

THE MAGDALENE



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

THE COMMON CUP

One unique aspect of a historical and liturgical Church is the use of a common cup at Holy Communion. There are a number of good and Biblical reasons why we use one cup rather than many at communion.

First, only singular nouns, verbs and pronouns are used when referring to the cup in the Lord's Supper in the Bible. I will list two here and footnote the rest. "And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you...'" (Matthew 26:27, ESV) "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26, ESV)¹ Nowhere is "cups" ever said in relation to the Lord's Supper. Nowhere is there reference to many individual cups.

Second, in Luke 22:17 Jesus says, "And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, 'Take *this*, and divide *it* among yourselves.'" Dividing the cup means that everyone sitting around the table would have taken the one cup, passed it around and drank from it.

The Passover is somewhat complex, in that there were likely three distinct meals. First, there is the Passover, then an ordinary supper meal, more like a meal we are used to, and

finally there was the instituting of the Lord's Supper. This came after the ordinary preceding meal. Individual cups would have been used at the meals in an ordinary fashion, but Jesus did not tell them all to pick up their respective cups. He took "the cup", one common cup, blessed it and gave it to His Disciples. "Drink of it, all of you." (Mt. 26:27).

Third, the use of a common cup was commanded by Jesus. All Christians agree (I hope) that Jesus' words at the Last Supper were commands for us to follow. He said, "Take this," "divide it," "Drink this, all of you." Paul also alludes to this in 1 Cor. 11:25. He is recounting the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, "Do this as often as you drink of it in remembrance of me." Paul said he received this command from the Lord and that he was passing this command along to us. (1 Cor. 11:25) The altering of this command is the result of man's opinions and man's will. Paul warns against this in Colossians 2:8, "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ." (ESV)

**St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
205 So. Glassell Street
Old Town Orange, CA 92866
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Rev. Fr. Neil Edlin, Rector**

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

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

¹ Mk 14:23, Lk 22:17, Lk 22:20, 1 Cor. 10:16, 1 Cor. 11:25, 27, 28.

Some might argue that this was a cultural thing and not applicable to today, yet no cultural argument can be made here. Multiple cups were used at certain meals as we do today. Jesus took a single cup and passed it to His Disciples to all drink from. In fact, there is significance in using a single cup. All drink from one cup, the wine...all share in the one Lord Jesus Christ. The very word “communion” speaks to this. Jesus said, “Luke 22:20. ...and likewise the cup after they had eaten, [Jesus said] “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. One covenant, one Lord, one cup. Many little cups take away from the oneness of the Lord’s intent.

Acquiring Truth

“What does it mean in the Bible when it calls us to be *perfect*?”

The Scripture does call us to be “perfect” in multiple places. God tells Abraham in Gen. 17:1, “I am the Almighty God; walk before me and be thou perfect [*tamim*].” Likewise, in Matt. 5:48 Jesus says, “Therefore you shall be perfect [*teleios*], just as your Father in heaven is perfect [*teleios*].”

The biblical use and meaning of the word “perfect” might be slightly different than we assume. The Hebrew word *tamim* and the Greek word *teleios* have the meaning of complete, whole, mature, or upright. As Leupold explains, perfect does not suggest “complete moral perfection,” but has the idea that “no vital feature of a godly life is absent.”² Thus while not totally sinless, Noah could be described as “a just man and perfect [*tamim*] in his generations”

² H. C. Leupold, *Exposition of Genesis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1942), 514.

(Gen. 6:9), Job likewise “perfect [*tamim*] and upright” (Job 1:1), and Paul says he speaks “wisdom among them that are perfect [*teleios*” (1 Cor. 2:6).

We can get this sense of the word not only from lexicons and dictionaries, but also from expressions of the same idea with similar words, as seen in Col. 4:12 “perfect and complete in all the will of God,” or in James 1:4 “perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” We can also get the sense from contrasts as in 1 Cor. 14:12, “Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature [*teleios*].

In summary, the Bible does call us to be perfect, to be complete, whole, mature, and upright. It gives us examples to follow in Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Job, David, as well as many others who aren’t explicitly stated as being “perfect.” And, it encourages us through statements such as Paul’s in Col. 4:12 where Epaphras was “always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.” So, instead of seeing perfection passages as impossible, we can read them as encouragements to greater growth and spiritual maturity.

