

THE MAGDALENE



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

WAKING UP EACH DAY

The glorious season of Easter is now upon us. Let us turn our thoughts to something so common and ordinary and frankly, taken for granted.

In the Family Morning Prayer, we begin by praying to God acknowledging His mercy and preservation for the past night. In that prayer, our attention is called to the very common and ordinary fact of waking up each day. We praise God for preserving us from the beginning of our lives to that very moment. We thank God for “having delivered us from the dangers of the past night.” And then it ends with an interesting observation. As you know, we end all of our prayers in the Name of Jesus, but here, we end by saying, “...for His sake who lay down in the grave, and rose again for us, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our very waking up and rising from bed is likened to Jesus dying, lying in the grave and then rising on the third day to life. What an amazing comparison! Though a much more serious thing, to die and rise to life, we can actually begin each day thanking God for Jesus’ resurrection by thinking about our own rising safely from a night’s sleep.

The word *sleep* is used a few times in the New Testament as a substitute for the word *death*. Recall when Jesus is asked to raise a ruler’s daughter to life, in Matthew chapter 9. When

Jesus arrives and finds the girl dead and people around her mourning, He tells them, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” To that comment they laugh at Him. But Jesus has them moved out of the room. He takes the girl by the hand and she come to life again.” She was dead, but Jesus raised her to life.

St. Paul in his great chapter to the Corinthians on the Resurrection says, “Behold! I tell you a mystery. *We shall not all sleep*, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51–52, ESV) Paul is telling us that death is not the end. There is more. There is a resurrection on the “last day” and we shall be changed. Our bodies will not remain dead in the ground. We shall not remain in a state out of the body, but body and soul will be reunited, and the body will be changed to something that cannot die again, nor will it suffer any of the effects of sin that we now suffer. In using the word sleep for death, we can see it as a description of what a person looks like when they die. And we can also understand that even when we die, for Jesus it is as easy as if we were sleeping for Him to raise us up from death.

It should go without saying that we should rise each morning aware that we have placed our very souls and bodies in the hands of God when go to sleep. Of course, God is always in control of our lives even beyond the day when we will take our last breath. But when we sleep, we, in a sense, hand over all things to God...whether we acknowledge that or not. Our senses are in a state of rest and not as alert as they are when we are awake.

So when you wake up tomorrow, remember that Jesus laid down in the grave and rose again for you and give God thanks that when we sleep in death, we will rise to a new life in the age to come all because Jesus rose to life again on the third day.

Acquiring Truth

"Is Private Interpretation of the Bible OK?"

I know Martin Luther was a champion of this idea, but we really can have great misunderstandings, left to our own devices, vs commentaries/ministers, which we seem to need to help us understand. But then we run the risk of falling prey to THEIR misunderstandings.

Yes, left to our own devices we really can have great and grave misunderstandings. While much of the Bible is clear, there is also much depth and complexity which can take some time and work to get hold of. Even Peter says of Paul's writings that there are "some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures" (2 Peter 3:16). Thus, Ministers and scholars can be, and most

often are, very beneficial in helping us to understand the Bible. And yet, as the questioner posed, we can be misguided by expert misunderstandings and erroneous presuppositions.

Most of Scripture calls upon us to follow, submit to, and rely upon our leaders (Heb. 13:7, 17). Early on in Scripture the Levites were tasked with being teachers of the people of God and to help them understand (Deut. 33:10). Nehemiah 8 says that the Levites "gave the sense and helped *them* to understand the reading." Teachers are also one of the gifts Christ gave to the church (Eph. 4:11) and the ability to teach is listed as a prerequisite of a church leader (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:9). So, we certainly shouldn't neglect this valuable gift and help.

However, God's word also calls upon us to test teachers, at times, as to whether they follow the ultimate authority of God and his revealed word. The Bereans did this and "searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). Peter warns about "false teachers" who "bring in destructive heresies" (2 Peter 2:1) and Paul says, "If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness... from such withdraw yourself" (1 Tim. 6:3-5).

