



# ALL SAINTS'

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## CHURCH

### THIS SUNDAY June 26 & BEYOND

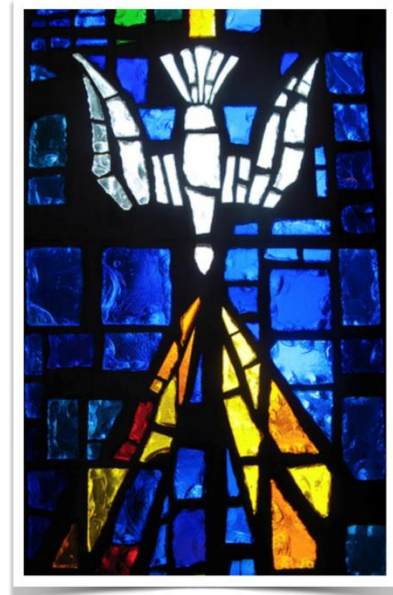
This Sunday's passage from Galatians begins with Paul saying, "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery." I think that a lot of people struggle with Christianity because they just don't see freedom and slavery at work in their lives, at least not for what they really are.

I think a lot of people start to tune Paul out when he says not to gratify the desires of the flesh and then lists them. They think, "but those are some of my favorites!", not seeing the slavery starting to take hold. Take pleasure as an example: Years of hook-ups and casual relationships don't actually make you an "experienced lover," but make it more difficult to experience true love at all. Love is a decision to make your life totally about another person, not a magic spell that somehow turns a selfish person selfless. In fact, the more you equate "love" with "pleasure," the more you numb the desire for the real thing and then leave yourself unable to live into that kind of relationship when you want to. It feels like freedom in the beginning, but ends in slavery, which is why so many marriages fail and people that are never alone can be the loneliest.

The trouble is that we usually can't tell the difference until we start to feel the chains of our "freedoms." This was St. Augustine's experience, which we'll talk about in our class on the spiritual classic, *The Fulfillment of All Desire* (9:30-10:15, Fireside Room). By the time he realized that he wanted the "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" that Paul tells us is the fruit of the Spirit, his life had already been heading in the opposite direction for a while. Even though it would take years to be free enough to live the life he wanted, the good news is that God began working in Augustine's life immediately. He gave him a growing awareness of his bondage to loosen the chains and tastes of his freedom to encourage him, until finally Augustine was able to walk out of the prison he'd spent so many years building.

What about devotion to Jesus feels like slavery to you? What are the freedoms that you think he would be denying you? Be honest and bold in asking, because if your freedoms are really slavery, there's no point in making the walls of your prison thicker by pretending they're not.

Fr. McQueen



## Readings for this Sunday

Isaiah 66:10-16 Psalm 66:1-8 Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18 Luke 10:1-12, 16-20

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Meetings 6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY: 11:00a Rosary in St. Mary's Chapel

11:30a MASS in St. Mary's Chapel

Noon Potluck Luncheon in the Parish Hall