

THE MAGDALENE



From the Desk of Fr. Neil...

The “Undead” and the Resurrection of the Dead

There is a new found interest in zombies over the past decade or so. I'm not sure what has sparked such interest. People are fascinated by these creatures for some reason. Hollywood has done a good job in making them interesting in television shows and in movies. In this latest craze, zombies tend to be tied closely to post-apocalyptic scenarios where the earth is now heavily populated or overrun with them. This has not always been the case.

From what I can gather from the enormous amount of websites about zombies – which at times disagree with one another over the details

- is that they are people who have died and have been brought back to life through witchcraft. They have some sort of reanimated central nervous system but no heart. Their desire is to eat flesh. From there, the definitions begin to differ somewhat.

From what we can glean from Wikipedia, zombies have their origin in Haiti or perhaps Africa or both. Here is what Wikipedia has to say. “Zombies featured widely in Haitian rural folklore, as dead persons physically revived by the act of necromancy of a *bokor sorcerer* (the bokor is a witch-like figure to be distinguished from the houngan priests and mambo priestesses of the formal Vodou religion). Zombies remain under the control of the bokor as their personal slaves, since they have no will of their own.”

I am not a watcher of any of the latest zombie television shows or movies, so I cannot say how faithful Hollywood has remained to the definition we find above. I'm sure zombie aficionados will be able to correct me over the finer details. I am writing about this topic, because I have been asked by a good friend to compare the reanimated life of the zombie that is portrayed by Hollywood with Biblical truth.

Some people have a very surface understanding of the Bible. They know that Jesus rose from the dead. He was dead on Friday and alive on Sunday. Lazarus was raised from the dead by Jesus after being in the grave for four days. So people might wonder from these accounts, what people were like once they were brought back from the dead. Were they in any way

*St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
205 So. Glassell Street
Old Town Orange, CA 92866
www.stmarymagdaleneacc.org*

Rev. Fr. Neil Edlin, Rector



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

*Wednesday Service:
9am*

*Office Visitation Hours:
2pm – 4pm Monday - Friday*

similar to the modern zombie who is “un-dead?”

There are a number of instances apart from Jesus and Lazarus in Scripture both in the Old and New Testaments, and none of those who were raised to life became zombies. What we *do* find in the Bible, is people dying, being raised to life again and they appear to be just the same as they were before they died.

The people in Scripture that receive life again after dying are restored to their former selves. There is no evidence that any of the people brought back to life were anything like a zombie. There are a couple of things we can say here about death and resurrection. First, we are told plainly that the natural order of things is, we die, our body goes into the ground, our spirit – if we are Christian – goes to be with the Lord, and then there is judgment. (Hebrews 9:27) Those who are not destined for eternal life are also kept until the day of judgment and then sent to eternal punishment after they are judged. For the Christian, we are at some point given a resurrected body which will be very similar to the body we lived in on earth, but what exactly we will be like is not completely clear. We are told that we will never sin or die again. We will be able to recognize one another. We are not told at what age we will live eternally. But none of this resembles a zombie-like un-dead state.

The resurrections that we find in both Testaments point to Christ’s resurrection and ours. In the Old Testament we find both Elijah and Elisha raising young children to life. Elijah raises the son of the Zarephath widow from the dead and Elisha raised the son of the Shunamite woman from the dead. In both of these cases, the son is revived and given back to the mother. The story portrays great relief, joy and happiness on the part of the mothers.

In the New Testament we find the same pattern. Jesus raises the son of a widow. Jesus raises the

daughter of Jairus. Peter raises a young girl from the dead and Paul raises a young man from the dead after he falls from a 3rd story window. In all of these cases, zombies were not the result, but revived human bodies that went on living and functioning as they did before. Probably with a greater appreciation for life from that time on as well, I would guess!

In none of these cases of rising to life again, are these people considered un-dead. They were dead, and they were alive again shortly after. Their bodies were intact and functioned normally. They are in some cases given something to eat, most likely to assist in their revival. They did not crave human flesh.

From what I can gather, zombies are not truly alive like you and I are. The term un-dead is a bizarre term and actually doesn't make sense. To be un-dead sounds more like a reversal of dying rather than being brought to life again. Internet definitions I found tell us that un-dead is “technically still dead, but animated”. How silly!

I think the main thing we need to remember above all, is that this idea of un-dead is evil and has its origins in witchcraft. The Bible tells us how we are to view evil, witchcraft and necromancy. “Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God.”(Leviticus 19:31 ESV) or, “When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD...You shall be blameless before the LORD

your God..."(Deuteronomy 18:9-13 ESV) These warnings are reiterated in the New Testament as well. Galatians 5 tells us that those who practice these things will not inherit the kingdom of God!

