

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



There will be
NO JUNE GATHERING
of the Friends
of St. Barbara Monastery
Sunday, June 26th, 2016

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.



Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

We greet you in this glorious season of Pentecost!

We regret to announce that we must cancel this month's Friends' Gathering because of the present state of our property. Construction of the new chapel is at the stage where pipes—water pipes for the fire hydrant and fire sprinkler system,



gas pipes for the heating system, conduit carrying electrical wire—are all being installed in deep trenches that have been dug seemingly everywhere. The gaping trenches represent a serious safety hazard, especially for small children. Meanwhile, parking space for more than a handful of vehicles is simply unavailable. We expect everything to be covered up again soon to allow our next Gathering to proceed as scheduled on July 31st.

Meanwhile, thanks to your generous response to our emergency appeal for additional funds at the end of May, construction work in the chapel itself is also continuing. As we are writing this, a special work crew is installing insulation in the walls in preparation for the plastering, which should commence next week. God willing, we will be able to consecrate the finished church building at the beginning of December as planned.

Shortly after our last Friends' gathering, when we blessed the domes for the chapel, they were duly installed. Please see the photos of the dramatic installation process which follow.

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

INSTALLATION OF THE CHAPEL DOMES

One can hardly imagine a church designed in the Russian tradition without its characteristic onion domes. Ours were manufactured by a company in Ohio called *Architectural Fiberglass* and delivered to us in a big crate by a FedEx truck on May 11th. After unpacking them, we kept the shining domes on the ground near the unfinished chapel, where we could feast our eyes on them until the day of the May Friends' gathering, when the domes were blessed. Two days later, with the help of a crane, our construction crew dramatically hoisted them into place atop the chapel. (They were too excited to allow us to watch!)



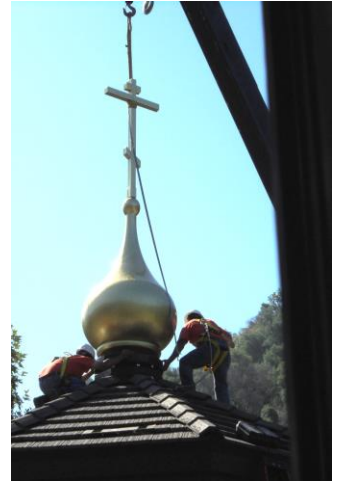
The domes are understood to represent the flames of fire which came down from Heaven and anointed the apostles in the upper room where they were waiting on the day of Pentecost. It seems fitting that our domes were placed atop the chapel just in time for the Feast!



Harnessing the dome



Lowering it into place



Getting it just right!



This one's easy!



Chapel with the domes in place at last!

IT'S LAVENDER SEASON AGAIN!

Our small upper field of English lavender already has been harvested and the fragrant yield processed into essential oil. Now, our principal lavender field has begun to bud. Given the present extraordinary heat wave, we have good hope that it will burst into full bloom by the week's end, just in time for the popular Ojai Valley Lavender Festival on Saturday, June 25th. Once again this year, we will have a booth at this annual Festival held 10 miles away from the monastery in the town of Ojai (one block from Main St./Highway 150).

For weeks now, we have been preparing our various lavender products for sale at the Festival: essential oil, sachets, hydrosol spray, lip balm, salve and dried bundles. A day ahead of the Festival, on Friday, June 24th, we are expecting several volunteer harvesters who will help us cut fresh flowers and prepare bouquets, likewise for sale at the Festival. Even more volunteers are scheduled to come



and help us tend our Festival booth—open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and always a busy spot! For more information, please check the Festival website at www.ojaivalleylavenderfestival.org.