



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 19 & Beyond

Pressing on towards God's Heavenly Call in Christ Jesus



This Sunday, the last Sunday after the Epiphany, is known as Transfiguration Sunday because the Gospel reading is always about Jesus' Transfiguration on the Mount and is also known in the Episcopal Church as World Mission Sunday.

The Transfiguration narrative in the three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) is quite similar, with few differing details. It is a truly impressive transcendent and mystical event which has inspired several artists to depict it in paintings, and a good number of theologians to write about it.

The theme is really spiritually profound and calls for the analysis of allegories and symbols, such as the mountain, the dazzling pure white light, the presence of Moses and Elijah, the cloud, and the voice heard in the cloud. All of these have their Old Testament antecedents and the New Testament readers were certainly familiar with them.

But what can be the relation between Jesus' Transfiguration on the Mount and the World Mission of the Church?

Transfiguration in the original language it was written (Koine Greek) is *metamorphosis*, which means a total transformation, giving rise to a new kind of being with new and improved features, as in the case of the caterpillar becoming a butterfly.

The Transfiguration event is mainly described as a vision, rather than as something permanent. It is a glimpse of the glorious divine image, full of splendor and pure light, of inexpressible beauty and fullness, that God's children are meant to be.

More than Jesus' own transfiguration—which is ultimately enacted by God Himself—the purpose of the vision is to enable these three disciples to perceive the true being of the one they had been following, as one who recapitulates both the Law and the Prophets (represented by the presence of Moses and Elijah) and embodies God's true glorious image in Himself.

More than that, it was a glimpse of the ineffable goodness of God's presence with His human creatures—a goodness that makes Peter exclaim, "it is good for us to be here" and also want to remain in this presence for eternity.

But the clue to the whole purpose of the event is given in the words heard in the cloud, "This is my beloved Son in who I am well pleased; listen to Him."

The voice is addressed to the three disciples. It is a mandate to keep on doing what they had done so far and persevere to the end. The Transfiguration event precedes Jesus' passion by a few days. These will be days when the disciples' faith and loyalty will be put to the test to the greatest extent.

To listen is not merely to hear, but to hear and heed what is said. Jesus will give His followers final instructions that they prefer not to hear. They would rather not hear about the horrible suffering and death of their beloved master, but Jesus knows this is coming and must be faced. He knows that the transformation mission that He started needs to go on, even when He returns to the Father after His resurrection and ascension.

The disciples went through moments of despair and doubt for sure. But the glimpse of Jesus' true nature they witnessed, and the understanding that by following Him they would also be likewise transformed into God's true image, must have been a good source of support during this great ordeal and beyond, even to the end of their days on earth.

St. Paul the Apostle was not part of the original group of twelve, and certainly did not witness Jesus' Transfiguration, but he had a totally transforming encounter with Him when he was persecuting His followers.

In his letter to the Philippians, referring to attaining total transformation by becoming like Christ in the sharing of His suffering and death and partaking in the power of His resurrection, he stated, "I do not consider I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to the prize of the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ."

The Mission of the Church Universal has been and will always be to enable the greatest possible number of people in the world to be transformed into their true identity in God. This is God's saving plan for all, made possible through Jesus Christ's self-giving love, and through all those who have followed and will follow after Him.

In a world full of so much injustice, indifference, greed, hatred, disharmony, diseases, and lack of love, it would seem that there is no hope for this transfiguration to take place. But the Christian faith is precisely this transforming hope in the midst of all hopelessness, carried out by ordinary humans like you and me, who are convinced that beyond all this seeming ugliness and despair lies the dazzling beautiful and pure image of our true being in harmonious unity with God, with one another and with the whole of creation.

Rev. Carlos Expósito

Readings for The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Exodus 24:12-18 15 Philippians 3:7-14 Psalm 99 Matthew 17:1-9

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 February 19, 2023 The Last 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
Christian Formation Meets at Noon on Sunday, February 12 in the
Rector's Office. Topic: Communicating with God—
2:00pm John Philip Newell's Presentation on his book "Sacred Earth
Sacred Soul" in the Parish Hall

TUESDAY 7:00am Mass with Imposition of Ashes St. Mary Chapel
12:00pm Mass with Imposition of Ashes St. Mary Chapel
7:00pm Solemn Mass with Imposition of Ashes All Saints' Church

THURSDAY Spanish Class 1:00 to 3:00pm in the Flower Rm. Taught by Fr. Carlos

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

SUNDAY **February 26, 2023 The First Sunday in Lent**
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

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

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
www.allsaintschurch.org