

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



***THE OCTOBER GATHERING
OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. BARBARA MONASTERY***

Sunday, October 28, 2012

***THE PRIORITY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD
IN THIS ELECTION YEAR***

V. Rev. Jon Braun, St. Athanasius Church, Goleta

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.



Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

You may have wondered what goes on at the monastery when we are not having a Friends Gathering. Well, as you can see from the photo below, what happens is that the deer visit. They come most days, when the children are not using the play set, to play themselves some, and graze, and saunter down to the creek for a drink and perhaps to nibble a little watercress, which naturally grows there in abundance. It's true that lately the construction work on our property has somewhat curtailed the usual schedule of the deer, and they don't appear until after the heavy equipment the building crew has gone when they do arrive these numbers and accompanied on our cover. (He has surely group, but has carefully of sight in the trees.) As we are so pleased to have found namely lavender—which allows us all to get along property.



has stopped running and home for the day. But days, it is with increasing by the fine buck pictured always been part of the managed to remain just out have mentioned before, we a crop for our two fields— doesn't tempt the deer and amicably on the same

Of course, this isn't all that goes on. The Elder Dimitry used to say that the forest prays. We gather for prayer inside, and outside, indeed, all of nature is at prayer.

“He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field: the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men. . . .”

Truly, what the words of the introductory Psalm at Vespers describe is spread out all around us in this blessed place.

And people come, too. Hardly a day passes without a visit from pilgrims or other visitors. They come alone or with their families or with groups from their parish churches to pray and partake of the quiet and beauty of this holy place God has provided so miraculously not only for us, the members of the monastic community, but for all His people.

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

CHAPEL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

As the accompanying photos show, actual work on the property is well under way. The grading, which comes next, turns out to be a big part of the job. We are told that all



of November will be needed for its completion; that is, grading of the building site itself and then of the surrounding areas where turnouts will be carved out along the existing driveway, improvements made to presently paved areas, and low retaining walls built to stabilize the sloping earth both above and below the building site.



Again, if you have skills and are interested in helping with construction or related tasks, we ask that you let the monastery know as soon as possible to ease our planning. Our first volunteer is pictured at left.

MEAGAN ENGELBACH, MISSIONARY TO TANZANIA, VISITS

For a week at the end of September, the monastery was pleased to have Meg Engelbach as a guest. Meg after the first of the year, OCMC missionaries who are (Among the latter is Maria of our Sister Margarete, a Holy Assumption Monastery assignment is the holy labor



liturgical texts into Swahili. You can read about Meg and her work as well as contribute to the support of her missionary work at [m.engelbach.@ocmc.org](mailto:m.engelbach@ocmc.org).

will be leaving for Tanzania where she will join several already working in Africa. Roeber, an R. N. and the sister member of the community at in Calistoga.) Meg's particular of translating both biblical and

THE FEAST OF ST. BARBARA IS AROUND THE CORNER

We have already begun preparations for the annual Feast of St. Barbara, our patron saint, coming up on Tuesday, December 4th. His Eminence, Archbishop BENJAMIN,



plans to be with us on Monday evening, December 3rd, for the Vigil as well as Tuesday morning for the Divine Liturgy. The Feast will mark the high point of our year-long celebration of the monastery's twentieth anniversary. Please check our website for upcoming details, and do plan to celebrate the Feast of the Great Martyr Barbara with us.

Please note: There is no Friends Gathering scheduled for November, because of the proximity of the Feast of St. Barbara at the beginning of December. And there is no Friends Gathering scheduled for December, because of the Christmas and New Year celebrations. Thus, the October Friends Gathering is the last one scheduled for this calendar year.

DIVINE LITURGY

The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at the monastery on Sunday morning, November 18th, at 10:30 AM, preceded by the 3rd and 6th Hours at 10:00AM. The Liturgy will be followed by a luncheon. Everyone is welcome.