

THE MAGDALENE



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

THE FAMILY IN THE CHURCH

From the very beginning, God intended to create a world in which His people would dwell together in unity and brotherly love. He intended Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and take dominion over it. He intended that they build a family over which God would be the Father.

Adam, as we know, rebelled against God and, with his wife, was banished from the Garden. Yet even in their banishment, God, as the faithful and loving Father, did not utterly forsake His first love, but He still provided for them. He moved them from the Garden of Eden as a punishment, but they were still going to be fruitful and multiply. The family that would now be their offspring would, unfortunately, be flawed. The curse of sin altered the harmony that God intended we enjoy in one another's presence and now this family, bound together

by the love of God in Christ, struggles to coexist and fulfill what God intended.

The Church today is the true family of God. The Church is being built up and restored by God. And though it is God who builds His family, we are called to reflect that family structure in our churches.

Each Sunday we come together in the Name of Jesus Christ, who is our head. We do so as a family, as a sort of 'microcosm' of the larger family that God is calling and building through us all over the world. We are called to come together, in part, to sit, stand, sing and kneel together. Our very gathering together to worship God in this way is a foretaste of the final day when God will once again fully restore the family He created. Each of us as a Christian is a member of that family.



One of the things we do to bind ourselves to one another, is to dine together. I'm not talking about going to brunch after the service, though that too helps to build family ties. I'm referring to the Eucharist. We come to the rail, kneel down and receive in the Bread and Wine, the Body and Blood of Christ as members of God's family. We do this in remembrance of Christ and all He did for us in His work to restore this earthly family.

At the Communion Rail and even in the events surrounding Holy Communion we are foreshadowing, in anticipation of, the day when we will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. There we will all sit down with one another, and all of the saints who have gone before us at the Heavenly Banquet table.

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

Acquiring Truth

Holy Communion is a reminder that we were created to dwell with one another in unity. It reminds us that we are part of a family. It reminds us that we have a task even now to work to live with one another with this in mind.

Paul tells us in Romans 12:16 that we are to live in harmony with one another. David tells us in Psalm 133:1, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" (ESV) Peter tells us, "...all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind." (1 Peter 3:8, ESV)

In his absence, Paul says to the Philippian Church, "...whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel," (Philippians 1:27, ESV) And in the next chapter, he says, "...complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (Philippians 2:2, ESV)

In all of these and many other passages we find in the Bible, over and over we are reminded of the importance of seeing one another as created in God's image, called to dwell in unity and love and to set forth what will become a reality in the age to come....a family.

In our own families and in the Church family, we unfortunately still bear the marks of Adam's sin. We frustrate one another. We disappoint one another. We fall short of what God has in mind for a family. We do *not* live in unity and godly love sometimes. But He still calls us together each Lord's Day to assemble as members of His family. He does so because He desires that we begin to live that way now, so that we can begin to fulfill now what will be perfected in the world to come.

Next time you are in church, look around at our brothers and sisters and remember that they to are members of your family.

Why do I feel closer to God when I am in my house than when I am in church?

Both the Jews of the Old Testament and Christians in the New have always understood God to be omnipresent. Omnipresent simply means to be present everywhere. God is everywhere. There is nowhere we can go to be away from His presence (Psalm 139:7). So whether you are at home or at Church, God is there.

The question is directed toward feelings. Why do you feel closer to God at home? This may be simply because you have found a place in the home or the home itself is a place of serenity. There are fewer distractions to take your mind off of God. It is difficult to say why this is true for some. However, the home is not a substitute for the Church. We are certainly commanded to gather with the rest of the body of Christ and gathering in His Church is optimal. So it may be a matter of perspective. So it may be a matter of perspective. It may be that we should think more often about how much more meaningful God's presence is in Church among his people.

It is also important to ask ourselves why we are at Church in the first place? All other reasons for being at Church, other than to meet with, worship, praise, give thanks, receive instruction in His Word, receive Grace in His sacraments, and simply concentrate on focusing on God in His house, are secondary.

It is essential for our spiritual lives to always remember that we meet with God in His House for our benefit. It is one of the most important ways in which He cares for and nurtures His people.

Finally, there is also the uncomfortable question of our own spiritual state. Do we not “feel” close to God in Church because we have unconfessed sin that we’re hiding? Do we have an issue with a fellow Christian? Is there some obstacle that is keeping us from experiencing the full benefit and joy of communing with God? Do we have a faulty view of who God is? Maybe we think He’s supposed to be doing something for us? Keeping us entertained? Have we been keeping the lines of communication open with God by prayer? Getting to know Him more intimately through regular personal and private Scripture reading?

