

THE MAGDALENE

From the Desk of Fr. Neil...



2016 VISION FOR ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH

My Vision is to continue to build St. Mary Magdalene Church into a living breathing body where all members are engaged in Christ. In this New Year, I will continue to channel our efforts to maintain a community presence, to engage the unchurched and to assist the needy. In simple terms, staying active in parish life, community networking and evangelism through Outreach.

As such, we will continue to support Mary's Kitchen here in Orange to help our families that are homeless and the men and women who are unemployed get back on their feet. This is a good program in my opinion and serves a need in a way that not all do. Mary's Kitchen is responsible with the resources that are donated to them and are truly effective. It is not just a "hand-out"

organization, but requires much from those seeking assistance so that true help is given to those who are truly in need.

I will continue to be a presence on the Campus of Chapman University as a lecturer and Christian spokesperson to both the Health Services Department and the School of Law. Chapman is our local university and to be involved with them in some way is important for the presence of St. Mary Magdalene Church. In addition, I will continue to solicit students to assist us in a vocational capacity as a conduit to provide them a home away from home.

I hope to unveil a Community Chaplaincy Program this year based on the foundation I have laid with UCI Medical Center, and other hospitals in the areas. Now that God has brought us willing men interested in this ministry and who have the desire ability to visit hospitals as well as assist me with home visits for some of our older members who are not able to make it to Church very often or at all. Home visitation and hospital visitation is simply something we are all called to. We are never to neglect those among us who are sick or are unable to be among us very often. It is important that they continue to not only see people from the Church from time to time so they stay connected to the body....but also to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

In terms of Parish Life, I will continue to offer Sunday brown bag lectures since our members are encouraged by them, they were well attended and well received. I will continue to emphasize the importance of knowing Anglicanism, Church History,

*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: 9am

Figures in History, Our Prayer Book, etc. So, look for more lectures to come this year.

Bible based education will also continue to take on a fresh new look in the form of traditional studies, devotional gatherings and topical issues related to daily life. I want to expand what we offer here. I would like to have a mid-week Bible Study for those who do not or cannot drive at night. A day-time Bible Study needs to be offered but much planning is required because of the lack of clergy assistance and our parking situation.

This year is one of building a strong parish community. First, I want to continue to build on the great work started a few years back to establish a strong men's ministry. I will be expanding our Usher/Greeter Ministry to allow for new members in the church to be engaged on Sundays. This has been faithfully handled by a few very dedicated men. I will be asking and encouraging other men of the parish to step up into this role as well this year. I am committed to work diligently with our seasoned ushers to get a better understanding of what the usher does and how this activity can provide a great opportunity to get a lot more men involved in Parish Life and Parish Work. This ministry is indispensable to the Church and must be in place when new people visit our parish. We must be proactive in greeting new people and visitors. We must be helpful to them in getting them seated and with a booklet in hand so they are not intimidated by our service.

Next, I will continue to aggressively work towards reaching out to the unchurched through our missions world-wide by supporting our missionaries in the field. Over the years, we have successfully assisted in planting missions in the Sudan, aiding in sustaining missions, orphanages and schools in Haiti and Sudan, and aided with homeless in the Philippines which bought the unchurched to God. I continue to maintain a connection to the Pakistan mission field under the leadership of Bishop Andrew focusing our efforts on assisting him

in sustaining his infrastructure, namely his churches, and school. I have begun pursuing a pilot program with Bp. Andrew that we developed together while he was here to promote the growth of Christianity through marriage assistance. He explained the need for women in his country to have a dowery in order to get married. They need to have household possessions to uphold their marital role in the Pakistani culture. This program is still in the planning stages and I will talk more about it as the program evolves before it is officially introduced to the Outreach committee as a potential outreach effort.

Finally and most important, I am committed to aggressively continue the search for an assistant clergyman so we can expand our footprint in the community through more mass services, acolyte training, Anglican studies and member events.

This clergyman must be theologically in line with the Anglican Catholic Communion and my vision for the church. They must desire to be an active part of the parish life. They must be desirous to care for the people of the parish and be a presence. They must desire to be a shepherd, a teacher, and a listener. They must desire to put down roots here and make this their parish home.

I am so grateful for the presence of the strong committed men and women of our parish who continue to labor on with me in building God's church. I am truly proud to be the Pastor for each and every member of SMM.

Let us pray – O Gracious Father, we humbly beseech thee for thy Holy Church; that thou wouldest be pleased to fill it with all truth, in all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, establish it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it. Guide us this New Year into all Truth. Grant us grace to be

responsible with the resources you have entrusted to us and are working in us. Bless us in this New Year, for the sake of Him who died and rose again, and ever liveth to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

SHORT STUDIES

REDISCOVERING THE DAILY OFFICE PART 1

Each of us in our routines follows some sort of rule of life. We make the conscious decision to live in a daily rhythm or follow a structured plan. Aspiring musicians submit themselves to rigorous practice sessions, and professional athletes follow strict diets and exercise regularly. Perhaps you and your spouse set aside an evening each week away from the children and the endless laundry to have a date night and reconnect. Last month many of us decided to take on a New Year's resolution. Chances are most of us won't follow through for all of 2016, but resolving to live differently than we used to is not an unfamiliar decision to any of us.

