

The Magdalene



From the Desk of Fr. Neil...

Can Religion Be Divorced From Governing and Politics?

This is a question I am asked from time to time. We are all familiar – and in my case – a little tired of – the constant debating over how much “religion” should be in politics. What exactly does this mean anyway? Can a religious person...a *serious* religious person take even a breath without an awareness of his religion, or of his faith, or of God? This really isn't even a debate. Actually it is the anti-religious (better understood as the anti-Christians) attempting to silence Christians who are obvious in the way they make decisions and about what guides them in their decisions. This is, I believe, a coordinated attack on Christ, Christianity and Christians in particular and nothing else.

So the question really isn't *Can religion be divorced from governing or politics*, but, *Can a Christian live in such a way that ANY of his decisions or actions of thought, word or deed be made without the guidance of what is revealed to Him by God in Scripture through the power of the Holy Spirit?* And of course the answer is no. The Christian, even the Christian politician, is bound by the Word of God. The Christian is bound by the Creed he confesses. The Christian is bound by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Now I do not mean to imply that the Christian will do all of these things perfectly, completely, or even frequently.

The message of the Gospel is and always will be: We are saved by grace, through faith. This is not our own doing. It is the gift of God and not a result of works, so that no one may boast. We are counted righteous before God on account of our faith uniting us to Christ Jesus. We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Nevertheless, as Christians, we are to live lives that reflect our belief system. We are to live, for example, by these words from St. Paul, writing in the 12th chapter of his letter to the Romans. “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2 ESV)

In the political sphere, as well as any other sphere, the Christian is to be guided by the Spirit of Christ. He is to have his mind

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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:
9am

Office Visitation Hours:
2pm – 4pm Monday - Friday

transformed and renewed by the words of Scripture. And he is to then make his decisions based on those principles. We should also heed the words of St. Paul in his 1st letter to the Corinthians. “For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh....We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience...” (2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ESV) This is a very strong statement, but I would point you, in particular, to where he says we are to “take every thought captive to obey Christ...” Christ speaks to us through His Word, which is the Bible. Therefore, the Bible is Christ speaking to us.

Sadly we are in an age that sees secular discourse as “neutral” and anything religious (and Christian in particular) as some sort of outside force trying to make people do things they don't want to, or impose certain standards or morals which people don't want a part of.

But all of this is seeing the entire picture incorrectly. God created all things and all men. If God is the creator of all things, including us, then we have no choice, if we are to view things correctly, but to see things God's way. Moreover, the Bible tells us that our minds, though they know God, suppress Him and His truth in unrighteousness. In other words, we are all born knowing God, but since we are fallen creatures, and sinful, we hate what God requires of us. It is not until the Holy Spirit moves on us and changes us that we begin to see things correctly, turn from our sinfulness and rebellion and strive to love and serve God.

Once we have been called out of darkness and we are brought into the light, we learn

to love the light, and our minds learn to adjust our thoughts and actions in such a way that we want more and more to do the will of God. We want to take every thought captive. We want to have the mind of Christ.

So to the politician in particular, who wants to govern as a Christian, has an obligation to govern, being guided by what he believes. If the issue is abortion, he is to – with his mind transformed and captive to Christ – do all that he can with the power invested in him, to eliminate such a practice. If the issue is any kind of legislation that is in direct contradiction to the Word of God, he is obligated to oppose it.

I have resisted addressing politicians in particular in this article, because politicians are sinners saved by grace just the same as any other Christian. The decisions anyone makes, politician or not, should be guided by Christian truth. The politician has certain difficulties those of us who are not in politics don't have. They have to make decisions for many more people than just themselves. They have a level of scrutiny before others that we don't. However, the Christian is called to not be ashamed of the Gospel...to not be ashamed to confess Christ crucified, and to manfully fight under His banner as our Baptismal Rite teaches. Christ does not make distinctions among people, so neither should we make distinctions when making decisions. All of our decisions are to be guided by our Christian faith.

Politics cannot be divorced from religion, because religion, or actually Christianity is the standard and the measure of all things....and any other point of view is error and is divorced from the will of God.

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PARISH NEWS

ANGLICAN LECTURE SERIES

Our Men's Christian Fellowship is beginning a series of lectures in June. All lectures will be preceded by a brown bag lunch from 11:30 until 12 in the parish hall. The lectures will begin at noon. There is no charge - just bring your lunch and join in an afternoon of information and discussion.

On June 1st, Russ Smith will speak on the topic: "A Defense of Anglican Tradition and Worship from Scripture."

On June 29th, Father Edlin will lead a one day Anglican Enquirer's Class.

On July 6th, Hillary McMahon will speak on Archbishop Thomas Cranmer.

On August 3rd, Andrew Mauzey will speak about Anglican Church Music.

Mark your calendar now and plan on joining us for a time of fellowship and a chance to increase your knowledge of the Anglican Church and its traditions.

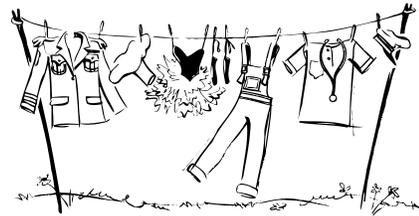
PENTECOST

Please join us on **Sunday, June 8th** at 8:00 and 10:00am for our celebration of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon Christ's disciples allowing them to speak in many languages, and bring new followers to Jesus. The service is also known as Whitsunday because of the many Christians who wore white to church and received the Sacrament of Baptism. Pentecost is sometimes called the "Birthday of the Church"

NEW2YOU SALE

St. Martha's Guild has announced their next NEW2YOU sale. They are planning the event for **June 28th** from 8am until noon.

Volunteers are needed to help sort merchandise before the sale. More volunteers are needed the day of the sale to help put everything out, collect the money, and to help with clean-up.



Please let Elizabeth Sneddon know if you will be able to help. Remember, these Guild sponsored sales are how we raise money to be used as part of our outreach giving. How will you help?

BREEZEWAY BRUNCH

On **Sunday, June 22nd,** St. Martha's Guild will be holding a "Breezeway Brunch" after the 10:00am Mass. Join us for this "stay at home" version of our ever-popular Fourth Sunday Brunch.



The menu has not been announced, but if history is any indication, it will be **DELICIOUS**. The cost of the meal will be \$6.50.

Mark your calendars and plan on attending this afternoon of food and

fellowship.

SUPPER CLUB

Each month, a parishioner is invited to plan a “night out on the town” for their fellow churchgoers. This is a great way to get to know your church family in a casual atmosphere.

*You're
Invited*

The Supper Club host or hostess plans an excursion to a restaurant or an evening in their own home. You then set out a sign-up sheet in the narthex and make reservations if needed. Remember to bring your wallet because the evenings are “Dutch Treat.”

Gingi Borg is the new coordinator of our Supper Club. If you have any questions or want help in planning an outing, please give her a call.

Thank you to Barbara Taylor for all she did in coordinating our previous Supper Club event at the Green Parrot.

Our next outing will be on Tuesday, June 10th will be a Weenie Roast at the Beach. Watch for details in next month's Magdalene

Come and bring your friends and family and enjoy a night out on the town!

DIocese OF THE HOLY TRINITY ANNUAL SYNOD



During our Annual Meeting, delegates were chosen to represent St. Mary Magdalene during our annual Diocesan Synod. The Diocesan Synod is scheduled for **June 5th & 6th** at St. Matthew's Church.

PATRONAL BBQ

Get out your calendars and circle **Sunday, July 20th** in red. This will be the date of our annual Patronal BBQ Celebration.



Each year we gather together on or near the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene to have a wonderful afternoon of food, fellowship and fun.

More details about the BBQ will be included in the July issue of the Magdalene. For now, be sure to circle the date and plan on attending.

You don't want to miss the FUN!

WOMEN'S DEVOTIONAL

The Church of Saint Mary Magdalene has formed a women's prayer group. The women meet on the first Sunday of the month for a time of inspiration and prayer. Karen Carlson is leading the devotionals. If you have any questions, please ask Karen or Father.



The devotional is held upstairs in the nursery on the first Sunday of each month from 9:15 – 9:50am.

**Next Women's Devotional
June 1st**

**Father's Day
June 15th**



**ALL MEN'S
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**



Join the men of St. Mary Magdalene Parish for a time of conversation in the narthex.

