



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY July 2 & BEYOND

## Not Wanting To Lose



Right now you can make a pretty good argument that Serena Williams is the greatest women's tennis player of all time, and recently I heard her say something that reveals a big reason for that. In talking about her love of the game, Serena said that she definitely has days that she wakes up not wanting to train, but she's *never* woken up

wanting to lose. When you combine that kind of drive and singleness of purpose with the gifts she has, it produces something special, and that's exactly how we should understand St. Paul telling us that we must think of ourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

St. Paul is using life-and-death language to describe the Christian life, and so I think it might be helpful to seriously consider whether you're living it with the same intensity that Serena brings to playing tennis. Or do you have more of a rec league, we're-all-winners-here mindset? That's an important question because "recreation" is something you do as long as it's pleasant and you can find the time. It's precisely *not* something you do with all of your heart, soul, strength, and mind, which is supposed to be the character of our relationship with God.

Each of us is like that enormously talented player; uniquely gifted to impact salvation history if we die to sin and live for God. Every athlete enjoys playing the game, but to fulfill their potential they also have to throw themselves into things like eating right, getting enough sleep, training to get into peak physical condition, and relentlessly hammering away at weaknesses. In the same way, we all have aspects of Christian discipleship that we enjoy, whether it's prayer, worship, serving others, etc. To be the great saints that God wants us to be, though, we have to do all the other things that don't come as naturally, but free us for loving God and our neighbor at the highest possible level.

Are we fasting, praying, tithing? Do we read the Bible, study the faith? Are we examining our consciences on a regular basis, striving to get better with the things that cause us to struggle? If we're not living with that kind of all-or-nothing intensity, we're missing out on what God has created us for. Whenever you find yourself struggling with those things, remember that St. Paul tells the Corinthians to run the race like they want to win it (see 1 Corinthians 9:24-27), and then ask yourself if you want to lose.

Father McQueen

### CALENDAR

SUNDAY:           8:00a Low Mass (Church)  
                      10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)  
                          —*The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> 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:        Independence Day — *Parish Office Closed*

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)