

THE MAGDALENE



FROM THE DESK OF
FR. NEIL...

PRAYING FOR THE WHOLE STATE OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

The Church is given instruction on how to pray directly from the Bible. Paul tells Timothy, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4* Each time we come together to worship God, we do this very thing.

In our service, there is a point at which we pray for "the whole state of Christ's Church." This prayer is found in our own Book of Common Prayer and the first lines are borrowed directly from Paul's command to Timothy, that we make prayers and supplications and give thanks for all men. In the first section of this prayer, discussed here, we ask God to "inspire the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord, and that He would grant that all those who do confess His holy Name may agree in the truth of His holy Word, and live in unity and godly love."

This is an important way to begin such a prayer. Remember again we are praying for the whole state of Christ's Church, not the whole world. It is important, then, to first ask God for the grace to live in truth, unity and concord. Before we

start worrying about those outside of the Church, we must be aware of ourselves and our condition as the Church. What a bad witness the Church puts forth when we do *not* live this way. The many denominations of Christianity exist in part because Christians do *not* live in unity, concord and godly love. We do not all agree on how to read God's Holy Word...the Bible. We do not all agree on the form of worship, to name just two. So it is very important for us to recognize that we are asking this, not that the Church won't fall into division, but to acknowledge that it *already has* fallen into division and that we are to always be praying for it's unity.

David writes in Psalm 133:1*, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:27*, "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." He spends a lot of time in that chapter laboring the point that each member is vital to the overall body of Christ, which is the Church. These concepts have hit home with me in particular because we are studying 1 Corinthians at Church. There have been a few recurring themes in this letter and one of them, maybe the primary one, is love. The common thread that runs through the entire letter is that love for one another is the greatest thing each member of the Church can have in order to preserve its unity.

At this point in the service, as we pray this prayer, we are approaching Holy Communion, the greatest unifying act the Church can perform. The body of Christ is intended to be one. Jesus prayed on the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, *that they may all be one*, just as you,

*English Standard Version Bible.

Father, are in me, and I in you..." John 17:20-21a*

CURRENT EVENTS



ST. MARY MAGDALENE

SPONSORS

A DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS PROGRAM

Join us at the **Nixon Presidential Library and Museum on Thursday Evening, October 25th at 6pm to hear three most distinguished speakers talk about "The Influence of Religion on Politics in Early America".**

Dr. Michael Horton, a J. Gresham Machen Professor at Westminster Seminary, is the **founder of White Horse Inn**, a multi-media



online resource center. He is editor-in-chief of the Modern Reformation magazine, **permanent co-host of the nationwide radio broadcast, the White Horse Inn**, and primary force behind Core

Christianity, a Bible studies campaign. He is also a well known, successful author having written more than 15 books on the Christian faith, theology and it's influences in America.

Dr. David Corbin, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Providence Christian College, has taught political philosophy, American politics,



and international relations for over two decades. Dr. Corbin has participated in numerous academic and civic endeavors, including serving a term in the **New Hampshire State Legislature**. **Dr. Corbin is a writer, author**

and well known orator. Dr. Corbin's analyses of political, cultural and social trends has appeared in the Investor's Business Daily, The New York Times, The Washington Times, the Associated Press, First Things "First Thoughts", Radio Free Europe, the French News Agency, New Hampshire Public Broadcasting, New England Cable News, and WCVB's "Chronicle," along with various other news organizations.

Dr. Adam Francisco is the Chair of the Department of History and Political Thought at Concordia University. He has published a



variety of articles, essays, and books on Christian apologetics and reformation history to include 'Making the Case for Christianity: Responding to Modern Objections' and 'One God, many gods'. Dr. Francisco is a current speaker for "1517:

The Legacy Project" where he is a **co-host for The Thinking Fellows**, a weekly podcast, with Rod Rosenblatt and Scott Keith.

Do not miss this exceptional "one time" event. Make arrangements to join us now as this program will be open to the public.

A "Meet & Greet" Reception may be held prior to the lecture depending on the availability of our speakers. Look for more information in next month's Magdalene newsletter or our website.

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**

WE NEED YOU
LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Starting on Friday, August 31st through September 2nd, our Church Parking Lot will become a Concession Parking Lot for the Labor Day International Street Fair. We sell parking spaces for \$10.00 per car and need EVERYONE to support this fundraiser event. It is the only one we do that supports our own church. No, you don't have to park cars just take money. It's truly lots of fun. You get to enjoy the fair music right from our own outdoor tent. If you don't feel like fair food, entice your church friends into volunteering for the same time slot and have a picnic potluck. Sign up in the Narthex.

