



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY April 30 & BEYOND

God-given Love



Growing up I loved playing basketball, and played with and against a surprising number of high school and college All-Americans, and even NBA players, as well as guys who were professional athletes in other sports. While that was fun and motivated me to practice harder, it also revealed the reality that those guys had God-given gifts and qualities that no amount of practice was

going to give me. Understanding our own unique combination of gifts, experience, strengths, and limitations is an essential human skill, and in the Easter season we see why it's just as important to recognize where they've come from.

When Jesus was raised from the dead, hearts were stirred and minds were opened to things that previously were impossible, and in the Easter season we see the effects of this played out in the readings from the Acts of the Apostles. This Sunday we're given a picture from the earliest life of the Church; signs and wonders were being done by the apostles, all the disciples were worshiping together and sharing whatever they had with anyone in need. Not surprisingly, the community around them was being transformed by their joyful love and charity, with new people coming to the faith every day.

The beauty of that can inspire us, but, at the same time, anyone who's tried to cultivate the same kind of joyful love and radical charity finds out very quickly that it doesn't happen easily. Does that mean that these first disciples were operating on a level that just isn't available to all of us? Of course not! Jesus calls all of us to love God and our neighbor as He has loved us, and makes that possible by living His divine life in us. Because we're called to a God-given love, we don't have to resign

ourselves to a mediocre relationship with Him or settle for shadows of the kind of freedom and joy we see in scripture and the lives of the saints

What's unique, then, is the way that's expressed in our lives, and we grow in that God-given love by being willing to offer it wherever we are. For example, instead of giving up all your possessions, you could choose to live more simply by doing without something non-essential or buying a cheaper version of something that is, and then helping the poor with the money you save. Doing things like that makes us more available to the God-given love we're made for and opens our lives to the inspiring beauty that invites the world around us to share it.

Father McQueen

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
 9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
 10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

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

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, 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)

THURSDAY 6:30p Evening Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)
 9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY 11:00a Rosary in St. Mary's Chapel
 11:30a MASS in St. Mary's Chapel
 Noon Potluck Luncheon in the Parish Hall