



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 —March 19 & Beyond

Imitators of God



Does it look like an unattainable goal if someone says that we should imitate God? After all, how can we humans imitate the Almighty, the one we cannot

even comprehend with our finite minds?

And yet, this is precisely what as followers of Christ we are called to do.

When the First Book of the Bible tells the story of creation, it states God created us in "his image and likeness", so the thought of us imitating the Creator is not alien to the Old Testament thinking, and it is certainly a vital part of the New Testament writings.

After all, it is not so much about us trying to make an effort to resemble the one who created us, but simply remembering who we already are—His likeness.

Mental constructs could never grasp the idea of God. If it were possible, then our Creator would simply be a product of our minds, as atheists would have us believe.

Precisely because God is infinite and we are finite, we as part of creation can reflect his image on this plane of existence, but we are not able to comprehend His very essence.

What we do understand, because we can live it out and make it a vital part of our existence, is love. Love is what makes us essentially human, and we can also see it reflected in the rest of the living beings, particularly in the more advanced species of animals.

Love is the highest expression of the principle of affinity, which is expressed throughout the universe even at the atomic level, and which has made the manifestation of the material world possible.

Human love, however imperfect it still is, is the highest manifestation of this principle which pervades all of creation, and points to the Creator Himself.

In the person of Jesus Christ, this human love is shown in its highest manifestation—utter self-sacrifice. In his letter to the Ephesians, chapter 5, the Apostle Paul puts this into words in a touchingly beautiful way. He says, “be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

So for Paul imitating God is essentially living in the love that most resembles God’s love, the one that Christ showed for us all, as the true Son of God.

To make clear what this imitation of God’s love consists in, Paul contrasts the behavior that Christ’s true followers must exhibit with the “unfruitful works of darkness”. He encourages the converts at Ephesus to “live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and true.”

Light has always been the symbol for all that is good and true, as opposed to the darkness. In the Genesis story, light is what God first made manifest in creation, before everything else came into existence, as if to signal that His creation was essentially filled with goodness.

Taking part in the unfruitful works of darkness, which oppose life and goodness, is like being essentially dead. When our lives stop reflecting the pure light and love of our Creator, they make no sense at all.

Unfortunately, to a lesser or greater degree, our lives have departed from the light, and we have all sinned by not showing God's pure love in our lives.

But as followers of Him who is the light of this world, Jesus Christ our Lord, we have the greatest of hopes because He has shown us the way back to being imitators of our Heavenly Father.

As Paul told the Ephesians, we should all heed the call that says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
And Christ will shine on you.”

Rev. Carlos Expósito

Readings for The Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13 Ephesians 5:1-14 Psalm 23 John 9:1-38

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 The Great Litany at 11:30am; Via Crucis at Noon in All Saints' Church.

SUNDAY March 19, 2023 The Fourth 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

Christian Formation Meets next on Sunday, March 26 in the

Rector's Office. Lenten Study: The Three Conversions of the Christian Life

TUESDAY 12:00pm Mass St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class in recess until April 13

FRIDAY 11:30am The Great Litany; Noon Via Crucis in All Saints' Church

SUNDAY **March 26, 2023 The Fifth 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

Christian Formation Meets next on March 26 at Noon in the Rector's Office. Lenten Study: The Three Conversions of the Christian Life

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