

THE MAGDALENE



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

THE IMPORTANT STRUCTURE OF PRAYERS

Another aspect of the Book of Common Prayer is what might be called its prayer “structure.” I am referring to each individual prayer and not the Book of Common Prayer itself or the Holy Communion Service or any other service. Once we notice this, we can find it in almost all of the prayers in our Book.

Much of the time we will pray prayers or hear them read by the minister and say ‘amen’ but not notice the structure built in to them. Each prayer is written intentionally with a specific pattern or structure that makes them more coherent and well-rounded. This adds a level of quality and beauty to the prayers that is not found most of the time when we pray extemporaneously.

Here is the basic structure of the Prayer Book

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

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

prayers. Let’s take the *Prayer for Peace*, which we find on page 17. First there is the introductory part of the prayer. This will include whom we are praying to...which is usually the Father. But notice in the very next part of the introduction there is some aspect of God that is identified or noted or even invoked. For example, O God, the *author of peace and lover of concord*. God here is identified in some way. He is the author of peace and lover of concord, meaning that if there is any peace in any form, God is the author, the source. He is also the lover of concord. He wants harmony in His creation. He sent His Son to bring harmony or reconciliation between God and man.

So if those two attributes are His, then we move on to the second part of the prayer where we petition God for something which we anticipate will be answered because of what we attributed to Him in the introduction. The prayer for peace goes on to ask, “*Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we surely trusting in thy defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries.*” So here we ask that because God is the author of peace and lover of concord, He would then defend us against anyone or anything that assaults us, physically or spiritually.

Defend us from anything that disrupts His desire for peace and concord. Enemies disrupt peace and concord. If we live in fear, as the prayer says, then there is no peace. If we have enemies assaulting us there is no concord.

The last portion of the prayer is not really our focus. We are told in scripture that we pray in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Jn 14:13, 16:23-24) This is why almost all of the Prayer Book prayers end in something like, “Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Here are some more brief examples. When praying for the *President of the United States and others in authority*, the prayer will begin with, “O LORD, the high and mighty ruler of the universe.” So we acknowledge God as the highest ruler, and then we ask Him to bless and preserve our President and the leaders who are above us but still under God, the supreme ruler and governor.

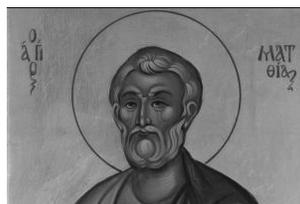
Our prayer called the *General Thanksgiving* begins, “Almighty God, Father of all mercies.” You can see why we mention these attributes of God when we go on to thank Him for all we have. Or the *Prayer for all Conditions of Men* begins, “O God the Creator and Preserver of all mankind.” Then we go on to ask that His gospel would spread, His Church would be guided and governed and finally that anyone who is under any sort of affliction would be comforted by Him because He is our creator and preserver.

So take a look at the other prayers in our Prayer Book and try to find this pattern. Or try this: next time you go to pray, think about what you will pray for, think about what attributes of God you might acknowledge and then craft your prayer to Him accordingly. You might be surprised at how much better you can pray if you think about how to structure it.

ORDO CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

COMMEMORATING ST. MATTHIAS ON FEBRUARY 24TH

Matthias is probably the Apostle of Jesus we know the least about, at least in the sense that he was the newest of the Apostles. He was chosen to replace Judas, once Judas had left the group to betray Jesus and then hanged himself.



Matthias was chosen to fill Judas’ vacancy after Jesus had ascended, yet he still is considered an Apostle, so this must

mean that he was an eyewitness to Jesus and His ministry, including His resurrection. We are told, in fact, that Matthias was present from Jesus’ baptism, forward. Matthias is not mentioned in the Gospels but when we get to the Book of Acts Matthias is introduced and made an official member of the 12 Apostles. Matthias was actually one of two men chosen to fill the vacancy. Barsabas was another.

Peter, as the leader of the Apostles, stood up and exhorted the others that a replacement must be sought to round out the number back to twelve. Peter quotes Psalm 109:8 where the Psalmist speaks of “another taking his office.” The Apostles prayed, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” (Acts 1:24, ESV) Under the guidance and providence of God, the others cast lots and Matthias was chosen.

Further information concerning Matthias is very vague. It seems the best and most attested to tradition has him preaching in the region of Judea for a while and then going down to Ethiopia where he is eventually crucified for preaching the Gospel.

