

# THE MAGDALENE



**From the Desk of Fr.  
Neil...**

## A YEAR OF SAINTS

As many liturgical Christians, who follow the ancient practice of adhering to a Church calendar know, the Church, from very early times, has celebrated the lives of other Christians that have been held in high regard for one reason or another. Unfortunately it has to be said right up front that I am not talking about worshiping saints. This is a common reaction by those who are not familiar with the early Church and her practices. All Christians are saints, but Christians are to worship God and Him alone. I am simply speaking about the recognition of those who have in some way impacted the faith of Christianity, so that those of us, who have come along so much later, can remember them, admire them and give thanks to God for their lives and witness to the Christian faith.

All Christians should immediately be able to think of at least fourteen or fifteen people in the New Testament alone that have been used by God and have set forth an example for us to admire, imitate, and praise God for. First, there were twelve men chosen by Jesus whom He trained for three years, to continue and build on the foundation that He laid. There is the Apostle Paul, who being the greatest persecutor of the Church, was transformed almost immediately into the greatest evangelist the Church has ever known. There is Mary, the mother of Jesus, who in her very own words said, "behold, from henceforth, *all generations shall call me*

*blessed*"...obviously a reference to her being remembered forever throughout the history of the Church. There is Joseph, the father of Jesus, who was obedient to the angel's instructions and protected and raised the child Jesus.

As time went on, and the centuries went by, the Church continued to recognize great saints of the Church and chose a day on which that person (or persons) would be remembered, mentioned and celebrated. Again, the highest honor always goes to God, but we are certainly not violating any Biblical commands by calling to mind a Christian brother or sister who in some way admirably stood up for the Gospel of Christ. What else do we find, but a sort of 'celebration of great saints' when we read the eleventh chapter of the Letter to the Hebrews?

Here we have the writer, telling us about the great accomplishments of many of the main characters throughout Biblical history. For example, he writes, "By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks." So we are to remember the great faith exercised by Abel. He was faithful to God in his service by bringing the gifts that God required. Cain, on the other hand, is not a saint at all and not celebrated by the Church because of his unrighteous offering to God.

Reading on further, we learn of the faith of Abraham and how he passed the test given to him by God. By faith, Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, but rather stood with his brethren and chose mistreatment and scorn. Further, Moses led the people across the Red Sea.

The writer to the Hebrews goes on to say, “And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.” All of this is a recounting of great saints in the history of the Church that God has used to unfold and further His plan of redemption.

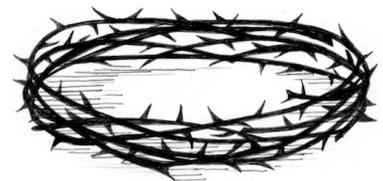
If we look at the original twelve Apostles, we have eleven of the twelve being martyred, some in very brutal ways. Moving into the centuries after Christ, we have many saints who we remember such as Aurelius Augustine, (St. Augustine) who is the greatest of the Western Fathers and very influential in his writing. We have Chrysostom, who is known for his great writing and especially his preaching.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with paying special attention to a specific Christian saint, recalling how God worked through them, celebrating their accomplishments and asking God to in some way, give us the grace to not only remember them but to imitate them. Many Christians are remembered because they died for the Christian Gospel. Martyrs are remembered because they have not denied their Lord Jesus while being tortured and killed. I’m sure that most of us could learn from their

examples and be encouraged in our faith when we encounter (much less) hostility directed toward us.

St. Paul wrote in, “1 Corinthians 4:16–17, “I urge you, then, be imitators of me. That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.” (ESV) If Paul thought it right to remind the Church to imitate him, then imitate him we will....along with all of the saints that God has mightily raised up to be an example of Christian virtue, patience and Christ-like behavior.

This year, we will make every effort to recall as many of the saints on the calendar as we can from Sunday to Sunday. Some will fall on a Sunday this year. Most will not, and will have to be transferred to the following Sunday. Either way, let’s look forward to learning more about the great men and women God has raised up throughout the history of the Church, not only so that we can praise and thank God for their example, but also so that we can learn from their example and be counted among them by our imitation of them.



**St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church**  
205 So. Glassell Street  
Old Town Orange, CA 92866  
[www.stmarymagdaleneacc.org](http://www.stmarymagdaleneacc.org)  
Rev. Fr. Neil Edlin, Rector

**Sunday Services:**  
8am Mass  
10am Choral Mass &  
Children’s Sunday School

**Wednesday Service &  
Anointing of the Sick: 9am**

What does IHS stand for or mean?"

