



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."*

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 9 & Beyond

Loving Is Knowing



The overarching theme of the Gospel according to St. John is undoubtedly love. And so is that of the First Letter ascribed to St. John.

Both the Epistle and Gospel readings for this 6th Sunday of Easter hinge on God's love as the starting point for the salvific plan that is made possible through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord, as the supreme and ultimate expression of this love towards us.

The New Testament writers--as direct heirs of Jewish thought--did not attempt to describe God in philosophical terms. For them knowing God was not an intellectual exercise. They understood how absurd and pretentious it would be for the finite to attempt to grasp the infinite.

It is notable that the verb they used in Hebrew to describe the most intimate of relationships between two persons was the same one used for *knowing*. It is thus that even in the New Testament—which was originally written in Greek—we still have the verb *to know* in passages that refer to sexual intercourse, as when Mary asks

Gabriel after he announces her that she would conceive a child, “How shall this be since I know not a man?”

For John the Evangelist the only possible way of knowing God—if that is even possible—is loving Him. The only way he ever defines God is by saying that He is love. He clearly understands that for us human beings there is no possibility of grasping God with our minds—God is well beyond our limited conceptions—and it would be even useless to try to do so. What really matter is how we relate with our Creator, with one another, and with the rest of creation.

But the Evangelist does not state that God is defined by our love of Him. He clearly states that God is love because He loves us first, and the undeniable supreme proof of this love is Jesus Christ’s sacrificial atonement for us. So, the love John refers to is not a beautiful abstract concept for philosophers to ponder on. It manifests itself in very concrete acts throughout history. Creation itself is an act of love. The powerful salvific acts of God towards His chosen people are proof of this love. But the ultimate proof is the Jesus event.

Jesus Himself refers to this love coming first from the Father and reflected in His unconditional sacrificial love for His followers. He understands how it is only by abiding in this love that we can attain complete joy in our lives. And He commands us to put this love into practice in our mutual relationships, treating others as friends, just as He has treated His followers as His friends.

Knowing someone, whether it is a close relative or our neighbor, is not about collecting information about their identity and lives. As much as you read information about someone, you do not really get to know that person until you enter into a loving relationship with them. And this is not only true of romantic relationships, because the love we are referring to comprises all acts of selfless kindness that can be done for others.

Therefore, if we want to get to know our God, the sure way is by striving to do selfless acts of loving kindness for those we come in contact with throughout our lives. As John clearly puts it in his First Letter: “Those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.”

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:19-30 Psalm 33:1-8, 18-22 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:9-17

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom.
The service time is 10am.

SUNDAY Sixth Sunday of Easter 10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church
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 10:00am Morning Prayer in All Saints' Courtyard

SUNDAY Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day
10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org