



**CISTERCIAN ALTAR BREAD**  
**VALLEY OF OUR LADY MONASTERY**  
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October 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

## **New Monastery Update**

The contemplative nuns of Valley of Our Lady Monastery have long envisioned building a New Monastery to ensure the future of our community and our monastic observance. After more than 60 years in our 'temporary' buildings we are overjoyed to see the New Monastery a reality. We are grateful for the prayers and support of many for the project and for our life of prayer! Our Lord has seen the construction phase through its many challenges of unprecedented inflation, labor shortages, high bids, supply shortages, value engineering, unexpected complications, complexities, and delays. And here we are preparing to move in!

## **We're Moving**

We look forward to our new home that, God willing, will house many generations of nuns to come, for His Glory. In particular, we are eager to move into our new Communion Wafer Workshop: designed for better workflow and with space enough for all the aspects of altar bread production, it will be a big improvement over our current workspace.

But our moving will impact you, our customers. First, note that beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> we will have a **new mailing address** (see above). Our email address will remain the same and our phone number will revert to our previous number (see above).

## **We'll be Closed**

We will be **closed for business January 25 through February 21**. This will allow us to uninstall and reinstall our equipment and move the whole altar bread operation.. and the sisters too! **Auto-shipments scheduled** during this period will be shipped early – see below for details for your group and the date for making any changes to your order. Not all auto-shipments will be affected. There will be **no call-in orders** during this time and we will **not be available** by email or phone until our new system is up and running.

In the event that our inventory runs low on account of equipment damage during the relocation or unexpected delays or some other unforeseen event, you may receive altar bread that is different from what you are used to (such as without designs or fracture lines, or packaged differently). This would only be a temporary measure during these few months of transition. We pray all goes smoothly, but we want to prepare you just in case we need to make adjustments as we face challenges during the relocation of our altar bread bakery and community.

## **Next Year**

Find enclosed the 2024 business closing calendar and the 2024 auto-shipment schedule. We also have a new price list, effective January 1st. We have not increased our prices since 2017. Inflation, the price of flour, and other costs necessitate an increase. Included here are also our policies for your reference, though there are no changes.

## USPS Ground Advantage

Prior to September 2023, US Mail had two basic services for shipping parcels: First Class Mail (less than one pound) and Priority Mail (more than one pound). US Mail now has a new service: Ground Advantage. This service has absorbed First Class Mail and ships boxes up to 70lbs. While Ground Advantage is the most economical means of shipping for most locations, it may take up to nine days for delivery. We will continue to ship boxes weighing more than one pound via Priority Mail (usually 1-3 shipping days) or UPS Ground (usually 1-4 shipping days) – choosing the most economical service (or the service you have requested). Please let us know if you would prefer that we send your shipments via Ground Advantage instead, aware that shipping may take longer than you are used to.

## Prayers

Be assured of our on-going prayers for your church community; we are honored to provide altar bread for your parish. Our monastic community is blessed by this work – it allows us to live by the labor of our hands, as Saint Benedict and our monastic tradition enjoins. And the very work of our hands becomes the Body of Christ, allowing Our Lord to nourish and remain with His people.

Please also keep us in prayer during this time of transition. We welcome support for the New Monastery Project – construction will continue through March and we have not quite raised the full budget. You can visit our website for making an online donation. You can also find photos and updates on the construction at our news page: <https://build.valleyoffourlady.org/news/>

Gratefully,

Sister Christina Marie, O.Cist. and the nuns of Valley of Our Lady Monastery

We will be closed January 25 through February 21. The following auto-shipments will be shipped early.

| <b>Group</b> | <b>This shipment will move &gt; to this date</b> | <b>What to expect</b>         | <b>Make changes by</b> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>M1</b>    | February 7 > January 3                           | Double order on Jan 3         | Thursday December 28   |
| <b>M2</b>    | February 14 > January 10                         | Double order on Jan 10        | Thursday January 4     |
| <b>M3</b>    | February 21 > January 17                         | Double order on Jan 17        | Thursday January 11    |
| <b>E1</b>    | February 7 > December 6                          | Double order on Dec 6         | Thursday November 30   |
| <b>E2</b>    | February 14 > December 13                        | Double order on Dec 13        | Thursday December 7    |
| <b>E3</b>    | February 21 > December 20                        | Double order on Dec 20        | Thursday December 14   |
| <b>B1</b>    | February 14 > December 20                        | Double order on Dec 20        | Thursday December 14   |
| <b>B2</b>    | February 21 > December 27                        | Double order on Dec 27        | Thursday December 21   |
| <b>B5</b>    | January 31 > December 6                          | Double order on Dec 6         | Thursday November 30   |
| <b>1QL</b>   | January 31 > December 13                         | Order shipped early on Dec 13 | Thursday December 7    |
| <b>2Q2</b>   | February 14 > January 10                         | Order shipped early on Jan 10 | Thursday January 4     |