



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY December 18 & BEYOND

As we get closer and closer to the birth of Jesus, it's appropriate that on the last Sunday of Advent we're presented with an important part of every pregnancy: naming the child, which can sometimes be a real struggle for expectant parents. Possibilities are often rigorously examined for things like rhyming potential and unfortunate associations, and subjected to additional third-party testing, based on the availability of honest but non-judgmental friends. Parents do all these things because they know that the child's name will be a significant part of the foundation their identity will be built on, and we see this in the Bible too. Names always reveal the person's identity and mission, so any time we see God giving a name, we should pay special attention, especially if that person is God's own Son.



Joseph's dream about the coming of Jesus

In giving us a way to address him God opens up the possibility of relationship, and in the lesson from the prophet Isaiah, he shows us how badly he wants us to have one. When his people are falling away under the wicked King Ahaz, God sends Isaiah to call them back and even offers to provide a sign as a pledge of his love. When that's a sign anyway: that a young woman (which can also be translated "virgin," as Matthew does) will conceive and bear a son, and call his name "Emmanuel," which means "God with us." In giving that name, God is saying, "Even if you won't come to me, I will come to you." Then in the gospel lesson, Matthew tells us that not only is Mary's child this promised "Emmanuel," but that he will be called "Jesus," or "God saves," because he will save his people from their sins.

Once my wife and I decided on the names of our children, I remember feeling the relationship become so much more personal that it was like they'd already been born in some way. Try to imagine what Mary and Joseph must have been experiencing as

they contemplated the names God had given their child and what they might mean. If you're baptized, consider also what it means for Jesus to be living in you, and that he has chosen you as a means of coming to those who won't come to him. At all times, and in these last days especially, keep those names on your lips and in your heart, so that he can reveal himself to you and those around you.

Father McQueen

Readings for this Sunday

Isaiah 7:10-17 Psalm 24 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

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.
5:00p Concert—Christmas Bells for Cellos and Choir (Church)

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.

Christmas Bells
...a concert for 6 cello and 8 singers...
Bach's Suite No. 6 for Solo Cello performed by Sophie Webber & a collection of favorite carols arranged for voices & cello.

Sunday December 18th @ 5PM
All Saints Episcopal Church
625 Pennsylvania Ave, San Diego, CA 92103

\$10 (Adults) and \$5 (Students / Under 12)
Tickets available at the door the day of the show
100% Concert Proceeds will be donated to St. Luke's Episcopal Church to assist building a refugee job training site