**Next Meeting
June 8th**

BISHOP'S VISIT

On **Sunday, May 4th**, The Right Reverend Stephen Scarlett visited St. Mary Magdalene. Bishop Scarlett celebrated the Mass, while Father Edlin served as Deacon. Michael O'Donoghue and Richard Hickey were acolytes. During the service, Cecily Gates and Michael O'Donoghue were received into the Anglican Catholic Church.

A potluck reception followed the Mass to welcome Bishop Scarlett to our parish. Thank you to all who brought food to share and to those who helped set-up and clean-up. You helped make the day a success.



MEN'S CHILI COOKOFF

Our 9th annual Men's Chili Cook-off was held on **Sunday, May 25th**. As expected the competition was fierce. The men dazzled us all with their masterpieces. Winners were judged for "Best Chili" and "Most Unique Chili".



The winners were: Richard Hickey for Best Chili Overall, and Agent Dunstone for Most Original. Congratulations men!

VESTRY MEETING

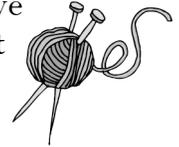
Vestry meetings are open to the congregation and are usually held at 7:15pm the second Wednesday night of the month.



**Next Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, June 11th**

CRAFT GUILD

Our Krafty Knitters group has expanded to include craft projects. They have changed their name to the Craft Guild, but continue to work on projects to help the community.



The knitters are making scarves for Operation Gratitude. Operation Gratitude is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization that annually sends 100,000 care packages filled with snacks, entertainment items and personal letters of appreciation addressed to individually named U.S. Service Members and their children who are left behind, Veterans, First Responders, Wounded Warriors and their Care Givers.

Our crafters are making gnomes and other items to sell at the next Craft Faire. And, they are developing a project for Mary's Kitchen which involves making sleeping mats for the homeless.

Everyone, from experienced knitters to newcomers, are welcome. Come and join us for an afternoon of great fun and lots of conversation. If you have any questions, please give Robin Morsk a call.

**Next Craft Guild
June 15th**

BIBLE STUDY & EVENING PRAYER

We will be continuing with our study of the Book of Acts. We have just started the book, so don't worry, you haven't missed much.



The Bible Study meets in the Parish Hall on Wednesdays from 6:30pm – 8:00pm except the 2nd Wednesday which is Vestry Meeting. EVENING PRAYER begins at 8:00.

WEDNESDAY MASS & HEALING SERVICE

Father Neil celebrates a Mass and Healing Service each week on Wednesday morning at 9:00am. This is a wonderful way to add a mid-week Mass to your schedule.

The Healing Service takes place at the end of the Mass, with those wanting to participate approaching the altar rail for the Anointing of the Sick.



FOURTH SUNDAY BRUNCH

Every Fourth Sunday, our church family has brunch together at 11:45am. This is a great way to get to know other church members. Everyone always has a wonderful time visiting with each other and of course partaking of the delicious food!



Join us on June 22nd for a brunch in the Breezeway

Upcoming Events

July 6th

Anglican Lecture Series – Arch Bishop Thomas Cranmer's life and work – Hilary McMahon

July 20th

Patronal BBQ

August 3rd

Anglican Lecture Series – Bach to Basics – Traditional Music in Contemporary America – Andrew Mauzey



COMMUNITY GROUPS

The following community groups meet regularly at St. Mary Magdalene.

Al-Anon

Monday evenings at 7:30pm
Tuesday evenings at 5:30pm
Saturday evenings at 7:00pm

CHADD

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Third Monday evening at 7:30pm



ST. MARTHA'S WOMEN'S GUILD

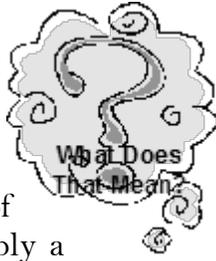
St. Martha's Women's Guild meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month after the 10:00am Mass. All women of the parish are members and are encouraged to attend.

**Next Guild Meeting
June 8th**



RITUAL

Our Word for the Month, taken once again from the Anglican Teaching Leaflets *this* month, is **Ritual**. Anglicanism provides a ritualistic form of worship. Ritual means simply a prescribed or customary order of worship. In Anglican churches, these prescribed forms are found in the historic Book of Common Prayer.



