



ST. MARY MAGDALENE

The PROCLAIMER

A Publication of St Mary Magdalene
Orthodox Church of Merced

Manifesting the Kingdom of God By Proclaiming & Living the Orthodox Christian Faith

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Archbishop Benjamin, Diocese of the West. The Orthodox Church in America. Archpriest David Thatcher, Rector (Pastor)

August, 2016

The Key to Mission

By Father David

I recently spoke with a teacher who needed a substitute. In short, he was needed for a special assignment at another school judging student speeches. I commented that it was nice of him to help out in a pinch like that. However, he candidly responded, "Yes, but they didn't *ask* me to do this – they told me I had to!"

Isn't that so true of so much of life?! We just *have* to do things; we are "told" that we *must* do certain things in life. When we are children, we can't wait to grow up so that we can "do what we want." Oh my — wouldn't *that* be nice! Yet, in spite of our culture of rights and freedoms and entitlements, being an adult human being means shouldering responsibilities and even duties. And when an adult abdicates those obligations, we recognize that something is wrong — very wrong. And the consequences can be far-reaching!

This is true in the Christian life, isn't it? Certainly, salvation is by God's grace. Certainly, you and I could never earn our way to salvation and eternal life. The ancient Hebrews trapped in Pharaoh's Egypt; God liberated them. Even so, God in our Lord Jesus Christ stepped into our broken, enslaved existence and established salvation for us. This is what we celebrate in Pascha — and this is what we receive by faith — by receiving God as King in our Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for the life of the world. And yet! This faith is active ... alive! It isn't passive and it must be filled with God's love. As St. Paul said, it is "*only faith working through love*" that ... "*counts for anything*" (Gal. 5:6). And this love is not only faith-filled, but obedient. Our Lord said, "*If you love me, keep my commandments*" (John 14:15). Life *in* the Kingdom of God is life *under the authority* of the King. It is life in obedience — utter fealty — to the King. Even our own forgiveness before God requires us living out that by obediently forgiving others.

So, you and I are rather like my friend, the teacher: our Lord commands us and we are to obey Him — whether we are inclined to do so or not.

All this brings me to my point. While our Lord Jesus gave many commands and instructions, we've just again witnessed what our Lord commanded His disciples at the end of His resurrection appearances. Just before His holy Ascension and Heavenly Enthronement, our Lord said the following:

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ While going, therefore, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Familiar words, right? How do they touch you, as you read them once again? Anxious? Stirred? Perhaps you are like Moses when God spoke from the Burning Bush. Do you remember that? God gave Moses a mission, and he wanted to beg off. He made excuses. He even tried to negotiate this calling! Yet, in the end, Moses obeyed — and so should we. Regardless of how we feel and react to our calling, we must obey our God. We must follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

So, many of us have wondered how we can fulfill this calling to "make disciples" here in Merced. As we (and our mission) grows older, we struggle and look for some key — some formula or technique — to bring people in and establish our mission as a thriving parish community. We try things — various outreaches — with various degrees of so-called success. We must admit: we have had no huge breakthroughs. A sense of panic wells up. What to do? What is the key or technique? In our desperation, we thrash about like a poor swimmer in trouble with a million "if onlys." If only we had our own building! If only we had better programs for kids! If only we had a younger (or, *better*) priest (yes ... I've thought it a million times)! If only!

I am convinced that, as wonderful as each of things might be, they are not the key to our mission here. Then, what is? The answer is, I believe, both simple and hard. *Simply put: you and I are the key to mission here.* God calls people to do His work. Yet, work it is, indeed; that is the hard truth. The first missionary journey recorded in the Book of Acts emerged from the Church gathered together in worship and fasting; that's when the Spirit of God led the Apostolic Church to send out the first missionary team. Further, our Lord told his feckless disciples (who couldn't cast out a difficult demon) that "this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting" and that they didn't have true faith (Matt. 17:21). *Are we here, truly gathered? Do we fast for this mission — do we pray?* Could it be any clearer that Merced-Atwater is, in fact, exactly "this kind" that Jesus described: not a person, but a place — a "strong man's house" (Mark 3:27) requiring special spiritual effort by us? Do we have that kind of faith? Our Lord has called us; here it is. God has acted. Salvation is established in Christ ... with the Holy Spirit. How will we respond to God's call here? We ourselves are the key to mission here.

