

THE MAGDALENE



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

JESUS IS RISEN, ALLELUIA !

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead on the first day of the week, Sunday, was established as a central tenet of the Christian Church. From that day forward, it became the central teaching of the Church. Every person who calls himself a Christian must believe in the doctrine of the Resurrection.

At the same time, it might be one of the least talked about tenets of the Christian faith today. We talk quite a lot about the cross. We have crosses in our churches and homes. We have crosses as jewelry worn around our necks. Some tattoo crosses on themselves. With the cross comes lots of talk about the death of Christ. His passion and crucifixion are portrayed in movies today with graphic detail. We use the cross and death of Jesus to explain and illustrate how Jesus died for our sins.

We talk a lot about the life of Jesus as well. We

spend lots of time at Christmas with His birth. We love to hear parables and stories about things Jesus did. We are fascinated with His miracles, like walking on water, turning small amounts of bread in to baskets full, healing the blind and the deaf. But perhaps the greatest miracle of them all, the resurrection of Jesus, we seem to speak less of. Yet, at the same time, it is because of the resurrection, that the death on the cross is complete. If death were the last thing about Jesus, then what would it really mean? It would only mean that we too would die like Him. But where does that leave us?

Even the life and teaching of Jesus has no real meaning if it is not all fulfilled in the resurrection. Who cares if Jesus walked on water or multiplied bread if they are not seen in light of the power of the resurrection? They would be only impressive feats done by Him, but to what end?

In the 11th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus does one of His greater miracles. He raises Lazarus from the dead. Jesus was a friend of Lazarus. But did He raise him from the dead because they were friends only or because Jesus loved Lazarus and his family? That probably had something to do with it. If you read this story, however, Jesus finds out about Lazarus' illness and eventual death while being not that far away. And Jesus does not hurry to get there before Lazarus dies.

We have some clues in this story if we look closely. In verse 4, Jesus responds to the news of Lazarus' illness by saying, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Then in verse 5 we read, "So, when He heard that Lazarus was ill, He stayed two days longer in the place where He was."

**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**

If that's not enough, keep reading. Jesus then says, "Let us go to Judea again." To which the Disciples say, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and you are going there again?"

What is going on here? "Doesn't Jesus care?" is what we might be thinking. But later, Jesus finally does arrive...after Lazarus is dead and has been in the tomb four days!

But when Jesus asks for the stone of the tomb to be rolled away and he has assured Martha that she would see the glory of God, Jesus lifts His eyes to heaven and prays out loud to the Father with these words, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." (ESV) With these words, we get clarification about why Jesus has acted the way He did from the beginning of the story. Jesus knew that He would raise Lazarus. He wanted to show the people that even the greatest of obstacles is no problem for God. He not only raised Lazarus to show the people witnessing this event that He was sent by God the Father, but even the delaying four days and the lack of urgency was to demonstrate His power and that He was sent by God.

By reading this account, then, we learn that the resurrection of Jesus means much more than we can imagine. It means that Jesus is the one who not only did miracles for us and died for us, but also raises us up after we die. It means that life for the believer does not end at death, but continues eternally as an endless life of fellowship with God. It means that it is only by means of our union with Christ, through faith in Him that all believers will experience resurrection like Lazarus...in fact even greater than what happened to Lazarus.

Our resurrection is greater than what happened to Lazarus, because he was not raised in the

same way as Jesus was. Lazarus was brought back to life, and lived out his life and then died again. The resurrection of Jesus was different in that Jesus rose, never to die again. This is the resurrection that Lazarus will enjoy on the last day...and it is the resurrection we too will enjoy on the last day. Our resurrection means that we will never die again. We will never sin again. We will never experience all of the sadness that we experience now.

So it is not that the resurrection overshadows all of the other things Jesus did. His birth and life and miracles and teachings are all of great importance and are all pieces of a larger picture. But they are all summed up in the resurrection. Jesus was careful to demonstrate that day with Lazarus that the miracle of bringing Lazarus back to life was all related to His mission as the Messiah. He said that He did this miracle so that those around watching may know that He was here and His entire life and mission was from God.

Easter is the time when we think about the resurrection and celebrate it with great enthusiasm. Let's us never let that excitement grow cold so that we forget this most central and important event, not only in the life of Christ, but eventually in ours as well.



ST MARY MAGDALENE CELEBRATES IT'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Forty years ago, a group of practicing Episcopalians left their well established church to start again. The pressure of social conformance became too strong for them to continue there. Some had fathers that helped to fund new church facilities; some were actively engaged in the Guild, the Vestry and other church groups.

