

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



*The June Gathering of the Friends
of St. Barbara Monastery*

Sunday, June 30th, 2013

4:00 pm Presentation

AGHIA SOPHIA: THE GREAT CHURCH

*Speaker: V. Rev. Michael Laffoon
Pastor of St. Mark Church, Irvine, CA*

5:00 pm Vespers

6:00pm 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.



Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

We have reached the season of Pentecost, 2013. How many, many times the Church has celebrated this Feast—her birthday!—since the day when the Apostles first received the Holy Spirit in the form of tongues of fire in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. The fact of the matter, of course, is that we celebrate Pentecost not just once a year, but every time someone is baptized and chrismated, every time someone is ordained to the priesthood, every time the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, every time a new church is dedicated--in short, whenever the Church *does* anything. The Holy Spirit is forever being sent to us, eternally coming and pouring out His grace. We live in a continual Pentecost! More paragraphs than could fit in this newsletter beg to follow here to enumerate the many forms of His activity: The Holy Spirit is the foundation of our knowledge, for it is through the Holy Spirit that we know and confess that Jesus is Lord. He is the source of our prayer, crying “Abba, Father” in our hearts. Indeed, He is the very source of life itself, the spark that animates every living thing.

There are those who insist that the Holy Spirit is present and active only where His gifts are manifest in the same forms as they were manifest in the Apostles in the days following Pentecost, notably glossalalia and ecstasy. However, the Great Church—as St. Irenaeus calls the Orthodox Church—did not adopt this view. She recognized the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in gifts recognized even by the Apostles as of greater importance: the gift of repentance, the gift of prophecy, the gift of wisdom, the gifts of the Holy Spirit enumerated in Gal. 5:22. (We recommend the interview with Elder Cleopa on this subject, posted on the web by Uncut Mountain Press.)

Wishing you all a glorious season of Pentecost!

Abbess Victoria
and the sisters of
St. Barbara Monastery

CAMARILLO GREEK FESTIVAL

During the weekend of June 21-23, we took the monastery bookstore to the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Festival in Camarillo once again this year, where we sold honey and bundles of lavender from our fields as well as books. Helping out at our booth were James Mahlke of St. Herman Church in Oxnard and Diana Cerritos of St. Innocent Church in Tarzana.



Mother Nina and James Mahlke assist enthusiastic customers.

HOME SCHOOLERS COME FOR ANOTHER VISIT

This was our second time to host a small crowd of home schoolers and their teachers (moms and dads) for a day at the monastery. Father Yousuf Rassam of St. Innocent Church in Tarzana graciously came and served the Divine Liturgy to start off our time together. And families from Lompoc and Bakersfield as well as Father Yousuf's family from the San Fernando Valley all came, carrying potluck dishes for a small feast afterwards. Mother Nina took the older children on a nature walk on the grounds while Mitch Denny provided the smaller fry with expert instruction in bubble blowing.



SUMMER MEANS VISITORS

We have been enjoying an unusually busy “visitor’s season” with hardly a day when someone doesn’t unexpectedly arrive. Notable among those who came by were His Eminence Archbishop BENJAMIN, who dropped in with his father Robert Peterson (pictured) while on a spin in the countryside for Father’s Day. The other visitor pictured did not tell us his name!



ST. TIMOTHY’S, LOMPOC, VISITS

On Saturday, June 13th, the monastery hosted the ladies of St. Timothy Church, Lompoc.

Their pilgrimage to the monastery has become an annual event. Allowing time for a talk and discussion with Mother Victoria and the sisters, the ladies enjoyed walking the monastery grounds as well as a lovely luncheon which they brought to share with the sisters. Father John Sommer, their pastor, was unable



to accompany them, but arrived the following day for a “working holiday” in our wood shop, where he gave Mitch Denny invaluable “tips of the trade” on casket construction.



ALTAR WINE FROM HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

We are pleased to inform our readers that altar wine, specially produced according to Church canons and bottled for “Calistoga Orthodox Wine,” is now available from Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga.