



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 January 3 & BEYOND

An Episode of the Christmas Season: Jesus the Refugee



suffering and uncertainty they brought to Jesus and His parents.

When we look at the narratives that Matthew's Gospel brings us about the first years of Jesus on earth, we immediately notice how unsettling these events were and how much pain,

After the visit of the Magi King Herod, full of rage for having been tricked by these foreign visitors who foresaw his evil intentions, orders what has become known as the atrocious killing of the innocent children in all the region of Bethlehem. Joseph is warned about this killing in a dream by an angel and he, Mary and Jesus flee to Egypt where they remain until the death of Herod.

So, the child Jesus, together with His parents, must escape to a foreign land, and they need to make a living there, in a place where they probably do not know a soul, where they have different customs and a different religion, where they worship other gods. They become refugees. Foreign people in a land where they feel alien and are received as alien. Second-class people. The Gospel does not give us any details about

how their life went by in this place and time, but we are all familiar with the condition of refugees and how hard it can be.

Today's world is full of refugees. People from different parts of the world literally need to flee from their places of origin, flee from death and war, from oppression and discrimination, from famine and subhuman conditions. And their fate in the countries where they move to is not always favorable.

Matthew's narrative should be a good reminder to all that the one we call our Savior shared this condition together with His family. And that should prompt us to realize that by becoming fully human, Jesus' life was, even in His early years, hazardous, full of dangers and suffering, uncertainty, and fleeting moments.

He and his parents did return to the land of Israel. His mission had to start out with His own people, in His native land. They went to live in Nazareth, in Galilee of the Gentiles, a place with no worldly significance, but the Evangelist uses a play of words here to signify that by being called a Nazarene (from Nazareth) He was also a 'Nazorean', which means 'preserver'. In this sense, Jesus and his followers are considered the real remnants of the original Israel as the people of God.

By becoming a refugee in His early years, Jesus also reminds us that the Son of God was an alien, just as so many people are alien in different countries nowadays. That should make us change our own attitude towards aliens and make us realize that we are all called to welcome aliens, because the image of the living God is imprinted in their faces as it is in ours.

In a deeper sense, we Christians are all called to be aliens in this world. We are not to follow the fads or conform to this world but oppose all that is contrary to God's reconciling love for the world. True Christians have always been countercultural, and in this sense, they are more like refugees than those who follow the dictates of the world.

Jesus the child was also Jesus the refugee. His human nature chose to incarnate that condition as well. He exalted it in His own human person, and so must we, in every refugee, in our own selves.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Second Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 84:1-8 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

CALENDAR

Note: Sunday Mass is now via Zoom at 9am until further notice. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in the courtyard. All other gatherings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

SUNDAY The Second Sunday after Christmas

9:00am Mass via Zoom

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

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

TUESDAY Noon Mass in All Saints' courtyard

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 First Sunday after the Epiphany

9:00am Mass via Zoom

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

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