Ritual has the advantage of leaving nothing to chance. Nor is anything left to what might be the personal whim, bad taste, or bad judgment of the officiating minister. The rites prescribed include everything required for complete worship in an orderly, reverent and beautiful manner.

The Book of Common Prayer is universally acclaimed for the dignity, reverence and classic beauty of its forms and language. It allows for few surprises. The worshiper knows what the service will be like in any traditional Anglican church. One might say that, in modern terms, this classic ritual provides the "inertial guidance system" for Christian worship!

On the other hand, ritual does pose a danger for officiant and worshipper alike. That is the danger that familiarity and frequent use may turn ritual into rote, sheer mechanical, memorized, unthinking, automatic repetition. This can lead to boredom and inattention and even irreverence.

With awareness of this danger, it can be avoided and turned into a dividend. The worshipper can convert each Eucharist into a search for a word or a phrase or a prayer which has never really impressed itself on

his conscience before, and can then ponder its freshly-discovered meaning and beauty. Thus each service can be a fresh adventure, a fresh plumbing of new depths, the discovery of new riches in familiar old words and phrases, the attuning of the ear and the spirit to new shades of beauty and worship.

Anglicans have a form of worship developed and prescribed by the experience of the Church of Christian worshippers through many centuries. Much of it goes back to the earliest Christian worship, and even into the Old Testament and pre-Christian Jewish worship. Very little of Anglican worship has less than four centuries of Christian use behind it.

Anglican ritual, then, ensures that we worship in the same manner, often even in the same words, as Christians throughout Church history. By its use of some elements of ancient Jewish worship, Anglican ritual also underlines the fact that we are the new Israel, sprung out of the Old Israel. Realization of these facts can make worship a deeper more significant, more reverent experience. It can make worship a thrilling experience as we feel ourselves indissolubly linked with the worship of the millions who have gone before us in adoration of Jehovah and the most blessed Trinity.

1 Father

1 Son

+ 1 Holy Spirit

= 1 GOD

DATES TO REMEMBER

COFFEE HOUR TREATS

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- Mass & Healing Service –
9:00am Wednesdays
- Bible Study –
6:30pm Wednesdays
- 1 – Anglican Lecture Series - 11:30
 - 1 – Women’s Devotional – 9:15am
 - 5 & 6 – Diocesan Synod
 - 8 – Pentecost
 - 8 – St. Martha’s Guild/Men’s Group
 - 10 – Supper Club
 - 11– Vestry Meeting – 7:15pm
 - 15– Craft Guild
 - 15 – Father’s Day
 - 22 – Fourth Sunday Breezeway Brunch
 - 28 – NEW2YOU
 - 29 – Anglican Enquirer’s Class - 11:30

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- Mass & Healing Service –
9:00am Wednesdays
- Bible Study –
6:30pm Wednesdays
- 6 – Anglican Lecture Series - 11:30
 - 6 – Women’s Devotional – 9:15am
 - 8 – Supper Club
 - 9 – Vestry Meeting – 7:15pm
 - 20 - PATRONAL BBQ**

- June 1 - Wolf
8 - Younis
15 - Bell
22 - Guild
29 - Borg
- July 6 - Burgess
13 - Carlson
20 - Patronal BBQ
27 - St. Martha’s Guild



Please plan on setting out treats at 8:30am and cleaning up after the 11:15 social time. Be sure to switch with someone else if you are unable to take your Sunday. **Don’t forget you’re in charge of cleanup as well as treats!**

ALTAR FLOWERS / SANCTUARY LIGHT

	Altar Flowers	Sanctuary Light
June 1	Nemchik	Nemchik
8		
15	Pence, J / Rogers	Rogers
22	Rosenkranz	
29	Tucker, P	Osborn

If you are interested in “giving” one of these for a future Sunday, please sign up in the Flower and Candle binder in the narthex of the church.



Our suggested donation is \$30 for flowers & \$12 for the light, but feel free to give what you are able. Mark flowers / candles on your check and place it in the offering basket during Mass.

**Visitors are
always welcome.
Join us!**

