

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

The January Gathering of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery

Sunday, January 27th, 2013

4:00 pm Presentation

Learning to Live in the Power of the Kingdom

*Speaker: V. Rev. Paul Waisanen
Pastor of St. Herman Church, Oxnard, CA*

5:00 pm Vespers

6:00pm 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 hawk on our cover posed obligingly and then flew away just seconds after his photo was snapped by Margaret Ashton, a close friend of the monastery visiting for a few days from Colorado. Our hawk's home appears to be in the woods by the creek, territory he shares with owls and woodpeckers, not to mention a small flock of mallards that has taken up temporary residence there and the occasional crane or heron stopping by. It seems to us providential that he paused long enough to allow this photo, because it serves as a reminder of the intense society of nature pulsing around us just beyond the usual focus of our attention—and just at the time when the County of Ventura and others involved in our chapel construction project have turned their attention to environmental considerations—notably the trees.

By way of updating you regarding the current status of the project, let us tell you that things are not exactly at a standstill. What happened is that the County suddenly remembered that an arborist's report and tree protection plan are required prior to issuing a grading permit, never mind a final building permit. These documents are presently in the final stages of preparation.

The backdrop of this new and unexpected activity has not been easy on the monastery, however. Fulfilling these requirements has meant quite a number of meetings, some four months delay in construction, and unbudgeted costs of over \$8,000.00.

Meanwhile, as anyone familiar with Orthodox theology not to mention monastic life might guess, we treasure our trees and the whole of nature's presence on our monastery property. We look to a day when the monastic community will flourish here and image forth in its completed buildings and way of life the right and God-intended relationship of man and nature.

Abbess Victoria
and the sisters of
St. Barbara Monastery

VISIT FROM THE ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH TEENS

On Saturday, January 12th, the Jr. High students from St. Athanasius Church in Goleta along with their pastor Fr. Nicholas Speier. The rainy season paused beautiful day, allowing the sisters with some help—preparing and portion of the meadow as weeding out the forested area along the creek. After lunch, there the sisters, and Mother talk about what it is like to live in a monastery.



Athanasius Church in youth leaders and visited the monastery. for a bright and teens to provide the significant outdoor planting the eastern with lavender as well invasive arundo in the path down to the was time to visit with Victoria gave a little



A CHRISTMAS VISIT FROM THE McPHERSONS

Moses McPherson, a seminarian at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA, his wife Ruth and their child Isidore spent a good portion of their Christmas break at St. Barbara Monastery. Their three years at St. Tikhon's will come to an end in May, when Moses graduates. The McPhersons, who hail from Thousand Oaks (about a forty-five minute drive from the monastery), hope to return to the



area to commence whatever work the Lord and



His Church ask of him. Might it turn out to be missionary work somewhere in the Conejo Valley, the hugely populated area just north of Los Angeles, where there is presently no Orthodox Church? “Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest” (Jn. 4:35).

THEOPHANY AT THE MONASTERY

Father Paul Waisanen once again this year blessed the monastery house (after much post-Christmas vacuuming and scrubbing) and the rest of our property including the lavender fields and, of course, Punkin and his two sisters, with the waters of Jordan.

O Christ our Master, how shall we Thy servants give Thee worthy honour? For Thou hast renewed us all in the waters. –From the Praises at Matins of Theophany



IMPORTANT NEW TITLES AVAILABLE FROM THE MONASTERY BOOKSTORE

A lot of excellent new books have been published recently in the Orthodox world. We are happy to have them available through the monastery bookstore at ordinary retail list prices. If you like, they can be purchased online by ordering through our website.

Born to Hate; Reborn to Love by Klaus Kenneth.

Paisios, Elder of Mount Athos by Hieromonk Isaac

The Beginning of a Life of Prayer by Archimandrite Irenei Steenberg

Everyday Saints by Archimandrite Tikhon Shevkunov

The Typikon Decoded by Archimandrite Job Getcha