Love, *Father David*

our community

After services on Sunday

Sunday Fellowship Hour Simplified

Sunday Fellowship Hour Changed to Encourage Greater Participation

When the Patriarch of Moscow and leading bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church visited America in the late 1980s, he identified one aspect of Orthodoxy in America that he thought a special gift to all Orthodoxy. What was this great contribution of our American churches? Believe it or not, the Fellowship Hour after Divine Liturgy. In Russian and other historically Orthodox lands, the faithful come and worship and leave. There is no regular opportunity for the people of God to express and develop their friendship in Christ. The Patriarch was astonished at the warmth and community of our American Orthodox parishes.

As was mentioned in last month's newsletter, Fellowship Hour is an important time — one we want to keep here at St. Mary Magdalene Church. However, lately it has been felt that having a full meal every Sunday has been falling on the shoulders of too few people, week after week. We don't want people — especially our hard-working core people! — to get burned out! In addition, the location of our Fellowship Hour is a bit out of the way, and some souls just "punt" and go directly to their cars, missing this important time. In answer to these things, the Parish Council voted to change Fellowship Hour to a simpler and closer location to the chapel.

How does this affect you? Please re-consider your participation in Fellowship Hour. Come — join in! Further, bring your favorite finger food or tasty treat. Christ is in our midst!

Fundraising Efforts

4th of July Fireworks Stand Yields Fruit

Hard work yields record year

Despite worries about being short-handed in manning a Fireworks stand this summer, our mission forged ahead this year. Selling fireworks for a new high in sales. Under the leadership of David Aubertin, Petar Magazinovic, and Matushka Karen Thatcher, in a span of a week we netted over \$6,600. We are grateful to God, giving thanks to Him for everyone who so sacrificially helped to make our mission's only major fundraiser a success.

Our stand's consistent location on Bellevue Road in Atwater, near "Five Corners" has been very good, in spite of the loss of the El Pueblo market at the retail center. It is a very visible location in the Atwater community, and we continue to have had return customers who purchased a considerable amount of fireworks.

One major development in our sales strategy has been the use of various means of credit card or debit payment systems. Our fireworks provider, TNT, has their own system, which we again used this year. In addition, we experimented with the use of Square, a company which allows small businesses and non-profits the benefits of cashless purchases at a very small percentage of any sale. The latter was more profitable to our fundraiser.

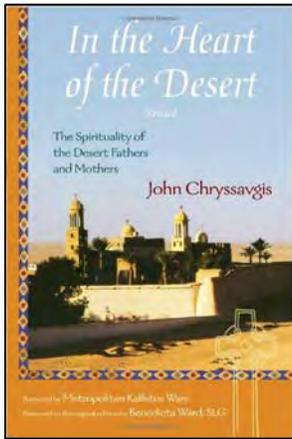
As in any year, it is the team effort by all able-bodied folk of this mission that makes it possible for this fundraiser to occur and be successful. God bless everyone who helped physically and/or spiritually (through prayer!) in our Fireworks stand fundraiser.

Summer reading but not meetings!

Myrrhbearers Book Club Has Summer Reading

The Myrrhbearers' Book Club had its final meeting of the spring some time ago, but our women are encouraged to do what so many do over the summer: read!

The Book Club encourages women to read *In the Heart of the Desert: the Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers*, by John Chryssavgis (Bloomington, IN: World Wisdom, 2008).



If you are interested in the deeper wisdom that emerges from the spiritual athletes of the ancient Church, you need to read this book! Father John's inspiring introduction to the spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers brings their words to life for the modern

reader. It's available through the usual sources of books, including Amazon.

