

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



***CHRIST IS BORN!
GLORIFY HIM!***



Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

St. Luke the Evangelist tells us that on the first Christmas night, the angels sang “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to men.”

It was in every way an astonishing announcement! The angels were singing, of course, of divine peace and divine good will—the kind that holds steady and sustains in the midst of the very unpeaceable events of our world and our own lives. Indeed, the ancient world was as unpeaceable as ours is, and it knew no heavenly peace either. Men looked up to the sphere above and met there what? A dividing and impassable wall. Or demonic deception—for the reign of the old gods was coming to something of a whimpering end. No one any longer believed in them much. And where else might the human race direct its hope? Classical scholars write of “the sadness of antiquity.” It was to a world in this sorry state that the announcement of the angels came.

In a few days, at the beginning of the Christmas Vigil, we will all be singing the same astonishing angelic hymn. It was the best possible news the shepherds and the whole ancient world could have heard, and it is the best possible news in our own world today. Let us proclaim it with all our hearts. Heaven and earth are at peace! Indeed, it is Christ Himself who is our peace, having destroyed the wall of enmity between heaven and earth and become flesh of our flesh by His birth.

We send each and every one of you our warmest Christmas wishes and pray that this Christmas peace may be yours. May you have a wonderful celebration of the great and glorious Feast of the Nativity!

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery





The Cross Procession is about to begin with prayers by Father Michael Orlov.



The Cross Procession at the site of the altar of the new Chapel

THE FEAST OF ST. BARBARA, DECEMBER 4th, 2011

This year, the celebrant for the monastery's services for our patron saint, the Great Martyr Barbara--a Vigil (Vespers, Matins, 1st Hour) on Saturday, December 3rd, and a Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 4th—were celebrated by Archpriest Michael Orlov. Because the Feast fell on a Sunday, we expected the turnout to be small, as so many of our Friends have responsibilities in their own parish churches. But to our great amazement and joy, many people were able to attend, and the crowd included numerous children. The photos on this page tell the story better than words can express. Indeed, the day could hardly have been more festive!



Alex and Zach Nikolov carry the icon of St. Barbara for the Procession.



Liviu Constantinescu attends another blessed feast of St. Barbara



The children helping disassemble the tents.



The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Retreat led by Seraphima Butler in March



The ground breaking with Bishop Benjamin for the Chapel in April



The ladies from St. Timothy in Lompoc visit the monastery in May

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2011 AT THE MONASTERY



The Teen SOYO from St. Andrew in Riverside cultivating the lavender field in July



The youth from Holy Protection Church in LA on a hayride in September



PLEASE NOTE



There is no December gathering of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery. Expect to receive another newsletter in January announcing our next gathering, which will be on January 25th.