The difference between our rule of life and our habits is that a rule is in some way **formative**. The purpose of adopting a rule is to grow and strengthen in some way; it cultivates in us something desirable. It is easy to see the effect disciplined practice has on artistic or athletic performance. The same is true spiritually.

The essential and formative activity of the Christian faith is **prayer**. As Christians we are all called to a life of prayer and discipline in mind and body in order to win the race (1 Cor 9:24-27). When we praise God, make a confession, intercede for others, receive Communion, or contemplate God's holiness, we are actively exercising our faith and participating in spiritual formation. C.S. Lewis once described what we all should

desire: "*I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God, it changes me.*"

As Anglicans we have inherited a rich spiritual heritage. We can view our tradition, in part, as the result of an influence of centuries of monasticism and ascetical reformation. Anglican history includes abbots and anchorites, ministers, monks, and martyrs. One tradition that has come down to us is based on the **Rule of St. Benedict**. The Rule describes how to follow a threefold practice of prayer: Holy Communion, the Daily Office, and personal prayer.

What distinguishes the teaching of St. Benedict from ascetics like the Desert Fathers before him is the role of the **Christian community**. According to St. Benedict, the Christian's rule of life should be a **common rule**. The spiritually formative life of prayer should be shared among brothers and sisters in Christ. Individual devotions are always assumed, but corporate and objective prayer and worship are absolutely vital if we are to be members of one Body. The Book of Common Prayer lays out for us a rule of life with collects, rites, feasts, and fasts in order to lead us into deeper prayer as a community.

Rediscovering the need to pray the Daily Office begins with the remembrance that we benefit greatly from keeping a common rule of life. Next time we will look more closely at how the Daily Office fits into the threefold rule of prayer.

Sean Cochran, Aspirant

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, who compiled the Book of Common Prayer (1549), distilled the seven monastic prayer services of his day into two: once in the morning and once in the evening (Daily Office). He simplified Christian practice into a discipline ordinary people can keep.

ORDO CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

**February 10th – Ash Wednesday Services
9am & 7pm**

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 day period of Lent, a season of fasting, reflection and prayer. According to the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus Christ spent 40 days fasting in the desert where he endured temptation by Satan. Lent originated as a mirroring of His fasting 40 days as our preparation for Easter.

It is not meant as a time of false humility or prideful self-sacrifice. It reminds us that our sin separates us from God, who "demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

On Ash Wednesday, our Church marks the beginning of Lent with a special service, Ash Wednesday Service, explaining the season, calling us to repentance, and signifying repentance with ashes marked, as a cross, on your the forehead. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts.

Read Matthew 4:1-11

GUILDS, GROUPS & EVENTS

THINKING ABOUT CHANGING YOUR LIFESTYLE

To a traditional Christian, each Lenten Season is a reflective time. We ask the questions...Who

am I or what have I become? Am I leading a Godly life? Is my lifestyle pleasing to God?

Don't let your busy lifestyle change who you really are. Join us during this Lenten season as we reflect, fast and pray on God's message for us about how we should live as Christians.

Free Lenten Friday Soup Suppers will be held in the Parish Hall at 6:30pm on:

February 19th with a Christian Video Viewing.
February 26th with Evening Prayer
March 4th with Stations of the Cross
March 11th with Evening Prayer
March 18th with Stations of the Cross

HOW DOES THE BIBLE DEFINE PRIDE?



All women are invited to join together to share prayer needs, pray, and study together regarding how we can make progress against one of the things that ruins lives more than any other - the SIN of PRIDE.

With the Lenten season drawing close, this is a good time to look into Biblical and proven ways to gain increased freedom from and victory over our own specific sins.

We look forward to seeing you on the **first Sunday of February from 9:15am to 9:55am** in the Parish Hall.

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

The Men's Group is currently studying selected Parables of Jesus. A new parable is discussed each month so you can come every month or just selected months.

We look forward to seeing you on the **first Sunday of each month from 9:00am to 9:30am** in the Parish Hall followed by Morning Prayer.

ALL MEN'S LUNCHEON

All the men in the church are invited to a **no-host lunch at the Blue Frog Bakery in Orange on February 6th from 12:30am – 2:00pm to kick off the New Year.** Put away your lawn mover, wash the car early and come out for a great sandwich, or a quick cup of coffee and some great conversation. This is a great way to get away from your "to do" list and meet a good bunch of guys. Any questions, talk to Lou Carlson.

