

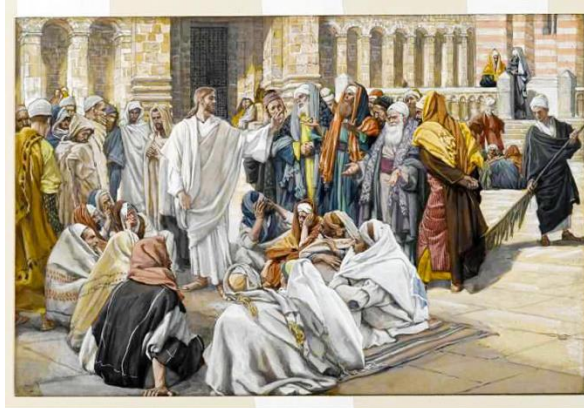


ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY November 6 & BEYOND

What is heaven? What is it like? Who will we see there? These are pretty common questions for many people. It falls under the category: Meaning of Life.

Understanding what happens after life helps us understand our purpose and the meaning of life. Does our life matter? Is there anything of lastly value that exists after we have died? What happens when we finally close our eyes and breathe our last?



In the Gospel reading for this Sunday, Luke 20:27-38, Jesus is questioned by the Sadducees about the resurrection. The Sadducees, unlike the Pharisees, didn't believe in the resurrection. They could find no clear teaching about it in the Scriptures, what we call the Old Testament. They saw this as an opportunity to discredit Jesus and his teaching.

They present a story about a woman whose husband died while she was still alive. Deuteronomy 25:5 states: "...the wife of the deceased shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her, taking her in marriage, and performing the duty of a husband's brother to her." The woman has an obligation to keep the family line going, raising up children for her husband. But, the Sadducees ask, what if this woman marries all **seven** brothers in succession, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? (Who will do the cooking, cleaning and serving?)

As you can imagine, this is a bit of a trap, and a ridiculous question. They only hope to embarrass our Lord. Jesus sees right through their hypocrisy and tells them that the age we live in is nothing like the age to come. There is no marriage or giving in marriage.

I'm reminded that there are many things I don't know about the life to come. I wish I knew exactly what heaven looked like, or what it means to dwell in the Presence of God. I hold fast to the belief that what is called the Beatific Vision, will be beyond my comprehension.

As a Christian, I believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe that new life is given by our Lord and Savior to those who turn to him in faith. The resurrection is essential to my faith, and a core belief. Easter is the greatest day in the Church year. It is a celebration above all celebrations because it affirms our understanding of Jesus as God's Son and our Savior. Jesus spoke about it repeatedly, telling us, "I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11:25) He said this to his close friend, Martha, just before he raised her brother from the dead. It is one of the truly great moments in the New Testament. A miracle that restores the faith of many.

I rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 'the Way, the Truth and the Life' (John 14:6) There will be no need for questions.

Fr. Steven Schuneman, Retired Priest in the Diocese of San Diego

Readings for this Sunday

Job 19:23-27a Psalm 17:1-8 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5 Luke 20:27-38

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
9:30a Christian Formation (Resumes on Sunday, November 20)
10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)
9:30a MASS (St. Mary's Chapel)
AA Meeting 6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)
8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)