



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 February 7 & BEYOND

Urged To Share The Good News



In Chapter 9 of his first letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul speaks about the obligation he feels to proclaim the Gospel he himself received from Christ. Such is the force he feels compelling him to share the Good News

of salvation, that he exclaims, "woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel!" He does not conceive the task as something of his own will, but as a commission he has been entrusted with.

At the same time, Paul recognizes the total freedom that being a follower of Christ entails. Christ has come to restore us to God's image, and this image presupposes that the Creator, who is totally free, has also endowed us with total freedom of choice.

The issue of free will has often been discussed by believers and unbelievers. The main problem with the understanding of this freedom is that we tend to forget that there can be no real freedom without right discernment and responsibility. A world in which individuals feel they are free to do as they please, without being held

accountable for the consequences of their acts is not a free world, but a chaotic world. It is a world that would look very much like what is described in Genesis before God's breath or Spirit blew upon the waters of Creation to bring order and beauty out of the primordial chaos. Only, what was normal and expected at that point because it was at the beginning of time, would now be totally absurd and undesirable.

The misuse of freedom by humans is what has brought about most of the past and present evils in society, and even in nature. The Good News that Jesus proclaimed is precisely about a total reversal of this situation. It is about following a radical Way of Love as our rule of life. When unconditional love is practiced, abundant life ensues. It is not about restricting freedom of choice or becoming other people's slaves. It is about basing our choices on the supreme law of love. This is what real freedom is all about.

To make his point clear, the Apostle Paul states how he has made himself "a slave to all" despite his complete freedom with respect to all. The reason why he does it is to win the different classes of people he proclaims the Good News to (Jews, Gentiles, weak converts) for Christ's Gospel, adapting his way of preaching accordingly, without losing the essential salvific message for all.

Proclaiming Christ's Gospel of justice, peace, harmony, restoration, and abundant life in God's love, is not something we, his followers, should consider as a personal choice. If we understand our freedom rightly, the way God has given it to us, we should also be aware of the urgency to share this Good News with all. This is the Great Commission we have been entrusted with -- and "woe to us" if we do not heed it.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

2 Kings 4:18-21, 32-37 Psalm 142 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

CALENDAR

Note: Each Sunday we will have a Zoom meeting for our Sunday Mass whether it is held in the courtyard or the church. If the service is held in the church because of inclement weather only the rector, acolyte, lector, organist and solo quartet may be present. **The service time has been moved to 10am for a warmer environment in the courtyard each Sunday.**

SUNDAY The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
10:00am Mass (See note above)
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

THURSDAY 5:00pm The Study of the Gospel of Mark with Vicki Garvey
Join Zoom meetings from our web site with Vicki Garvey and afterwards with Fr. Carlos and All Saints' participants

SUNDAY The Last Sunday after the Epiphany
10:00am Mass (See note above)
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org