



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 19, 2023

"The Blessed Hope of Everlasting Life"



Being a Christian may mean different things to different people, and again, it rightly means more than one thing even to those who consider themselves authentic Christians, but when it comes to the true Christian hope, it would most certainly be the title of this reflection.

More than a religion, Christianity is a faith. It is not so much about what we as human beings need to do to be rejoined to our Creator, but about what the Creator Himself has done and is doing to bring us back to our true home. It is not based on matter-of-fact data, but on a deep and pure conviction that goes beyond human logic and understanding.

It defies our reasoning, and yet, it does not prescribe that we reject the gift of reasoning that God has endowed us with.

It is a faith that has been revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ, whose whole life, words, and deeds point to the One and Only Father of all, whom we can only "know",

not through our reasoning, but through the personal and communal experience of His unfailing and unconditional love.

This love finds its ultimate expression in Jesus Christ's self-sacrifice on the cross, so that we could approach the Father as His true sons and daughters, through Him that died and was raised, thus defeating the powers of darkness and death for us all.

The Scriptures of the Old Testament can be recapitulated in the person of Jesus Christ, because the whole message of redemption for God's people that the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings point at is epitomized in Him.

And the message that the Books of the New Testament—the Gospels, the Book of Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles, and the Book of Revelation—bring us is essentially one and the same: He who revealed the Father's infinite love for us, Jesus Christ Our Lord, has brought the greatest and most wonderful of hopes to our lives—the hope of true, abundant and everlasting life.

This is a love-filled life—the only true kind of life there is. It is a life in which we find true and deep meaning. This life is no longer self-centered, or based only on our personal attainments, whether material or other. Its essence is the irresistible drive to give, to share, to give ourselves in love, just as our Creator does.

It is not a life to be shared only with our closest family members and friends, not even with those of our own nation or coalition of nations, but with all humankind. Our love of God will be shown through our authentic love of our fellow human beings.

But in this new way of living, we will also love the rest of the creatures in this world, because they are also part of God's creation, which He labeled as "good", according to the Book of Genesis.

For those who reject God's Way of Love, this new way of relating to the Creator, to one another, and the rest of creation will be the worst of nightmares. Those who are unable to love in Christ's way cannot conceive of a world where giving and sharing, even to the point of self-sacrifice is the greatest joy. For the selfish ones, this would be the worst torment.

That is why the prophets, like Zephaniah, refer to the Day of the Lord as "a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation."

And the Apostle Paul, in his First Letter to the Thessalonians, referring to the Day of the Lord, says, “When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then suddenly destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape.”

But then, right after this, in the same paragraph, St. Paul states, “But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with Him.”

Fr. Carlos

Readings for The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10 Psalm: 90:1-8, 12

Matthew 25:14-15, 19-29

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 19, 2023 The Twenty-fifth 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 Meets next on Sunday, November 26 at noon in the Rector’s Office and the Library

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 26, 2023 Christ the King Sunday

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

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

Christian Formation Meets on November 26 at noon 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