



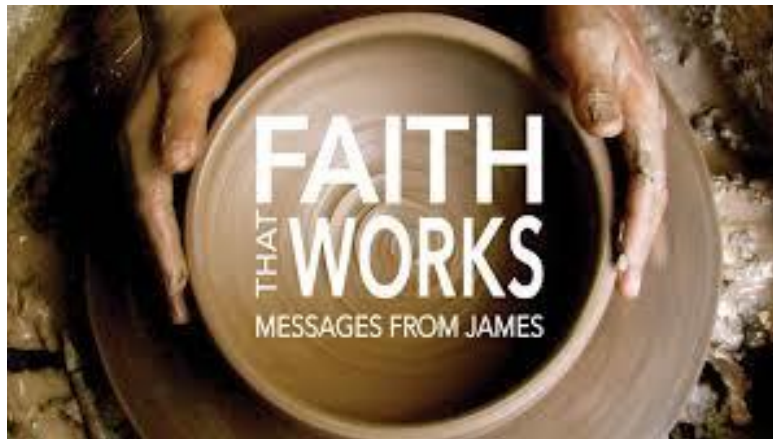
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"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 — September 19 & Beyond

Faithful to Our True Self



In his letter, James the Apostle keeps on warning his readers about the greatest dangers that can deviate them from the true path of abundant life and eternal salvation.

In Chapters 3 and 4 he contrasts the true wisdom coming from above with the worldly wisdom that leads people to all sorts of disorders and wickedness. He depicts the former as “pure, peaceable, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.”

When referring to the latter, however, he describes it as the source of envy and selfish ambition, and the cause of the conflicts and disputes that give rise even to murders and wars.

James makes clear that the reason why we do not obtain what we ask God for is simply because we ask the wrong things. We covet others' possessions and only want to satisfy our selfish pleasures.

When the worldly knowledge we gain is used only hedonistically, i.e., for the sole satisfaction of self-centered pleasures and interests, our lives stray away from the true source of life—our Creator—and our spirits languish and are stifled by our unfaithfulness to the true purpose of our lives: to bring forth the beams of God's unconditional love in the world.

It is precisely in this sense that James uses the phrase “friendship with the world” as an equivalent to “enmity with God.” In this context “the world” is not seen as God's creation, which the first Book of the Bible clearly calls “good, and good indeed”; what the term means here is the societal practices that make human beings behave as selfish competitors that only care for their own good, and perhaps the good of those who can be of use to them.

Seen in this perspective it is clear that such attitudes are opposed to God's plan of inclusive and life-giving love for all, which began when he infused of His own breath or spirit within each of us.

Our true self is this life-giving breath—this love that wants nothing but to give love. If jealousy could be given a positive connotation, then we could say, as James did, that “God jealously yearns for this spirit that he has made to dwell in us.”

Commentators and biblical scholars have not been able to locate the passage in the Bible where the quotation above is taken from. Some have said it is based on an extra-biblical source. The fact is that in the Book of Genesis God breathes His own spirit into the first human creature, so even if this quotation is not correct, the idea remains valid.

James is aware that not following the self-centered yearnings that the world prompts us to heed can be really hard. It is a task that we could not undertake by our own efforts only. So he reminds us that God's grace will be abundantly given to the humble.

This time James quotes from the Book of Proverbs:

“God opposes the proud,

But gives grace to the humble.”

Prov. 3: 34

This is perfectly in line with the message that this Sunday’s Gospel reading according to St. Mark brings us.

Even though Jesus was clearly telling His disciples about His final days of betrayal, death, and resurrection, they miss the whole point of what He is saying and idly waste their time and words arguing about which of them was the greatest.

It is then that Jesus takes a little child in His arms and declares that whoever welcomes one such child welcomes Him and the one who sent Him.

In Jesus’ society, and even in today’s society, children are the least valuable persons from a utilitarian point of view. They demand a lot of time and work and give no material gain in return. So they are only considered valuable as the potential adults they would become.

This view is totally opposed to God’s unconditional love. Children are loved because they are human creatures, and all human creatures are the living image of the Creator on earth. As such, we all deserve love from the very moment we are born.

If we are able to be in tune with this great truth, then we have certainly started to become like Christ: we are being faithful to our true self, and the wisdom from above is dawning on us.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Wisdom 1:16-2:1, 12-22 Psalm 54 James 3:16-4:6 Mark 9:30-37

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer are held in All Saints’ St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am Mass in All Saints’ Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org
Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children
Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

WEDNESDAY Spanish Classes 5:30pm to 7:30pm in the Parish Hall taught by Fr. Carlos Expósito

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary's Chapel

SUNDAY The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org
Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children
Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am
Christian Formation at the coffee hour in the Parish Hall (11:30am)
Fr. Carlos leads us through Gary Nicolosi's book "A Concise History of the Book of Common Prayer"

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming Strangers like Old Friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being Dependable Members of a Caring Community
- Respecting Each Other's Differences
- Being Faithful Stewards of God's Gift
- Remembering that God Loves Everyone Unconditionally

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
www.allsaintschurch.org