

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 29th, 2016***

4:00 pm: Presentation:

WORSHIP AND ICONOGRAPHY

Speaker: V. Rev. Nazary Polataiko

Pastor of Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral

Los Angeles, 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 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!



INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

Let there be banished hence dejection born of passions, and thoughts that rise like tempests. In this wise shall the springtime of faith sprout up and blossom forth. (Matins Aposticha of Thursday in St. Thomas Week)

This sticheron seemed to jump off the page as we sang the service.

Our holy fathers and mothers, instructing us in the art of prayer, tell us that, when something in the psalmody unexpectedly grabs our attention, we should stop, take note of it, reflect on it—because this is nothing less than the Holy Spirit speaking to us. Well, we couldn't very well stop singing to fulfill this instruction; but taking note of the place where these words appear, we returned to them to take another look once the service was over.

On that morning, we were not particularly struggling with dejection or a tempest of thoughts. But, as things turned out somewhat later, it became clear that these words had been provided to help us handle the news that would come a few hours later. This was the day when we learned that the estimate to finish construction of our new chapel had to be adjusted to a figure four times greater than the one we were working with!—a daunting \$100,000 instead of \$25,000! The temptation to “dejection” and its accompanying “tempest of thoughts” arose as we considered what this meant: We would never be able to find the funds to complete construction in time for the appointed day of consecration, December 3rd! That would have to be postponed! Instead of happily planning the event, we would have to disappoint our Friends—you—by informing them that we had no idea how long it might take before the new chapel would be finished. And for the foreseeable future, we would have to return to the chore of fundraising. Etc., etc.

However, all the while, Providence was preparing *a springtime of faith!* Remarkably, our contractor himself is offering to float some of the costs to allow construction to continue seamlessly. And already, many of you, hearing of our dilemma, have sent us words of encouragement and assured us of your support. Thanks be to God! Indeed, faith is *sprouting and blossoming*. May it continue to grow in all of us as we continue to prepare for the chapel consecration!

Abbess Victoria
and the sisters of
St. Barbara Monastery

DEANERY MEETING



On Wednesday, May 11th, St. Barbara Monastery hosted the meeting of the Pacific Southwest Deanery of the Orthodox Church in America. Pictured are Abbess Victoria, V. Rev. Nazary Polataiko of Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral in Los Angeles, V. Rev. Lawrence Russell of Holy Annunciation Church in Santa Maria, and Rev. Yousuf Rassam of St. Innocent Church in Tarzana.



FAITHFUL HELPERS

Only a few of our Friends have met Jerry Reich and his dog Shadow. They have been helping out at St. Barbara Monastery for some six years now. That was when ten of our sisters learned that, according to Ventura County code regulations, they could not continue to live in trailers on the monastery property and they moved up to Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga. At that time, the sisters who remained here found themselves unable to manage the upkeep of the grounds to the extent necessary. When Jerry and Shadow came along, willing to do what they could to help us, we accepted at once. Little by little, they have become indispensable. Jerry is a handyman who does everything from mending tools to keeping the tall grass in check to the satisfaction of the local Fire Department. And Shadow is ever at his side.



THE CHAPEL DOMES ARE HERE!

Definitely a milestone in the construction of any church, the arrival of our chapel domes on Thursday, May 12th was met with great excitement. As can be seen from the photograph, they are magnificent! The larger dome, with the cross Mother Paraskeva is holding, will surmount the church building and the smaller one Mother Nina is pointing out will top its porch. Made of fiberglass, the domes are relatively lightweight, yet sturdy enough to withstand severe weather conditions.



God willing, they will be blessed at the Friends Gathering on May 29th and lifted into place by crane the following week.

A WISH COME TRUE!

We wish to thank the Bahu family of St Luke's Church in Garden Grove for filling an important need for the monastery. Thanks to their generosity, we recently became the proud owners of a "cowgirl" truck: a 2002 Nissan Frontier Desert Runner. Fixed up in his own auto shop, we received the truck well tuned up and excellently refurbished. Complete with beefy brush guard and high all-terrain tires, the sisters are eager to test its prowess on the back roads of Frazier Park! Its regular use, however, will be rather more practical: grocery shopping, running errands in town, etc. This vehicle also frees us up from accumulating mileage on our leased van. We are deeply grateful for the kindness of the Bahu family and all of our friends who contribute in so many ways to the life of this monastery!