In short, the Scripture calls us to hear and know the word of God, receive help in understanding from reliable leaders and teachers, and to follow godly examples. God also calls us to recognize false doctrine and respond appropriately.

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

Hallelujah!
HE IS RISEN

CURRENT EVENTS

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS RETURN

Starting on the first week in May, Fr. Neil will resume his **Bible Study Wednesdays** held immediately after the 9:00am Mass and Healing Service around 10:00am.

We will be studying the New Testament Book of Revelation. The book of Revelation contains an Apocalypse, a Prophecy, and an Epistle. The Apostle John, who followed Jesus Christ and witnessed His crucifixion, authored it.

John wrote Revelation while a prisoner on the Island of Patmos, approximately 85-95 A.D. Its purpose is to give encouragement and hope for all Christians to continue watching for the return and triumph of the Lord Jesus Christ. It also is to warn of the Final Judgment that non-believers will endure on that Last Day.

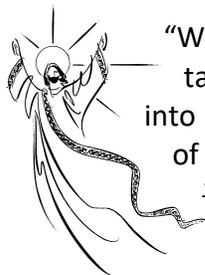
John wrote that Revelation is special because, "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near" (Rev 1:3).

All Christians are welcome to join us. If you do not have a bible one will be provided for you.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION MASS AND CELEBRATION

On **Thursday, May 30th at 6:30pm**, Fr. Neil will celebrate the ascension of Jesus into heaven as a high mass. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

This day has been celebrated since Jesus' first ascension as recorded by Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea in the 4th century.



"When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand." *Mark 16:19*

The Church will be providing a wonderful meal after the service for \$10 per person. All proceeds will go towards our Outreach Program.

If you want to help, please contact Niki Strate. Those eating must sign up in advance. Please check the Narthex for more information.

HELPING HOSPICE

The Craft Guild is diligently working on having 30 adult bibs to donate to Cadence Hospice clients by early summer.

Cadence provides non-curative treatment and comfort to people with a life expectancy of six months or less, according to a physician's judgment. Their staff works in and out of the home environment.

If you have a little time to spare, please join us on the **third Wednesdays of the month** to pin or cut out bibs from a pattern.

If you have any questions, please contact Candi Tanner.

DIAPERS FOR LIVING WELL PREGNANCY CENTER

Praise God, the money given for The Living Well Pregnancy Center" produced a gift of 654 diapers and 500 wipes. Living Well is a small Christian based organization serving our local area. If you would like to volunteer at Living Well, go to www.living-well.org.

MEN GET READY TO RUMBLE

On Sunday **May 26th from 11:30am to 1:30pm**, our parish men will hold their **14th Annual Men's Chili Cook-Off**. This contest is the most competitive event of the year. More than twelve men compete for 1st prize.



Who will hold the title of **"Best Chili"** Cook this year? The competition is fierce with at least 7 prior Title Holders cooking for this event. Wait, I think we will have at least two unknown cooks in the line up. Maybe a Nebraskan? Can he compete against a

couple of seasoned Californians? We will just have to wait and see.

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

Every person who pays \$5 bucks can taste all the chili they can eat including a hot dog and chips. If you are eating and not cooking, then you qualify to vote.

All the tasting is done under the breezeway where people can chat about their favorite chili. Please come out and support the men of our parish during this event.

GIVING AID TO OUR VETERANS

Many thanks to all our members who donated underwear to our veterans. We donated more than 200 of them to the VFW Orange Chapter who will be sending them on to the Veteran's Hospital in Long Beach.

Our special thanks to Jim Strate who is spearheading our Veterans Outreach program.

SAVE THE DATES

CELEBRATING THE TRINITY **ON JUNE 16th**



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 Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian Creeds.

ANNUAL CHURCH BARBEQUE

Sunday, June 23 at 11:30am is the St. Mary Magdalene Church Barbeque.

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.

MEN'S GET TOGETHER

Join Fr. Neil on the 2nd Sunday of the month for a casual Men's get together. Watch for a flyer in the Narthex.