All women are welcome to attend when meetings begin in the fall. Come and enjoy the fellowship. These are potluck events, so please coordinate with Diane 209-723-5690 for details and information. Fall dates schedule T. B. A.

Are you available to serve?

LOVE Inc Seeks Workers

Involvement in Local Christian Charity

One of the blessings of life in Merced is LOVE Inc., which stands for "**LOVE** In the **N**ame of **C**hrist." Love INC of Greater Merced serves the communities of Merced, Atwater, Planada, Winton & Le Grand. With their church partners, they provide resources to people in need and volunteer assistance. Specifically, the mission of Love INC is to mobilize churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ. This mission is something that an Orthodox church can

participate in freely as the focus is upon charitable and philanthropic Christian work in our community.

The foundation of Love INC's work is what it calls the "clearinghouse." The Clearinghouse is the process that Love INC uses to identify real needs in people's lives and coordinating with churches to meet those needs.

1) Family or Person in need calls the Love INC HELP LINE (209) 383-1265 ext. 150

2) Person in need receives a phone interview requesting information about their situation. Trained Love INC volunteers or staff determine legitimacy and extent of the need, and explore any deeper issues fueling the crisis.

3) Person in need sends in verification of residence and income.

4) Love INC connects the person or family to the most appropriate church ministry, church volunteer, and/or local agency for support.

5) Love INC reviews the outcome. Was the immediate need met? Is there another issue that requires attention?

Through the Clearinghouse, Love INC also identifies gaps in services and resources in the community, and helps churches develop ministries to "fill in the gaps" not being met by other community resources.

One level of cooperation possible with Love INC is as a "partner church." This is something that our mission needs to officially consider; while our Parish Council will consider this, we encourage all members of our community to give feedback about this. It would involve several things, including a regular financial commitment, a church liaison to Love Inc., and participation in Love INC ministry.

Another level of cooperation with Love INC is for individuals in our parish to get involved, participating in any number of opportunities to serve our community. These range from giving rides to people who need medical treatment, working in the office, collecting furniture, and even mentoring folks struggling with life skills. There are also seasonal opportunities to serve.

For any additional information please contact the Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (209) 383-7034x110 or clearinghouse@loveincmerced.com.



our mission

Our Orthodox African Missionary is Coming to Visit

Meg Photini Engelbach is a linguist in Kenya

A few years ago, a new graduate of a major Evangelical Christian University, found herself in a very odd position. Meg Engelbach long believed that God had called her to missionary labors; more than that, she now believed that she was called to be an Orthodox Christian missionary.

A what ...?! you might be asking. That's right: an Orthodox Christian missionary.

No, Orthodox missionary is not an oxymoron. The word "mission" means "to be sent." The Apostles were sent. Mary Magdalene was sent to them. The ancient Church knew they were sent, and a pagan Roman Empire eventually turned to Christ. Two Greek young men from Thessalonica were sent to the Slavic tribes to bring the Christian Faith to them; their names were Cyril and Methodios. Many missionaries were sent out by the Russian Orthodox Church to the many tribes that blanketed the vast Siberian continent. St. Kosmos the Aitolian was sent from Mount Athos to the Greek and Albanian peoples who were falling away from the Christian Faith. St. Herman was sent by the Russian Orthodox Church to the native peoples of Alaska, as was St. Innocent and others.

As Patriarch Athanasios of Tirana, Albania, famously wrote: "Mission is part of the DNA of the Church."

So Meg forged ahead with her calling, wanting to share her gifts in language in the context of cross-cultural

ministry and mission. Meg was accepted in 2012 by the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, the official missionary sending agency of the Orthodox Churches here in America. In time, after fund raising for her intended labors, Meg arrived in East Africa, eventually locating her ministry in Nairobi, Kenya.

Before she left for this work, Meg came to our mission at my invitation. Meg was a fellow Orthodox student — a rare commodity — with Charity Thatcher while they were at Biola University in Southern California. I had had the opportunity to visit the small group of Orthodox students at Biola and met Meg and others. Being a missions major ("Intercultural Studies") there, as was my own best friend back when I was a student there, I took an interest in Meg's vision for her labors for the Kingdom of God. When Meg did visit us, then Kathy

Young (now Sister Katherine, of Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, enthusiastically wanted to help Meg. A few of us committed to help send Meg to her missionary work.

