

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 September 30th, 2018

4:00 pm Presentation:

FORGIVENESS: BALM FOR THE ACHING HEART

*Speaker : Xenia Enke, Licensed Psychologist
Member Of St. Andrew Church, Riverside, CA*

5:00 pm Vespers

6:00 pm Potluck

DIRECTIONS TO THE MONASTERY

From Highway 101 – Exit Highway 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.

Follow the signs to the parking area.

From Highway 5 – Exit Highway 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,

The forthcoming Friends' Gathering coincidentally will mark thirteen years since our monastery moved from the Santa Barbara area to the mountains above Santa Paula. The first Divine Liturgy here was celebrated on October 1st, 2005, the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God.

This particular feast is especially dear to us for another reason as well. It is the patronal feast day of the monastery where Abbess Victoria began her monastic life: Monastère Notre Dame de Toute Protection in the village of Bussy-en-Othe, France. Indeed, we think of Mother Eudoxia, the foundress and abbess of that monastery during the years Mother Victoria was there, as our monastic "grandmother." She was a remarkable woman, who began her own monastic life as a secret nun in Communist Russia in the 1920's.

A letter written by Mother Eudoxia describing her community in France and her vision for its life, when that monastery had been in existence for some ten years, tells us of her vision for contemporary Orthodox monasticism. She wrote:

"Sometimes, Western Christians do not understand that, in our concept of monasticism . . . a single monastery embraces all sorts of different lifestyles within its walls: from those active in projects on the outside to contemplatives, and all the intermediary states. All that is individual, as are all human souls. Everything should be dominated by love, which is the true goal of the Christian life; monasticism is just one of the paths toward this goal."

Indeed, thanks to Mother Eudoxia's vision, the sisters of that monastery accomplished a great work in post World War II Europe, quietly opening the doors of their monastery to provide a spiritual haven for countless refugees, who came as pilgrims seeking spiritual renewal. At the same time—again quietly, one hand hardly knowing what the other was doing—the monastery began what came to be a profound missionary accomplishment: the translation of Orthodox service books into English. From the hand of Mother Mary, encouraged by Mother Eudoxia and with help from the sisters, came *The Festal Menaion*, *The Lenten Triodion*, and countless other liturgical texts. Meanwhile, day by day, all this activity derived its energy and support from the unfailing round of prayer and services in the monastery chapel—the activity at the heart of every monastery.

Now Mother Eudoxia's vision remains the vision of that monastic community, and it is what informs our life at St. Barbara Monastery as well. We ask your prayers that we may remain faithful to it.

Abbess Victoria
and the Community
of St. Barbara Monastery

A NEW SIGN FOR THE MONASTERY



Visitors have been having a difficult time finding our monastery ever since last December, when our highway sign burned to the ground in the Thomas Fire. All that was left of it was a pile of ashes. Now, however, everyone should be able to find us easily thanks to Nicholas and Mimi Hallak, owners of Advanced Signs By Nick in Lancaster, CA, who are members of Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Palmdale. The Hallaks made and donated the very readable and sturdy sign that Mother Paraskeva and Sister Photini are holding in the photo above.

The sign has yet to be mounted in its planned framework of brick (to match the chapel), but should soon be in place near the entrance to the monastery driveway, where it easily will be visible from Highway 150. Many, many thanks, Nick and Mimi!



OCTOBER 28TH: BLESSING OF THE BELLS

Plan to attend our Friends' Gathering scheduled for October 28th, when we will bless the set of five beautiful bronze church bells cast in Russia especially for our monastery by the Pyatkov Bells Company. (Curiously, bronze bells are not made in America.)

Mitch Denny is presently putting the finishing touches (including a gold cupola) on the belfry he has built with the help of Glenn Hoppe of St. Athanasius Church in Santa Barbara. And Maximos Diaz of St. Andrew Church in Riverside has offered to come and teach us the art of ringing them with the proper peals for the different church services of the day as well as various other occasions.



FORTHCOMING EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



Elijah Dickens, a member of St. Herman Church in Oxnard, is planning an Eagle Scout project to be accomplished at St. Barbara Monastery this October. Noticing the aged condition of our children’s play set, Elijah came up with the idea of replacing it with a new and better one. The chosen model, which includes swings, a slide, monkey bars, and even a climbing station, can be purchased as a kit for \$1,500.00, and Elijah together with his fellow scouts will camp at the monastery and do the work of assembling it and setting it up securely in the ground. Part of any Eagle Scout project, along with planning, organizing and leading it, is raising the funds to finance it. If anyone would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Elijah’s worthy project—which will undoubtedly be enjoyed by children, not to mention parents, for years to come, a check made out to St. Barbara Monastery with “Eagle Scout Project” written on the memo line will be used by Elijah for project expenses.

OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER



By popular request, our speaker for the Friends’ Gathering on September 30th, is Dr Xenia Enke, a clinical psychologist, who spoke to us exactly one year ago on the topic of depression. That talk was so highly appreciated, we have arranged for her to speak to us again this year and hope to have her back often. This year, her topic is forgiveness. As an Orthodox Christian psychologist, she is deeply committed to a therapeutic practice that flows out of her Orthodox Christian faith and abides in the teachings of the Holy Fathers while drawing from evidenced-based practices for effective treatment. She is married and has four children and is a member of St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Riverside, CA.

IMPORTANT MONASTERY RESIDENTS AND RECENT VISITORS