Read Acts 1:12-26

CURRENT EVENTS

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

To be a true Anglican, one must first understand our nature and what drives us. The answer is simple, Christ the King! and the Anglican Church

Ordo Calendar. So while the general population may think that “Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday” is a celebration of live jazz and cocktails, this day is really based on early Christians marking the start of Lent. It has been documented by early Christian writings since 1000AD. Lent always starts on a Wednesday, so people went to confessions on the day before. This became known as Shrive Tuesday and then Shrove Tuesday.

The other name for this day, Pancake Day, comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients in the house before Lent preparation for fasting during Lent. Our Lenten Journey begins with preparation, and ends with “He Has Risen, Alleluia”.

Will you walk with us this Lenten Season?

SHROVE TUESDAY ALREADY !

This year Shrove Tuesday is celebrated on **February 13th at 6:30 in the Parish Hall.**

Treat your little ones to delicious home made pancakes. Stuff them with whipped cream and fruit or drown them in syrup or chocolate.



Feast on juicy bratwurst, polish and Italian sausages, potatoes and desserts.

How about a little fun? Come join in our Pancake Olympics. We’ve got a whole new line-up of games. What a riot!

Our Men’s Group will be supported by Rob and Elizabeth Whitney, our Pancake Cooks this year, so plan on a 5-star Stack.

\$6.50 - Adults, \$5.00 - Kids (6 -18yrs old), Free - under 6yrs old.

A Journey Through Lent

ASH WEDNESDAY

WILL YOU SAY “I’M SORRY” ?

The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday. The name came from the ceremonial use of ashes as a symbol of penitence during Mass. Will you join us in group confession and repentance? Private confessions can be made by appointment.

Mass will be held on February 14th at 9am and 7pm.

TUESDAY MEATLESS SUPPERS

Looking for support and a little fellowship during Lent? Come to our simple Meatless Suppers. Bring your friends and family. It’s free.

If you would like to volunteer to cook a meatless meal, please sign-up on the Volunteer Sheets in the Narthex or contact Anne Peterson or Colleen O’Malley. This is not a potluck and no desserts will be served.

Suppers begin on February 20th at 6:30pm.

LENTEN PROGRAM

Father Neil will be conducting a **Lenten Program on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm** following our Meatless Supper where we pray at the **Stations of the Cross** in commemoration of Christ’s walk down the Via Dolorosa to His crucifixion or participate in **Family Prayer**.

Fr. also plans on holding a **Panel Discussion** on a “A Call to Christian Living”. This should prove to be a most informative evening. Look for further information in the Narthex.

Please check the “Calendar At A Glance” for more details.

ARE WE OFF THE HOOK FOR FASTING?

Are we off the hook for fasting? Below are a couple of bible verses that will provide you with some insight to this question.

EZRA 8:21 "Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods."

DANIEL 9:3 "Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes."

ISAIAH 58:3 "Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?" Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers."

ACTS 14:23 "And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed."

MATTHEW 9:14-15 "Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."

Fr. Neil will be collecting your thoughts in a receptacle in the church lobby. Watch for his answer to this Lenten question.

OUTREACH REPORT

NATIONAL GUARD ARMORIES USED AS TEMPORARY SHELTER

From October to April, the National Guard transformed their two local Armories into a

temporary shelter for men. They provide a sleeping mat, blanket, and a warm meal during the cold winter nights.

During January to March, we will be offering you the opportunity to fill a "Blessings Bag" with men's essentials to be handed out to the men sheltered at the Armories. The cost to you to fill a Blessings Bag is about \$10 so please feel free to take as many as you want. Our goal is to support 100 men.

Please help the Church Men's Group make this very needed Outreach a success. If you have any questions, please speak with Lou Carlson.

GENERAL NEWS

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation class will begin on **February 11^h from 9:00am – 10:00am in the small classroom upstairs.** You must attend these classes regularly **through June.** If you are interested in making this commitment, please contact Sharon Edlin.



MORE THAN A TITLE

Out of respect for the office of priest or deacon, we address any man holding these offices by his title the same as we would our Bishop and Archbishop. **Please remember to address all priests by Father.**

Tarina Lee's (from our choir) Vocal Recital will be March 11th at 5:00pm at Chapman University. Following the recital, we will be having dinner at Jalapeno's in Orange.

If you would like to join us, please call Shirley Wickets.