Constructive evaluation of all of these elements can be a positive factor in worshiping God in His House – Church.

Acquiring Truth is your link to get answers to questions about Christianity, faith, and practices. Drop your question in the offering plate or email to: info@stmarymagdaleneacc.org. A member of the clergy staff will provide you an answer in the Magdalene.

**ORDO CALENDAR
ACTIVITIES**

CELEBRATING THE TRINITY
ON MAY 27th

Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost, is set aside to celebrate the doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Thomas Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury, established the Sunday after Pentecost as a new festival day in honor of the Holy Trinity.

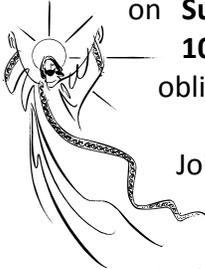


The orthodox doctrines of the Trinity and the incarnation which are affirmed by every historic Catholic and Protestant church are found in the Athanasian Creed.

Read the Athanasian Creed
<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/109017/Athanasian-Creed.pdf>

ASCENSION DAY

The Ascension Day of our Lord will be celebrated on **Sunday, May 13th at 8am and 10am masses**. It is a Holy Day of obligation.



Join us this Ascension Day to give praise and thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, the Ascended Redeemer.

PENTECOST

All our beautiful children will be processing with the choir for Pentecost or Whitsunday on **Sunday, May 20th at 10am mass**.

This is a great photo shoot. Our special thanks to Mattie and Carla for their great never-ending support to our children and their parents.

CURRENT EVENTS

FANTASY TEA

The Women's Guild Fantasy Tea on Saturday, May 5th is SOLD OUT. Due to the room space and nature of the event, no accommodations can be made for drop-ins. Each tea server will be hosting at her own tea table set especially for her six guests with a special table setting she has selected for her theme and brought from home.

We are especially excited about the wonderful chamber music that will be provided by Xinli VonMizener and Michaela Cao, and our Guest of Honor, Gloria Seuss, CEO of Mary's Kitchen. Ms. Seuss will speak to us about Mary's Kitchen and her vision for the future.



Special Raffle baskets have been made with wonderful items for our ladies to have or gifts for Mother's Day. All proceeds will go to our Outreach Program.

13th ANNUAL MEN'S CHILI COOK-OFF

The gauntlet has been thrown down and the challenge is on!

On Sunday May, 27th at 11:45am the church will be judging all entries for the "BEST" and "ALMOST THE BEST" CHILI. Prizes will be awarded that same day.



Who will hold the title of "Best Chili" Cook this year. The competition is fierce with at least 5 prior Title Holders cooking for this event.

Jonathan Tucker will be gathering up the Men to compete. A sign up sheet will be located in the Narthex for cooks to register their chili.

If you dare to try your hand at challenging some of the best chili this side of the 55 freeway, sign up in the Narthex. Wait, I think we have a Texan in the line up. Is he a ringer? We will just have to wait and see.

This event is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**. All you can eat chili tasting is **\$5 bucks** and it comes with a hot dog, chips, and a drink.

ANNUAL CHURCH BARBEQUE

Sunday June 24 at 11:30am, SMM's parking lot will be converted into picnic grounds complete with Gas Grills for a good old fashioned Barbeque with Pot Luck contributions from the congregation.

There will be lots of fun for the kids. Parents should bring the kids in swim suits or shorts. The water slide will be up and water squirt toys for the kids.

Music will be provided by the Little Bear Valley Blues Band.

LOOKING FOR DRIVERS

If you have a heart for lending a helping hand, we are looking for a 10 o'clocker to transport a non-driving member once a month. Please contact Fr. Neil or Sharon. Your support in this much needed ministry would be greatly appreciated.

4TH SUNDAY BRUNCH IN MAY CANCELLED

There will be no 4th Sunday Brunch in May due to the Chili Cook-Off.

DIOCESE OF THE HOLY TRINITY ANNUAL SYNOD

The Diocese of the Holy Trinity Annual Synod is scheduled for June 22nd at St. Matthew's Church. The delegates representing St. Mary Magdalene: Brian Lee, Violet Younis, Sharon Edlin and Mark Talley. Marceil Burgess will act as an alternate. Report on the Synod will be posted two weeks following the day.