



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 18 & BEYOND

An Old Message for Our New Times



1 Thessalonians is considered by biblical scholars to be the oldest New Testament document. The Church of Thessalonica was not the first founded by Paul and his companions, but it was one of the most influential due to its geographical position and cultural impact in that part of the Roman Empire. Some of the converts in that city were Jews, but a great part of them had been Gentiles who had left their idols and long-established pagan practices and customs behind and followed the New Way proclaimed with loving words and powerful life-giving acts of the Holy Spirit by Paul and his companions Silvanus and Timothy.

The first 10 verses of the letter center on the theme of thanksgiving for this newly founded church. Paul exalts the virtues of this congregation, which reflect the great power of God's Spirit working among them through Jesus Christ's mediation. Among these virtues Paul mentions hospitality, joy and perseverance. But he puts particular emphasis on their courage and faithfulness in following Jesus' Way of Love, as a laudable example to be followed by the rest of the churches.

When reading Paul's letters to the congregations that he and his companions founded in the Gentile world, we often overlook the context behind these vital messages of encouragement, thankfulness and sometimes admonition to these new assemblies in the midst of a prevailing hostile pagan world.

It is vital to picture how hard it must have been for these people to leave their life-long beliefs, intertwined with family and societal traditions and customs, in order to embrace a new faith that was totally countercultural and would put them in strong opposition with the official powers of their society, putting their own lives at risk sometimes. What they embraced had to be powerful and life-changing!

It was. Jesus' Way of Love was the only way that would lead them to a life worth living, a God-centered life, a life dedicated to loving, sharing and caring for others, a life that brought them the greatest possible joy of all: the joy of turning their lives into a real source of life for all those around them, of showing them the true and only way to salvation and abundant life in Christ.

In today's world, just as back then, following Jesus' Way of Love is as rewarding and worthwhile, and in the last decades it has also become as countercultural and problematic as then. Christianity is no longer taken for granted in our Western society. For several sectors of the influential forces of our modern society, it has become an obsolete and useless model, now replaced by some "modern" spiritualities that accommodate the demands of our consumption society in a smoother way.

Now more than ever, the deep and conscientious reading of this and the rest of the New Testament letters becomes a must for those of us who insist on following Jesus' Way of Love, even when powerful worldly interests oppose it, or try to dilute its life-giving message into compromising alternatives that will make it more amenable to the dictates of our market-centered world.

May the example of the Church in Thessalonica give us the courage, faithfulness, and perseverance to carry on.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 96:1-9 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22

CALENDAR

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

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