

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

The September Gathering of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery

Sunday, September 29th, 2013

4:00 pm Presentation:

Jesus Opens the Scriptures and Breaks the Bread

Speaker: V. Rev. John Finley

Of the Antiochian Department of Missions and Evangelism

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,

One of our Friends happened to react with astonishment overhearing someone at the monastery remark that the Presanctified Liturgy was restored to general use in America in the early 1960's, that is, about fifty years ago. This is, indeed, a fact, and one that is testimony to a theme we reflect on often: Despite all the deficiencies of the Orthodox Church in this country that we might lament (some of them, yes, quite legitimate and quite serious), things really are better than they were—and getting even better.

Fifty years ago, it was possible to have read just about every book that had been published in English on the Orthodox Church. Today, one can't keep up with the wealth of Orthodox literature of every kind coming off the presses, even if one were to do nothing else but read. As few as twenty years ago, no complete collection of the lives of saints (Menaion) had been published and neither had a complete liturgical Menaion. St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow, when he was the presiding bishop in North America at the turn of the 20th century, attempted to address this problem and patronized the translation of certain service books—notably Isabel Hapgood's famous volume of Divine Services that everyone relied upon for years and years for texts of the Divine Liturgy, Sacraments, and other services such as the funeral. People might lament the heavy use of foreign languages in their churches, but for complete church services the texts simply had not yet been translated! Now the tables have somewhat turned, and we have the happy task of translating services originally composed in English for saints like Herman of Alaska and Raphael of Brooklyn, that is, our American saints, into foreign languages for the use of our Orthodox brothers and sisters who live in other countries.

Last, but not least, we cannot fail to mention how fifty years ago there were almost no monasteries in the United States. Throughout the centuries, monasteries have been integral to Orthodox Church life; but in this country in 1960 there were only two monasteries for men and only two or three for women (our own Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga being one of these). Now, glory to God, monasteries can almost be said to dot the landscape from coast to coast. In California alone, we have something like six or seven (depending on how one counts them).

All that we have mentioned constitutes only the foundation, or one might say the foundation and the tools, for the growth of Orthodox Church life in this country. The years ahead are ripe with possibility, and we look forward to seeing what the Lord will bless.

Abbess Victoria
and the community
of St. Barbara Monastery

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Watching the steady but slow progress of the construction work on our chapel has become our favorite this point, the dra- (and noisy) operation working to grade the will stand has come to see the “ghost” of the footprint outlined by a as in white chalk on soil. The spots dug blocks, which will tion, are clear in the



preoccupation. At matic and painstaking of heavy equipment area where the chapel a close. One can now future structure in its shallow trench as well the carefully prepared out for the pier support the founda-

accompanying photo. Check our website for future developments as they occur (www.stbarbaramonastery.org).



MEMORY ETERNAL!

Most of you never knew Robert Peterson. He was an attorney who practiced in nearby Oxnard and looked after the affairs of the late Genevieve Essa and Charles Morse (among many others), both members of St. Herman Church in Oxnard and good Friends of the monastery. Through them, Robert came into contact with the Orthodox Church. When Robert realized he was losing his battle with cancer, he decided to purchase a casket from the monastery-- a redwood, round-top “just like the one Charles was buried in.” Learning recently that Robert had moved to Serenity House, the Hospice facility in Santa Barbara, some of us stopped by there to visit him, and so did Fr. Paul Waisanen, pastor of St. Herman Church in Oxnard. It turned out that Robert was interested in embracing the Orthodox Faith, but presumed it was impossible now that he was bedridden and unable to travel to the church. Fr. Paul set him straight on that matter, and Robert was baptized with the saint’s name of Ignatius on Sunday evening, September 8th, with Mother Paraskeva and Mitchell Denny as his godparents. Five days later on September 13th, the newly illumined Ignatius fell asleep in the Lord. A belated funeral for the newly departed Ignatius will be served at the monastery on Friday, September 27th, at 10:00 AM. Let us all pray for the blessed repose of the newly illumined and newly departed Ignatius. Memory Eternal!

ARE WE IN A DROUGHT?

Neither the news nor the weather reports tell us we are in a drought, but we have not experienced such dry conditions in the eight years we have lived here. Sisar Creek, the stream that runs through our property, is dry as a bone these days. This has required us to rely largely on our sulphurous well water not only to water our gardens and our lavender fields but to fill the water pipes in our house. (Thank goodness, we get fine drinking water from the artesian well at the college next door.) The sulphur water is unpleasant to smell, but harmless—even, we remind ourselves, beneficial to one's health!

It turns out that this particular geographical spot is actually named Sulphur Springs. While the sign arching across Highway 150 is a curiosity to be seen now only in historical photos and the springs themselves have long since sunk and disappeared (due to seismic activity, we are told), one can sometimes still find the entry on current maps. Not so very far in the past—perhaps twenty-five years ago—this location had pools available to the public for therapeutic bathing and the creek banks were a popular campsite. Indeed, traces of individual camping sites are still evident in the woods along the creek.



ana peels and lettuce leaves, to name a few favorites.

Despite the dry conditions, deer still frequent our property daily in the hope of finding a drop or two of water to quench their thirst (perhaps from the pail that catches drips from the fire hydrant) and some succulent greens in the aisles between the lavender plants. But now they have discovered a far better source of treats: the monastery compost bin! Standing on the hill of mulch produced by this spring's tree trimming, the deer can comfortably reach down into the bin for great snacks to supplement their diet: banana peels and lettuce leaves, to name a few favorites.

There will be two Divine Liturgies at the monastery: the first on September 29th, the same day as the Friends gathering, and the second on October 14th. Both Liturgies will be at 10:00 AM, preceded by the Hours at 9:40 AM. Everyone is welcome.