Now, Meg is back in the USA for a furlough, visiting churches that have or want to support her as a missionary. We are so privileged to have her return to us. We want everybody to come and get to know this real modern missionary, and hear about her

ministry in translation as well as the many experiences she has had.

Meg's will be with us on Friday, August 5. First, we will have Festal Vespers for the Transfiguration of our Lord at 4:30 pm — at the chapel at Mercy Outpatient Center. Then, at 6:00 pm, we will gather at the Thatcher home for dinner and Meg's presentation. The address is 2232 E. Bellevue Rd. in Merced. The dinner will be a potluck; people are encouraged to bring (Friday) side dishes and/or desserts. Please coordinate with Matushka Karen at 209-769-1626.



Moments of Transformation:

Teachable Moments at St. Innocent Orphanage's Educational Ministry

By **Charity Thatcher**

Survivors of school often recall “war stories” of their education: experiences difficult (or even embarrassing) that inevitably occur one time or another in one’s youth.

At St. Innocent’s Orphanage in Baja California, where our students are all special kind of survivors—orphan boys—we are attempting to *use* these pivotal moments and make them a time of assurance and healing—as well as learning!

It has been our delight, every day, to observe the transformation these resilient boys are making in both academics and character. Here we not only struggle through math problems, dissections, or building simple machines; we also work through values and long-term goals as the boys overcome many of their personal struggles.

This past year, we have had a number of wonderfully answered prayers. We thank God for these things, and for everyone who is standing with us through their intercessions. Please continue to pray to God for us, also begging the supplications of His Most-Holy Mother and St. Innocent, our heavenly patron! We are grateful for the follow blessings and answered prayers:

- 4 elementary school graduates
- 3 middle school graduates
- 3 high school graduates
- 7th and 8th grade homeschool classes
- Expanded teaching team
- Avid readers
- Joy in Learning

Thank you in sharing in these very real victories!

The boys’ lessons don’t always go as planned. I recall that, at the beginning of the school year, I tried to implement exciting science classes; in particular, I thought that dissections would be the COOLEST for our budding scientists. What boy, I thought, wouldn’t love actually doing scientific dissections on a real amphibian? However, when Dissection Day arrived, one of the boys was entirely grossed out, while the other three were pretty apprehensive. As one of my students left class unwilling to participate, I as a teacher was boggled!



Charity with Moises at Middle School graduation

Nevertheless, while biology class didn’t work out as planned, it did become a catalyst for growth.

Unexpectedly, this lesson had spurred a boy to open up in a new way. As we valiantly attempted to finish the lab, he shared traumatic aspects of his early upbringing with Madi Franck, St. Innocent Orphanage’s Program Director. He had continued on his path of healing and learning.

Sometime later, as we watched a short documentary on sound and the anatomy of the ear, this same boy leaned over for a high-five. He asked if I remembered how he didn’t make it through the first science lab of the year. Yet, in spite of that, he had managed

completing all the others—and could definitely handle the inner ear.

We grow and learn. Every day the boys point out a variety of plants, constellations, and clouds; they even bring slimy, live creatures to the classroom. Together, we can not only observe God’s creation, but share in the awe of it. It is a joy to be part of the journey.

our worship

Transfiguration and Dormition: August Times of Blessing

- AUGUST /'ôgəst/ noun: **August**; plural noun: **Augusts** — the eighth month of the year, in the northern hemisphere usually considered the last month of summer.
- AUGUST / ô'gəst/ adjective: **august** — respected and impressive.

In our Orthodox Church calendar, the month of August is, in fact, quite august — pun intended. Our eighth month of the year is named, actually, for Caesar Augustus —the great Octavian, the first great emperor of ancient Rome. Not many of us probably realize that anyway, that was so, so long ago. Was the name derived from the adjective, even as the eighth month's name was derived from the Roman emperor's name?

