



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 November 1 & BEYOND

Washing Our Robes in the Lamb's Blood



All Saints' Day, the celebration for this coming Sunday and coincidentally the Patronal Feast of this church, is dedicated to all those who, throughout the history of Christianity, have turned their lives into paradigms,

examples for all Christians to be followed, as consistent followers of Him who gave His own life for our salvation. Many of these Saints are martyrs--people who literally gave their own lives faithfully to the Christian cause. Some did not die for Christ, but generously gave their time and energy, even to the point of exhaustion, to carry out the salvific mission they felt they had been assigned by Our Lord.

The Book of Revelation, the last book of The Holy Bible, depicts the fulfilment of God's salvation for all. The language used in this Apocalyptic genre is full of rich images and symbols, some of which are hard to interpret for contemporary readers, because their immediate referents may have been lost in time. Even so, the richness of this symbolic language is the appropriate way to depict what goes beyond human understanding. It is the poor and limited human mind trying to grasp the divine.

The selected readings for All Saints' Day include a section of Chapter 7 from this book as one of the alternatives.

This book was written in a time of great tribulation and persecution for the newly formed Christian communities within the Roman Empire. The Christian Church at that time was mainly an underground movement, rejected by both Orthodox Jews and Pagans, and seen as a dangerous religion by most emperors because it strictly forbade worship of the Emperor or any other god—they were to only worship the true living God.

Approached in this light, we can then understand the strong and harsh images used against the persecutors and killers, and the need to offer promises of great hope and consolation to the faithful ones.

Chapter 7 presents us with the image of an uncountable multitude of people from all nations, tribes and tongues, clothed in white robes, as a symbol of purification; they carry palm branches—a symbol of victory—and praise God and His Lamb. After a dialogue that serves to identify who these people are, we learn they are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb. As a result, they are in God's constant presence, serving Him, being sheltered by Him, and being guided by the Lamb to springs of living water. They will suffer no more.

Despite all the dreadful associations that the Book of Revelation or Apocalypse usually evokes, these images speak about the inclusion and universality of God's saving plan for humanity, and about how the ones who take part in God's Reign of Love, are not those who were born perfect, but those who go through great tribulations for persevering in their faithful ministry, and who are perfected thanks to Christ's self-giving sacrifice, which at the same time calls us to give ourselves in sacrifice for fulfilling God's loving will.

Those are the Saints, and all of us Christians are saints, separated and chosen by God for His great loving purpose. Our great aspiration should be to change the lower-case "s" for the capital one, not for the sake of vainglory, but to be better able to carry out His all-inclusive loving plan now and throughout eternity, in victory and joy, in harmony, in peace and communion with one another and with Him that strengthens us in all good intentions and deeds.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – All Saints’ Sunday

Ecclesiasticus 2:1-11 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 5:1-12

CALENDAR

Note: Sunday Mass is now held in All Saints’ historic church at 9am. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in the church. All other gatherings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

SUNDAY All Saints’ Day

9:00am Mass in All Saints’ historic church

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noon Mass in All Saints’ Church

FRIDAY Noon Mass with Discussion and Insights into
Sunday’s Lectionary at the Meditation.

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

SUNDAY The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am Mass in All Saints’ historic church

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org