



Let God Arise

Journal of Holy Resurrection Monastery in Niangua, Missouri



Let God Arise is written and published by Holy Resurrection Monastery and is free of charge. Please go to the web page, write or call to be added to the email list.

Holy Resurrection Monastery
224 Hospitality Rd
Niangua, MO 65713
417-943-2070

holyresurrectionmonastery.org
nuns@holyresurrectionmonastery.org

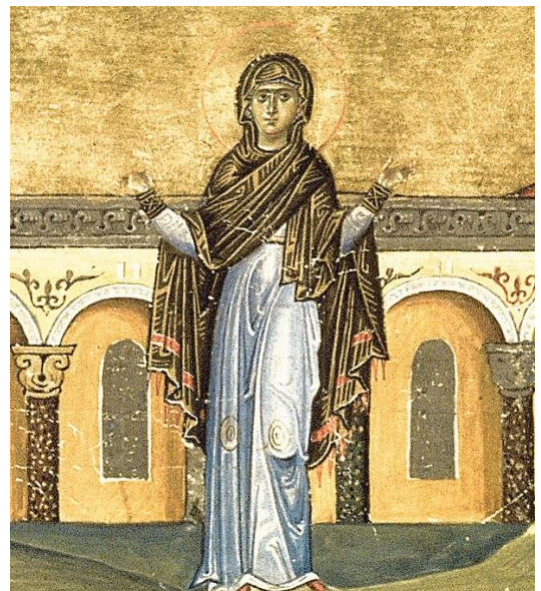
"How was your experience"



Wherever we go, whatever we do, there always seems to be a survey. After retail shopping, visiting the Post Office, getting the car maintained, etc., an email or text follows: "How did we do?" "Would you recommend us?" "Rate your experience." "How could we do better?" Then, the no holds barred: "Other. Comment."

Imagine parishes, monasteries, or any of us putting out this type of survey to the general public. While secular surveys focus on product quality and the basic tenets of service, we know that the end survey, judgment begins with the household of God and is based on adherence to the Gospel.¹ For us, even secular surveys translate into what is necessary and the kind treatment of others. As a former pastor used to sum it up, "Just be nice."

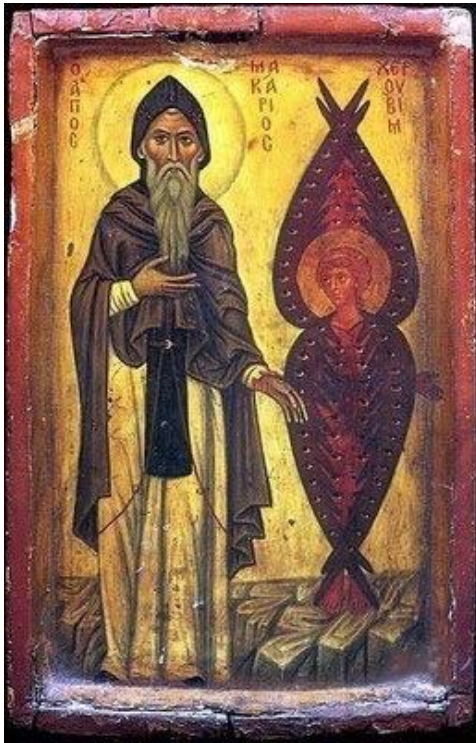
There is no denying that the obvious trajectory of surveys is to maintain and gain business, and to do that companies need to gauge and cater to feelings. We are human. We have feelings, so let's venture there for a moment. The secular world is looking for comfort and satisfaction, a filling or fulfillment. It is fair to say that it is not things, food, or service that provide satisfaction, but the feelings engendered. When it comes to our spiritual lives, is there anything such as spiritual comfort? Maybe occasionally, but that is not the norm. Monastic stories recount Fathers and Mothers who may have experienced God's presence or favor in an instant and then they spent many years with aridity, learning how to practice asceticism without seeking their own pleasure,² to seek God for Godself and to simply be with Being, to live with Life, to love with Love.



¹ 1 Pt 4.17

² Is 58

While the experience of comfort in a relationship is welcome, it could also be an indicator of stagnancy. Discomfort isn't always a bad thing. Healthy relationships have ups and downs, have the capacity to grow, and therefore require diligent work. To love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and



with all our strength requires that the mountains and valleys that are within need to be made smooth.³ Wherever we may be on this craggy course, God's love for us is present, unceasing, and unconditional. God's presence provides direction, relief, strength, and desire to trek towards the Holy, to courageously traverse the fires of purification to acquire holiness so as to liken ourselves. "You shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy."⁴ If we are able to face discomfort with vulnerability, we will discover a medium, a cushion, and sometimes a super strength glue. Vulnerability opens the door for humility and deep love: to be loved and to love. Our Most Holy Mother, the Theotokos is the prime example of openness to humility and

seeking to be continually filled to capacity - "full of grace." The holy Martyrs and all the Saints provide further examples of softened hearts that triumph the need for thick skin – when courage and fortitude transform satisfaction into an inexhaustible exchange of love.

