



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY July 3 & BEYOND



Help to carry one another's burdens.
(Galatians 6:2)

This Sunday we'll read the end of Paul's letter to the Galatians, where he says that he won't allow himself to be troubled, "for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus." This might seem really strange by itself, so we have to consider what it is that Paul's concluding. The purpose of his letter was to combat the teaching of Judaizers, who were claiming that Christianity meant, first and foremost, keeping the Jewish laws. Paul argues instead that Jesus has freed them from the law, and not to ignore it, but to fulfill it by loving their neighbors as themselves. After several specific examples of how *not* to love your neighbor, Paul tells them, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ," and this is what makes sense of him pointing to bearing the marks of Jesus.

We see the "law of Christ" given at the Last Supper, where Jesus tells us to love one another *as he has loved us* (see Jn 13:34), which takes us way beyond just loving our neighbors as ourselves. Now we can start to understand the need for freedom, because we all experience the limits of how we love even ourselves. I do some good things for myself, but there are plenty of others that I don't. Why don't I do them if I know they're good for me? Because they don't feel good enough. For example, I don't like eating healthy food as much as unhealthy food, I don't like getting up early to exercise as much as I like staying in bed, and so on. I love my neighbor just about the same way as I love myself – some things I do, some I don't, depending on whether I think it will make me feel better to do it than not to do it.

When it comes to how Jesus loves, there are no limits because he has made his life about us. The marks of Jesus are the inevitable result of bearing our burdens; of loving people who don't want to be loved, staying close to someone who's tearing their life apart, standing up for those who can't stand up for themselves. The marks of Jesus prove that he will come into our suffering after us, even if it makes us hate him.

Loving like Jesus is what transforms people because it goes beyond what's reasonable, but that's also what makes it unbelievable. That's why Paul is saying, "If I haven't convinced you with my words, if you still don't get it, look at my body; does it look like Jesus' body? Look at my life; does it look like Jesus' life?" There is no greater argument that the love of Jesus is real and that freedom through the gospel is possible than the testimony of our lives. Are we really free to love? What signs of it do we bear in our lives?

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 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)