CURRENT EVENTS

4TH SUNDAY BRUNCH AT PANINI KABOB GRILL

Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 24th to share in brunch and fellowship at Panini Kabob Grill at the Main Place Mall in Orange. The Mediterranean food there is excellent.

You must sign up on the reservation sheet to sit with the group. If you do not, the restaurant will

place you on the “wait” list for the next open table.

ALL WOMEN CAN PARTICIPATE IN OUR COUNTRY KITCHEN

On Sunday, November 17th before 10:00am mass and after, the Guild will be holding their first ever Country Kitchen Tasting and Sale.

The women will be making their special recipes of wonderful home-made candy, preserves, butters, jams, and anything that can be put into a canning jar to taste and sell.

If you have a special recipe and would like to participate in this event, please contact Sharon Edlin. All proceeds will go to our Outreach Program.

THANKGIVING DAY MASS

Fr. Neil will hold a 9:00am Mass on Thanksgiving Day to celebrate the bountiful gifts that our Lord has given us. Please bring a food item that you will serve for Thanksgiving such as dinner rolls or apple butter that you bought at the Country Kitchen sale to be blessed.

We will be also collecting new individual size: hand sanitizer, baby wipes and lip balm for our active military troops. These items will be distributed through the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society at Camp Pendleton.



WHY GET INVOLVED IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES?

So many times, questions arise like; “How did all this work get done?”, “How much does the

church contribute to that program” or “Why do we have such a busy event calendar. Can’t we just let this one go?”

All of these types of questions can be bundled into a single question, “Why do we volunteer?”

As Christians we are called not to focus on ourselves. Jesus tells us, **“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”** **“And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”** **“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”** **Matthew 6:25-27 & 33”**

So if we are to **seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness**, how are we to live? One of the most important expressions of faith and love in a church is that of “spiritual volunteerism”. Every act of devoted action to give to the less fortunate, the needy, the noble or the victim is an expression of righteousness. Every act of devoted action to preserve Christ’s church is an expression of righteousness.

Is it time to pause and ask yourself, “What action am I willing to take or what activity am I willing to support to preserve Christ’s church?”

JOIN THE CARE GUILD



The church is compiling a list of individuals interested in calling or visiting church members who are hospitalized, or home bound on a permanent regular basis. If you are interested in this program, please contact Sharon Edlin with the days and times you may be available.

NEWS

THE LAST BROWN BAG LUNCHEON PROGRAM



Our special thanks to everyone who supported our Brown Bag lunches this past summer. We raised more than \$400 from those that bought lunches.

PACK-A-SACK FOR MARY'S KITCHEN

Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in the September Pack-A-Sack. Our donations are very well received by all at Mary's Kitchen.

The parish has supported Gloria Suess, Mary's Kitchen President for many years but it is time to move on. Mary's Kitchen is currently being supported by some of the largest churches in Orange and is very well taken care of at this point. Fr. Neil has asked Violet Younis, the church's Outreach Program Coordinator and the Women's Guild to explore other less fortunate or start-up organizations in the local area. Please watch for announcements in the lobby as to our progress.

MULTI-RESIDENCE GARAGE SALE

The Guild women will be selling the New2You items stored at the church on **Saturday, October 5th**. We are NOT accepting donations at this time so please do not bring anything to the church. If you would like to help, please sign up in the lobby or talk to Elizabeth.

PRAYERS FOR OUR STUDENTS

Please pray for our children and young adults as they begin a new semester of school that they may be rightly guided in God's sight.



Lord, please grant the blessings of your sevenfold Gifts in all who are eager to learn through the Holy Spirit who is the Love of the Father and the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

OUR CRITICS LOVE "DOWNTON ABBEY"

Long time member and prior reporter for the OC Register, Barbara Taylor says "I just loved it! I think there might even be a sequel to this movie." Fr. Neil says, "It's definitely up to British standards. I think we will see it again."

SAVE THE DATE

CRAFT GUILD SALE

The Craft Guild will be selling some of their most beautiful hand-made items on random Sundays in December. Please watch for flyers in the lobby.

THE KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBO

Next meeting will be Sunday, October 13th after the second service. Bring a cigar to smoke and one to trade. The topic for discussion will be "nothing important". Don't forget your lighter.

