

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

The March Gathering of the Friends' of St. Barbara Monastery

Sunday, March 25th, 2012

The Feast of Annunciation in the Evening

4:00 pm Presentation

*The Intelligent Faith of Irenaeus vs. Superstition,
Then and Now*

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

5:00 pm Vespers

6:00pm Lenten 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,

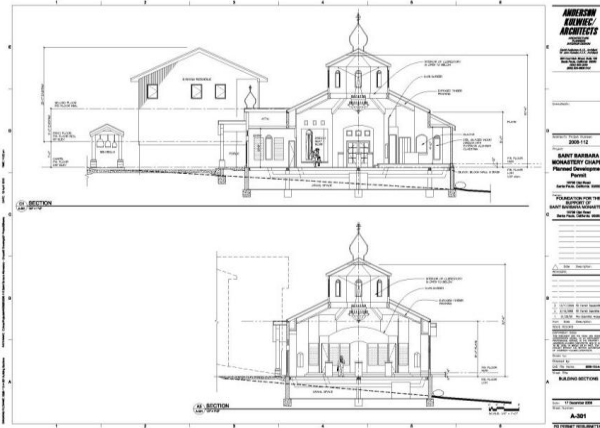
The middle of Lent is here and the Feast of Feasts is approaching quickly! At the monastery, we are almost ready to pull out the traditional recipes for the Easter baking. And the special hymnody has already begun to play in our minds as we begin looking at the music for Holy Week and Pascha with joyful anticipation.

It's easy to forget that, if the days preceding our Lord's Passion and Resurrection were days of joyful anticipation for the apostles and the others who were among the small company of Jesus' followers, this was for quite another reason—a quite mistaken one. Witnessing the resurrection of Lazarus and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, they were convinced that Jesus would now restore the Kingdom of Israel. With Jesus' sudden arrest and crucifixion, their expectations were dashed to pieces and their despair knew no bounds! They undoubtedly awoke in their place of hiding on the first day of the new week as they had the day before, the Sabbath, with unspeakably heavy hearts, reeling from the horror of Jesus' execution. One imagines the myrrhbearing women sadly creeping out into the darkness before first light to make their way to the garden tomb to anoint Jesus' body. And when they arrived at the tomb—to find the stone that had covered the entrance rolled away, the body of Jesus missing, and two men in shining garments asking them why they were seeking the living among the dead!—did their heavy hearts burst into joy? No! Mark tells us they were terrified and ran back to the city to tell the apostles what they had seen. Did the apostles then break into joy at the news? No! They were incredulous, confused. Peter ran to the tomb to see what the women could have been talking about! John tells us that he believed when he peered into the empty tomb, but the rest of the apostles apparently spent the remainder of the day in continued confusion and doubt, for—when Jesus Himself appeared in their midst later that same evening—they thought they were seeing a ghost!

What finally changed their minds and turned their weeping into joy? Interestingly, it was not simply Jesus' several appearances to them. It was His remarkably patient explanation of “the Scriptures” during these appearances, demonstrating to them how He had fulfilled the prophecies, so well known to them, about the coming Messiah. What were these Old Testament prophecies? The very passages which we will hear at the services of Great and Holy Friday and Saturday and which are folded into the hymnody of Pascha itself: Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Kings, Psalms, Job, Jonah, Zephaniah, Zechariah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel. Read from the perspective of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection, the Old Testament clearly is all about Jesus Christ!

We wish you all a blessed Holy Week and Pascha!

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery



One page of the many Chapel Building Plans

CHAPEL BUILDING PLANS APPROVED!

After nearly three years of effort, during which our architectural plans for the chapel were brought into conformity with California State code (newly instituted during the approval process!), reworked, and resubmitted repeatedly, the County of Ventura has finally approved them. This is a huge milestone. We thank our architects, Dave Anderson and Marilyn Appleby of 'Anderson & Kulwieg Architects, Inc.' a Santa Paula firm, for their endless patience and perseverance as well as their excellent and painstaking work.

Meanwhile, we ask that you continue to remember our building project in your prayers because yet another obstacle seems to have appeared. Should it prove to be significant, we will let you know more about this matter in next month's newsletter.

A DAY WITH HIS GRACE, BISHOP BENJAMIN, AT ST. BARBARA MONASTERY

As part of our ongoing celebration of the twentieth anniversary of St. Barbara Monastery, His Grace, Bishop Benjamin, has graciously consented to spend Saturday, May 12th, at the monastery and present lectures on the topic of the apocalyptic imagery of the Liturgy and church architecture. His Grace introduced us to this fascinating, instructive and inspiring material when he found occasion in a sermon to explain that "the Orthodox Church does not read the Book of Revelation liturgically but rather *does it*." We will announce details about this day of celebration and education with Bishop Benjamin in next month's newsletter. Meanwhile, be sure and reserve the date!



His Grace on a previous visit

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

Mother Victoria will be the speaker at this year's Southern California Antiochian Women's Spring Retreat. Due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict, the venue has changed (from Camp Saint Nicholas at Frazier Park) to St. Nicholas Antiochian Cathedral in Los Angeles at 2308 W. Third St., Los Angeles, 90057. Instead of the usual 3-day format, this year's retreat will be a one-day event on March 31st. The retreat will start at 9:00 AM, with lunch at noon. Vespers with an address by Archbishop Joseph will be held at 3:30 PM. followed by supper and a wrap-up session. The retreat, which costs \$60.00 with meals included, is open to women 18 and older of all Orthodox jurisdictions.

It's not too late to sign up. Anyone wishing to come should contact Beth Krammes either by phone at 562-906-0902 or via email at indeedandintruth@yahoo.com.



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Paschal cards available from the monastery bookstore

PASCHAL GREETING CARDS FROM ST. BARBARA MONASTERY

Paschal greeting cards are available from the monastery for \$1.00 each plus shipping. Please specify style by number and state quantity.

Please place your order by phone (805-921-1563) or email the monastery at sbmonasterystore@gmail.com.

LAZARUS SATURDAY AT ST. BARBARA MONASTERY

Once again this year, Bishop Benjamin will serve the Divine Liturgy at St. Barbara Monastery on Lazarus Saturday. The Liturgy is scheduled for 10:00 AM, preceded by the Hours at 9:40 AM. A luncheon will follow. Everyone is welcome.