So, The Walking Dead and other zombie shows and movies might be entertaining, but we are safer to take the words of God to heart and have nothing to do with them.

We find in Scripture a wonderful and beautiful description of what a resurrected body is like in Christ. Appearing to His disciples, speaking to them...giving them His peace, eating with them.

Finally, St. Paul writes, "...So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam (Jesus) became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the

natural, and then the spiritual. The first man (Adam) was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man (Christ) is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven."(1 Corinthians 15:42-49 ESV) This is the glorious resurrection we have to look for and nothing less.

WORD OF THE MONTH

Christian Burial

From the Anglican Teaching Leaflets

Death, Funeral, Burials - these are subjects which many people shy away from. The Christian believes that Christ overcame death by His



Resurrection. The Christian believes that this victory over death purchased for us our own future resurrection and our eternal life with God the Father. In the Creed we confess that we: look for the resurrection of the dead: and the life of the world to come". We also say it with poetic beauty in the Te Deum: "When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers".

So, the Christian does not fear death. He rejoices in the promise of what lies beyond, even though he suffers from the temporary parting of a beloved relative or friend. This is the cornerstone on which the forms and traditions of Anglican funerals and burials rest. Though sorrowing for ourselves, we have no fear for the departed. Our customs at death are designed to support this belief in the joy to come, however muted by the grief of the moment.

Thus, the Christian is well aware that the familiar and loved physical body is only the earthly dwelling place of the soul. When death occurs, the real person, the soul or spirit, has departed from the body. The body is to be treated reverently and decently disposed of, but it is no longer the home of the soul; it is no longer the departed person. The corruptible body returns to dust and will be replaced by a new resurrection body at the Second Coming. The Church has come to recognize this and accepts cremation as an option when desired.

Except in very unusual circumstances, the service for a believing, practicing Christian should take place in the church, not in a residence or funeral home. Death is but the last event in a person's life in the Church on earth and the funeral should find the remains of the departed in his church, in the midst of his fellow Christian churchmen.

Since the earliest centuries, the Church has thought the Holy Communion to be a fit and proper, indeed perhaps the best, accompaniment to the service for the deceased. In this way, the family and fellow-Christians can unite themselves in the most intimate and sacred manner with the spirit of the deceased at Christ's altar and in Christ's Sacrament. Such a Requiem service is a solemn reaffirmation of the indissoluble ties that bind us all together in Christ and of our belief in everlasting life with God.

To emphasize the equality of all in death and before God, the Church frowns on masses of flowers at funerals. Flowers may be consoling to the mourners, but they do not help the deceased and they may only turn into a competition for show. Likewise, the coffin is covered by a cloth, a "pall", again to stress the equality of all in the sight of God, and also to cover and discourage ostentatious display in the matter of coffins. Ostentation, display and evidences of extravagance or wealth are out of place at this moment of final leveling before God.

The Burial Office, as found in the Book of Common Prayer, is very similar to Morning and Evening Prayer. It has the same mixture of the prayers and readings from Scripture, including the Psalms, and the same elements of corporate participation as the Daily Offices. There is no provision, in the Burial Office, for a sermon or eulogy, although very occasionally there may be such in unusual circumstances.

Traditionally, the color of all Church vestments and hangings at a funeral has been black or violet (purple). An exception is the service of a child, when white is used. Music is entirely proper when desired and available, for it is a customary form of expressing our praise, joy and sorrow and increasing the beauty of our worship, as well as our corporate participation in it

In the final analysis, the entire context of Christian death and burial is determined by our acceptance of Jesus' words to Martha of Bethany: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die". +

PARISH NEWS

THANK YOU LYNN PENCE!

After 15 years and 184 issues, Lynn Pence, Editor of the Magdalene Newsletter is retiring! Lynn's final issue was the June 2014 issue. The Magdalene Newsletter has been and continues to be our best way to inform our congregation about upcoming events and activities. More recently, The Magdalene has served greatly in our outreach efforts to the surrounding community. St. Mary Magdalene Church has grown in numbers over the last 10 years, and it has been in large part because of the Magdalene Newsletter. I have been told repeatedly that the Magdalene is something people look forward to reading. I have heard more than once that people have found our parish and have even joined in part because of all of the activity, fellowship, and articles contained in the Magdalene. Lynn has seen editing the Magdalene newsletter not as a job, but as a labor of love and as a way of serving. She sees the Magdalene as an important way of documenting the life of this parish. She has received much joy and personal satisfaction over the years by undertaking this large and involved project but has found that she would like to step down and devote more of her time helping her husband and their business.

