

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



*There will be no
Friends Gathering
in February*

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 will not have a Friends gathering this month because February 22nd, the day on which we would expect to have it, is Forgiveness Sunday. Everyone wants to be in their home parish for Forgiveness Vespers and the special Rite of Forgiveness that mark the beginning of Great Lent.

As we bow low before one another to ask forgiveness and grant forgiveness, seeking “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, (to) live at peace with all men” (Romans 12:18), we find ourselves in something of a different world—the world as it was meant to be, a bit of Paradise. One might say that learning to live in this paradisiacal world is what Lent is all about. It is the world, which interpenetrates our fallen world, where the Risen Christ reigns and where we meet Him in the wee hours of morning on the day of Pascha. Even a moment’s experience of this other world is enough to give Christians the resolve to brave anything, even martyrdom, for its sake.

The sad truth is that all it takes to miss this experience altogether, to be blind to the very existence of this other world, is the simple failure to forgive. One may ‘accept’ the Gospel, be quite ‘knowledgeable’ about the Church, ‘observe’ all the rigors of the Fast, yet never experience what one’s fellow Christians are experiencing—the foretaste of the life that is to come.

Thus, we wish to begin Great Lent by asking you, all of the Friends of the monastery near and far, forgiveness for anything we may have thought or said or done to offend you. We assure you of our fervent prayers throughout the Fast that all of us may together successfully “cross the finish line” of Lent and “enter into the joy of our Lord” at the coming Feast of Feasts. We ask your prayers in return.

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

MONASTERY SPRING WORK PARTY

The monastery will hold a spring work party on Saturday, March 28th. We need help with a lot of different things, both large and small, both indoors and outdoors. Come for the whole day or part of the day. Join us for some or all of the daily services: Matins at 7:00 AM, 6th Hour at 12:15 PM, Vespers at 4:00 PM. Depending on the skills of those who come, there is work to be done staining part of the outside walls of the house and the children's play sets, weed whacking tall grass, tree trimming, gardening, sanding caskets in-the-making and other wood-working projects, labeling envelopes, polishing brass, etc., etc. A lenten luncheon will be provided. Let us know if you plan to come. (Either phone us at 805-921-1563 or email us at sbmonastery@gmail.com.)

CHAPEL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction of the new chapel is continuing—glory to God!—due to our successful year-end fundraising efforts. The matching funds campaign conducted in November and December brought some \$70,000 more to the Building Fund. Now the estimate for completion of the structure as well as to finish the ADA restrooms and the improvements to the driveway required by the Fire Department, stands at \$240,000. Using a \$50,000 matching grant donation, made at the beginning of this calendar year by Friends of the monastery who wish to remain anonymous, we will soon launch the campaign to raise this remainder. We have carefully avoided announcing a projected completion date for the new chapel, but it does look like a realistic possibility that we will be able to invite everyone to the consecration on the next Feast of St. Barbara (December 4th). Watch for information the monastery will be sending out during the next month as well as a posting on our website.

END OF YEAR TAX RECEIPTS

We regret that all of our tax letters are late this year. The delay is principally due to a computer problem: Our whole financial file from January to mid-October was lost in cyberspace—until our Friend Doug Jones came by and, after much labor, successfully retrieved it (or most of it). At this point, about half the tax letters have been mailed. If you have not yet received yours, it should arrive in your mailbox before February is over.

The Yale Russian Male Chorus

conducted by Mark Bailey, Artistic Director



in concert

Friday, March 13, 2015, 7:30 PM
St. Athanasius Orthodox Church

300 Sumida Gardens Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

(facing Hollister between Patterson and Ward)

Tickets: \$15 at the door only

\$10 Students & Seniors OPEN SEATING

***Proceeds will benefit the Chapel Building Fund of
St. Barbara Monastery in Santa Paula, CA***

Founded in 1953, the YRC served as a powerful force toward the preservation of Russian choral music during the Cold War era. It is now recognized as one of the world's most important performance ensembles of Slavic music. The YRC's repertoire, which spans from the 12th to the 21st centuries, includes a variety of sacred and secular music, including ancient chant, cultural songs, and major choral works by Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakoff, and Rachmaninoff.

For more information, go to: www.stathanasius.org or call 805-685-5400