

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

# *The September Gathering of the Friends of Saint Barbara Monastery*

*Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

*4:00 pm Presentation:*

## ***SYRIAC CHRISTENDOM: WHAT IS BEING LOST AND WHAT CAN BE PRESERVED***

*Speaker:*

***REV. YOUSUF RASSAM***

*Pastor of St. Innocent Church, Tarzana, 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 5 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,

In just a few days, we will mark nine years since our monastery moved from the Santa Barbara area to its present location in the mountains above Santa Paula. The first Divine Liturgy was celebrated on this property on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God. God willing, we will have a Divine Liturgy here on this day once again this year.

Not everyone knows about the wonderful demonstration of the care of the Mother of God for our monastery that occurred a few years ago (on June, 27, 2009, to be exact). This seems like the right time and place to tell the story:

Our good friends, Dr. Alex and Alexandra Trigonis, were driving the Reader Nektarios and the Myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon of the Theotokos of Hawaii from Santa Barbara along Highway 126 on its way to visit another Church. When they Nektarios asked if there were an because he perceived that the nearby. No, said the Trigonises, Santa Paula. But Nektarios *something* nearby, and the icon Trigonises remembered that St. miles away from the 126 up the turned their car, they phoned to and fifteen minutes later they our front doors. To the clanging chanting of “It is truly meet,” chapel and placed on the the occasion. Reader Nektarios instantly the scent of roses— chapel and our whole house. story of this icon, which began the fall of 2007. Together with joyfully sang the Akathist written in honor of this special icon. At the end, we were each anointed using cotton balls saturated with the holy myrrh coming from the icon. You can find Reader Nektarios’ account of this miraculous phenomenon at [orthodoxhawaii.org/icons.html](http://orthodoxhawaii.org/icons.html).



This unexpected visit from the Theotokos in her myrrh-streaming icon lifted our spirits enormously. She seemed to be saying: “We know you are there!” thus reassuring us of her constant love and concern for us and our monastery, needy and struggling though it is both materially and spiritually. Glory to God!

Abbess Victoria  
and the sisters of  
St. Barbara Monastery

## ***VISIT FROM THE LADIES OF ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH, LOMPOC***



The ladies of St. Timothy Church in Lompoc came to St. Barbara Monastery on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, for their annual visit organized by Khouria Elizabeth Sommer. Arriving mid-morning, they quickly got down to work helping prepare lavender for a forthcoming sale and labeling envelopes for the mailing of this month's newsletter—to the immense gratitude of the sisters. Rev. David Kruse of St. Raphael Church in Palm Springs, who paid a short visit to the monastery at the same time, served the usual 6<sup>th</sup> Hour and daily

Memorial Service. Afterwards, the ladies offered everyone a bountiful luncheon, which they had brought with them. Over the last few years, St. Timothy's has grown to be an international parish, with new members of Syrian, Greek and Ukrainian background. This new diversity was reflected in the variety of dishes the ladies brought for their buffet: homemade baba ghanoujh, dolmathes and varreniki.

In the afternoon, there was time to walk about and tour the property. Then everyone settled down to hear Mother Paraskeva's talk, which was followed by a lively discussion. The day concluded with Vespers before the ladies reluctantly headed out for the long drive back to Lompoc. Everyone is already looking forward to next year's visit.



***A Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at the monastery on October 1<sup>st</sup>,  
the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos  
at 10:00 AM, preceded by the Hours at 9:40 AM.  
Everyone is welcome.***

## ***NEW WATER FILTERING SYSTEM***

As many of you who have visited the monastery know, we have been using the creek flowing through our property for the water to irrigate our fields and gardens as well as for the water needed for household purposes. The water is routinely pumped into two large holding tanks and then piped as needed to various places on our property. In addition to the creek, we do have another water source; we have a well, which, while it gives abundant, potable water, is unpleasantly sulfurous. As the drought has worsened and the water flowing in the creek reduced to a trickle, it has taken longer and longer to fill the tanks. By September, trying to fill the tanks with creek water became an exercise in futility, and—



bypassing the tanks—we resorted more and more to using our sulfurous well water to accomplish the outdoor watering, saving the precious, sweet tank water for household purposes.

However, in mid-September—in the nick of time—a viable solution to the problem was installed: a filtering system that takes the sulfur out of our well water. So, the water now circulating in our house is the de-sulfured well water. We thank Tyson Shackelford of St. Athanasius Church and Santa Barbara Water Co. for contributing his skills to install the filter system for us. The well gives abundant potable water, and we have good reason to believe it will continue to provide plenty of water for all of our purposes.

## ***TINY GAME HUNTING***

In addition to the friendly—and essential—bees that frequent our lavender fields, a colony of definitely unfriendly ground wasps moved in. All of Mother Nina's efforts to get rid of the colony came to nothing until she tried baiting the hive with honey to attract all the wasps home, and then in the dark of night covering the hole to the underground hive with a mixing bowl. No one is sure if this did the trick, but what is certain is that the honey attracted a marauding raccoon (or was it a skunk?) who obligingly overturned the bowl and dug out the hole and the hive for honey and grubs.