Initially Lynn saw the Magdalene as a tool for the clergy of the parish to use to get vital information regarding the activities of the parish to those who had a difficult time getting to

Church, or who could not attend Church anymore for whatever reason. I have built upon her vision to include informing both members and now even non-members all around Orange County of the activities of our parish. The circulation of the Magdalene has been increased from a parish-wide distribution to mailing it to approximately 300 homes each month, to various nearby cities in Orange County.

My deepest gratitude (and the gratitude of the entire parish) goes out to Lynn for all that she has done for St. Mary Magdalene Church through her tireless efforts producing this newsletter. Over the last few years the Magdalene has undergone some changes; from simple font style and size changes to rearranging the entire newsletter. With new computers in the office and new programs come new opportunities to create and build on what Lynn has done so beautifully for 15 years. I will still hold to Lynn's basic structure of information dissemination by including my monthly letter, a Word of the Month, and all of the various articles and activities, telling the reader what has happened and what is coming up at St. Mary Magdalene Church. Lynn Pence has truly been a blessing to our congregation, and the community, especially through her tireless and beautiful work on the Magdalene newsletter. Thank you Lynn, from all of us, for everything!

THANK YOU AL & WAYNE DIFILIPPO

Its just a fact of life, lights get left on from time to time. Al and Wayne have done something about it here at St. Mary Magdalene Church.

We now have automatic sensor switches in the restrooms in the narthex!

When you walk in, the lights come on automatically. When you leave, they shut off after a short period of time. Thanks Al and Wayne for helping us save on our electricity bill.

CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Monica and Yesinia Garibay who were confirmed by the Rt. Rev. Stephen Scarlett at the Diocesan Synod on Friday June 6th.

Andrew and Becca Mauzey on the birth of their first child, Amelia Lea Mauzey.

Events, Guilds & Groups

4TH SUNDAY BRUNCH

Our next No-Host Parish Brunch in June was a great success. We ate at the Broken Yolk Café. Mark your calendars for July 27th and plan on attending a wonderful afternoon of food and fellowship. Watch for flyers in the Narthex for the location.

SUPPER CLUB

Each month, a parishioner is invited to plan a "night out on the town" for their fellow churchgoers. This is a great way to get to know your church family in a casual atmosphere.

The Supper Club host or hostess plans an excursion to a restaurant or an evening in their own home. You then set out a sign-up sheet in the narthex and make reservations if needed. Remember to bring your wallet because the evenings are "Dutch Treat."



Thanks to Bill and Gingi Borg for hosting last month's Supper Club and weenie roast at the Balboa Pier.

Our next outing will be on Tuesday, July 8th at 7pm. We will be eating on the patio at Original Mike's in Santa Ana. If you are not a SMM church member and want to join us, please contact the church office for more details. Otherwise, please SIGN UP in the Narthex.

Come and bring your friends and family and enjoy a night out on the town!

SMM PATRONAL BBQ

Get out your calendars out and mark **Sunday, July 20th**, as St. Mary Magdalene Patronal BBQ Celebration you don't want to miss. Bring your family, relatives or friends.

Our entire church family will gather together around 11:30am for a good old fashioned parking lot BBQ and pot luck. There will be wonderful musical entertainment and lots of fun for the kids. Remember to swim suits and beach towels for the kids. We will be under covered shade. You don't want to miss the **FUN!**



WOMEN'S DEVOTIONAL

SMM has begun a new ministry for the benefit of the SMM ladies this year, called the Women's Devotional lead by Karen Carlson. The purpose is to provide a safe place to share needs, experience prayer and possibly learn more about living our Christian lives together. Let us explain what goes on and invite you to join us, even occasionally.

We start with a brief time of sharing prayer needs and answers to prayer, then a short teaching on spiritual and life issues is discussed from a biblical standpoint. Some ladies bring their Bible from home, others use the ones provided. Questions and answers ensue and we close with prayer for each of the needs shared during our time together.

Women's Devotional meets 1st Sundays from 9:15am to 9:50am in the "Nursery Room". Please come early or stay after 1st service and join us. **Next Women's Devotional - *Dealing with Fear.***

July 6th

MEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



Join the men of St. Mary Magdalene Parish for a time of conversation in the narthex.

