

# St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

The Holy Seven Sleepers of Ephesus (4<sup>th</sup> c.)

## Activities and Events this Week

- Monday 5 Great Vespers w/ Litya 6:00pm  
*Forefeast of the Transfiguration*
- Tuesday 6 Hours 8:40am  
Divine Liturgy 9:00am  
*Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ*
- Saturday 10 Hours 8:40am  
\*Divine Liturgy 9:00am  
*Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Lawrence of Rome*  
*Festive Potluck/Myrrhbearers Breakfast to Follow*  
  
Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm  
*NEW TIME and DAY*

## Announcements

Adult Education Books for the Fall Session are in. "Creation and the Patriarchal Histories, Orthodox Christian Reflections on The Book of Genesis." Patrick Henry Reardon. Ancient Faith Press. \$14.00 from the bookstore. Best price you are going to get! Your purchase also supports our fellowship.

Adult Education begins Wednesday August 21 from 6:00pm – 7:15pm. See Father Lawrence for the class packet! Required reading prior to the first class.

Catechism class will begin Saturday **Sept 28** @ 3:00pm – **New Date**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the PCPM last Sunday – we sent them a check for \$410.00!

\*The time for the St. Lawrence Liturgy is different than monthly schedule.

## A Sad and Painful Display

I did not see the opening ceremonies of this year's summer games in Paris. But I did hear about how "transgender" activists had to mock and insult Christians to get their point across. I did read a few articles, regrettably watch the video, and with great difficulty, tried to find out what their message was. They mocked the very message that formed most people's world view that there is something deeply wrong with this kind of display. And the very message that says they are loved by God. Indeed, God loves every human being – even those who struggle with "transgenderism." The most ironic thing is that the people who claim to support "transgenderism" also use them for money and political agendas as we saw in France. The message Christ wants mankind to understand is that He comes to redeem us and save us from all things that defile and dehumanize a masterful creature made in God's image and likeness.

"Transgenderism" is be rejected by Christians because it fails to tell the truth of who God is, and who man is. God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He create them. (Genesis 1:27) An individual can change their outer appearance but fundamentally at the cellular, molecular, and skeletal level, he is either male or female; that cannot be changed. "Transgender" individuals have fashioned themselves to be idolatrous. They have placed a mask over the individual to hide God's image and likeness, only to reveal themselves and their brokenness.

I can of course understand the outrage many people felt. But we have to understand, "transgender people" are out of their minds, as all who have embraced evil. We should be more outraged at evil and how we have allowed it to have such a tremendous impact in our society through abortion, racism, sex trafficking, and transgenderism. Many forces are at play to make everyone "except" and "embrace" right now, this life style, or else! Political correctness! A technique and idea not created in America, but in Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. We need to always show the loving side of Christ, and not an outraged image. God is not outraged. He is Holy, regardless of what His creatures do. He is not in need of being worshipped. Rather as full human beings, we *need* to worship Him.

We need to push back against our government and the institutions that try to force us to accept this evil. We also need to stand ready to love and help those suffering with the so called "gender dysphoria". One might say, "How arrogant you are, in thinking that these people 'are suffering', rather, they are expressing themselves." Yes, they are expressing themselves. They only see the mask they have put on – not the true human being behind the mask. The mask becomes the source of tremendous pain and suffering, and that is precisely what I saw on the face of those people and the people who were insulted and "shamed." They need us to pray for them, even minister to them, and push back against the very forces who only want to use them and their suffering, once again, for material and political gain. Lord Have Mercy!