

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Mission
1635 Shaffer Road
Atwater, California 95301

Sunday March 1st 2026
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
Martyr Eudoxia of Heliopolis (ca. 160-170)

Activities and Events this Week

Tuesday March 3	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
Wednesday March 4	Presanctified Liturgy	6:00pm
Thursday March 5	St. John Brotherhood	6:00pm
Saturday March 7	St. John Brotherhood Clean -up	9:00am
	Catechism	3:00pm
	Great Vespers/Confessions	5:00pm
Next Sunday March 8 th	Mission Council Meeting	
	Sunday of Orthodoxy Passion Vespers	5:00pm
	St. Catherine's Monastery	
	21285 Old Sonora Columbia Road	
	Sonora, CA 95370	

Announcements

Sunday of Orthodoxy "Passion Vespers"

St. Catherine's Monastery
21285 Old Sonora Columbia Road
Sonora, CA 95370

All are welcome - if you are able, please bring a Lenten desert.

St. Eugene Camp is on track for June 21-27 at the Armenian Camp in Dunlap. I am asking everyone to contribute so we can defray the cost of the Church counselors. Last year we gave just over \$1000.00 *If you did not have a chance to contribute to St. Eugene Camp please give your Check to Jason Batson or Petar Magazinovic.*

Today we welcome **Lisa Brady** into the Catechumenate. Sara Crawley is Lisa's sponsor.

An important message from our webmaster Nicholas Tamraz - Give easily and securely through our Mobile Church Giving App. Simply download [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) app on your phone to make one-time gifts, set up recurring donations, and support the ongoing ministry of our church. To learn more or download the app, visit our website and click **Give Online** at the top of the page.

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.

House Blessing Season – In light on my operations, with one more to go , School, Baseball, Lent at Church and now I need to move out of my house – I am asking your indulgence in allowing me to skip the house blessing season this year. Please bless your house by sprinkling holy water throughout, make sure prayer is constant in your home, and even use incense, and ensure that all the commandments of God are being followed – then your house will be blessed!

The Veneration of Icons. In the year 787 a council was called in the city of Nicaea, modern day Turkey, to resolve the horrible heresy of iconoclasm. The council was called by the Empress Irene (legate) to Constantine VI. Patriarch Tarasios of Constantinople presided over the council. In attendance were 308 bishops from the East and two legates of Pope Adrian I. In total 350 are said to have attended the council. The council once and for all defeated iconoclasm. In short the council decreed that the veneration of icons is not at all “worship of idols” but rather expressed the truth of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. That all things under heaven visible to the human eye could be depicted. Honor is not given the painted wooden board but rather to the prototype depicted. On the first Sunday of Lent in the year 843, the Empress Theodora and her son the Emperor Michael venerated the Holy icons together with assembled clergy. From that time on, the church has celebrated the first Sunday of Lent as the Triumph of Orthodoxy – the truth of who Jesus Christ is triumphed over the evil of denying the incarnation. I want all Orthodox to be proud that our faith is indeed correct as it is given to us by God. The icons inspire not only truth but also add tremendous beauty to our churches and inspire all who gaze upon the icons to contemplate the beauty of God’s creation. We adorn not only our churches but also our homes with the Holy icons. Have icons of Christ, the Virgin Mary and your favorite saints in your home. Pray before them and may they inspire you to virtue, strength and piety! As in the year 843 – today we publicly continue to show the truth of our faith by walking in procession today carrying our icons.

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