



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

*"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."*

**Our Vision:** *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

## THIS SUNDAY January 24 & BEYOND

### A Generous Response to God's Call



In his first letter to the Corinthians, a document that most scholars unmistakably ascribe to St. Paul, the Apostle talks about the converts' response to God's call.

A great difference between other religions and both Judaism and Christianity is the fact that most religions make emphasis in the quest of the divine by human beings. The divinity remains in inaccessible realms, waiting for humans to search for the divine and ascend to higher dimensions through their own efforts.

Though both Judaism and Christianity recognize that God is beyond all human understanding, there is an initiative by God to call His people to covenants, to offer them redemption from their trespasses. This is like a downward movement from God

to humanity, His revelation or epiphany. In the Old Testament this is especially apparent in God's call to Abraham, to Moses, to Samuel and the rest of the prophets.

This downward movement of the divinity reaches its climax in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, true man, and true God. This is God's self-emptying to reveal Himself to humankind in human flesh. His incarnation is the perfect epiphany, the perfect manifestation of God's selfless love in the space-time continuum of human history, as Jesus' Way of Love for all.

As part of God's salvific plan for humankind and the restoration of the whole of creation, Jesus calls others to follow Him in this mission, so that it can be taken to the ends of the earth until the ends of time. Unlike what was customary in Judaism, where those who wanted to become a teacher's disciples had to work hard towards being admitted as such, it is Jesus who calls simple fishermen to follow Him so that, as he states, they can become "fishers of men". We can only imagine how enthralled these disciples must have felt to have been called by a teacher who did not even question their preparation or humble origins, but simply invited them to follow Him. Such a generous call could not but invite a generous response.

St. Paul, the great Apostle of the Gentiles, followed in Jesus' footsteps in inviting others to follow our Savior's path of redemptive love. As Paul clearly states, there is no precondition to follow Jesus and no one must change their social condition to become a follower. The only condition that Christ's generous call requires is to follow His commandments, and that translates into loving God with our whole being, and loving others as we love ourselves.

We have been bought out of the slavery of sin and death by a high price, Jesus' self-giving of Himself on the cross, as Paul clearly points out. So let our generous response be our commitment to spreading the Good News of our regained freedom in our words and deeds.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 3:21-4:2 Psalm 130 1 Corinthians 7:17-23 Mark 1:14-20

## CALENDAR

Note: From this Sunday and going forward we will be able to have a Zoom meeting for our Sunday Mass whether it is held in the courtyard or the church. If the service is held in the church because of inclement weather only the rector, acolyte, lector, organist and solo quartet may be present. **The service time has been moved to 10am for a warmer environment in the courtyard each Sunday.**

**SUNDAY** The Third Sunday after Epiphany  
10:00am Mass (See note above)  
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)  
Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**TUESDAY** Noon Mass in All Saints' courtyard

**THURSDAY** 5:00pm The Study of the Gospel of Mark with Vicki Garvey  
Join Zoom meetings from our web site with Vicki Garvey and afterwards with Fr. Carlos and All Saints' participants

**SUNDAY** The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
10:00am Mass (See note above)  
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)  
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