Coffee, donuts, and Bible study will become part of the St Mary Magdalene's Men's Fellowship on the First Sunday morning beginning on July 6th. Immediately following the 8:00 am service the men will meet in the Fellowship Hall for 30 minutes of Bible study, devotional, prayer, coffee and donuts. At 9:30 we will break for Morning Prayer.

Placing the Men's Fellowship between the morning services will allow husbands to attend after 8:00 and/or before 10:00 while their wives attend the Women's Devotional during the same hour. We will begin with a study of the Book of Proverbs. Bring your Bible or borrow one from the church. The donuts will be especially good!!!!

Questions? Call Lou Carlson

**Next Meeting
July 13th**

CRAFT GUILD WORKING FOR OUR SOLDIERS

Craft Guild members are hard at work making caps and scarves for Operation Gratitude, an organization that sends "care packages" to our service men and women overseas.

We have received three scarves and one cap but are shy of our goal of supporting 24 soldiers and need your help. Scarves must be 5-7" wide, 48-50" long, no fringe, dark colors. We have patterns for the scarves and caps if you need them. Whether you attend our church please consider joining us on the 3rd Sunday of the month. It's a great opportunity to recognize our

service men and women and share in fellowship with our St Mary Magdalene family.

Next Meeting is Aug 17th after 2nd Mass

FOURTH SUNDAY BRUNCH

Every Fourth Sunday, our church family has brunch together at 11:45am. This is a great way to get to know other church members. Everyone always has a wonderful time visiting with each other and of course partaking of the delicious food!

Join us on July 27th

BIBLE STUDY & EVENING PRAYER

We will be continuing with our study of the Book of Acts. We have just started the book, so don't worry, you haven't missed much.



Bible study meets every Wednesday except the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

MEMBERSHIP

All persons, eighteen years or older, who are baptized and confirmed; regular attendees and communicants in good standing for at least three months are considered a member of the church. If you would like begin the process of becoming a member, please contact Fr. Neil for details on how to transfer your paperwork and to apply for membership.



Dates To Remember

COFFEE HOUR TREATS

July

- 6 – Burgess 13 - Carlson
- 20 - Patronal BBQ 27 - St. Martha's Guild

August

- 3 – Coykendall 10 - Craig
- 17 - Di Filippo 24 - Duke
- 31 - Dunstone

Please plan on setting out treats at 8:30am and cleaning up after the 11:15 social time. Be sure to switch with someone else if you are unable to take your Sunday.

Don't forget you're in charge of clean up as well as treats!

ALTAR FLOWERS / SANCTUARY LIGHT

Altar Flowers

- July 6 Nemchik
- 13 Bell

Sanctuary Light

- Nemchik
- Osborn

If you are interested in "giving" one of these for a future Sunday, please sign up in the Flower and Candle binder in the narthex of the church.

Our suggested donation is \$30 for flowers & \$12 for the light, but feel free to give what you are able. Mark flowers / candles on your check and place it in the offering basket during Mass.

Visitors are Always Welcome!

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

JULY EVENTS	DATE	TIME
Brown Bag Lunch & Speaker, Hilary McMahon, "Life & Work of Thomas Cranmer"	7/6	11:30am – 12:40pm
Women's Devotional Group – "Dealing with Fear"	7/6	9:15am – 9:50am
Men's Bible Fellowship	7/6	9:00am – 9:30am
Supper Club – Original Mike's Restaurant	7/8	7:00pm
Vestry Meeting	7/9	7:15pm
Martha's Guild Meeting	7/13	11:30am
Men's Christian Fellowship Meeting	7/13	11:30am
Craft Guild	Dark	After 2nd Mass
Patronal BBQ Celebration	7/20	11:30am
SMM Outdoor Summer Concert	7/25	7:30pm – 9:30pm
Sunday Brunch	Dark	
AUGUST DATE	DATE	TIME
Brown Bag Lunch & Speaker, Andrew Mauzey, "Bach to Basics, Traditional Church in Contemporary America"	8/3	MG - Early Church Fathers
Women's Devotional Group – "Dealing with Fear"	8/3	9:15am – 9:50am
Men's Bible Fellowship	8/3	9:00am – 9:30am
Martha's Guild Meeting	8/10	11:30am
Men's Christian Fellowship Meeting	8/10	11:30am
Supper Club	8/12	7:00pm
Vestry Meeting	8/13	7:15pm
Craft Guild	8/17	After 2nd Mass
Sunday Brunch	8/25	Restaurant
Coffee Jam	Dark	
Labor Day Parking Lot Event		Fri 5pm -9pm; Sat 10am - 9pm; Sun Noon - 9pm

