



# 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 — November 5, 2023**

**“Who Are The Saints?”**



November 1st is the Feast of All Saints. This Sunday our Parish, named All Saints, is celebrating its Patronal Feast.

Our Parish is decorated with a multitude of stained glass windows depicting saints from different times in history, and predating human history, starting with the Archangels, Powers, and Thrones, and ending with more contemporary bishops in the Anglican Communion, and even in the Episcopal Church.

This variety tells us something about the open-mindedness present in the selection of the entities who would make up the collection of stained glass windows in our Parish.

Many of us have, at different times, asked the question about who the saints are, and if we ourselves hope to be a part of this great host of faithful witnesses of Christ's Good News of Salvation for all.

The Hebrew equivalent of the English word *saint* was used in the Old Testament as a synonym of “set apart for God's worship or service.” The priests and levites were set apart for this service and had to follow a certain rule of life, and carry out purification rituals to be able to take part in such functions. Only the High Priest was allowed to

enter the Holiest of Holies—the place where the Ark of the Covenant was kept in the Temple— once a year, during the Day of Atonement, to offer sacrifices for all the people.

In a more general sense, the Jewish people considered themselves as saints, in the sense that they had been set apart by God to live according to His covenant, and be a living example for the rest of the nations, who would eventually be saved by worshiping the only true God.

The first Christians were, of course, Jews, and they reflected this view in their writings. St. Paul usually makes a distinction when he refers to the Jewish Christians as “the saints” in some of his letters, but eventually he included the Gentile Christians in the category of saints as well.

So the first Christians called themselves saints. They believed that by their election they had been set apart by God to serve Him and serve one another in loving care. In fact, those first Christians, if they were authentic and persevering followers of Christ’s Way of Love, had to put up with persecution, rejection, scorn, and even martyrdom, so they were really distinguished as being a special kind of people who, as the Book of Revelation says, “had come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

And they were “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.”

This gives us the idea that the writer of the Book of Revelation no longer held the concept of the saints as the followers of Judaism, but as a really inclusive concept comprising all those who consistently practiced Jesus’ radical Way of Love and, through faith in Him, purified themselves, not through rituals and sacrifices, but through a life of true devotion and loving service, to become part of those sanctified by God.

Throughout the centuries, the Christian Church, particularly the Roman Catholic Church, has appointed a certain number of people whose examples of piety and true witness of the faith excel and nourish the faith of the people, to be the saints of the church. The Roman Catholic Church has its own process of canonization, with a series of requisites that a person needs to fulfill to be considered a saint.

Apart from any human considerations, a broader concept of saints should prevail among us, and this is very much in line with what we have in the stained glass windows of our Parish.

As Christ's followers we are all being called to sanctification, to a life of real devotion, dedication, and loving service to all. The communion of saints includes all those who are no longer among us on earth, and those who are still in this pilgrimage of faith on this planet.

In the end, we, as part of the great multitude of saints, will all share in God's glory, and as the well known hymn says, 'From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coasts, through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, Alleluia!'

Fr. Carlos

Readings for All Saints' Day

Revelation 7:9-17    1 John 3:1-3    Psalm: 34:1-10, 22    Matthew 22:34-46

## CALENDAR

Note: We continue worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer at 10:00am are held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel

**SUNDAY    November 5, 2023    All Saints' Day**

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

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)

**Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children**

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

**Christian Formation Meets next on November 12**

**TUESDAY    Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel**

**THURSDAY    Spanish Class 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Flower Room. Taught by Fr. Carlos**

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

SUNDAY **November 12, 2023 The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

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)

**Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children**

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

**Christian Formation** Meets on November 12<sup>th</sup> in the Rector's Study and the Library

### **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