



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."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY August 30 & BEYOND

Our Lives as a Living Sacrifice



In the 12th chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans, we read that he entreats his readers "to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Jesus' life is, undoubtedly, the epitome of this offering. All His life, culminating with the actual giving of His body on the cross, was the perfect fulfillment of such a sacrifice.

Although there were and there have been cases in which Christians have actually died for their faith, neither Jesus nor Paul had this specific requirement in mind when they talked about presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice or losing our lives for Christ's sake. Rather, they were talking about something that we all can and ought to do, to live our lives in such a way that our priority becomes God's will, and not the selfish satisfaction of our egocentric desires.

Losing one's life in the sense of letting our self-centered motives go and replacing them with God's motives and intentions for our lives and the world, is what we are constantly called to do, if we are to be real followers of Him whose life is God's perfect human image, our Savior and Lord.

But how can we accomplish this hard task?

First, we need to accept the fact that it is not something we can simply do by our own efforts. If we believe that our will is all we need, we have already failed. Only the strength, the perseverance, and the constancy that the inspiration of the Holy Spirit can provide us with will enable us to succeed. And then, as Paul himself warns, we need to stop conforming to the present world, and allow the Spirit to transform our minds in such a way that God's will can be discerned.

Conforming to the world has always been the way in which human beings have felt they "belong" to a given society. Not conforming makes them feel like outcasts, and that is a great burden for anyone. Nowadays, we are bombarded by the media in such a way that it is extremely hard not to "conform" to what they dictate. We are made to believe that we are freer than ever, because there is so much to choose from, but the sad fact is that almost everything we find in the media has been programmed to conform us to a given way of thinking and acting, the way of selfishness and limitless ambition, the promise of the fulfillment of our most extravagant egotistic desires.

We should not be deceived. The times we are living in demand that, more than ever, we should pray ceaselessly to the Holy Spirit for discernment of God's will. And, as Paul says, we should understand that we have human limits, and that each of us has been given different graces in the form of gifts, that will all contribute to the right functioning of Christ's body, just as the different parts of a body function harmoniously to make it work.

No one should think more of themselves than what Our Lord has granted them to fulfill. But that does not mean we are not blessed by His infinite graces. In the fulfillment of God's Way of Love for the world, we all have a unique role to play. Our physical lives are how God's will is carried out in the world. Playing our role with humbleness and devotion is our real spiritual worship to our Creator. And that is, as Paul says, good and acceptable and perfect.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:21-27

CALENDAR

Note: All Sunday Masses will be held in All Saints' Courtyard at 9am. All other gatherings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

SUNDAY: The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00am Mass in All Saints' Courtyard
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noonday Service
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

FRIDAY Fridays at Noon – Discussion and Insights into Sunday's Lectionary
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

SATURDAY Societies of Mary Day of Devotion
Reading of the Rosary by Fr. Carlos at 11am
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

SUNDAY The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00am Mass in All Saints' Courtyard
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
www.allsaintschurch.org