

# St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS

REPOSE OF ST. TIKHON, PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA AND  
ENLIGHTENER OF NORTH AMERICA (1925)

## Activities and Events this Week

### Parish Council Meeting Today

- |                      |  |                  |
|----------------------|--|------------------|
| • Wednesday April 10 | Choir Rehearsal<br>Presanctified Liturgy<br>Lenten Fellowship Meal to follow | 4:30pm<br>6:00pm |
| • Saturday April 13  | Great Vespers  | 5:00pm           |

## Announcements

Saint Mary Magdalene Lenten Retreat April 19-20 Mother Catherine from the Monastery of St. Catherine is our guest speaker – a free will donation will be gladly accepted. All proceeds go to the Monastery of St. Catherine in Sonora. Retreat is being sponsored by the Myrrhbearers.

In connection to the Lenten Retreat – I am asking that the St. John’s Brotherhood take the lead role in cleaning up after each meal. We can even organize ourselves if so desired to divide up the duties.

Due to the Lenten Retreat we will cancel the small compline/canon of St. Andrew of Crete on Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Everyone enjoys all of the snacks and sodas in our fellowship hall. Please, I ask that everyone each Sunday give a dollar or two to keep the fund healthy so we can continue to provide these items. The snacks and sodas are not paid for by the church. They are provided for by the bookstore and donations to the fellowship.

During the Lenten Season – please avail yourself to Holy Confession – very important and self-evident in the season of repentance.

And more announcements etc.

St. Eugene's Church Camp registration is now open – it will take place in the same location in Kings Canyon during the week of Pentecost. Registration is on the diocesan website.

Please consider donating to the St. Eugene church camp to help defray the cost for individuals like me and other counselors who are not charged by the camp but still needs to pay for our room and board for the counselors. This is one great thing we do each year for our youth in California. Our community has a modest scholarship fund for students that you may also wish to donate to. Please use the envelopes provided.

I plan to take a small group this year to Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco to attend the Vigil for Pentecost. It is quite the event! His Beatitude Metropolitan TIKHON is scheduled to be in attendance. Let me know if you are interested. We will be getting back late on Saturday night with Pentecost liturgy the next morning. They have a very nice bookstore!

I want to congratulate all the catechumens for surviving 20 weeks of catechism classes. I hope you learned a lot about the Orthodox faith. Catechism classes as well as adult education classes will begin next fall starting in September. We plan to have chrismations on Palm Sunday and Baptisms on Holy Saturday.

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I encourage you to remain vigilant in the fast, read scriptures, read an edifying book(s) and strive to repent and grow even a little bit toward Christ during this season of bright sadness!

Please forgive me, the lowest of all sinners!

The healthiest parishes/missions in the United States and Canada have little or no concern for finances. These are also the parishes that have high church attendance and highest participation in the sacraments – especially Holy Communion and Confession. At the same time I am aware that California is the highest taxed state in the country with each year less and less to show for it. Our gas prices of over \$5.00 as compared to under \$3.00 as well as our nearly 40% increase in groceries and nearly 50% increase in our energy prices to heat and cool our homes over the last three years have hurt all of us. Our government continues to devalue the dollar by printing more and more paper money all the while producing nothing – this all on the backs of the American people. The American people can end this insanity if they so choose. We too at St. Mary's have control over a preferred future – should we choose!

Give thanks to God for all things!