



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY January 19 & BEYOND

Beholding and Pointing to Christ



This morning, as my wife and I were taking the elevator in our building, someone was hurriedly carrying some bags and we held the elevator door for this person to come in. We have seen this person, who usually seems to be in a hurry and never seems to notice anything or anyone, several times before. This person's focus seems to be the workplace and how to get there on time.

But are most of us any different? Do we ever stop and behold the person who is in

front of us, beside us, near us?

John the Baptist told his disciples to behold the Lamb of God, the Messiah, the Christ. Not just to have a glimpse in passing, but to stop, to focus, to be present to the moment, to perceive with their whole beings. This man was probably a total stranger to them, but John knew that He was the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit, not himself, who had been baptizing in the River Jordan, calling people to repentance, and now had some disciples who were willing to follow his call.

But John is not jealous. He knows what his mission is and sees it accomplished now. He even prompts his disciples to go after the true Messiah. And so do some of them.

The disciples go after Jesus and He invites them to “come and see”. And they spend the night with Him. They need to behold, to be totally aware of who this unknown Messiah is, what He does, and the way He lives.

As Jesus' present-day disciples, do we behold Him or do we simply take Him for granted? Do we pause to ponder on His love, His message, and His deeds? Do we feel His continuous presence in our lives? Are we aware of how He feeds us with His real presence when we partake of the bread and wine in the Eucharist? Do we feel how He upholds us through every hardship in our lives?

But even though He is the Christ, the true Son of God, He does not point to Himself, but to the Father, and to "the little ones". That is the way He calls each and every person in this world, because we all need to be nurtured in God's love, just like children need to be nurtured by their parents. So if we are to follow Jesus' Way of Love, we should behold the Creator and His creatures, especially our fellow human beings, who need to be nurtured in love, just as much as we do.

And we should not feel jealous because we are not the focus of attention. The proclamation of the Good News is not about any one of us being in the spotlight, but about the Lamb of God, and this Lamb offered Himself in sacrifice so that all, without exception, may have life and have it abundantly.

Our mission is a reconciling one. We must feel the need to nurture every person in God's overwhelming love, the only true life. But first we need to learn to behold Him that gives that life and to point others to Him through our daily words and deeds.

Fr, Carlos Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Second Sunday after Epiphany:
Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-10 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-41

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: The Second Sunday after Epiphany

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

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

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary Chapel)

WEDNESDAY Noon Noon Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

6:30pm Contemplative Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

THURSDAY Noon Noon Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

FRIDAY Noon Noon Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

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

SUNDAY

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

9::30am Solemn Mass (Church)

10:45am Potluck Lunch (Parish Hall)

11:00am Annual Meeting (Parish Hall)

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)