

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

THE FEBRUARY GATHERING OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. BARBARA MONASTERY

Sunday, February 23rd, 2014

4:00 pm Presentation:

BOUNTIFUL FRUIT FROM THE FAST

V. Rev. Jon Braun

Attached Priest (Retired), St. Athanasius Orthodox Church, Goleta, 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 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,

During these weeks of preparation for Great Lent, the Church gives us lessons from Scripture to help us understand aright what fasting and prayer and almsgiving are all about: The Publican and the Pharisee, the Prodigal Son, the Last Judgment. Illuminating our understanding of these great teachings of our Lord are the sometimes prosaic remembrances of our holy fathers and mothers putting their profound Faith into practice in the everyday moments of life.

One of the great anecdotes about Archimandrite Dimitry (Egoroff) of Santa Rosa that has come down to us is about the annual lenten visit of a certain lady to his hermitage. She would cook and bake for several days, pack the results of her labor into the trunk of her car, and drive up from Los Angeles to St. Eugene's (as the hermitage where Father Dimitry lived at Point Reyes was called at that time). Once there, she would unpack the delicacies, spread them out on a picnic table under the tall trees, and invite Father Dimitry to sit down with her to the wonderful dishes she had prepared. Although the season was Great Lent and the fare less than Lenten in content, he would accept, and they would dine together and converse for a long time. Then, she would pack everything up in the trunk of her car once more and drive off, not to be seen again until the following Lent.

All this was observed from afar by Father Dimitry's novice, to whom he later felt obliged to explain: "The meal she prepared and brought to me with such effort was this woman's lenten offering not to me but to God. Had I declined to eat it, she would have considered her gift rejected by God." The novice's comment about all this was: "If the good lady could have seen how Father Dimitry fasted in the days following her visit, she probably would not have continued her customary practice year after year." Of course, other than the novice, no one knew of that.

We wish all of you a most blessed Lent!

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction of the new monastery chapel is continuing steadily during the present dry weather. At the moment, the building crew has completed pouring the concrete beam, which runs



around the perimeter at the top of the block to support the roof. Installation of the steel frame will commence in a few days when the concrete beam is sufficiently dry. The laying of the block was completed a week or so ago, and the form of the building below what will be the



roof line is clearly visible. What is emerging is a very beautiful chapel. We can hardly wait for all of you to come and see it!

RE-RAFFLE!

Dr. Michael Malouf of St. Luke Church in Garden Grove, who won the first raffle of a trip to Hawaii, has donated his prize right back for a second raffle in order to raise even more funds for construction of the monastery chapel. Here is the information:

**A Hawaii Trip Re-Raffle
To Benefit St. Barbara Orthodox Monastery
Tickets are only \$50 (this time)
And include. . . Seven nights at the beautiful
Westin, Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas on the island of Maui,
for any dates in 2014 (except the last 2 weeks of December).
Ocean-view one bedroom room includes kitchen.**

www.westinkaanapali.com

**Raffle also includes \$1,500 for airfare and car rental.
All raffle tickets must be purchased by March 7, 2014, through St. Luke Church.
Please make checks payable to St. Luke's with "Hawaii Raffle" in the memo line.**

13261 Dunklee Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92840.

Drawing will take place on Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 9, 2014.

HOMESCHOOLERS' DAY



On February 11th, the monastery once again hosted a homeschoolers' day. Hieromonk Dionisei and Hierodeacon Neoni, accompanied by the V. Rev. Blasko Paraklis of Nativity of the Holy Theotokos Serbian Orthodox Church in Irvine, served the Divine Liturgy for the group of scholars and their parents. Afterwards, a potluck luncheon was enjoyed by all followed, by an afternoon of play on the monastery property. The photo at left does not do justice to the size of the event, which included 33 children and 13 adults (not counting the nuns). We thank Matushka Rachel

Rassam for bringing her guitar. All agreed that another homeschoolers' day should be scheduled for sometime soon after Pascha.



THE TRIBE

“The Tribe” is the name Mother Nina has given to the collection of farmyard birds that has begun to visit the monastery. Every morning about 9:30 (well after the peacock has gone on his



way), we can spot a large, self-important turkey trekking his way up the path from the woods and across our large meadow—followed by Mrs. Turkey and an assortment of adopted children. (They all belong to our neighbor Steve across the creek, who by that time has gone to work). Mrs. Turkey is rather plain looking and retiring. She hangs back with two guinea hens in tow, which she and Mr. Turkey have raised ever since Steve slipped the guinea hen eggs into her nest. The guinea hens obviously have come to believe they are turkeys

too. Various exotic chickens follow, notably a couple of bantam hens with sparkling, iridescent feathers. Reaching the house, they peer through the ground-level windows of our sun room, and we can hear the cacophony of their voices punctuated by Mr. Turkey's distinctive “gobble” as they make their way around to the front garden to scratch for bugs. Then it's noisily back to the lawn for a few more grubs before strolling back down the path to the creek and out of sight.