

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Mission

1635 Shaffer Road
Atwater, California 95301

Sunday February 1st 2026 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Beginning of the Lenten Triodion Martyr Tryphon

Activities and Events this Week

Tuesday 3	Tuesday Morning Book Study Choir Rehearsal	10:30am 6:00pm
Wednesday 4	Adult Education Class	6:00pm
Thursday 5	St. John Brotherhood	6:00pm
Saturday 7	St. John Brotherhood Clean-up Catechism Great Vespers/Confessions	9:00am 3:00pm 5:00pm

Announcements

WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS - PLEASE BE SURE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF -
Fr. Lawrence would very much like to meet you!

Congratulations to Axel Muniz Tello - who has been brought into the Catechumenate this day!

St. Eugene Camp is on track for June 21-27 at the Armenian Camp in Dunlap. Sunday February 1st and 8th we will take a collection to defray the cost for the camp counselors. Counselors often times take a week vacation and drive long distances at their expense to help at the camp. This is the only youth focused event in our mission and in the Central Pacific Deanery. Your generous contribution allows you to be a part of the great experience for the kids.

Theophany is house blessing season. Please sign up in the narthex if you would like your home blessed.

Sign up in the hall if you would like to sponsor flowers to beautify our church. See Diane Holmes for any questions.

The Joseph Czyzowsky Bookstore construction continues as we will be ordering more books and gift items. We are hoping the grand opening will be soon.

Great Lent Confessions – Everyone, whether you confess regularly or only once per year, will need to make a confession during the Lenten season. I am giving a time window from Sunday of Zacchaeus to Friday April 3rd. Please avail yourself to this huge window to make a confession as part of our season of repentance. Please do not ask me to hear confessions after April 3rd and until after Pascha, as I am likely to say no.

The Parable of the Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18:9-14)

As an example of the kind of prayer the faithful followers of Christ should practice with consistency to attract God's help and protection, the Lord tells a parable of how two very different people prayed in the temple. A Pharisee prayed with a feeling of personal pride and self-aggrandizement, laying before God all his good deeds as worthy merits, and at the same time demeaning others. A publican, in contrast, prayed with a vivid sense of his own sinfulness and worthlessness. As a result, he went he went back to his home justified "rather than the other," for, as the Lord expresses in the conclusion of the parable: "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Consequently, one must pray with humility, with compunction in the heart over one's sins. The prayer of the publican: "God be merciful to me a sinner!" has become a model prayer for general use. (Archbishop Averky (Taushev) 1906 – 1976)

Please feel free to contact Fr. Lawrence for questions or to visit. 719-347-1211
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Welcome to all visitors!