



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 September 6 & BEYOND

Keeping the Body Together



There is no question that when we must do without any part of our bodies the whole body suffers. Think about those who have unfortunately lost one of their limbs, or one of their

organs has stopped functioning properly. There are only a few exceptions to this. The appendix is perhaps the best-known example. Tonsils and gall bladders are often taken out when their malfunctioning harms the body, but even so doctors try to find other alternatives because the lack of these organs bring about certain limitations in the normal functioning of our bodies.

For the body to function properly, all its constituent parts must not only be present but must also function in such a harmonious way that the healthy functioning of the body can be kept. In other words, the aim of each part is not the part itself, but the whole body.

We all know what happens when some cells stop functioning in harmony with the rest and become self-centered. They want all the nutrients for themselves and start to attack other cells to satisfy their insatiable greed. They reproduce inordinately

and invade other tissues and organs. This condition is known as cancer. When this happens, these cells need to be removed so that the body can survive. When they are so spread out that removal is no longer possible, or when vital organs are seriously affected, the body dies. The irony is that the selfish cells never win. They are either removed or die together with the body they kill. That teaches us a lesson.

We are the Body of Christ, the Church, the Assembly of the Saints. Each one of us is a vital part of this body. We are all needed. We all have something vital and unique to contribute to this body. But when we start putting out petty selfish interests before the common good of the Church, we are like the cells that destroy the body. The Church can get ill. It has throughout its long history gotten seriously ill and recovered several times. External enemies can harm the Church just as extraneous bodies and other outer agents can also harm the human body. But the worst enemies and the ones that can pull the Church apart are the internal divisions.

In the Gospel reading for this Sunday Jesus instructs his followers how to act when someone in the Church becomes an offender, a cause of division. He insists that everything possible must be done to make this person repent and keep them in the Church. Everyone must get involved if needed to save the integrity of Christ's Body. It is not a matter of satisfying someone's sense of justice here. The fact is that Jesus clearly states that the offended one must take the initiative to make reconciliation possible. What matters is the integrity of the Church, not the satisfaction of someone's wounded ego. Even when the offending person cannot be made to change their way, Jesus does not advise total rejection, but to consider them as someone who needs to be converted, just as the heathens or publicans that Jesus' followers converted to His Way of Love.

When the body is healthy and integral, it can do wonders. So does the Church when there is harmony and health in its ranks. The Savior's name can only be properly invoked by those who make up a unified and healthy Body, whose purpose goes beyond the individual interests to the great common good, the greatest good, God's will on earth. When that happens, there is no doubt that all that the Church asks the Lord for will be granted them in due measure, the measure of super abundant love.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 33:1-11 Psalm 119:33-40 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 18:15-20

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 Fourteenth 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

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