St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Mission

1635 Shaffer Road
Atwater, California 95301

Sunday November 22nd 2026

25st Sunday after Pentecost

Afterfeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple of God

Apostles of the Seventy Philemon and Archippus

Activities and Events this Week

Tuesday	Nov 24	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm

Announcements

Panikhida for Helen Wajdak will be at Stratford Evans Funeral Home on Monday Dec 7th at 11am. Burial to follow. We could use a few young men from our community to act as pallbearers. Vickie has asked that only those who knew her mom would be invited to the luncheon to follow. I'm inviting any pallbearers.

St. Nicholas Day Sunday Dec 6th – St. Nicholas plans to visit once again. We are asking parents to have a small wrapped gift so St. Nicholas can give it to your child. Please give the gifts to Fr. Lawrence. It would also be fun if the parents could also provide one thing your child did well this year and one thing they could improve upon. Place your children's shoes in the narthex so St. Nicholas can place oranges and gold chocolate coins in them. We are not planning on an alternative gift if parents do not want to participate.

Friday Morning Book Club – No book club this coming Friday (Day after Thanksgiving) Book club ends on Dec 11th and will resume on January 8th.

Thanksgiving Basket in Narthex – Each time we go to the store pick up a box of potatoes, stuffing, sweet potatoes, or cranberry sauce. Let's fill up the basket for those in need.

Today we welcome back Olga Lamb and her newborn child Jordan. Also, congratulations **to Abigail Glenn** who became a Catechumen today!

A Blessed Thanksgiving to All!

For those concerned and even those not concerned. I am providing a small outline how we might approach Thanksgiving during the fast. The Orthodox in America are unique in a number of ways as compared to Orthodox lands. One is we have a holiday in the midst of the Nativity Fast. Fr. Alexander Schmemann of blessed memory, said Thanksgiving is a blessed American holiday. We are the first nation on earth to set aside a day of thanking God for this land and our freedom. Orthodox in America have to navigate this beautiful holiday. Many do not break the integrity of the fast. Some may have fish with all the other traditional Thanksgiving foods. I know many people who do this. Others enjoy the holiday with family and friends and enjoy the traditional turkey dinner. If you are the latter, I offer this suggestion for navigating the holiday in the midst of the fast. On Thanksgiving Day, enjoy the turkey dinner, making sure to have the traditional turkey sandwich with mayo and some left over cranberry sauce on the side. Friday – abstain from all meat and dairy – then on Saturday and Sunday finish up the turkey, and by Monday be back on the fast.

What They Bring and What They Are Seeking (part 2)

When Orthodoxy is lived rightly, she baptizes and purifies all things and places them in right order. People come to us with wounds, strengths, habits, distortions, and with gifts – all of this brought under the healing life of Christ.

People entering Orthodoxy should not be triumphal - but feel they are entering a hospital – not look how or why we are winning. Observe how thirsty people have become for the fullness of the Christian life – this should make Orthodox Christians more humble – not less.

When people come to us hungry – the question is not how impressed we are with the phenomena – the question is whether we are able to receive them in truth.

I found this reflection on the internet – I just forgot where I got it!

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