



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 — November 7 Beyond

An Uncountable Multitude of Saints



November the 1st is All Saints' Day in the Christian calendar. It is a day dedicated to commemorating all those whose lives have been a significant witness of the Christian faith. Some of them are martyrs, others are not, but their lives are examples of commitment to Jesus' radical Way of Love, and throughout the centuries they have served as paradigms to be imitated by those who want to be good Christians.

In our zeal to set the Christian mark high, we have somehow come to think that the chosen ones are just a few. After all, Jesus Himself said that "many are called, but few are chosen."

It is a fact that being a follower of Jesus' radical Way of Love consistently takes courage and self-denial. Jesus warned us that to follow Him we needed to take up our cross and deny ourselves.

His closest followers were not always able to live up to this requirement, especially not after he was taken prisoner to be tried. However, after His glorious resurrection Jesus enabled them, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be His faithful followers and apostles.

This initial group, with the valuable later addition of Paul, was the core group around which other greater groups were formed, and the converts to the New Way were so numerous in a short span of time that they practically spread over the whole Roman Empire in a few years.

When the Emperor Constantine decided in the fourth century that the Christian faith had to be accepted in the Roman Empire, he might have been influenced by his converted mother Monica, but the main reason was the overwhelming number of Christian converts, even among the ranks of the Roman Army.

Being a convert does not necessarily mean that the person has the highest qualities that make this person a committed and exemplary follower of Christ. But every convert has the potential to become one.

The Book of Revelation in the seventh chapter has a scene depicting the faithful ones, the saints, before God's throne. They are dressed in white robes, showing their purification, and they worship and praise God and the Lamb (Christ).

Even though the preceding scene had referred to God's servants as taken from the twelve tribes of Israel, this may be seen as an allegory to Christ's Church as the New Israel. The number used here is highly symbolic: 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes, which make up 144,000 in all.

The word thousand at that time was used to refer to a huge number. For contemporary people, this may be hard to understand, and the idea of having 144,000 servants of God only that would be spared from destruction may sound like one hardly has a chance to be included.

But this scene is soon followed by another one in which the writer speaks of a great multitude from all nations, tribes, and languages that cannot be counted. The language here sounds much more inclusive, and there is no definite number given.

These are the ones that have gone through the great tribulation and have washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb.

It is clear from this statement that these are the saints that are now in God's and Christ's very presence. They enjoy perfect communion with Them and with one another. They have had to face tribulations in their committed Christian lives, but Christ's sacrifice on the cross—His blood --is what has enabled them to overcome all evil and temptations in the first place.

They are not a small group, but a multitude that cannot be counted.

As Christian converts, we may not be there yet, but we are all on the way.

Take courage, you may be one among the uncountable multitude the writer of Revelation saw before God's throne. After all, Jesus has already done His part to make it possible. Just follow through.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – Celebrating All Saints' Day

Ecclesiasticus 44:1-10, 13-14 Psalm 149 Revelation 7:2-4, 9-17 Matthew 5:1-12

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 Celebrating 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

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-fifth 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

Next Christian Formation gathering on Sunday, November 14 at 11:30am in
the Rector's study

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