

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

***CHRIST IS RISEN!***

***INDEED HE IS RISEN!***

*The next gathering of  
The Friends of St. Barbara Monastery  
will be on  
Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

#### **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.*

***CHRIST IS RISEN!***



***INDEED, HE IS RISEN!***

Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

All of us at the monastery greet you with the joyful and ever-astonishing proclamation of the Resurrection of Christ! We are told that the angels were astonished when they beheld the Resurrection, as were the myrrh-bearing women who discovered the empty tomb, and the apostles when they learned the news. Indeed, all who hear these words, *Christ is risen*, when they realize what it is they are hearing, cannot but be astonished, because everything is turned on its head. What we thought was important turns out to be not important at all! What we thought was a necessity isn't necessary at all! What we thought was our inevitable and inexorable fate isn't that at all! Nothing is the same!

But what now? The Master is risen. And death—the monster waiting to swallow us all up in his jaws—is destroyed. So . . . how am I to live now? Am I simply going to wake up in the morning, get in the car, go to work, and plunge back into the troubles of everyday life as if everything were the same? But nothing is the same!

What perhaps escapes our notice is that the Church endeavors to prepare us for Pascha—and life after Pascha. Not only is there all of Great Lent; there is the special, reflective, thorough preparation of the first three days of Holy Week. They may seem like "empty time." Palm Sunday is over. Jesus, the Gospel tells us, has returned to Bethany. He sends two of His disciples into Jerusalem to ready everything for the Passover meal He intends to eat with the twelve later in the week. Otherwise, however, nothing much seems to be happening. Liturgically, the Church maintains the routine Lenten services—but with a difference. It turns time on its head, celebrating Matins in the evening and Vespers in the morning, thus imparting to us a sense of the instability of the matrix of space and time we take for granted, the very fabric of creation. We hear the rumblings of the great upheaval that is about to take place. Take a close look at the liturgical texts for these three days. They are a meditation on what the Christian life is, viewed through the lens of Jesus parables: the fig tree, the foolish virgins, the talents.

Nineteen centuries after the Resurrection of Christ, St. Seraphim would have his memorable conversation with Motovilov, which he called his most important teaching and which we have received in written form under the title *A Wonderful Revelation to the World*. It is nothing less than a review and a meditation on the liturgical texts of the first three days of Holy Week, explaining in great detail what it is to live as a Christian. We urge you to read this wonderful small book—a guide to life after Pascha.

Abbess Victoria  
and the community of  
St. Barbara Monastery

## ***MONASTERY BAY LEAVES***

Once again this year, the monastery has marked the end of Lent by processing bay leaves for use in several parish churches that keep the custom of scattering bay leaves during the Matins of Great and Holy Saturday. Bay is laurel, the emblem of victory—not only for Olympic contenders, but for Christ. It turns out that preparing the leaves is a surprisingly laborious task. So we were gratified to have helpers join us to pluck the leaves from the branches and then clean and bag them. Many hands made the work much easier.



*Mitchell Denny expertly selects choice bay branches for cutting.*



*Nataliya Tinyayeva and Rebecca Cash help the sisters to process bay leaves.*



## ***CONSTRUCTION UPDATE***

Our big news on the construction front is that someone has appeared to help us in a big way. Mitch Denny, a friend of the monastery known to many of you, has accepted to wear the hat of Project Manager! In the short time he has been with us, he was able to get the arborist's report approved and tree cutting permits issued by the County—no small feat! Now the actual tree work has been completed, and—once Bright Week has arrived—the County can expect to find Mitch waiting and ready to inspire them to issue our final building permits. Your prayers!

## ***LAZARUS SATURDAY AT THE MONASTERY***

As has become his custom, Archbishop BENJAMIN spent Lazarus Saturday at St. Barbara Monastery, serving the Divine Liturgy and visiting with the sisters. This year, he was joined by Hieromonk Dionisie and Hierodeacon Neonic of the Romanian Episcopate.



*His Eminence Archbishop BENJAMIN  
With Hieromonk Dionisie on Lazarus Saturday*

## ***A MONASTERY FOR MEN IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA***

With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop NATHANIEL of the Romanian Episcopate of the Orthodox Church in America, Hieromonk Dionisie and Hierodeacon Neonic have come to Los Angeles to explore the possibility of developing a monastery for men in this area. The Romanian Episcopate already has a 5-acre parcel of vacant land in Canoga Park donated some thirty years ago precisely for the purpose of building a monastery and retreat house. The plan had County approval, but no laborers came to “plant the vineyard.” Now these two young and energetic monks have been sent from their monastery, The Ascension of the Lord Monastery in Michigan, to see if the time might be right to pursue the project. May the Lord bless them and their holy work!

There will be a Divine Liturgy at the monastery on Thomas Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM, preceded by the Hours at 9:40 AM. Everyone is welcome.