



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 October 11 & BEYOND

Rejoicing in God's Banquet



Rejoicing, reviving, banqueting, being filled with superabundant life, defeating death. These are the images that this week's readings bring us about God's kingdom of love, justice, peace, goodness, and mercy.

The banquet image is often used in the Bible to refer to God's abundant gifts for all His people. In a good banquet offered with generosity and good intentions, everyone has more than enough to eat and drink, there is music and merriment, joy, and a sense of sharing with one another. Life is celebrated and cherished, and no one is left out.

What takes place in a well-meaning banquet is a good token of the kind of life God has always meant us to live. He is constantly inviting us to rejoice in the abundant life He wants to give us, and to share this abundance with all.

Images are powerful, but they can be contradictory too. Life as we know it is not always like a banquet. There is poverty and scarcity, pain and suffering, injustice, cruelty and selfishness, natural disasters, wars, epidemics, and death. So, what can we make out of the banquet image?

The Christian perspective on life is based on the present tension between the already inaugurated Kingdom of Heaven--whose powerful and certain signs were given by Our Lord Jesus Christ, the perfect incarnation of Our Father and Creator, but had already been prefigured throughout the whole history of humankind--and the not yet perfected Kingdom. The Church, the Holy Assembly of Christ's faithful followers, has the mission to keep on giving these signs with humility and perseverance, until God becomes all in all.

Because we have been created in God's image and likeness, we are free to heed our Heavenly Father's invitation to take part in the making of a new world governed by the sharing of His unconditional Love, or reject it. We are free to go on our own business, thinking that true happiness can be gained by self-centered pursuits. We can even become enraged by those who insist on inviting us to follow Jesus' Way of Love and try to get rid of them, even in violent and cruel ways. But God will never tire of extending the invitation.

By rejecting it, we will end up making our lives miserable, and contribute to making others' lives miserable as well. As long as we live in this imperfect world, there will be suffering and sadness, and people will get sick and die, but much of the suffering in the world could be alleviated, even cured, if only we dedicated our lives to the efficient sharing of God's abundant love with thanksgiving and complete trust in His Peace, which surpasses all understanding, as Paul suggests in his letter to the Philippians.

We are free to accept or reject God's invitation. The consequences are up to us, of course. But if we accept, we had better make sure that we honor the invitation by committing ourselves to take part in it. We cannot take it lightly or try to mock God. Just as attending a formal occasion in casual clothes may be taken as a way of disrespecting or mocking the host, God knows what is in our hearts and minds, and He cannot be fooled. We can only fool ourselves and end up feeling even more miserable in the end.

Life as we know it may not be the banquet of our dreams, but we have been put in this world for the purpose of taking part in the preparation of God's splendid

banquet for all. Those of us who have taken part in the planning and implementation of a festivity know that these preliminary steps can bring as much joy as the event itself. Rejoice then, that we have been invited to take part in the making of God's all-inclusive banquet for all, and that when it is all ready and set, we will certainly not be left out.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4:4-13 Matthew 22:1-14

CALENDAR

Note: All Sunday Masses will now be held in All Saints' historic church at 9am. Noon Mass will resume this Tuesday 10/13/2020 in St. Mary's Chapel. All other gatherings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

SUNDAY 9:00am Mass in All Saints' historic church
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary's Chapel

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

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

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