



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY March 12 & BEYOND



My son Everett rarely wakes up before dawn and almost never before Sarah and me, so when he got up in the night to go to the bathroom earlier this week, and found the whole house dark, it was really disorienting for him. Our bedroom door was open, but it must have seemed like an awfully long way from his room to ours because I woke up to the sound of him sobbing, upset that he hadn't been able to find us. Of course some wariness of the dark is natural, and it comes from feeling how vulnerable we are when we can't see, as anyone who's encountered strange sounds while taking out the garbage after dark can attest.

But there's also a deeper, emotional darkness that comes from feeling isolated and helpless in the face of some personal struggle, and in this Sunday's gospel lesson (John 3:1-17), John gives hope to anyone in this kind of darkness.

St. John points out that Nicodemus, one of Jerusalem's elite, has come to talk to Jesus "by night," which connects this episode to one of his gospel's main themes: darkness giving way to light, just as night is the period of the day before dawn. He wants to make it clear that no matter how deep the darkness of our lives is, it will always give way to the light because Jesus is with us in it. Even my own extremely inadequate example of rushing to be with Everett in his darkness only points to how much truer it must be of an all-powerful, all-loving God.

In his poem describing the soul's journey to union with God, St. John of the Cross (d. 1591) turns how we perceive the darkness of our lives upside-down. In his story, it's only when the house is dark and still that the lover, "fired with love's urgent longings," can slip out unnoticed to meet his beloved, making the night "glad" and "more lovely than the dawn." We see this pattern with Nicodemus, who finds Jesus compelling and *has* to talk to him, but wouldn't be able to come to him during the day without causing an uproar among his peers that would make deep conversation impossible.

We often have similar struggles in trying to have an intimate conversation with Jesus, and so the purpose of Lent is to provide opportunities to slip away with him. Fasting and abstinence still our houses, quieting all the voices that compete for our attention, while extra prayer or spiritual reading are the ladder waiting outside the window. So no matter the darkness, don't be afraid, be bold – go out into it with the fire of love, for you are not alone.

Father McQueen

Readings for this Sunday – The Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-8 Psalm 33:12-22 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
9:30a Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew (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)

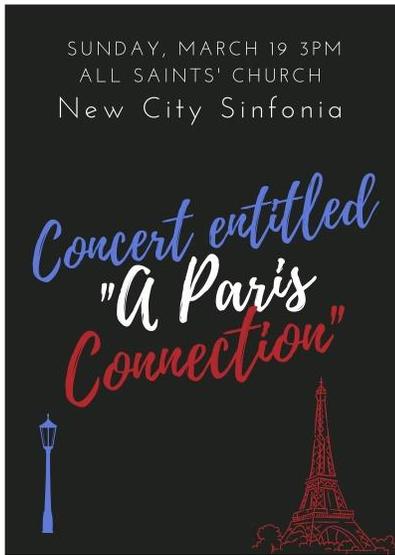
TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)
9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)
6:00p Stations of the Cross, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament,
Soup Supper

AA Meetings

6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)
8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SAVE THE DATE- CONCERT MARCH 19 at 3:00pm



Now in its 31st season, The New City Sinfonia will present an hour-long afternoon concert at All Saints' on **Sunday, March 19**, at 3:00pm. Entitled "A Paris Connection," the program will feature music written in or for Paris, including France Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 83 ("The Hen"), and Le Roi S'Amuse, by French composer Léo Delibes. As Haydn's fame, as well as his reputation for musical wit and inventiveness spread, audiences in several countries clamored for his music.

Director Daniel Ratelle is the founding conductor of the Sinfonia, and also teaches Music at Mesa College.

Excerpts of past concerts can be found on [You Tube](#), under "New City Sinfonia."

Suggested Donation \$10 —supports the Music Outreach Ministry at All Saints'