



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY November 5 & BEYOND

“Think of Halloween in the context of All Saints’ Day”



Halloween has become one of the great American secular festivals - almost on a par with Thanksgiving, which it quickly gives way to. Very few people know that it is associated with the Christian festival of All Saints’ Day, let alone that the word, Halloween, translates as All Saints’ Eve.

All Hallows is the old English word for All Saints, as witnessed by churches having that dedication. The most famous is All Hallows by the Tower, adjacent to the Tower of London. The word, Halloween, indicates that its origins go back to the English middle ages, from where many of our church customs and traditions come from. I will not go into how Halloween customs evolved - but rather think of it in the context of All Saints’ Day.

All Saints’ Day is, of course, November 1st. It is immediately followed by All Souls’ Day on November 2nd. Episcopalians are familiar with the traditional Requiem Mass celebrated on All Souls Day for all the faithful departed. It is when we submit names of our departed loved ones to be remembered at Mass. The reading of the names is a solemn (if long) moment of intercession in a Eucharist offered especially for the departed in a personal way.

In recent years we have become familiar with the Mexican Day of the Dead associated with All Souls Day. This is when people go to the graves of their loved

ones with flowers and candles to remember them. Both Halloween and the Day of the Dead have become significant observances in San Diego. How can we relate them to our church celebrations and do they have anything to teach us?

Firstly, at the heart of all this is the theme of prayer. For when we remember our departed loved ones we are really offering a prayer for them. When we light candles it is an offering of prayer that cannot be expressed in words.

All Saints day is the reverse. We are not just remembering the saints, we are honoring them. And we do not pray for them - for they are in Heaven. No, in this case we ask them to pray for us.

We are blessed to have our church in San Diego dedicated under the patronage of All Saints'. It allows us to truly celebrate this day as our own special feast. The readings and hymns draw us to Heaven where Blessed Mary and all the saints worship at the throne of grace and intercede especially for us. As Scripture says: Our homeland is in Heaven. (Philippians 3:20) And as another scripture says: Here we have no continuing city (Hebrews 13:14), but seek one to come.

I look forward to returning to All Saints on Sunday November 5th and celebrating our Patronal Festival with great joy.

Fr. Tony Noble, Rector Emeritus

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: Celebrating All Saints' Day

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel) Temporarily Cancelled

9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel) Temporarily Cancelled

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p

Men's Group (Parish Hall)