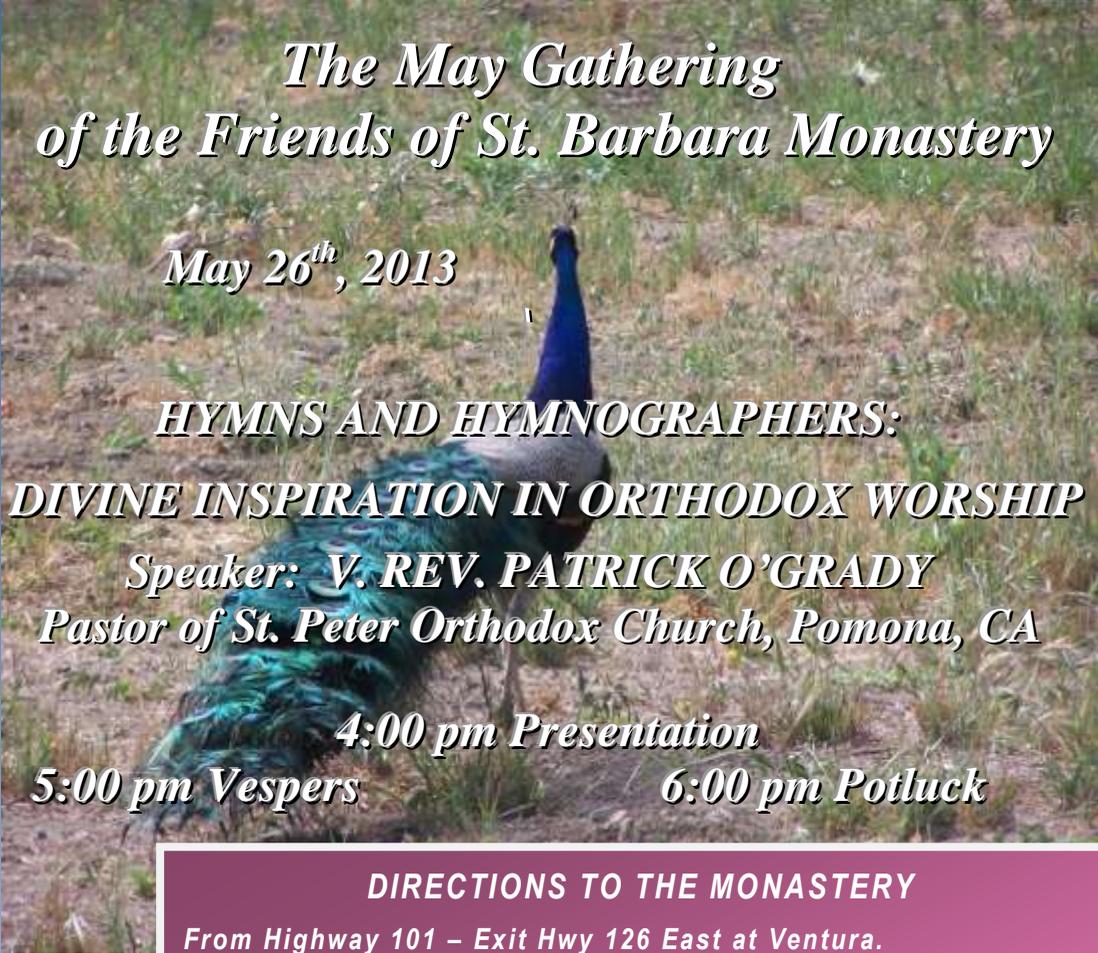


St. Barbara Monastery – 15799 Ojai Road – Santa Paula, CA 93060
(805) 921-1563 – www.stbarbaramonastery.org



*The May Gathering
of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery*

May 26th, 2013

HYMNS AND HYMNOGRAPHERS:

DIVINE INSPIRATION IN ORTHODOX WORSHIP

Speaker: V. REV. PATRICK O'GRADY

Pastor of St. Peter Orthodox Church, Pomona, CA

4:00 pm Presentation

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.



CHRIST IS RISEN!

Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

This season between Pascha and Ascension, especially if one has the opportunity to participate in the daily services, is very intense. The services are not particularly lengthy, as they are in Lent. Their intensity derives from their content. The risen Jesus Christ is appearing at unexpected times to the apostles and disciples, and they—and we—are coming to realize more and more just Who He Is! Moreover, they—and we—are coming to realize what the Resurrection of Jesus Christ means and what the consequences are, that is, what it means to live with the Resurrection!

Interfacing with this intense liturgical experience of Christ with us, we at the monastery find ourselves dealing with some rather intense realities of our daily life. As announced on the opposite page, we received our grading permit. This means that the construction we have been talking about for years now is really about to begin. It was just a couple of months ago that one of the subcontractors helping us with the preliminaries to construction sat us down and carefully explained to us how foolhardy it would be for us to go forward without a knowledgeable project manager to oversee the work. While we fully agreed, the fact of the matter was that we saw no such individual anywhere on the horizon. What a miracle that at just that time Mitch Denny walked in the door—a capable young man equipped and willing to take on the weighty responsibilities of project manager! As if this were not demonstration enough that the Lord has His eye on us, at this juncture yet another providential meeting occurred: Another young man, Zak Landrum, made our acquaintance and offered his services. Zak, it turns out, is a professional fundraiser with a diploma in non-profit administration! He has already begun to help us by honing our vision for the future of St. Barbara Monastery.

We would have to be blind indeed not to see the hand of the Lord in these developments and consequently not to gather much encouragement from them. Christ is risen! And He has promised to be with us “to the end of the age.”

Abbess Victoria
and the sisters of
St. Barbara Monastery

WE HAVE THE GRADING PERMIT!

Who ever thought it would take this long! Even a few weeks ago, we were expecting to receive our grading permit from the County “in a couple of days.” The actual document consists of our original application, now duly adorned by the signature of a representative of the County Public Works Dept., and the date of issue. The date of our application, clearly printed right at the top, is January 2011! The date of issue is May 16th, 2013!

We apologize to the groups we declined to host this Spring because of our expectation that our property would be occupied by heavy equipment and probably unsafe for children.



ST. ATHANASIUS YOUTH HELP OUT

On Saturday, May 18th, Father Nicholas Speier, pastor of St. Athanasius Church in Goleta, brought his teens once again to help out at the monastery. The teens, assisted by Father Nicholas and Mitch Denny, planted more lavender, weeded, and mulched a large portion of the lavender field for the sisters. After a scrumptious lunch of homemade pizza created for us by visiting chef Tim Lindwall, the hard workers headed for the summit of Highway 150 for a short hike and some refreshing moments in the waters of Sisar Creek (the same creek which passes through the monastery property further down the mountain).



HOMESCHOOLERS: SAVE THE DATE!

Our impromptu day for homeschoolers and their moms back in March turned out so well that we have had requests to do it all over again. Thursday, June 20th, is the date we have chosen for the next gathering. We will begin with Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM, followed by a potluck meal. Kids always find plenty to do at the monastery on their own, so we will leave the afternoon fairly unstructured—although Mother Nina and Sister Paraskeva just might be persuaded to take the older kids on a nature walk around the property and Mother Victoria just might be persuaded to tell a story.

If you would like to attend with your kids, please phone the monastery (805-921-1563) or email (sbmonastery@gmail.com).



SPRING CLEANING AT THE MONASTERY

An innocent thought, “Let’s clean the garage,” turned into a major project for us. What we thought might take as long as three days of “lenten effort” stretched beyond the proverbial forty days as our new “organizer extraordinaire” Mitch Denny asked questions like: “When was the last time you used this?” and “What is this for?” Now we can hardly wait to show our regular helpers our reorganized garage replete with open workspace, new shelves and a new storage system for the tables and chairs we regularly use for the Friends gatherings! (Only those of you familiar with the “old look” of our garage will understand why we consider this information worthy of a paragraph in our newsletter. Indeed, we could have used “Major Change at the Monastery” as the heading!)



All the sisters giving Sister Theodosia (far left), visiting from Holy Assumption Monastery, a tour of our transformed garage.