



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 — October 31 Beyond

The Offering That Saves



In Chapter 7 of his letter to the Hebrews, the writer further expounds his comparison between Jesus Christ as our Great High Priest and the high priests they are familiar with in Judaism.

The role of the high priests in Judaism was to offer sacrifices to God for their own sins and for those of the people to receive forgiveness for their trespasses. This was done in the Holy of Holiest (the inner sanctuary) once a year on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It was thought that the blood of the animals offered in sacrifice could, in some way, appease God's anger towards the sinners.

Sacrifices and offerings (not always bloody ones—there were offerings of vegetables too) were also carried out by other priests throughout the year, not only as appeasement for sins, but also as thanksgiving for healing or any other blessings from God, or simply as a sign of thankfulness for the first fruits of a harvest.

The main role of high priests, however, was a sacrificial one to gain the remission of sins.

In this sense, the writer points out that these high priests had to ask God for their own forgiveness together with that of the people. They were chosen people, but still, they were sinners.

He also refers to the fact that they had to be replaced because of their mortality.

Jesus, on the other hand, has been raised from the dead and lives for ever in the heavenly realms. He is described by the writer of Hebrews in the following terms: “holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.”

Our Savior has no need to offer regular sacrifices, as the rest of the priests, simply because He did it once and for all when He offered Himself as a perfect living sacrifice on the cross.

As God’s Son, He is love incarnate, and the perfect gift of Himself was the offering that He made on the altar of His human life to show us all that the only worthy sacrifice that God willingly accepts from His children is love.

What could a loving God who created all that exists want us to give Him as an offering? Does He not own the whole universe, including us?

Any part of His creation that we try to offer Him is His already. And we are His beloved children created in His image and likeness.

God does not need to be appeased for our trespasses. His unconditional love is all-forgiving, and if we suffer as a result of our faults, it is only because we need to learn the lessons that will make us less self-centered and more caring for others.

In His perfect love, He has made us free, and that freedom implies responsible choices that will make us come closer to the divine image that has always been our true heritage. We are free to reject it, but this only brings us to the way of suffering, destruction, and the true death—separation from the ultimate source of life: God Himself.

All we have comes from God. Our imperfect love is but a pale reflection of God’s infinite love.

The only worthy thing we can do for our Creator is to spread His love to the rest of the creatures, especially to our fellow human beings.

Love is probably the only thing that is never diminished, but multiplied when it is freely given. It is not only multiplied but perfected every time it is offered in total freedom.

Our main purpose in life, then, is to offer our love, no matter how imperfect or small, as our free gift to others. By so doing, we are offering our Creator what He willingly accepts from us.

In imitation of His beloved Son, who offered Himself unconditionally for our sake, let us offer our love in concrete acts of kindness every single day and moment of our lives. This is the only offering that can help to save our lives and the life of the world.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Psalm 119:1-8 Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 12:28-34

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 Chapel.

SUNDAY The Twenty-third 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

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Christian Formation at the coffee hour in the Parish Hall (11:30am)

Fr. Carlos leads us through Gary Nicolosi's book "A Concise History of the Book of Common Prayer"

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

WEDNESDAY Spanish Classes 5:30pm to 7:30pm in the Parish Hall taught by Fr. Carlos Expósito

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

SUNDAY The Twenty-four Sunday after Pentecost (All Saints' 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
Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children
Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

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 Gift
- Remembering that God Loves Everyone Unconditionally