

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Mission

1635 Shaffer Road

Atwater, California 95301

Sunday July 26th 2026

8th Sunday after Pentecost

THE REPOSE OF ST. JACOB (NETSVETOV), ENLIGHTENER OF THE
PEOPLES OF ALASKA (1864)

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Sunday

Activities and Events this Week

Tuesday	28	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
Saturday	Aug 1 st	St. John's Clean-up day No Vespers S	9:00am

Announcements

CONGRATULATIONS to the entire community on the celebration of St. Mary Magdalene. I have tried to teach you that patronal feasts of a church is a "second Pascha!" You saw that Fr. Ian Mackinnon, Fr. Basil Rhodes, and Fr. Seraphim Chang were in attendance, honoring us with their participation. I think it was the very best feast day of our parish since I have been here! Next year we will make it better! I also want to congratulate Lydia Acton and Reader Steven and Freda Brown on receiving the Episcopal Gramata for long and faithful service to our mission from His Grace Bishop Vasily. Thank you to everyone who labored so hard to make the feast possible.

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!

Our Young Children

From the Parish Council – the parish council asks that parents do not allow unattended children to run throughout the Hall during the Divine Liturgy. There is a liability and safety issues that must considered. We have also incurred minor damage in the church school room.

From the Priest – In connection to the above. Parenting is brute hard work, there is no getting around that. Parents today, due to all the technology, are tempted to say to themselves that if children are occupied with something, then I can relax and focus on what I would like to do. I would encourage parents to take the brute hard work path. Children in church do not need toys, books, and food. These are good for us parents but disastrous to our children as they learn to be in church occupied with anything but church. Parents and on lookers also enjoy the “cute factor” very common in modern society. Our children are not in church be cute, they are full members of the Church and deserve and need to be taught and disciplined. That is a sacred task indeed! Our children need to be in church, as it is the single greatest manner in which our children become transformed and integrated into the life of the Church.

Our children will rise to the expectations given to them, and indeed, children are looking for guidance and instruction. In time, with good instruction and discipline, the church becomes ingrained in our children and they begin to love it and make it their own.

A question to consider, when do we take away the toys, books and snacks in church? While they may not have these items, as they grow older, other things will distract both the parents and the children. When that happens our young people typically leave the Church, as it never became theirs.

The greatest gift we can give our Children is the Church! I ask God to bless all our parents as they strive to take on this difficult and sacred task of raising their children in the Church.