

THE MAGDALENE



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

PRESERVING THE CHURCH

No matter the health of a Church, it is the bounden duty of all Christians to give of their finances to the Church. The Church is always in a state of rise or decline. Members come and go. Some stay for the long-term and live out their lives in one place. Some stay only for a short time and then move away for of any number of reasons. God is always moving in His Church.

Just like Jesus used agricultural metaphors to describe the Kingdom of God, we can do the same with our own parish. God is always growing it, pruning it, and sometimes even trimming it back. But in His care for His Church, just as we care for our gardens, the work God is always doing, He is doing it for its good and for its growth. St. Mary Magdalene Church is no exception. How God does this, is, He creates circumstances where He moves people into a town, and they seek out a new home parish and the Church gets new members. Other times, He creates a new opportunity outside of the area and people leave. This is the reality for all Churches. It is more noticeable and felt more strongly in a parish such as ours where we are much smaller. With our size comes many benefits. We know one another more intimately. We can care for one another. We are able to organize more efficiently. We know when someone has missed coming to Church. The downside is when the Church is trimmed back somewhat, resources go away with it. When people leave, the Church has fewer people to carry out its tasks. Therefore, the

Church needs to pray that God would supply new members and even new ideas that can be implemented. Ultimately the survival of a parish depends on the grace of God, but it is the people of God who are his instruments to this end.

As we move toward the end of 2019, and begin to think about 2020, we are now to be prayerful about discerning what God is doing at this time. We need to ask what He would have us do in the immediate as well as the distant future. We are financially secure because we have been frugal and responsible with budgeting, spending, saving and investing. We must always be vigilant and in prayer, however, so that we do not become complacent. God has fine-tuned this parish to be the size it is and that He has built it and furnished it with many very active people. But He has never let it grow too big where we have been allowed to become too complacent or comfortable. At the same time, He has made us highly effective in our mission to maintain our building and grounds and our presence in Orange as well as playing a significant role in helping people who are in need both in the local area and around the world.

**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
9:30 Morning Prayer
10am Choral Mass &
Children's Sunday School**

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

Acquiring Truth

“What is the purpose of the Law?”

Most theologians give three uses of the law. The first is as a mirror. The law reveals to us our sinfulness and drives us to Christ and his cross. Paul says in Romans 3, “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” and continues stating, “by the law is the knowledge of sin.” Augustine asserts that without the Spirit of grace, the law comes “to make us guilty and to slay us.”¹ This causes us to recognize our need for a savior and for the gospel. This is also called the “pedagogical” use and is often emphasized in Lutheran and nondenominational churches.

The second use of the law is as a curb or restraint of evil in society. This is sometimes called the “political” use which punishes unlawful actions. We see this used in *The Book of Common Prayer* for government, “O GOD, the fountain of wisdom, whose statutes are good and gracious and whose law is truth; We beseech thee so to guide and bless the Legislature of this State, that it may ordain for our governance only such things as please thee, to the glory of thy Name and the welfare of the people.”

The third use of the law is as a rule of life for Christians. The law shows us how we should live and what pleases God. As the Scripture says in 1 John 5, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” Calvin states that this is the “principal use, which pertains more closely to the proper purpose of the law.”² This use is

¹ Augustine of Hippo, “A Treatise on Rebuke and Grace,” in *Saint Augustin: Anti-Pelagian Writings*, vol. 5, (New York: Christian Literature Company, 1887), 472.

² John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion & 2*, vol. 1, The Library of Christian Classics (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011), 360.

emphasized historically by Presbyterian/Reformed and Anglican churches. Ashley Null writes that an effect of justification is the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer, “stirring in him a love for God and his commandments.”³ Cranmer understood that our justification is not contributed to by our works but is only by the grace of God. Cranmer wrote to Henry VIII, “certain it is, that our election cometh only and wholly of the benefit and grace of God, for the merits of Christ’s passion, and for no part of our merits and good works.”⁴

CURRENT EVENTS

EVERYONE CAN TASTE AND BUY FROM OUR COUNTRY KITCHEN

On **Sunday, November 17th at 9:30am and 11:30am**, our Country Kitchen cooks will be hosting their first ever Country Kitchen Food Tasting and Sale.

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Everyone in the parish can join in by either participating as a cook or just simply tasting the delicious holiday recipes. All items will be available for purchase so come prepared to buy something for your Thanksgiving or holiday table like home-made candy, preserves, butters, jams, and salsas.

If you have a special recipe and would like to participate in this event, please sign up in the parish hall. All proceeds will go to our Outreach Program.