Only nerds care about such things. But in this hot final full month of summer, we in the Orthodox Church celebrate one important fast, two Great Feasts, three feasts of the Lord, and the solemn fasting feast of the Beheading of the Forerunner, John the Baptist. These are indeed august things, greater than even old Octavian.

August 6: The Feast of Transfiguration

On August 6 we celebrate the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. Transfiguration means change—mystical, spiritual change of our lives by the glory of God in renewing all of creation, beginning with us as the children of God. We are always, of course, celebrating mystical change of the everyday stuff of our lives in the sacraments of the Body of Christ. Bread and wine are consecrated, and become for us the very Body and Blood of our Lord in his resurrection life.

In the spirit of these things, at the Feast of the Transfiguration, we bless grapes and “the fruit of the vine” and tree. Please bring your fruit of all kinds to church on Saturday, August 6, for this special blessing.

August 15: The Feast of the Dormition

In addition, the Feast of the Dormition of our Lady, the Most-Blessed Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, is about her “falling asleep” or death. This is the most important feast day for Mary in our Church year.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann (of blessed memory) said, Mary is not so much “the great exception, but rather the great example.” She is fully one of us: one who, though she had a special role to play in salvation history and gave birth to God in the flesh, also needed salvation from her Son. Therefore, she is in a sense the first Christian, the chief of the saints.

This is true even in her special death, or Dormition; here something of our Christian lives is revealed. After her death, Mary's body was assumed into heaven and she entered into the fullness of the resurrection life of her Son. At death believers are buried in the ground awaiting the promise of the Second Coming just like seeds are planted awaiting to burst forth into life. The Mother of God was spared this wait. Rather, she immediately burst forth to share in that glory which awaits all the righteous. Mary is called the Flower of Incorruption because she has already bloomed forth like a flower into the glory of the Heavenly Kingdom.

Therefore, it is our custom to bless flowers and seeds on the Sunday after Dormition: this year, August 16. Please bring your flowers and seeds to church on this day to be blessed at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Why a Feast for Dormition?

By Reader Daniel Manzuk

It would be a gross understatement to say that much has been written about the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. Yet very little has been written about the fast that precedes it.

Every Orthodox Christian is aware and generally knows the reason behind the fasts for Pascha and Christmas. But while they may know of the Dormition Fast, few follow it, and more than a few question why it is there, neither knowing its purpose. First, given the pervasive misunderstanding of the purpose of fasting itself, a refresher on its purpose is always a good idea.

There is a perception that we should fast when we want something, as though the act of fasting somehow appeases God, and seeing us "suffer" gets Him to grant our request. Nothing can be further from the truth. It is not our fasting that pleases God; it is the fruit of our fast in body and in spirit that please Him. We fast, not to get what we want, but to prepare ourselves to receive what God wants to give us. The purpose of fasting is to bring us more in line with

another Mary, the sister of Lazarus, and away from their sister Martha, who in the famous passage was "anxious and troubled about many things." Fasting is intended to bring us to the realization of "the one thing needful." It is to help us put God first and our own desires second, if not last. As such it serves to prepare us to be instruments of God's will, as with Moses in his flight from Egypt and on Mt. Sinai, as well as our Lord's fast in the wilderness. Fasting turns us away from ourselves and toward God. In essence it helps us become like the Theotokos, an obedient servant of God, who heard His word and kept it better than anyone else has or could.

