

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



*The August Gathering of the Friends  
of St. Barbara Monastery  
Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

*4:00 pm Presentation:*

***AT HOME IN A FOREIGN LAND:  
A YEAR OF MONASTIC PILGRIMAGE***

*Speaker: Mother Macrina*

*Holy Assumption Monastery, Calistoga, CA*

*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 six 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.

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,

Last month's talk by Dr. John Mark Reynolds at our Friends' Gathering was everything everyone had hoped for and more! Our summary which follows, while inadequate to convey his powerful message, is meant to provide a taste.

Uncovering some of the (surprising) roots of the failing trajectory of present day western culture, he noted the striking similarities it bears to the last years of the Old Roman Empire. Rather than finding this reason for discouragement, however, he named this state of affairs "the Orthodox moment," that is, the moment when Orthodox Christianity could well have the opportunity to make an enormous contribution to civilization.

The Christians of Roman times, having persevered (and even thrived!) through three hundred years of persecution, were prepared to follow the genius of St. Constantine, when he, grasping the hopelessness of Old Rome's circumstances, was ready to act. With astounding foresight he proceeded to found a brand new, second Rome on a completely new principle—a Christian Rome, where the emperor was not god. His bold move saved civilization, giving the Empire another thousand years of rich intellectual and cultural life. (The West may have experienced the Dark Ages; but Byzantium flourished brilliantly during those centuries, as we know.) The present decline of Western civilization, then, may well not be the tragedy we tend to think it is, but rather the very context that could similarly provide the opportunity for Orthodox Christianity to make a huge contribution. Indeed, the world has not so much as guessed what treasure the Orthodox Church has to give! So, what have we to do?

When asked, during the question and answer session following his talk, what we as Orthodox Christian individuals can do to ready ourselves for such an "Orthodox moment," Dr. Reynolds unhesitatingly replied "Start a school!"—referencing his own school in Houston, TX. There students are educated in the tradition of The Great Books. (One of his former students mentioned that the list of Great Books used in Dr. Reynolds' classes included the *Philokalia* and even *The Way of A Pilgrim*.) But in the end, he added, there is no better way than by oneself striving to lead a holy life.

Abbess Victoria  
and the community of  
St. Barbara Monastery

*A CD of Dr. John Mark Reynolds' talk given at St. Barbara Monastery on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, can be ordered from St. Barbara Monastery for \$5.00—the cost of postage and handling.*

## ***A WORD ABOUT OUR SPEAKER***



Mother Macrina is the former Sr. Margarete, who became a novice here at St. Barbara Monastery ten years ago. Many of you will remember her from that summer and fall of 2009, when she also became one of the ten sisters who moved up to Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga (when in accordance with the Ventura County code they were not permitted to live even temporarily in trailers on our Santa Paula property). She has been back to visit many times and three years ago gave a fine talk to the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery on the subject of women's roles in the Orthodox Church.

In 2017-2018, she was blessed to spend a year visiting Orthodox monasteries abroad, notably in Greece, the Holy Land, Georgia, Poland, France and England. Upon her return to her monastery in Calistoga, she was

professed as a stavrophor nun with the new name of Macrina (in honor of St. Macrina, the sister of St. Basil the Great). When she speaks here next Sunday, she will be using slides from this monastery pilgrimage to tell us about her discoveries and adventures.

## ***MONASTERY STATISTICS***

When we happen to remark that “We have had a lot of guests,” we frequently receive the rejoinder: “How many?” The question always finds us unprepared with any anything like an accurate answer. So, a few months ago, Mother Paraskeva began keeping records. To our astonishment, when she shared her findings with us, we learned that the average number of guests per month (excluding those who come for our monthly Friends’ Gatherings) turned out to be 131! Then, if we add the head counts from our Friends’ Gatherings, the number jumps to 208! Just this past summer alone, we hosted twelve different church groups ranging in age from very young to very old.

It’s true that there is hardly a day when our doorbell does not ring, so you might be wondering who all these people are. Sometimes they are “drop-ins” who have noticed our sign while driving along Highway 150. More often, they are visitors who have phoned ahead—individuals or families making a little pilgrimage to attend a certain church service or spend an hour or two on our monastery grounds. Depending on the timing of their visit, we might invite them to sit down and have a meal with us. And on occasion they are church groups, large or small, who have come for an organized retreat or a work party or a special program.

In greater or lesser degree, this kind of activity is normal for Orthodox monasteries the world over. Indeed, to offer hospitality in the Name of Christ is traditionally part of any Orthodox monastic rule.



# SWIM FOR HOPE '19



Mitch Denny,  
guest kayaker and  
Property  
Development  
Manager at St.  
Barbara's  
Monastery,  
"hanging around"  
with Adrian from  
St. Innocent  
Orphanage.

A 20-mile swimming event to raise funds for Project Mexico, St. Innocent Orphanage and St. Barbara Monastery.

Mitch Denny will be kayaking and accompanying Fr. Simeon Corona and other swimmers in this unique event.

*September 6, 2019.*

Donations earmarked "Swim for Hope" may be mailed to the monastery or a donation made online on the monastery website.

The planned swim from Point Loma to the Mexican South Coronado Island.



This "Swim for Hope" is the idea of Fr. Simeon Corona, pastor of Nysa Church in El Cajon. He has completed long swims as fundraisers for charitable causes a number of times. We welcome his offer to undertake this athletic feat on behalf of our monastery Building Fund effort for our new residential addition to house more sisters and guests.