# Acquiring Truth

"Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him" (Ps. 68:4, KJV). In this Psalm "JAH" is an abbreviation of Jehovah. Likewise, IHS is an abbreviation of the name of Jesus from the language of the New Testament, Greek. This monogram comes from the first three letters of Jesus' name (iota, eta, sigma), which in Greek is written *Ιησους* or in all capital letters *ΙΗΣΟΥΣ*. This was Latinized to IHS.

Like the Chi-Rho (another monogram of Jesus utilizing the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ, *Χριστός*), IHS is very ancient and has been widely used throughout the church. At times some have explained IHS as initials of separate words. The two most popular are that IHS stands for *Jesus, Hominum Salvator* (Jesus, man's savior) or *In Hoc Signo* (in this sign conquer, a reference to Constantine). However, these explanations are not the primary historical meaning.

Jesus has truly redeemed us "out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Rev. 5:9). It is interesting and fitting to see that reflected in our Christian heritage, including the meaning and use of IHS which spans through multiple centuries and multiple languages.

## WELCOME NEW STAFF WRITER

"The Magdalene" welcomes Hilary McMahon to our writing staff. Hilary is a long time Anglican and member at large. He has a Master's Degree in Apologetics from Biola University and currently pursuing another Masters' at Concordia University.

If you would like to explore his column further, he can be reached at [AcquiringTruth.com](http://AcquiringTruth.com). Thank you Hilary for your contributions to Acquiring Truth and this newsletter.

## CURRENT EVENTS

### FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED TRESURER

Please mark your calendar to stay after the late service and join the farewell party for Lynn and Dave Pence who are moving to south New Jersey to be close to their son and his family.

Lynn Pence has been our treasurer for many years as well as a significant contributor to our church. She has also worked as the Writer/Producer of The Magdalene Newsletter, supported the Altar Guild, been St. Martha's Guild bookkeeper and has assisted other church groups and programs over the years. Dave, her husband, has also contributed to the church volunteering his time as an usher for many years.

Please come and enjoy some quality time with the Pence's before they leave us on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. If you have a question concerning this farewell party, please contact Sharon.

### CRAFT GUILD SELECTS ITS FIRST 2019 RECIPIENT

Cadence Hospice, located in Orange, provides non-curative treatment and comfort to people with a life expectancy of six months or less, according to a physician's judgment. The Guild has chosen to make apron style bibs and bright colorful lap blankets for their patients.

We need your help. All supplies are furnished by the Craft Guild so just show up on the third Sunday of month. If you have a sewing machine and would like to join in supporting this Outreach project from your home, please ask Candi Tanner.

### **DIAPER/WIPES DRIVE KICKS OFF LENT**

Mark your calendar for March 6<sup>th</sup> to shop for newborn diapers or wipes to be donated to The Living Well Pregnancy Center for their new mothers.

The Living Well Pregnancy Center, located in Orange, provides free pregnancy services to the local community, for women at the crossroads of an unplanned pregnancy. Through compassionate trained Christian care providers and medical personnel, women are offered Christian based solutions for their unique circumstances. In addition, this non-profit organization also offers judgment-free guidance to lead them towards healing and restoration from a past abortion.

### **RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE TRINITARIAN**

The **TRINITARIAN** is the Official Gazette of the Anglican Catholic Church and was first published in April 1979 and became a church-wide publication of The Anglican Catholic Church in 1982.

Everyone who signed up for **The TRINITARIAN** must renew in February. Jeannie Lawrence will be collecting subscription money for your renewals starting the first week of February. If you would like to subscribe, please contact her directly.

We encourage those who have a subscription outside of SMM's drive to consider renewing now.

### **DONATIONS FOR FLOWERS AND CANDLES**

Starting in January, Jeannie Lawrence will be taking your requests to donate for flowers and candles. Please use the cards provided in the Narthex or, if you have a list for the year, please provide her a copy. Fr. Neil is requesting that you do not hand your requests to anyone else but her including himself to prevent potential omissions or errors.

### **A NEW TREASURER SELECTED**

Rob Tanner has graciously accepted the position of Treasurer for SMM. Rob has a degree in Business Administration, sixteen years of experience as a Managerial Accountant and Metrics Administrator, and eleven years of experience as a Budget Manager. His experience will be of great value to the church.

### **2019 CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Anyone wishing to be confirmed in the Anglican faith will need to approach Fr. Neil or Sharon Edlin. Only one class will be held this year.

Classes will begin February 10<sup>TH</sup> at 9:00am in the Parish Hall Conference Room. Those who join this class must attend 16 consecutive sessions every Sunday. Respectfully couples and parents with their child will not be permitted to attend together.

Questions on baptism pre-requisites for attendance should be discussed with Fr. Neil prior to attending.