So why do we fast before Dormition? In a close-knit family, word that its matriarch is on her deathbed brings normal life to a halt. Otherwise important things (parties, TV, luxuries, personal desires) become unimportant; life comes to revolve around the dying matriarch. It is the same with the Orthodox family; word that our matriarch is

on her deathbed, could not (or at least should not) have any different effect than the one just mentioned. The Church, through the Paraklesis Service, gives us the opportunity to come to that deathbed and eulogize and entreat the woman who bore God, the vessel of our salvation and our chief advocate at His divine throne. And as, in the earthly family, daily routines and the indulgence in personal wants should come to a halt. Fasting, in its full sense (abstaining from food and desires) accomplishes this. Less time in leisure or other pursuits leaves more time for prayer and reflection on she who gave us Christ, and became the first and greatest Christian. In reflecting on her and her incomparable life, we see a model Christian life, embodying Christ's retort to the woman who stated that Mary was blessed because she bore Him: blessed rather are those who hear His word and keep it. Mary did this better than anyone. As Fr.

Thomas Hopko has stated, she heard the word of God and kept it so well, that she of all women in history was chosen not only to hear His Word but give birth to it (Him). So while we fast in contemplation of her life, we are simultaneously preparing ourselves to live a life in imitation of her. That is the purpose of the Dormition Fast.

When the assumption of thine undefiled body was being prepared, the

Apostles gazed on thy bed, viewing thee with trembling. Some contemplated thy body and were dazzled, but Peter cried out to thee in tears, saying, I see thee clearly, O Virgin, stretched out, O life of all, and I am astonished. O thou undefiled one, in whom the bliss of future life dwelt, beseech thy Son and God to preserve thy people unimpaired.

(sticheron after the Gospel, Orthros)

Daniel Manzuk is a reader at the Church of the Virgin Mary in Alsip, IL.

"The fast in August was established in honor of the Mother of God-the-Word; Who, foreknowing Her repose, ascetically labored and fasted for us as always, although She was holy and immaculate, and had no need for fasting. Thus, she especially prayed for us in preparation for being transported from this life to the future life, when Her blessed soul would be united through the Divine spirit with Her Son. Therefore, we also should fast and praise Her, emulating Her life, urging Her thereby to pray for us."

— *St. Symeon of Thessalonica*

Holy Traditions of the Dormition Fast & Feast

- "Dry Eating" on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
- The Service of the Paraklesis, or Supplication, to the Theotokos
- The blessing of flowers, herbage, and seeds on the Feast.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 5th

Transfiguration Vespers & Missions Presentation!

Special Guest: Meg Engelbach, Orthodox Missionary

What a beautiful thing — to blend the celebration of a Great Feast with an encouraging presentation by an Orthodox missionary to Kenya! Come, worship our Lord as we glorify Him in His Holy Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor; we will serve Festal Vespers at 4:30 pm. And then! Join us for a wonderful dinner and presentation by Meg Engelbach (“Photini”), a missionary to Kenya. Meg visited us a few years ago just before she left, and we were happy to help her in a small way. Now we get to hear of the fruit of her mission and labors as a missionary-linguist. Join us!



St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

*Living and sharing the Orthodox Christian Faith,
making known that God rules in the Good News of Jesus Christ*

Services: 2740 M St., Merced || Enter from Bear Creek side

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5th:

✦ Transfiguration
& Mission ✦

4:30 pm at the Chapel:
FESTAL VESPERS
Transfiguration/Lord

6:00 pm
at the Thatchers':
DINNER-PRESENTATION
*Guest: Missionary
Meg Engelbach*

Meg is a
missionary-linguist

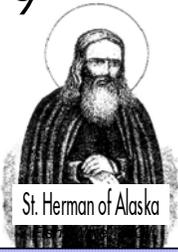
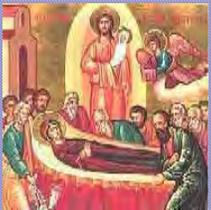
Meg's sponsor: The
*Orthodox Christian
Mission Center*