“If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?” Matt.16:24-26

We still have a remnant from the first flock with us today. We are so grateful for their strength and faith that Christ would give them a new beginning and us St. Mary Magdalene Church.

INAUGURAL SUNDAY SERMON March 5, 1978

The following excerpts are taken from the sermon that was preached 40 years ago by St. Mary Magdalene's first Rector, The Reverend Anthony Rasch, on the Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 5, 1978 on the occasion of the first Mass of our newly formed church. The Mass was held at the McAulay and Wallace Chapel in Fullerton.

The tragedy (this day) is that a great church, which we all loved, has like Esau, sold its birthright for potage. It (the Episcopal Church) decided to take its limited vision from the world, rather than respond to the spiritual vision sent from God. It chose to conform to the standards of the world, rather than conform the world to the standards of Christ.

Our miracle has been God Himself! For we did not bring ourselves to this place. We did not bring ourselves to this moment. Rather, it was the Faith which He has given to us through His beloved Son. And it was the grace which He has

given us to stand up for and stand fast for that same eternal Faith, which has wrought this miracle and brought us here.

Now we have all made heavy sacrifices in order to be a part of this miracle – we've had to leave behind old friends, we've had to leave behind our cherished memories and even the very buildings where we used to worship together.

We have named this new beginning, this new beginning rooted in the Ancient Catholic Faith, this new beginning enshrined in the historic Anglican Tradition – we have named this new beginning, the Church of Saint Mary Magdalene. Mary Magdalene, our patron Saint. She who was the first to witness God's new beginning. She who was first to witness the Lord's Resurrection. She who had known spiritual bondage in her own past.

But a word of caution. Though many will come with us over the future years, some will tragically fall by the wayside, weary of the long pilgrimage – as some fell in the great Exodus in the desert. And some will cast in our teeth the question, “Why did you lead us out of Egypt to this strange place?” (I thank God that all of you are here this morning because you want to be.)

And God has led us out for a purpose. And, as with the children of Israel, He will see us safely to our new home. He will guide us safely to our eternal home, Jerusalem which is above!

ORDO CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

COMMEMORATING THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples, friends, and others. Forty days after his body was resurrected, Jesus and His disciples

went up to Mount Olivet where Jesus promised them that the Holy Spirit would come to give them strength and power in being witnesses to all nations for God's glory. After saying these things, Jesus ascended into heaven, meaning a literal bodily return to heaven. Many onlookers saw and bore witness on that day of Jesus' ascension. As a cloud began to hide Jesus as he ascended, two angels appeared to the disciples and promised that Christ would "come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Read John 7:33-65

CURRENT EVENTS

BIBLE STUDY RETURNS!!

Wednesday Bible Study will resume in the Parish Hall on **April 4th from 10:00am to 11:00am**. Fr. Neil be discussing St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Please remember to bring your bible or one may be provided.

PAC-A-SAC EVENT

Mark your calendar for volunteering to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and stuff 200 lunch bags for the working homeless at Mary's Kitchen on **April 14th at 9am in the Parish Hall**. Watch for announcements posted in the Narthex.



IT'S ALL ABOUT CHOCOLATE

The Craft Guild will be hosting an "It's All About Chocolate" lecture and tasting on April 15th after the second service. The first 16 people who sign up will be tasting dark chocolate from all over the world. Fr. Neil, our speaker, will be assisted

by his wife. If you plan on tasting, please bring a bib as none will be provided! Check the Narthex for the sign up sheet.

FANTASY TEA



The Women's Guild has selected Saturday, May 5th as the date for Teatime. This women's event will begin at 11:30am – 1:30pm in the Parish Hall. Each table hostess will be decorating their own tea table perfect for a lovely Spring day.

We will have a delicious lunch, scones, sweets and lots of wonderful tea. There will be raffle baskets and a guest speaker appropriate for the day. Tickets go on sale the 8th of April at \$25 per person. All proceeds will go to our Outreach Program.

If you would like to host a table, please see Sharon for details.

13th ANNUAL MEN'S CHILI COOK-OFF

Yep, it's that time again. Jonathan Tucker will be gathering up the Men to compete by making their best chili recipe. If you dare to try your hand at challenging some of the best chili this side of the 55 freeway, please sign up. 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.

All you can eat chili tasting is \$5 bucks and it comes with a hot dog, chips, a drink and some TUMs.



Mark your calendars. This should be the best Cook-Off ever.