

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



*The March Gathering of the Friends of
St. Barbara Monastery
Sunday, March 26th, 2017*

*4:00 pm Presentation:
The Sunday Scriptural Readings
for Great Lent*

*Speaker: Rev. Charalambos Fox
Pastor of St. Barbara Church, Santa Barbara*

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,

The Week of the Cross is here, and we have reached the mid-point of the Great Fast. Throughout the Orthodox world, the Holy and Life-Giving Cross rests in the center of every church, strengthening the faithful as they venerate it with love and pledge their allegiance to the Crucified One and His Kingdom. It is worth taking a moment to reflect on just how extraordinary this is!

It is a commonplace observation and all of us well know that we live in a society that is increasingly turning away from its Christian foundations. Perhaps news that a new and beautiful church has been constructed is not universally greeted with quite the same disinterest as in these parts. But here in Southern California the fact of the matter is that we don't generally meet enthusiastic responses when we remark, for example, that the building materials we are purchasing are for our new church. Everyone is ready to cheer a new mall, a new park, a new industrial development. But a new church. . . ?

In a few short weeks, however, Archbishop Benjamin will come, a multitude of the faithful will gather, and all together we will consecrate this new church to the glory of God. And immediately—wonder of wonders!—we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy in it. Few will note, or understand, or appreciate, or even care what we are doing. But on the newly consecrated altar table Heaven and earth will be united in the Bloodless Sacrifice of the Eucharist, renewing and strengthening our souls and bodies with the grace of God. The early Christians were accused of “turning the world upside down.” It was a fair accusation, because, indeed, that's what we do! Nations rise and fall, the character of life on earth changes with new discoveries and inventions, even human values change confusing good with evil. But we who have pledged our allegiance to the Crucified One and His Kingdom hold fast to a Source of life and strength that never fails, something that once signified only death—the Cross of Jesus Christ.

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

CHAPEL CONSECRATION PREPARATIONS CONTINUE

By Mitchell Denny, Project Manager

Imagine that you are getting your new house ready for a house blessing to which hundreds of people are invited! This might give you some sense of what the sisters and Project Manager Mitchell Denny are facing in the next few weeks! With the consecration set for Saturday, May 6, there are endless tasks to be finished and details to remember. Gratefully, we are not alone in our efforts. Here are just some of the volunteers and laborers who have come to the rescue this past month:

Our friend John Stoyas from St. Andrew Church in Riverside came out and installed the hardwood flooring in the altar and narthex. The flooring is lovely dark bamboo and was selected and bought by Elian Sayegh of St. Michael Church in Van Nuys. Elian also donated all of the flooring for the new ADH restrooms.



We have two faithful electrician crews: Nicholas Juganu and his teammates Cecil Roberts (both pictured at left) and John Moore from St. Innocent Church in Tarzana have spent many hours on the hookup of our new power service. And Team 2: Jim Morrison from St. Athanasius Church in Goleta and his crew have focused on the chapel itself and are installing all the light fixtures.

Thanks to a very generous—and unexpected—donation, the repaving of our driveway and the completion of two “turn-arounds” for fire engines is scheduled in two weeks.

Cabinets and benches, designed and built by Deacon George Moubayed of St. Mark Church in Irvine, will be installed this week.

Our Iconostas, designed and built by Patrick Gilbert, is set to be installed next week. And Patrick also completed the icons stands and is presently work on the choir stands.

The icons for the iconostas are being written by Heather MacKean. (Please keep her in your prayers.)

While the consecration is 7 weeks away, the all-important final County inspection will occur sooner, in about 3 weeks. Please keep this in your prayers also. May we pass with flying colors and no unexpected corrections or additions!

Truly this chapel is a work of all God’s people – from donors to workers to volunteers, and would not be happening without your prayerful support.

***We will have a Presanctified Liturgy at St. Barbara Monastery
on Wednesday, April 5th, at 3:00 PM
celebrated by Hieromonk Dionysie of Holy Resurrection Monastery in Temecula.
A meal will follow. Everyone is welcome.***

SPRING PLANTING



The abundance of rain this winter in stark contrast to the drought of the last several years has encouraged us to refresh our raised garden beds, built for us a few years ago by the Boy Scout troop from St. Demetrious Church in Camarillo. Athanasia Ballew (we call her “Asia”), one of our two lay sisters, is knowledgeable in the gardening method known as “Hugelkultur.” She has prepared the beds by filling them with rotting wood, compost, and grass clippings, all covered with soil. Over time, the wood breaks down and together with the compost makes the soil heavily rich in nutrients. We are presently planting the rejuvenated beds with vegetables and some herbs and anticipate an especially abundant harvest with much less watering necessary along the way.

At the same time, Asia has begun the landscaping around our new chapel. Terraced flower beds on the east side of the chapel will be filled with drought resistant flowers and shrubs. Time will tell if they are also deer resistant! But we have learned that the deer abhor snapdragons, lavender and pomegranate trees. So, look for snapdragons, different varieties of lavender and lacey pomegranate trees in the planted areas around the new construction.

LAZARUS SATURDAY WITH ARCHBISHOP BENJAMIN

As has been the custom for many years now, Archbishop BENJAMIN is scheduled to visit St. Barbara Monastery for Lazarus Saturday. On Friday, April 7th, at 4:00 PM, we will have the Vigil for the Feast, and on Saturday, April 8th, the Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:00 AM preceded by the Hours at 9:30. Following the Liturgy, everyone is invited to stay for a luncheon with His Eminence.