



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 31 & BEYOND

Knowing or Loving?



In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul the Apostle addresses the problem of eating or not eating the food offered to idols. He is aware that for some converts who are really convinced

of the futility of idols, eating, or not eating food offered to them does not make any difference. But he is also aware that not all new converts have such a strong conviction. As he states it, their conscience may still be weak, and seeing others do this may encourage them to eat this food as if it were really a way of worshiping idols. Thinking that because they have the real "knowledge" they can do what they want, those who do not take the weak into account are really destroying those for whom Christ has died. They may have the "knowledge", but they certainly lack the love.

As Paul puts it, "knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by Him."

All earthly knowledge is incomplete, as science has proved by having to change its “truths” in the course of time. No one can claim to know everything. People who have common sense will always acknowledge the incompleteness of their knowledge. Only God’s love, which is unconditional and all-encompassing, can be equated to the real knowledge, the one that “comes from above”.

The Hebrew language uses the same verb for “knowing” and “having sexual intercourse with”. That is why some translators who want to keep the flavor of the original use of the verb *know* in this sense, as when Mary says to Gabriel after the archangel announces that she would conceive in her womb, “How shall this be seeing I know not a man?” There is great wisdom in this. Only when people have close contact and can put themselves in the others’ shoes, experience what they experience, feel what they feel, can they say they really know a person. This knowledge implies love for that person. It is like a shadow of God’s way of knowing, which is based on love.

This is the kind of knowledge that enabled Jesus to have the authority to push the forces of evil back and make abundant life manifest itself in his healing acts. It was not a mere knowledge of natural or supernatural forces, as some would like to imply. It was the powerful manifestation of the force of love that restores the harmony of all that the person is, as God’s image on earth. His teachings were based on the law of love. His deeds were always prompted by this love. And though he was probably as well versed in Scriptures as the scribes of his time, people noticed the difference. They realized that He said and did things based on a different authority, the knowledge that comes from above, which is God’s all-knowledgeable love.

If we want to follow in Jesus’ steps, and continue the teachings of the apostles, like St. Paul, we will do well to consider that knowledge is good and convenient, i.e. knowledge of the laws of nature, of the different sciences, languages, etc. But it is also essential to realize that this kind of knowledge is always limited, and that by itself it will not make God’s kingdom come. The spread of a more unconditional kind of love that imitates Christ’s love for all is what will make this world a better place. Let us strive for its growth in our own lives and the lives of those we can influence by our loving words and deeds. Then real “knowledge from above” will become manifest in our lives.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1b-13 Mark 1:21-28

CALENDAR

Note: From this Sunday and going forward we will 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 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
10:00am Mass (See note above)
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at 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

SATURDAY The Societies of Mary Day of Devotion
11:00am The Rosary All Saints' courtyard
11:30am Mass, celebrant Fr. Carlos Expósito, All Saints' courtyard

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