



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 — February 4, 2024

“Divinely Compelled”



Feeling compelled by external forces to do something sounds like what most of us would rather reject nowadays. In an age where personal freedom is greatly valued and encouraged, anything that forces us to do what we ourselves have not decided is perceived as a violation of our personal rights.

One of the main tenets of our Christian faith is the fact that God has created us as totally free beings, which reflects His own freedom to create. So, freedom is one of the main features that assert that we reflect God's image in our own lives.

Freedom, however, should never be confused with whim. True freedom demands responsibility and accountability, and that is why we human beings are prone to mess up things in our lives, when we try to demand and exert our total freedom but fail to account properly for our use of it.

The law that God gave His people was meant to teach us the proper limits of personal freedom, and to prevent the “trespasses”; that is to say, the violations of others' freedom by whimsically and irresponsibly trampling over other people's rights.

With the coming of Jesus Christ Our Lord, who showed us His Way of Love, as the law that encompasses all law, we were shown a “much better way”, as St. Paul says to the Corinthians, when he talks about the gifts of the Spirit.

In the Law of Love, all law is contained, simply because if we really love God and our neighbor with our whole being, there is no way we would act in a self-centered way and violate their rights. So there is no longer a need to explicitly state all the do’s and don’ts in our lives. If our lives are truly guided by God’s love—which is unconditional in nature—we will always find the way to respect and honor other people’s rights and lives.

If we really let this divine law guide us, we will no longer reject God’s compelling Word and Love, nor the Good News of salvation that He has brought us through His revelation in Christ Jesus, and through the proclamation of this wonderful news in the New Covenant.

But being guided by God’s Love also necessarily compels us to proclaim this Good News to everyone we come in contact with. Not doing it would be the most selfish act in our lives.

Just imagine someone possessing the greatest treasure anyone can ever have—the new and abundant life God graciously gives us through our new birth in Christ—and refusing to share it with others! It would be the worst of crimes.

This is what St. Paul refers to when in his First Letter to the Corinthians, he states, “woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!”

And then the Apostle proceeds to explain how he has relinquished his personal liberties and even his “identity” to carry out what he feels as the commission Christ has entrusted him with. “For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessing.”

We certainly need to imitate St. Paul’s example in our proclamation nowadays!

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito

Readings for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

2 Kings 4:18-21, 32-37 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Psalm: 142 Mark 1:29-39

CALENDAR

Note: We worship 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 February 4 The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Adult Christian Formation Meets next on Sunday, February 11 at noon in the Rector's Office and the Library

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class on Thursdays, from 1pm-3pm in the Library.

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

SUNDAY February 11, 2024 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

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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