

# St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Mission

1635 Shaffer Road

Atwater, California 95301

**Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

COMMENERATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7<sup>th</sup>  
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Holy Apostle Philip of the Seventy, one of the Seven Deacons (1<sup>st</sup> c.)

## Activities and Events this Week

### **Parish Council Meeting today following Fellowship**

|           |        |                                        |         |
|-----------|--------|----------------------------------------|---------|
| Tuesday   | Oct 13 | Choir Rehearsal                        | 6:00pm  |
| Wednesday | Oct 14 | No Adult Education (Next Class Oct 28) |         |
| Thursday  | Oct 15 | St. John Brotherhood                   | 6:00pm  |
| Friday    | Oct 16 | Friday Morning Book Club               | 10:30am |
| Saturday  | Oct 17 | Catechism                              | 3:00pm  |
|           |        | Great Vespers                          | 5:00pm  |
| Sunday    | Oct 18 | Hours                                  | 9:40am  |
|           |        | Divine Liturgy                         | 10:00am |

## Announcements

**Do you enjoy photography and working with websites?** We're looking for a volunteer to help maintain our church's online photo gallery by gathering photos, uploading them to the website, and creating galleries of church events and activities. If you're interested in helping share our church community's special moments, contact our webmaster, Nicholas Tamraz, at [webmaster@stmarymagdalenechurch.org](mailto:webmaster@stmarymagdalenechurch.org)

**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.

**The Parish Council** is considering utilizing the sort of multi-purpose room to create needed additional space for the hall. Please look at the last Parish Council Meeting Minutes and speak with a council member of questions and issues.

**Flowers** – Please sign up on the bulletin board to provide flowers in the church, especially for Church feast days. Contact Diane Holmes for questions etc. Thank you so much!

**Help with noise and distraction** – if your child is crying and or having a meltdown – please take your child to 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.

### **Reflection**

Today the Church remembers the 350 Holy Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council held in Nicea during the reign of the Empress Irene and her son Constantine VI in the year 387A.D. During this council the heresy of iconoclasm was defeated. The Holy Fathers said that the veneration of icons is not idolatry (which the Orthodox denounces) but the practice of the veneration was desirable and necessary for the proper understanding of Christianity. St. John of Damascus, the one man who knew both the Christian world and the Muslim world (whose influence started the heresy under Byzantine Leo III.) wrote his monumental treatise on the defense of the Holy Icons. His main defense of that of the incarnation. If Jesus Christ, the eternal logos of God revealed Himself in this world as a man, then he could be depicted. “When the invisible one becomes visible to flesh, you may draw a likeness of His form.” St. John carefully explained the difference between worship (due to God alone) “latria” and “proskynesis” which mean to honor. The honor in an icon is given to the one depicted and not to the wood and paint. Today modern “Christians” still hold to the argument that the use of icons is idolatry and that their use is strange and unholy! But rather it *is their* view that is strange and unholy. The entire Church following this council accepted the decision of the council because it was true and reflected what Christians had always held true, necessary, and instructive. I recommend that all of you read On the Divine Images by St. John of Damascus. Our bookstore may even have a copy!

### **Contact Fr. Lawrence**

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