**Dinner-Presentation
Location:**

2232 E. Bellevue Rd. Merced

Bringing a dish?
Call 209-769-1626

www.OrthodoxMerced.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>1</p> <p>7pm Paraklesis (Supplication) Service</p> <p>Procession of the Cross</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7pm Paraklesis (Supplication) Service</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>4:30 pm: FESTAL VESPERS Transfiguration</p> <p>6:00 PM Dinner & Presentation by African Missionary Meg Photini Evangelbach</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Transfiguration</p> <p>9:30 am: Festal Liturgy</p> <p>5 pm VESPERS & Confession</p> <p>Fish, Wine, & Oil</p>
<i>Dormition Fast</i>			<i>Dormition Fast</i>		<i>Dormition Fast</i>	
<p>7</p> <p>No Matins</p> <p>9:40 am The Hours 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Coffee & Fellowship</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>St. Herman of Alaska</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7pm Paraklesis (Supplication) Service</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5 pm VESPERS & Confession</p> <p>Fish, Wine, & Oil</p>
<i>Dormition Fast</i>			<i>Dormition Fast</i>		<i>Dormition Fast</i>	
<p>14</p> <p>8:00 am MATINS 9:40 am HOURS 10:00 am LITURGY</p> <p>Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>12:45 pm: Parish Council</p> <p>5:00 pm Vigil for Dormition AT HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY, Calistoga</p>	<p>15</p> <p>FEAST OF THE DORMITION</p> <p>6:30 am Festal Liturgy</p>  <p>DORMITION Fish, Wine, & Oil</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Julian Calendar: Transfiguration FAST DAY</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5 pm VESPERS & Confession</p>
<p>21</p> <p>8:00 am MATINS 9:40 am HOURS 10:00 am LITURGY</p> <p>Blessing of Flowers & Seeds</p> <p>12 Noon Fellowship Meal</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>St. Irenaeus of Lyons</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>St. Kosmas Aetolia FAST DAY</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 pm Worship & Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Julian Calendar: Dormition FAST DAY</p> <p>FESTIVAL: ST. GEORGE, FRESNO</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5 pm VESPERS & Confession</p> <p>Julian Calendar: Dormition</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8:00 am MATINS 9:40 am HOURS 10:00 am LITURGY</p> <p>Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>7 pm VESPERS Beheading of the Forerunner</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Strict Fast Day</p> <p>Beheading of the Forerunner</p> <p>6:30 AM Divine Liturgy</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p>AUGUST CELEBRATIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8/1 Gale Boucher Birthday 8/2 Sister Katherine Birthday 8/4: Mark and Kristine Anniversary 8/4 +William Stickney 8/8 Michael Hahn Birthday 8/13: Kelly Kiliveros Birthday 8/15: Helen Wajdak Birthday 8/21: Helen + Ken Anniversary 8/27 Jacob (Seraphim) Endicott Birthday 8/28: Michael Dutra Birthday 8/30: David_Kathy Aubertin Anniversary 		

Friday-Saturday, August 5-6

The Great Feast of
**THE
TRANSFIGURATION**
of our Lord, God, and Savior
JESUS CHRIST



FESTAL VESPERS:
Friday, August 5
4:30 pm

FESTAL LITURGY:
Saturday, August 6
9:30 am

Sunday-Monday, August 14-15

The Great Feast of
**THE
DORMITION**
of our Most-Holy Lady, Theotokos, &
EVER-VIRGIN MARY



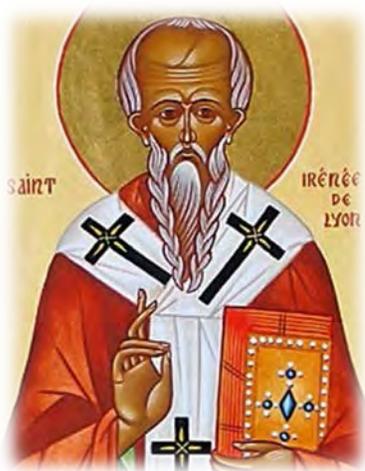
FESTAL VIGIL **
Sunday, August 14
5:00 pm

FESTAL LITURGY
Monday, August 15
6:30 am

**The Vigil will be held at the Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, CA: 1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA Monday's Festal Liturgy will be held as usual at our chapel here in Merced.

**St Mary Magdalene
Orthodox Church**

P. O. Box 3704
Merced, CA 95344-3704



St. Irenaeus, August 23



Postmaster: Address Correction Requested