



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 — April 23, 2023

“The Reverent Fear of God”



In many of the theological reflections we find nowadays (and I do not exclude myself here) fear is seen as opposing to love, especially to Christ's unconditional love that mirrors God's love for us and for all creation.

In the First Letter of St. John, Chapter 4, verse 18, the writer states, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.”

It is a fact that when we truthfully embrace Jesus' radical Way of Love, our fears of losing that which we imagine will give us security and stability are left behind. We no longer fear losing our money or our material possessions, or our social or academic prestige that will grant us a certain recognition in society. We even lose the fear of losing our physical lives—although the self-preservation instinct was placed in us by the Creator, and it does us a good service—because we realize that God's love transcends even death, and real and abundant life is our true inheritance.

Why then is the fear of God commended by Bible writers, even by the New Testament ones, like the Apostle Peter, for instance?

There is a reverent fear that comes from the realization of the transcendence of our Creator as compared to our finite and imperfect nature, which should always be commended. It has been called *fear* but perhaps a better name for it would be *reverent awe*.

A theology that does not include this reverent fear is actually denying God's transcendence and our need to always keep it in mind. God is so much greater than us human beings. Even though He created us in His likeness and image, we are still nothing compared to Him who created all that is.

Moreover, we always need to remember our tendency to depart from the right loving relationship with our Creator, with one another, and with creation. This departure is called sin, and we are constantly in need of repenting from it and turning back to God.

Understanding that because Jesus Christ gave Himself up in perfect sacrifice for our sins, we can sin all we want, and everything is fine between God and us, is a fallacy and very poor theology indeed.

Christ's sacrifice on the cross did not take away our responsibility for our transgressions before God.

Christ opened for us a new reconciled life based on His radical Way of Love. His resurrection clearly shows how God's love and life always overcome the dark forces of evil and death, and that makes us fully trust in God and His promise for abundant and eternal life for us.

Thanks to Jesus Christ's self-sacrifice in unconditional love for us all, we are now in a new kind of relationship with our Creator and with one another. We have been born anew to a life that is based on our love of God and mutual love, which finds concrete expression in our deeds of loving service and in sharing our goods and talents with those who are in greater need. It also becomes evident in our loving care of Creation.

This is what characterized the first followers of Christ, and we find evidence of this new way of life in the Book of Acts.

But the reverent awe/fear of God is something we should never lose. We will all give account for our deeds before God, who is a just and impartial judge, and sound theology will never lose sight of this fact.

In his First Letter, Chapter 1, the Apostle Peter clearly declares, "If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile." Peter was not referring in particular to people who had been exiled from their homeland, but he considered that our present life in which God is still not all in all is like an exiled life.

And a little further in the same letter he adds, "Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love another deeply from

the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.”

His admonition is as true for us here and now as it was for those he then addressed.

Fr. Carlos Espósito

Readings for The Third Sunday after Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-47 1 Peter 1:17-23 Psalm 116:10-17 Luke 24:13-35

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 April 23, 2023 Third Sunday of Easter

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 this Sunday April 23 at Noon in the Rector's Office. Book Study: The Three Conversions of the Christian Life

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

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

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

SUNDAY April 30, 2023 The Fourth Sunday of Easter

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 April 30 at Noon in the Rector's Office. Book 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