



ALL SAINTS'

CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY July 10 & BEYOND



The Good Samaritan is one of the best known and loved stories of Jesus. It appears only in Luke's Gospel, but is entirely consistent with the teachings of Jesus. Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. It is the Summary of the Law. If we want to follow God's commandments and do God's will, we should do these things. Of course, they are not small tasks, but encompass our entire spiritual life.

The story begins when a lawyer asks "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" but ends with Jesus answering the question "And who is my neighbor?" It is not unusual for Jesus to answer our questions differently than we ask them. Indeed, I've found that God answers my prayers with new challenges and callings I've never considered. The story of the Good Samaritan is intended to force his disciples to look at things in a new way.

Here's the story: A man is beset upon by robbers and left half dead on the side of the road. A priest and a Levite both pass him by, but they do nothing. Indeed, they go out of their way to avoid him. It's both amazing and embarrassing to read about the religious leaders who pass by. How can they be so callous? Were they so concerned about themselves that they couldn't see the needs of the man that lay before them? Thankfully, a Samaritan comes along with compassion and action. He helps the man, binds up his wounds, carries him to an inn, and promises to care for him.

The question 'Who is my neighbor?' becomes 'Who behaves as neighbor.' Sometimes, to follow God's commandments we need to turn nouns into verbs, words into action. The neighbor is the one who showed mercy. As disciples, we ask ourselves, 'Do I show mercy?' Am I compassionate and caring? Do I go out of my way to help others in need? Or, do I look away, keep walking, and try to forget. Am I a Levite or a Samaritan?

I'm glad that the Church is about helping others in need. I'm glad we understand that whenever we reach out to others we are receiving more grace and love than we can ever give another. Yes, we can only do so much, the need is so much greater than our resources. This will always be so. But, Jesus' new commandment is 'to love one another as I have loved you.' (John 13:34). It is an awesome challenge that arises from the amazing love of Jesus.

Fr. Steven Schuneman, Retired Priest in the Diocese of San Diego

Readings for this Sunday

Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:3-9 Colossians 1: 1-14, Luke 10:25-37

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.

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)