PATRIOT'S DAY SERVICE
HONORS OUR MILITARY

Come celebrate our military service men and women through prayer and thanksgiving for their sacrifice to keep America Free.

Show your support by **wearing red, white and blue on September 9th at 10am service.**

During mass, we will be honoring our military personnel with a roll call. Please post the service members in your family either present or deceased on the roll call sheet in the Narthex.

Each year Our Choir Director, Andrew selects the most beautiful patriotic music for the occasion and the choir is absolutely stunning so invite your friends and family.

VESTRY MEETING DATE CHANGE

October's Vestry meeting will be held on October 18th since Fr. Neil will be at the ACC Administrative Council meeting.

PART 3: THE FOUNDATION OF
LITURGICAL WORSHIP, IMPLEMENTS
AND FURNITURE OF THE CHURCH

September 23RD at 11:30am, Fr. Neil will be speaking about the physical items found in the church, implements used during services and the theology behind them.

The Guild will be **selling brown bag lunches** (sandwich, chips and fruit) which must be preordered for only **\$5.00**. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

CRAFT FAIR & NEW2YOU BOUTIQUE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

On October 6th from 9am – 2pm, a huge Craft Fair & Boutique will be held on the church grounds. Wait until you see the fabulous items to be sold at the 'Halloween Shop' 'Christmas Store', 'Home-Good's Craft Shop' and New2You Boutique.

We are looking for at least 9 volunteers to work any time during this event. Please contact Elizabeth, Violet, Shirley or Candi if you would like to volunteer to work or contribute hand made items with Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas in mind.

Most items will be sold at \$15 or less.

NEWS

THE PACK-A-SACK EVENT
WAS INCREDIBLE!!

On Saturday, August 11th around 8:30am, members of the church started strolling in and by 9:15am there were 34 people participating in the largest PACK-A-SACK we have ever held. Sandwiches were made and lunches packed in about an hour and a half. Our very special

thanks for all those who showed up to support the homeless at Mary's Kitchen.

Acquiring Truth

“During Worship, What Is The Reason, Purpose, Use, And Significance Of The Ringing Of The Sanctus Bells?”

The Early Church had to battle various heresies during her formation. One of the methods in which they attempted to combat this was by requiring newly professing Christians to affirm the Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds which all of Christianity accepted as authoritative. The Apostles and Nicene Creeds became so important in the Western Church that it would be required of individuals to recite, submit to, and confirm the Apostles' Creed before they could be baptized and participate in the Lord's Supper. This person would then be allowed to participate in worship services.

The new Christians, i.e. catechumens, would sit in the service during the first part of the liturgy, referred to as The Liturgy of the Word; which would conclude at the end of the sermon, at which point, the catechumens would then be escorted out of worship because they had not yet been confirmed.

As the Liturgy of the Sacrament progressed, the priest would then arrive at the Proper Prefaces which would conclude with the Trisagion (Holy, Holy, Holy) which marked a call to the catechumens outside, that the beginning of the Mass or the Consecration was about to occur, and the by the ringing of the Sanctus Bells 3 times.

In many instances, the catechumens would stand on a stone or on a bench and attempt to peer into the Sanctuary in order to see the

profound mystery of the consecration take place. This bell ringing would continue throughout the consecration, at various points drawing the attention of the catechumens to the great mystery that was taking place.

This would conclude with the priest, after completing the consecration, turning and facing the congregation and presenting the consecrated bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Christ, to those in attendance, and the final ringing of the Sanctus Bells indicated that the mystery of the consecration has been completed and it is now time to receive the grace of Christ in His Body and Blood.

“Why Are The Titles Of Some Of The Prayers Found In The Morning And Evening Prayer Services In Latin?”

This is one of those questions where there is no real mystery involved and the answer is quite straight forward and, in some ways unsatisfactory, to our minds' of those who are usually looking for a deeper meaning than what is the truth of the matter.

Very simply, it was for the sake of continuity. There were so many changes taking place during the Reformation in general and the English Reformation in particular, that Abp. Cranmer and the English Divines wanted to assist the average English parishioner in making these transitions. One of the ways they did this was by keeping certain, well known and familiar words from the Latin Mass and bringing them directly into the Book of Common Prayer.

This would afford the average church member, who was for the most part illiterate anyway, to be able to follow along at those familiar points because they would be able to readily identify these Latin words, thereby knowing where there were in the service.