



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

## THIS SUNDAY April 21 & BEYOND”

### "Cause Unknown; Solution Needed; God hath provided"



“The causes of the fire remain unknown.” That’s what keeps popping up on my WWW newsfeed regarding the April 12th Notre Dame Cathedral fire. I’m using the near-obsolete reference to the World Wide Web (WWW – rather than to “the internet”) because this has been a World

Wide news event. An object, which in so many vast ways has become a symbol of the constancy of our Christian faith, has withstood the ravages of almost everything thrown its way. The interior and the exterior, as has been witnessed and testified to many – including many in our own parish who have visited and even worshipped there – is overwhelming, majestic, time erasing. How such an object has managed to remain standing is a near miracle.

And it is still standing today, thanks to the architectural design innovation of centuries past. What almost took it down? While everyone is looking for a culprit to satisfy conspiracy theories, or to pin their revulsion and anger upon, the near-immediate cause can be said to be “renovation,” “repair,” “retrofitting.” How ironic. There is much to be considered in that Irony for our faith.

Whatever insight or discovery takes place to find the cause of the first spark, one thing is virtually true around the globe: We don’t want to lose the cathedral. It is so very important to the psyche of the French nation and identity. It carries with it remembrances of not only national, but European, and world-wide, and Christian history. It has literally begat and housed hopes and dreams, pain and sorrow, life and death, faith and confession of the lack of it, renewal of faith, and in some cases, most likely the rejection of faith.

In such a quick-changing world, full of nets and cords laid out for our fall, such edifices (and this one in particular) stand for something physical that has NOT fallen, and thus to see to it nearly consumed by fire shakes our very existence.

So we pray for the worshippers who make up the congregation associated with that house of the Lord; for the Roman Catholic community of Paris; for all Parisians, for all the people of France; for the Roman Catholic community world-wide, and for all the faithful affected; for their strengthening, their offerings of thanksgiving and praise. We give thanks with them for their relief.

We give thanks for the wealthy families of France and Europe and around the world who have already stepped up to pledge \$500,000,000 to restore the destroyed and damaged parts of the cathedral. We give thanks for all first-responders who battled intense heat to control and then extinguish the flames. We give thanks for the French priest who boldly entered the cathedral with a phalanx of firefighters to remove the Blessed Sacrament, and the various movable invaluable relics. There is much heroism, generosity, and sacrificial giving already regarding this devastation. We look forward to hearing more of those stories.

On Palm Sunday, apparently, there was a fire in a crypt underneath the nave of the Episcopal Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York, in between morning services. It was a crypt in which was also stored much art and furniture. Most was damaged or destroyed. With the nave and chancel filled with smoke from below, the next service went on as scheduled out on the lawn. It was much worse in 2001 when an extensive fire caused a great deal of damage and it took 5 years to really clean up and restore. The Dean said, "I don't believe in any divine messages here." He was just relieved nobody got hurt and the cathedral was still there.

Between Notre Dame, and St. John the Divine, especially during Holy Week, I can think of several divine messages, whether or not God put his flaming judgement onto each. I can also pretty much guarantee that the messages from a thousand pulpits will carry some of these messages. The most important one will be that the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone of the New and Eternal Covenant, Jesus Christ. He is not able to be destroyed, nor corrupted. He is the foundation of all that is lasting, and true, of life and living. He is the same, yesterday, and today and for ever.

As we continue to watch the unfolding of the Notre Dame fire, and are reminded of so many edifices of even longer duration that are no longer with us, we can be shocked and sorrowful, prayerful in intercession and look forward to its rebuilding. And then we must give thanks that God is faithful, and that Christ is everlasting. With our adoption by faith as the Children of God, we also know that no matter what happens to the temple of the Holy Spirit that WE are, no matter what, we are His for eternity.

It is all found in the sacrificial giving of God to us: the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory.

Happy Easter.

Fr. Robert G. Eaton, Interim Rector

Readings for this Sunday – Easter Sunday

Isaiah 51:9-11    Psalm 118:14-17, 22-24    Acts 10:34-43    Luke 24:1-10

### CALENDAR

**SUNDAY: Easter Sunday**

8:30a Mass of the Resurrection with Hymns (Church)

10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

*—The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue—*

*Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

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

**FRIDAY**            AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

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

**SATURDAY:**      7:30pm Concert--San Diego Baroque (See next page)

**SUNDAY**            Second Sunday after Easter

8:00am Low Mass

10:30am Solemn Mass

## San Diego Baroque

Saturday, April 27 at 7:30pm

### Bach Family Reunion



San Diego Baroque returns to All Saints' for their second concert, *Bach on Saturday, April 27th at 7:30pm*. Their program titled *Bach Family Reunion* reveals the distinct styles and idiosyncrasies of four members of one of the most famous families in European musical history, as reflected through the some of their most characteristic and inspired music. While J.S. Bach needs no introduction, his three sons Wilhelm Friedemann (1710-1784), Carl Philipp Emmanuel (1714-1788), and Johann Christian (1735-1782) were even more widely admired and successful in their day, and this program will showcase both the exquisite craftsmanship and emotional potency of their works, while underlining each composer's marked individuality.

Musicians: Pierre Joubert and Isaac Allen, violins | Andrew Waid, viola | Alex Greenbaum, cello | Alison Luedecke, Harpsichord

Purchase tickets at” [sdbaroque.ticketleap.com/bachfamilyreunion](https://sdbaroque.ticketleap.com/bachfamilyreunion)

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego  
[www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)