



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 — July 4 & Beyond

Strengthened by God in Our Weakness



We live in a world that despises both physical and mental weakness, and calls those who do not excel in physical dexterity and business enterprises “losers”. It is a highly competitive world, where the success of one usually means that someone else is left behind or discarded.

Modern education has unfortunately emphasized the development of this sense of competitiveness, of making the individual feel that to succeed and be “happy” in life one must set oneself up against the rest.

Nothing is farther from real Christian values than this. The true sense of Christian joy and aspirations is based on God's acceptance of each and every one of His beloved creatures, in spite of their achievements or limitations. Our Creator does not need us to show any kind of earthly success to love us. We are unconditionally loved because we are His offspring and loving one does not mean that someone else is loved less.

What distinguishes love from earthly expendable goods like money is its special property to grow and multiply the more it is shared. The feedings of the 4,000 and

5,000 in the Gospels are a great example of this. The more that is given, the more that is even left over for further use.

What this shows us is that all that God expects from us is our love. And the love for our Creator necessarily includes the love for those who are His children, and consequently our brothers and sisters.

In our love for others we must strive to imitate our Heavenly Father. It is not an easy task because by nature we humans tend to be self-centered in our affections, and also to demand conditions for our love. We usually make mental models of the persons whom we think “deserve” our love. If they do not fulfill our model, we discard them and label them as “unlovable” persons.

Only the power of God’s Holy Spirit can make us change our self-centered way of loving towards a way that resembles Jesus’ radical Way of Love. In Jesus’ Way there is no place for boasting of physical or mental powers. If we are given certain gifts by the Holy Spirit, it is only for the sake of sharing it unconditionally with others. And this power is only shown in the midst of our human weakness, so that we cannot boast of anything.

The prophet Ezekiel was given the power to prophesize in a time when God’s people were rebellious and stubborn. God knew that the prophet would face scorn, disbelief, and even hostility. But God enabled the prophet through His Holy Spirit to face all these ordeals. He did not make him superhuman. He made him more human, more sensitive to the people’s great suffering, and also more understanding of their weaknesses and blunders. This enabled him to prophesize in the name of the true loving God.

The Apostle Paul had the great privilege of receiving a transcendental mystical revelation. He briefly comments about it in his second letter to the Corinthians, but does not boast of it. He understands it was only by God’s grace that it was granted to him. And he is also aware of his weakness, even in the flesh. He was probably suffering from some disease, and although he had prayed to God that he would be healed from it, God had made him understand that in his human weakness power was made perfect in him.

We all have unique gifts from God, and weaknesses too. No matter how strong we make ourselves physically through training, or how successful our career may be, the

only thing that matters to God is how we use the unconditional love He has given us to make the life of others better, and how we grow in our mutual acceptance and love, regardless of our preferences or models about who may “deserve” our love.

There is no use in pretending to be superhuman. Jesus was not superhuman. He was truly human while He was on this earth, and for this reason the people from His hometown discarded His Messiahship. They expected a spectacular Messiah, not one whose family they knew so well. This blindness deprived most of them from receiving His life-giving grace.

Let us not be blinded by futile aspirations to be “strong” or superhuman. It is only in our natural human weakness that the Holy Spirit’s power can work miracles in us and enhance our acceptance of God’s unconditional love so that we learn to accept others in their weakness and expand the power of love towards the whole of humankind.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 2:1-7 Psalm 123 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-6

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer are held in All Saints’ St. Mary’s Chapel.

SUNDAY The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
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 St. Mary’s Chapel

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary’s Chapel

SUNDAY The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
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

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming Strangers like Old Friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition;
- Being Dependable Members of a Caring Community
- Respecting Each Other's Differences
- Being Faithful Stewards of God's Gifts