As we approach Great Lent, let's rate our experience and discover how we could do better, be better. Let us not be afraid of spiritual discomfort. May we all have good strength to endure the journey of repentance with heartfelt desire and prayer.



³ Dt 6.4-7; Mt 22.37; Mk 12.30; Lk 10.27; Is 40.4

⁴ Lv 19.2

Monastery News

A few highlights since the last publication:

+ Local faithful still come to help out.

+ A mission team from St Luke Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, IL were at the monastery twice. In April, they assisted with the painting of an upstairs bathroom. In August, they painted the three downstairs rooms, extended the deck in the front of the Chapel, repaired the upper string and steps on the outer staircase, did some extra yard work, cleaned the stained vinyl siding with a power washer, repaired the ramp in front of the shed, and numerous other repairs.



+ With great joy His Eminence, Archbishop Paul was welcomed for his first pastoral visit to the Monastery, during which he served Divine Liturgy on St Mary of Egypt Sunday, 2021.





+ The upstairs repairs were completed in early August 2021 and the Gift Shop was moved upstairs for now. The latter has been a success, and new items are added as is possible. Shown is the refurbished dining room, Gift Shop, and guest pantry.



+ The monastery is blessed to have Divine Liturgy served the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month by Fr Peter Bodnar who is now assisted by Heirotodeacon Theodore. Presanctified Liturgies are scheduled for Great Lent.



+ Last Fall, Fr Peter travelled to Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church in Merrville, Indiana, his last assignment prior to retirement, where he was honored for his many years of service to over 30 parishes. AXIOS!

+ Mother visits local parishes as she can.



+ Repairs continue downstairs. The drop ceiling in the hallway and utility room were repaired, and damaged tiles replaced. The electrical work is halfway completed: junction and outlet boxes are being installed, wires secured, and damaged fixtures replaced. The heat is now regulated throughout. The outer doors were repaired and sealed, and a propane heater was installed. The walk-in closet, utilized for liturgical items, is almost ready to be repopulated. It was recently repaired and painted. As soon as the closet and utility room are finished, then the items being stored in the rooms will be removed, and those rooms can be setup with beds. Outside is maintained, dead trees are being removed.



+ There is a steady stream of overnight guests. Some come for part of a day, a day, or stay over. They enjoy the services, the peace, and simply being. The Chapel photo is from Nativity.

+ The monastic common room has some furniture.



- + Analogion coverings in gold, red, and green were sewn and donated by Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church in Joplin, Missouri. Note that this occurred in the middle of their purchase of a new building and move. The monastery thanks them for their diligence, congratulates them on their new Church building, and wishes them many years! Rugs have also been added to the Chapel.



- + Candle orders have slightly increased. Many thanks to all the parishes that have come on board. Orders are received by phone, email, text, or the website. holyresurrectionmonastery.org Thank you in advance for supporting the monastery!



- + Thank you again to all who have donated their time, talents, and funds for the furtherance of good things at Holy Resurrection Monastery.
- + Finally, it is the hope to publish the monastery news more frequently. Perhaps as the major projects are finished...

Service Schedule

NEW! See the Calendar tab in the online Main Menu.

Daily

Except Thursday (other exceptions: 1st Week of Lent, when there is Presanctified, Holy Week)
5:30am Matins, 1st Hour
4:30pm 9th Hour, Vespers

Presanctified Liturgy (begins at 5:30 pm preceded by the Ninth Hour. Potluck follows, so you may bring something Lenten to share.)

These Wednesdays in March at 5:30pm
March 9, 16, 23

These Fridays in April at 5:30pm
April 1, 8, 15

Sundays

2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month
9:00am 3rd and 6th Hours, Divine Liturgy

Feasts

TBA

HOLY WEEK

TBA online

HOLY PASCHA

TBA online

There are no covid restrictions, and everyone is asked to use common sense. If you think that you are sick, please stay home and get well.

May 2 to May 7

The Mission Team
from St Luke's the Evangelist Orthodox Church
in Palos Hills, Illinois
of the OCA Diocese of the Midwest
is returning!

As last time, there is some lodging at the monastery and the team has secured overflow lodging at Arrowhead Boy Scout camp within 5 minutes of the monastery. The cabins, one to accommodate men and the other for women, are clean, have bathrooms, and are temperature controlled. Cost is \$150/person (food and lodging). There is no cost to join us for the day but please let us know that you are coming. Mother Alexandra will offer an evening retreat talk.

There will be construction outside, painting on the basement level, preparing/staining stairs and deck, landscaping/gardening, cooking/cleaning meals, All skill levels are welcomed!

Adults who would like more information, inquire about lodging, or assist by attending any or all of the week, please contact the team leaders:
Fr Howard and Mat Michaelyn Sloan.

michaelynsloan@gmail.com



More photos from September 2021.

Snail mail or submit prayer lists via the website.

Prayer List

(first names only, no nicknames)

Living

Departed



Mail to:
Holy Resurrection Monastery
224 Hospitality Rd
Niangua, MO 67513