

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Mission

1635 Shaffer Road

Atwater, California 95301

Sunday September 27th 2026

17th Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Martyr Callistratus and his 49 companions (304)

Activities and Events this Week

Tuesday	29	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
Wednesday	30	Adult Education	6:00pm
Saturday	Oct 3	No Catechism or Great Vespers Scheduled	
Sunday	4	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.

Prospornitsa (Prosporia Baker) – We are looking for one more individual who would like to learn the art of making the Church Bread that is offered on the Altar each Sunday as a worthy sacrifice. We will train you and get you started. Please see Fr. Lawrence if you are interested!

The Tuesday Morning Book Club is returning, but this time it will be the **Friday Morning Book Club**.

The Friday Morning Book Club will resume on Friday October 2nd at 10:30am in the Hall. The first book studied is **The Art of Myrrhbearing** by Elissa Bjeletich Davis. The bookstore will be ordering the books for the group. The book discusses some of the Myrrhbearing women and men, their path through Christianity and how they found ways to serve others. The book study is open to everyone – even Myrrhbearing men! For more information please contact Diane Holmes 209-489-8177.

Sing with the Choir – You are invited to sing (with the Choir and Choir Director) The Troparion and Kontakion for St. Mary Magdalene, as well as the Creed and the Our Father.

Today we say goodbye to Austen Clark – for now! He is being set with his unit to the Middle East for 400 days. Please keep Austen in your prayers and thank you Austen for serving a protecting our country.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Please take time to read the new Parish Council meeting minutes on the bulletin board. One important item the Council is taking under advisement is the possible joining of the playroom/church school room to the hall. It may involve removing the entire wall adjoining these two rooms to increase the capacity of the hall to accommodate our ever growing community. Please feel free to give parish council members your view of this potential project. We may also need to raise funds from the community for the project.

Help with noise and distraction – if your child is crying and or having a meltdown – please feel free to utilize the narthex or the church hall so as to minimize noise and distraction. As our community continues to grow this will become more and more necessary.

October Schedule is now available. You may take a hard copy or see it on our website.

Reflection

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, our salvation and the spiritual life are never passive. They are often the product of a synergy between absolute trust in God (faith) and intense personal effort (ascetic labor). In today's Gospel reading, Peter and the Apostles were fishing all night and caught nothing. They arrived at shore and met Christ who tells them to go back out and re-cast their nets, even after washing and putting them away. Lowering the nets back down represents much work after a night of exhaustion. But at the word of Jesus, Peter once again lowers the nets and as a result the Lord blesses their efforts with many fish – more than any boat could drag in by its self. When we desire to change, be healed and eventually transformed it requires the synergy between our labors and trust in God. With this synergy we can become victorious over our passions and become strengthened and blessed by God.

Contact Fr. Lawrence

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