³ Ashley Null, *Thomas Cranmer's Doctrine of Repentance Renewing the Power to Love* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), 24.

⁴ Thomas Cranmer, *The Remains of Thomas Cranmer*, vol. 2 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1833), 78.

IT'S POTLUCK SEASON

Fr. Neil wants to break bread with everyone in the parish so the **4th Sunday, November 24th**, is Potluck Sunday. The feast will begin around **11:30am**. The weather will still be nice so tables will be set up outside. VISITORS ARE WELCOME. This is a perfect time to invite your friends and neighbors to come join us. Please watch for a "sign up" sheet to let us know what you will be bringing in the Narthex.

PRAY FOR OUR THANKSGIVING DAY FEAST

On November 28th at 9am, a Special Thanksgiving Day Mass will be said in appreciation for God providing us this great country to live and worship in. We are so blessed for the abundance of food that we grow, harvest and prepare for the traditional Thanksgiving feast.

Fr. Neil will be offering up praise and thanks to God as well as blessings for the food to be prepared for dinner. You are welcome to bring a food item that you will be preparing on that day.

ADVENT BEGINS IN DECEMBER

Our Advent Outreach Program this year will support active Marine Corps military.



We will be collecting new individual size: hand sanitizer, baby wipes and lip balm for our active service personnel. These items will be distributed through the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society at Camp Pendleton.

Please watch for the donation receptacle in the Narthex.

NEWS

CARE GUILD NEWS

Robin M says HI to everyone. She is at home convalescing. She is entertaining short-term visits and enjoys the company. Her children are with her everyday so please call them and ask if she is available before you go.



Anne P has not been able to come to church regularly. She is hoping to get back to her regular routine but in the meantime she loves to visit to keep her informed on church news. If you decide to visit, please call her house phone and her care provider will let you know if she is available for a visit.

Gloria B is out in Murrieta now with her son and is not too mobile. She does answer her cell phone so if you have the time, ring her up for a chat.

The church is compiling a list of individuals interested in calling or visiting church members who are hospitalized, or home bound on a temporary or permanent basis. If you are interested in this program, please contact Sharon Edlin.

GARAGE SALE CANCELLED

The Garage Sale scheduled for December 7th at the Osborn residence has been cancelled.

THE COLLEGE OF BISHOPS MEETING

Fr. Neil brings back greetings from Archbishop Haverland and Bishop Scarlett. The only news to

report is that the health and well being of the communion is "excellent". Bishop Wilson Garang from South Sudan attended and sends his blessings as well. Our special thanks as always to Bishop Starks and our host church, St. Edward The Confessor, in Indianapolis, Indiana for their gracious welcome and care of us.

SAVE THE DATE

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON & CHRISTMAS PREPARATION

All men of the church are invited to lunch at "The Wall" restaurant in Orange on Saturday, December 7th. We will meet at the church at 11:00am. It should be a great time for fellowship. Plan to stay after lunch for about 30 minutes to set the church up for Christmas.



TREE TRIMMING & CHRISTMAS TREATS

Think of trimming the Church Christmas tree not as another decoration to put up but as our way to give thanks to God for giving us His Son to walk among us.

We will be trimming the Narthex Christmas tree after the **10:00 service on December 8th**. The Guild will be serving a wonderful selection of Christmas treats to enjoy while we decorate.

Please join your children as they busy themselves with Christmas tree ornaments, shepherds, sheep and Christmas treats.



WOMEN'S GUILD CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP PARTY

The Guild Women cordially invite all women to attend their **Annual Christmas Fellowship Party and Gift Exchange, Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30pm**. Our special thanks to Niki Strate for hosting this event at her home. The address and maps will be available in the narthex.

Please bring a \$15 wrapped Christmas gift. This gift can be anything you might give to a woman for Christmas. Please no gift cards or white elephants.

Please bring your fresh baked Christmas goodies or appetizers to share with the group.

LOOKING FOR A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION?

Monetary donations to SMM are truly a gift to our own parish, our missions, and our selected local charities. In fact, donations directly given to SMM Church are used throughout the year to pay for church expenses, upkeep to the buildings and grounds, and other administrative needs.

Your donation to SMM Church is also considered a charitable contribution for income tax purposes just like Samaritans Purse, Ronald McDonald House and others. There is one single difference between SMM Church and other charities. SMM Church takes no portion of your giving for administrative needs. 100 percent of your money goes to the intended recipient.

Our treasurer will even provide you with a personal annual giving receipt at the end of the year.

