

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Mission

1635 Shaffer Road

Atwater, California 95301

Sunday July 12th 2026

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Martyrs Proclus and Hilary of Ancyra (2nd c.)

Ven. Paisios of Mount Athos (1994)

Activities and Events this Week

Tue 14	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
Thurs`16	St. John Brotherhood (Tarmac)	6:00pm
Sat 18	Great Vespers	5:00pm

Announcements

Please sign-up for bring food for our Patronal Feast on July 21st and 22nd. Bishop Vasily will be with us this year!

Help with mission website - We are presently looking for two volunteers to help manage our church website. Responsibilities include updating weekly news, posting calendar events and blogs, sending the weekly newsletter, managing photos, and helping with Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. If interested, please contact our webmaster, Nicholas Tamraz.

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.

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. *We have just graduated Richele Red as one of our new Prospora bakers!*

Flowers for the Church - don't forget to sign up to help beautify out church. Sign up in the Hall.

New Arrivals in the Bookstore - lots of new children's books! Check out the wide selection!

Special Thank You! To all who contributed to the success of our summer camp! We had over 100 campers – the most I have seen in a while. Many of the campers come to us unchurched – they at least got to see for one week what the Church looks like!

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday will be **July 26th**. It is my prayer that everyone can contribute \$25.00 to this great ministry among us to help those incarcerated to know Christ to and to have their lives transformed.

Reflection - Having Faith

“Just have faith!” Sometimes these words sound cheap as they are easy for us to say to each other, but hard to live out! Sometimes people have real problems, trying to find a mate, a loss of a job, difficult relationships with family and co-workers, or just an everyday difficulty. When people confide in us, we sometimes just pass them off and say “Just have faith!” What people want to hear and see is what does that look like in reality, having faith. We can point to today’s gospel reading (Matt 9:1-8) and we can also tell them about a time when we were able to express some kind of faith in our own lives and how that may have played out for us.

I remember a young beautiful Slovak girl in my parish in Calhan, who desperately came to see me on a Holy Friday, of all days, wondering if she will ever find a man to marry. I listened intently with a small grin on my face, and then eventually she noticed my grin and asked me “why are you grinning?” I told her to go home and look in the mirror and remind herself that she is a beautiful young Slovak lady, and that in time God will bring a man to her. I told her not to date anyone unless she would consider marrying him – otherwise a waste of time! I also told her that she needed to have faith that God would work on her behalf since she has been a faithful Slovak girl all her life. In just over two years from that meeting I was marrying her off to a great man – even though he was not Slovak! ☺

When she came into the church on her wedding day, I reminded her of our conversation two years ago. She started to cry and apologized to God for not having faith. And also thanked God for what He provided for her! I instantly became the least popular man in the church as her makeup began to run! That’s another story!

My young Slovak friend reminds me each time I go back to Calhan of all the events, conversations, and her wedding day. Now she is a mother of two and happily married! God desires that we allow Him into every aspect of our lives, even in getting married or even in finding a parking space! Try and think back to a time in your life when you may have given over something to God’s providence and He provided for you. My Aunt Betty who we buried in Calhan this last May, affected the lives of my children in the most beautiful way as a result God’s response to a tiny amount of faith I was able to muster. What that little bit of faith was? Well, that’s another story!