

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Mission

1635 Shaffer Road

Atwater, California 95301

Sunday August 23 2026

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Leavetaking of Dormition

Martyr Lupus, slave of St. Demetrius of Thessalonica (4th c.)

Hieromartyr Irenaeus Bishop of Lyons (202)

Activities and Events this Week

Tues	25	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
Sat	29	Hours	8:40am
		Divine Liturgy	9:00am
		<i>Beheading of St. John the Baptist</i>	
		<i>Strict fast (until sundown) Wine and Oil (after sundown)</i>	
Sun	30	Hours	9:40am
		Divine Liturgy	10:00am

Announcements

New items in the bookstore – incense, charcoal, incense burners. I will be very happy to help anyone who needs help with using incense and charcoal at home.

Sunday Potluck

Our Sunday potluck needs your assistance. We have the same people week in and week out who make all the food each Sunday. Glory to God! Some have the desire to not cook each Sunday as it is becoming more difficult and even expensive. The council has considered alternatives to the potluck, but for now has determined the potluck will stay in place. But we need the help of others to cook and bring items for our potluck. These items may be simple things like baloney and cheese sandwiches (I once saw at a parish in New Hampshire) I am also requesting, especially, of the young men, that you read the room as you are going first through the food line and not take beyond what is reasonable – for example not taking 1/3 of an individual item as I observed one young man in our community. We want to make sure everyone gets an opportunity to have a nice meal and have fellowship.

Snacks

The snack (A.K.A.) “the 7-11 program” may be on the chopping block. We do not have enough donations coming in to sustain it. Secondly, it is clearly becoming problematic as we are allowing young children, many times unsupervised, access to snacks during church. Messes are made, and it is not the way we forming our children in church. Children under 13 years of age should be given breakfast at home, prior to coming to church. Once a child reaches the age of 13 then they can fast up to communion. Make it a big deal that they now fast like everyone else! They are becoming a big boy or big girl now.

Some Protocol and Etiquette

There are a number of behaviors by a few or even just one (depending) that need to be addressed, but I’m sure how to go about it without being embarrassed, embarrassing someone else, or receiving a public comment as to how what I am observing is not reality. I will attempt it here, but I will also help others individually properly understand church protocol and etiquette. I might first start by recognizing that I understand for many, church is more about the individual and not so much the community. Church is about both, done in community.

One enters an Orthodox Church on time (during the hours), piously and even with some trepidation as we will encounter the fearful and living God in a way that cannot be done anywhere else. As we enter we go to the center icon (Slavic style) and then to Christ and His Most Holy Mother and then quietly, without drawing attention to ourselves, take our place ready to enter the timeless realm of the Kingdom of God. During the Divine Liturgy, Orthodox Christians become transformed being in the presence of Christ. The climax of this experience is the reception of Holy Communion. It is custom in our community, following the benediction (final blessing) that we remain in the church for the reading of the Prayers of Thanksgiving – giving thanks to God that we have received His precious Body and Blood and in the process were not consumed by His Divine Fire! Once the Prayers of Thanksgiving are over, Orthodox Christians receive the blessing of God by kissing His holy cross and the hand of His servant, the lowly and worthless priest whose hand is mystically the hand of Christ, who has been blessing you throughout the Liturgy.

I am asking you to consider all of the aberrant behaviors not listed above that seem to have become common place in our community. Ask yourselves, is this activity something we do during the Divine Liturgy and in particular during the reading of the Scriptures, during the sermon or Holy Communion?

I know some of the ladies need to leave to set up the meal. I am hoping there is a way, after coming to the cross? But I don't know what is required. I ask that this not be a time of socializing while the community is praying.

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

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Welcome to all visitors!