



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 14 & BEYOND

Created in Christ for Good Works



it is by God's grace only that we are justified, and not by any works of ours that we can boast of.

This writer views our salvation as something already achieved, through Christ's self-sacrifice, as a result of God's infinite love for us all, in spite of the sinful state of death in which we lived before Christ came to our rescue.

In Christ's death and resurrection, all of us who follow Him by true faith have died to the old sinful self and been raised up with Him and have become heirs of His glory with the Father in heaven.

In all this, it is our heavenly loving Father who takes the initiative, like the father figure in the Parable of the Two Sons, to forgive and restore the lost son who had been lost and dead to abundant life in His legitimate home, which was always meant for him.

In the second chapter of the Letter to the Ephesians, which most biblical scholars now ascribe not to Paul himself but to one of his disciples, the writer delves into Paul's idea of how

Although the parable does not tell us what the redeemed son did afterwards, we can well imagine he worked in the fields with great dedication and joy, knowing how deeply he was loved by his father and how everything really belonged to him as well.

Our Christian faith is based on the profound conviction that our Creator loves us in such an immeasurable way that in spite of the trespasses that our frail human nature makes us incur, He is always willing to forgive us when we turn to Him freely and responsibly and allows us share in His life-giving love shown to us in the person of Jesus Christ through His self-sacrifice.

But love has to show itself in concrete works. It is through the good works done in favor of our fellow human beings, and the whole of creation that we actively share God's love. Here we clearly understand the rationale of what the writer of the Letter to the Ephesians states when he says, "for we are what He made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

This is possibly one of the best ways to reconcile Paul's doctrine of "justification through faith only, and not works" with the Apostle James' idea of "faith without works is dead". Good works is essentially what God created us for, and when we are restored to His image by His loving grace, the natural response to His infinite love is to show good works in our lives. It is not by making up our minds to do good works and doing them we "earn" heaven; that would be totally presumptuous.

Lent is calling us back to ponder on God's infinite love for us, expressed mainly through Christ's self-sacrifice on the cross, and also to put into practice the good works we have been created to show in our lives.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fourth Sunday in Lent

2 Chronicles 36:14-23 Psalm 122 Ephesians 2:4-10 John 6:4-15

CALENDAR

Note: On Sunday, March 21, a week before Holy Week we will return to worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. **The service time 10am.**

SUNDAY The Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00am Mass

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

WEDNESDAY Lenten Disciplines offered by Father Mark Michael through *Living Church* Visit our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org to learn more and register

FRIDAY Stations of the Cross in the courtyard at Noon

SUNDAY The Fifth Sunday in Lent

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