EVER WANT TO MAKE A COIL BASKET?

Here is your chance to learn to make an almost "sew-free" coil basket made from cloth. The Craft Guild will be hosting a **Free Demonstration on Coil Basketry, Sunday February 21st at 11:30am in the Parish Hall.**



Please come hear Karen Carlson explain the techniques on this art form. Both men and women are welcome to join in. You are welcome to bring your brown bag lunch. Watch for a flyer on this in the Narthex.

SHROVE TUESDAY: BETTER THAN MARDI GRAS!



Stuff yourself on juicy ham, polish sausages, potatoes, desserts and delicious pancakes. Smother them with whipped cream and fruit or drown them in chocolate syrup. Wow !!

Want to have a little fun? Try a pancake flipping contest or the pancake toss. The games are a riot!

Tuesday, February 9th, 6:30pm until the last pancake is gone. \$6.50 - Adults, \$5.00 - Kids (5 - 18yrs old), Toddlers - Free.

THE NEWS REPORT.....

SMM ALIVE AND WELL

Under the leadership of Fr. Neil, Sr. Warden, Brian Lee officiated the 2015 Annual Meeting. The Parish Hall was packed with members and newcomers who feasted on a great breakfast from the Blue Frog Cafe.

Highlights from the meeting included a strong year-end financial accounting, lively reports from every church group, Fr. Neil's Vision for 2016 (see page 1). What was completely clear is that everyone is engaged in building the Kingdom of God, by helping with church services, working on service projects, or donating goods or money towards our many Outreach Projects.

Please continue to pray for SMM that all things done are to the Glory of God and pleasing in his sight.

OUTREACH RECIPIENTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL



Outreach recipients for next year have been submitted for Fr. Neil's approval.

Mary's Kitchen has again been selected as a recipient within our local community and Fr. Neil endorsed this vote at the Annual Meeting.

The recipient organization within the Anglican Catholic Communion is currently under consideration. Wait for the breaking news in the Narthex.

If you are interested in faith based service work, please contact Violet if you want to get involved for the upcoming year.

CRAFT GUILD IS EVOLVING

The Craft Guild continues to evolve. What once was a knitting group has become a “multi-media” community of talented crafters with the goal of providing items to the needy and creating hand-crafted items that can be sold at New2You sales. All monies received from New2You is donated to our Outreach recipients. This Guild is made up of a group of knitters, “gardeners”, sewers, and “accessory” makers.

Some of the projects include knitted/crocheted desert caps and pocket scarves, coil baskets, gift boxes and potted gardens.

The proposed Craft demonstrations include making a Coil Basket, and a Potted Garden.

Do you want to share your talents? Contact Shirley Wicketts or Robin Morsk.

BROWN BAG LECTURE CONTINUES

Fr. Neil will be presenting **Anglican Worship Service Using the Book of Common Prayer – Part 2 on Sunday, January 31st, 11:45am-1:00pm** in the Parish Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch and learn about the elements of the mass.

This is a great time to bring your questions concerning the origin of our prayers, and why we do what we do.

FOURTH SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sorry no Fourth Sunday brunch during Lent. Watch the Sunday flyers for information about upcoming brunches after Lent.

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

FEBRUARY		
Vestry Meeting	2/3	7:15pm
All Men's Lunch	2/6	12:30 – 2:00pm Blue Frog
Men's Fellowship	2/7	9:00am – 9:30am
Women's Devotional	2/7	9:15am - 9:50am
Shrove Tuesday Feast	2/9	6:30pm – 8:00pm
Ash Wednesday Services	2/10	9:00am & 7:00pm
Men's Group	2/14	11:30am
Women's Guild	2/14	11:30am
Friday Soup Supper/Video & Discussion	2/19	6:30pm
Craft Guild-Coil Basket Demo	2/21	11:30am
Fri Soup Supper/Evening Prayer	2/26	6:30pm
Women's Tea for Living Well	2/27	10:00am
MARCH		
Fri Soup Supper/ Stations of the Cross	3/4	6:30pm
Men's Fellowship	3/6	9:00am - 9:30am
Women's Devotional	3/6	9:15am – 9:50am
Vestry Meeting	3/9	7:15pm
Fri Soup Supper/ Evening Prayer	3/11	6:30pm
Men's Group	3/13	11:30am
Women's Guild	3/13	11:30am
Fish Grill/Stations of the Cross	3/18	6:30pm
Craft Guild- Knitting	3/20	11:30am
Palm Sunday – Procession. & Passion Play)	3/20	10:00am
Maundy Thursday	3/24	7:00pm
Good Friday Mass(Blended Mass	3/25	12 Noon
Good Friday – Stations of the Cross	3/25	7:00pm
Easter Service – Solemn High Mass	3/27	10:00am
Easter- Children's Egg Hunt	3/27	8am & 10am masses