

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Mission

1635 Shaffer Road

Atwater, California 95301

Sunday October 18th 2026

20th Sunday after Pentecost

HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE

Activities and Events this Week

Tuesday	Oct 20	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
Friday	Oct 23	Friday Morning Book Club	10:30am
Mon 19 th -Fri 23 rd		Fr. Lawrence @Diocesan Assembly – Colorado Springs	
Saturday	Oct 24	Catechism	3:00pm
		Great Vespers	5:00pm
Sunday	Oct 25	Hours	9:40am
		Divine Liturgy	10:00am

Announcements

Prospora Baker – We are still looking for one more dedicated individual who would like to help bake the Church Bread – we will train!

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

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 has voted to enlarge the use of the hall by removing the wall between the parish hall and the utility classroom/ child center. This will help achieve the needed space in the hall to accommodate our rapid growth.

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!

Diocesan Assembly in Colorado Springs. I will leave tomorrow and return on Friday. I will have my phone and will be able to check it periodically.

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.

Contact Archpriest Lawrence Gaudreau (Fr. Lawrence)

Call or text – 719-357-1211

Email: Rector@Stmarymagdalenechurch.org

Reflection

How do we nurture and till the heart to receive God's words?

In today's Gospel from St. Luke (8:5-15) we hear the Parable of the Sower. In the Parable we are shown different ways in which the seed (word of God) is scattered and lands on the ground, symbolizing our hearts and how the word of God gets planted within us.

The sower, Christ, scatters his seed everywhere – for anyone to receive. The ground that is ready to receive God's word is ground that has been carefully cultivated. "Some fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold!" In order for our hearts to receive the word of God and experience the fruit of that effort, we must do some very basic things with more effort and fidelity. Consistent attendance at church and receiving the Sacraments. Consistent prayer, at least twice daily. The reading of Scripture. Here we must turn off the TV and get off the Internet to give ourselves quite time to read. Giving sacrificially, meaningfully, and proportionately of what God has granted to us. Having no judgement, expressing mercy, and forgiving others no matter what. Flee from all that is carnal especially that which is on the internet. This is how we carefully till the heart so that seed may land on our hearts and bear fruit. The fruit of transformation. The only devils in this world are those that run around in our hearts. It is in the heart where we must do battle.