

# St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Mission

1635 Shaffer Road

Atwater, California 95301

**Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

The Blind Man

Apostles Andronicus and Junia of the 70

St. Eudoxia (Princess) of Moscow

## Activities and Events this Week

Tuesday 19	Tuesday Morning Book Club	10:30am
Wednesday 20	Great Vespers w/ Litya <i>Leavetaking of Pascha</i> <i>Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i>	6:00pm
Thursday 21	St. John Brotherhood	6:00pm
Saturday 23	Great Vespers	5:00pm
Sunday 24	Hours/Divine Liturgy	9:40am/10:00am

## Announcements

**Congratulations** - to all of our High School and College Graduates. We would like to honor all of you next Sunday. I would like to hear from all of you as to what is next in your life!

**Special Prayers needed** for Lucas Doiel as he continue to have problems with his rods that are supporting his back. He is in much pain and all prayers will be helpful. Please also keep Reader Mark and Kristine in your prayers. They will keep us in the loop regarding Lucas' health and probable surgery.

**All of the newly illumined** - I need your full name, place and date of birth and sponsor for our official metrical book. Please see Fr. Lawrence or Reader Steven and provide us with that information. Thank you!

**Prospora Baking** - we are on the lookout for baking talent. We are looking for a few good prospora bakers who will commit to baking the church bread. Please see Fr. Lawrence for details.

Inspiration

Being a public High School teacher in California, I find that very little to nothing inspires our young people. They are completely enamored with their mind numbing, soul destroying, additive electronic devices, AKA – the cell phone. Because of these devices our young people have severe damage to the prefrontal cortex in their brains which reduces self-control and decision making abilities. We also have a few generations now, that withdrawal from peers and society as a whole. They are more and more irritable, restless, experience mood swings, experience strong cravings and difficulty feeling pleasure from normal life.

However, all is not lost if we want to become enamored with Christ and His Holy Church. Here we can experience healing for our minds and souls. Here there is much to be inspired about. Presently I am reading The Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri (1265-1321). He started the poem in 1308 and completed it shortly before his death in 1321. One of the greatest works in Western literature. My students could not tell you the most popular cell phone game that everyone had to have just four months ago. So, I teach my students Chess, which is far more complex than any modern electronic game and its 1600 years old, still the most popular game in the world!

I mention these types of things because I feel inspired by such great works of literature and science. The beauty and complexity of the game of Chess. Our Church has timeless and beautiful stories and lessons such as these to teach us – to inspire us to become better followers of Christ, to be healed and restored, and thus complete human beings!

As we progress through the Sundays of Pascha we hear of Thomas upon receiving the proof that he needed proclaim “My Lord and my God.” The Holy Myrrhbearing women who took every risk in identify themselves with Christ, out of love gave Him a proper burial. The Paralytic who perhaps was used to his “normal” found healing and restoration by Christ. The Samaritan women who lived her life in fornication was transformed into a bold preacher of the Gospel that eventually cost her, her life and received the crown of martyrdom. And today, the blind man shows us that God can heal even the most helpless among us – a man blind from birth who is eager to participate in his own healing. These are stories that should inspire us! Healing, restoration, and transformation are the true desires of human beings. Christianity inspired my friend Dante, who makes me a participant in his grand poem over 600 years after he wrote it. Christianity, that built the grand Western world – that is now in a managed and rapid decline , still offers much to all of us and has power to reverse all of the negative and ill effects experience by our young people. Here the older people need to be the future, to show and model for our children what inspiration looks and feel like. It’s a grand spark that never dies!

**Please feel free to contact Fr. Lawrence** for questions or to visit. 719-347-1211  
[Rector@StMaryMagdalenechurch.org](mailto:Rector@StMaryMagdalenechurch.org) Welcome to all visitors!