



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY December 11 & BEYOND

Throughout the season of Advent the Church gives us Isaiah's prophecies to help us join the people of Israel in their waiting for the Messiah. We're reminded of the promises of healing and peace and then watch them being fulfilled through Jesus. Then, just in case we're not getting it, Jesus connects the dots for us, explicitly pointing to his works as irrefutable proof that he is in fact the one they've been waiting for. That seems like cause for rejoicing, so why does Jesus then add, "And blessed is he who takes no offense at me"? Because unfulfilled desires and expectations are often what separate us from Jesus and leave us blind to the miracles he's working in our lives.



This is why we see John the Baptist's disciples come asking for clarification – whatever their Messianic expectations were, Jesus wasn't quite meeting them. They'd let those expectations obscure everything else he was showing them, and as a result, they couldn't fully accept him. When we don't take offense at Jesus we're blessed because we're allowing him to be who he is and do what he came to do in our lives. There's an easy parallel with our physical health. Frequently, doctors tell people that they need to eat better and exercise

more. Some people are offended and ignore the advice because they don't think there's anything wrong. Others are ambivalent about whether or not it's true, but decide that it's too difficult to be worth doing. Others allow the doctor to be who he is and do what he's there to do and rise to the challenge. Everything about our response to the gospel is the same, except that Jesus is always right and we're always healed and strengthened when we follow his advice.

One way to keep from being distracted by our unfulfilled expectations and desires is not to deceive ourselves into thinking that we're not among the blind, deaf, lame, leprous, and poor we see Jesus healing. If we're honest about our own faults and

weaknesses and faithfully bring them to Jesus, we will see him at work in our lives. There will still be things to struggle with and we shouldn't ignore them or stop bringing them to him. The difference is that we'll do it with eyes and hearts open to all the evidence that proves that his love is at work, even if we can't connect the dots for ourselves.

Father McQueen

Readings for this Sunday

Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:4-9 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
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)

UPCOMING EVENT

CHRISTMAS BELLS!

for Cellos and Choir

Sunday December 18th, 5pm

Please join cellist Sophie Webber and members of the All Saints Church Choir (plus a sextet of Sophie's private cello students) for an uplifting evening of Christmas-inspired music for cellos and voices! From Bach's jubilant and bell-like Suite for Solo

Cello No.6 to Carol of the Bells and Silent Night. With candles, mulled wine and other seasonal refreshments, this will be an evening to remember and to lift your spirits!

Donation: \$10 general admission; \$5 for seniors/students - 100% of proceeds will support St. Luke's Episcopal Church for their building of a refugee job training site.

On display that evening in the Parish Hall will be All Saints' inspired artwork by Todd Muffatti. The artwork includes stained glass themed cards and ornaments as well as miniature assemblages of our church. All proceeds will go to All Saints'. Here's an opportunity to find that special Christmas gift.