

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

*The March Gathering of the Friends
of St. Barbara Monastery
Sunday, March 27th, 2016*

4:00 pm - Presentation:

THEOLOGY OF THE ICON

Speaker: HEATHER MACKEAN

Master Iconographer

5:00 pm Vespers

6:00 pm Lenten 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,

“Good repentance!” These are the words monks and nuns are accustomed to using when greeting each other especially during this season of Great Lent. Like any greeting it can be over used so that its meaning fades for us, but in two words it captures the intent of Lent and the fundamental teaching of the Gospel

How astonishing it is that with all of our preparations for Pascha, we can manage to forgo this essential one! We fast, we attend extra church services, we give alms, we clean house, we buy new clothes, maybe we stay up late preparing special food. What is even more astonishing is that we go to Holy Confession, and still. . . nurse our besetting sins, harbor old grudges, ignore the needy. For each one of us the list is a bit different. But for all of us, how helpful a reminder, how to the point it is when we hear these words addressed to us: “Good repentance!”

Mysteriously—and truly it is a mystery—we find it difficult genuinely to utter the words “Forgive me” and change our ways. This is undoubtedly the favorite trick of the Evil One: to put fear into our hearts at the very prospect of doing anything that brings unparalleled peace and joy! Fasting, giving unstintingly of our wealth or our time, acknowledging wrongdoing are all examples. When we overcome our inner obstacles—by the Power of the Cross—and do these things, the reward is the peace of God and His joy. And we realize that nothing, absolutely nothing, is worth more.

If we have reached the second week of Lent and not yet truly begun this principal work of repentance, let us take heart from the words of Psalm 102: “The Lord is full of compassion and merciful, long suffering and of great goodness” (First Antiphon of the Divine Liturgy). Four weeks remain as well as Holy Week; the Lord is patiently giving us time to prepare ourselves.

“Good repentance!” With these words we greet each and every one of you. May none of us arrive at the great Paschal Liturgy unprepared.

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

IN MEMORIAM: BARBARA MARIAN HAWKINS

Barbara Marian Hawkins, our good Friend from Santa Paula, passed away on March 8th.

We first met Marian some seven years ago, and she with her husband Don quickly became part of our extended monastery family. They attended the Friends gatherings, occasionally dropped by; and Marian even accompanied us frequently on our travels to attend the Divine Liturgy at various Orthodox churches in the area. It wasn't very long before she became a catechumen at St. Herman Church in Oxnard, where she was baptized and chrismated with the name "Barbara" in 2011. About a year and a half ago, Marian was diagnosed with cancer. When she could no longer attend services at St. Herman Church, Fr. Paul Waisanen, the priest of the parish, became a frequent visitor to her home, bringing her the Holy Gifts.



We will miss her a lot, but those who attended her funeral at St. Herman Church at the beginning of Lent agree that our sadness at her departure was taken and transformed into nothing less than a foretaste of Pascha. Eternal memory!

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY ON CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL COAST



For almost twenty-five years now, the Orthodox parishes from San Luis Obispo to Camarillo as well as our monastery have been gathering together to celebrate Vespers on the first Sunday of Lent on which we commemorate the restoration of icon veneration to the Church by the 7th Ecumenical Council. This year, Sunday evening Vespers with the procession of icons and the proclamation of the Synodikon of Orthodoxy was held at St. Athanasius Church in Santa Barbara.

V. Rev. Nicholas Boldireff will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the monastery on Sunday, April 3rd, at 10:00 AM, preceded by the Hours at 9:30 AM. This is the 3rd Sunday of Lent, known as the Sunday of Veneration of the Holy Cross. Everyone is welcome.



BAY LEAF SEASON IS HERE!

During the 5th week of Lent (April 18th – April 23rd), we will be hard at work here at the monastery preparing bay leaves for the churches that request them from us for use at the Liturgy of Great and Holy Saturday. These leaves are harvested from bay trees growing along Sisar Creek on our property and need to be snipped from their branches, washed, dried and bagged. Anyone who might like to come and help with this task is most welcome! We ask that you call ahead to let us know when we can expect you (805-921-1563).



ARCHBISHOP BENJAMIN TO VISIT FOR LAZARUS SATURDAY

As has been the custom for many years now, Archbishop BENJAMIN has once again scheduled a visit to St. Barbara Monastery for the celebration of Lazarus Saturday. The Vigil on Friday evening, April 22nd, will begin at 4:00 PM and the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, April 23rd, will begin at 10:00 AM, preceded by the Hours at 9:30. A luncheon will follow. Everyone is welcome.

***Because the last Sunday in April is the Great Feast of Palm Sunday,
THERE WILL BE NO FRIENDS' GATHERING ON SUNDAY, APRIL 24th.***