



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

*"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."*

## THIS SUNDAY February 9 & BEYOND

### Do We Flavor the Earth?



If asked who we are, most of us would refer to our names, parents, perhaps local or national origin or even occupation. Probably no one would say, "I am the salt and light of the earth". However, that is precisely what we are, according to Jesus.

After Jesus mentions the beatitudes or blessings for the heirs of God's kingdom, he clearly states the mission of those belonging to this reign.

The first one is to be the salt of the earth. Salt in Jesus' time was extremely valuable. It was not only used to give flavor to food, but also to preserve it from corruption, from decay. But salt at that time was sometimes contaminated with other minerals, and then it became useless. It would lose the capacity to flavor and preserve.

When Jesus used this image He was probably referring to both uses of salt. If we are to bear witness of God's loving reign on this earth, then we must clearly show the signs of this reign in our lives. These signs give the world a very distinct flavor, the flavor of compassion, forgiveness and acceptance in opposition to the dull and bitter flavor of indifference, spite and intolerance that is so common on this earth; the flavor of concrete and effective self-giving love instead of the pungent widespread flavor of selfish ambition. The earth desperately needs this change in flavors. And we have been appointed by Jesus Himself to be the agents of this change.

We are also called to be preservers of the good flavors. We should not let them be corrupted or contaminated in such a way that they are no longer tasted. Just as a pure grain of salt is clear and transparent, so must our lives be in showing Christ's Love for all in this world.

Then the second mission follows. When we are effective agents of these new flavors for the world, God’s Light shines in us. It inevitably irradiates from us to all. There is no way we should or could hide it. But it does not shine to glorify ourselves. Jesus makes that clear. It shines only for God’s glory, so that others can see God’s wonderful love reflected in our good works towards humankind and creation.

When we read these things, we might think Jesus is referring to some ideal goal that we are to pursue. But no, He clearly says, “You are the salt of the earth” “You are the light of the world”. There is no becoming here. There is being. This is what we already are. Being aware of this affirmation can help us to act in the world according to who we really are.

If asked about our beliefs, our convictions, our conception of life, most of us would readily say, “I am a follower of Jesus” “I am Christian” “I believe in Christ’s redemption”. If this is the case, there should be no hesitation in answering, “I am the salt and the light of this world”.

Let us be this salt and this light. Let us flavor the earth and dispel the darkness of this world. The earth is in dire need of it. Let us not delay.

Then our righteousness will certainly exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus’ time, and the kingdom of heaven will definitely be ours to share.

Fr, Carlos Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany:

Habakkuk 3:1-6, 17-19 Psalm 27:1-7 1 Corinthians 2:1-11 Matthew 5:13-20

## CALENDAR

**SUNDAY: The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn High Mass (Church)

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

—*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 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 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
8:00am Low Mass (Church)  
10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)  
AA Meeting  
7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

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