



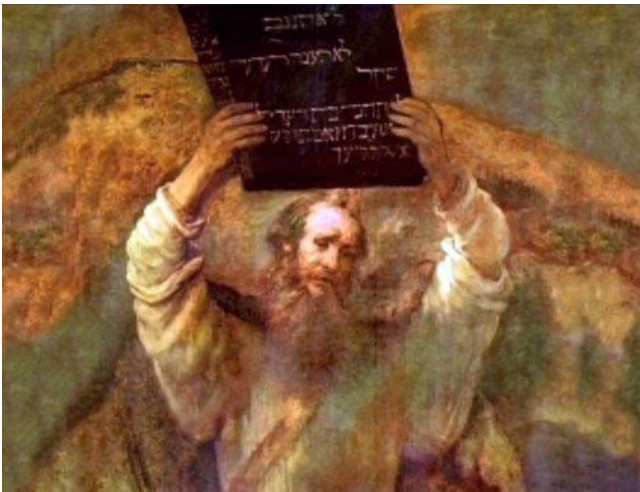
# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

*"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 March 7 & BEYOND

### Revisiting God's Instruction



We live in a time when there is a generalized tendency to reject moral precepts as outdated and unnecessary. It looks as if by following one's heart all the time one could end up doing what is best. But is that really so?

Jesus Himself said He had not come to do away with the Law, but to give it its true fulfillment. And while it is true that He also stated that by following the commands to love God with our whole being and our neighbors as ourselves we would be fulfilling the two greatest commandments of the Law, He by no means implied that God's instruction to His people was outdated or useless.

Although the Hebrew term Torah was translated into Greek as the equivalent for *Law*, in fact this term is better translated as *instruction* or *teaching*. It was God's intent to guide His people to a kind of life that would make them "a people of priests and a holy nation".

Here we can see the spiritual value of God's commandments. The core of the Torah is the Ten Commandments given to the chosen people through Moses, the main leader of God's people. If we take a close look at them, we notice that they are meant to be a guide to the people's relationship with their Creator and Liberator, and with one another. The aim of the first four is to guarantee an intimate relationship with God, through the recognition of His essential goodness and loving care for His people, the commitment to be faithful to Him as the only true God, and to spend quality time with Him on a weekly basis (the Sabbath).

Then come the rest of the commandments that instruct God's people how to relate to one another in a loving and caring way, starting with the unalienable duty to the persons who gave us life (our parents), and moving to the relationship with all those in the community, valuing and respecting each person as the living image of the common God that has created us all equal.

As Christians, we need to revisit God's guidance once and again, and even though we recognize that by our own efforts we cannot fulfill God's instruction (but that it has been only through Christ's self-sacrifice that the way to redemption has been opened to us) we should not despise this guidance, but ask the Holy Spirit to assist us in fulfilling it.

Paul himself recognizes in his letter to the Romans that the Law is spiritual but that he has a hard time contending with the flesh to fulfill it. That happens to us all, but it does not render God's instruction useless. It only points out to us how dependent we remain on God's saving grace through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and how valid God's commandments are as our main goal to achieve.

The writer of Psalm 19 says that the Lord's judgments are "more to be desired than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb." So may it be with each of us.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19:7-14 Romans 7:13-25 John 2:13-22

## CALENDAR

**Note:** We anticipate going back to indoor services on Sunday, March 21, a week before Holy Week. The service will also be on Zoom whether we worship in the courtyard or in the church. **The service time 10am.**

**SATURDAY** Societies of Mary Day of Devotion

11:00am Rosary in All Saints' Courtyard

11:30am Mass in All Saints' Courtyard

**SUNDAY** The Third Sunday in Lent

10:00am Mass (See note above)

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**TUESDAY** Noon Mass in All Saints' courtyard

**WEDNESDAY** Lenten Disciplines offered by Father Mark Michael through *Living Church Visit our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)* to learn more and register

**FRIDAY** Stations of the Cross in the courtyard at Noon

**SUNDAY** The Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00am Mass (See note above)

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