!

Work on the chapel continues. At present, the construction crew is building the retaining walls designed to protect the paths that will be laid around the structure.

## ***MEMBERS OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH IN PALMDALE VISIT***

On Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, the monastery hosted a group from Holy Cross Church in Palmdale. Arriving in the late morning, they were present for the 6<sup>th</sup> Hour, and in the afternoon some helped us prepare the large mailing of invitations for our Feast of St. Barbara while others worked in the lavender fields, where the annual pruning is underway. We thank Rev. Menas Sarkisian, temporary priest of the parish, for accompanying his parishioners and serving both the Sixth Hour and



Vespers for all of us.

***A Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at the monastery  
on Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM,  
preceded by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours at 9:30 AM.  
Everyone is welcome.***